



## VOLUNTEER CLEAN UP GUIDE

# ABOUT COOSA RIVERKEEPER

## MISSION

Coosa Riverkeeper works to protect, restore, and promote the Coosa River and its tributaries in Alabama. We patrol the waters, educate the public, and advocate for the river.

## VISION

A fishable, swimmable, drinkable Coosa River for all.

## WHAT WE DO

Our organization works to answer the simple questions like “is it safe to swim?”, “are the fish safe to eat?”, and “what can I do to make the Coosa healthier for my community?” to ensure the public is aware of issues that impact the river, recreation, public health, & property value.

## THE COOSA RIVER

From its headwaters in Georgia and Tennessee, the Coosa flows to Alabama where a series of impoundments cover the magnificent shoals that so famously dominated the Coosa in the steamboat era. Those impoundments created six large lakes, Weiss, Neely Henry, Logan Martin, Lay, Mitchell & Jordan, that are a major part of life on the Coosa and where tens of thousands of people live in lake homes, fish and swim. Journeying down the river, from beautiful Lookout Mountain, past Talladega National Forest, and just past the “rumbling water” of Wetumpka, the river takes on a new name, the Alabama. From there, the Alabama River flows on to Mobile and the Gulf of Mexico.



# DURING YOUR CLEAN UP

## INSTRUCTIONS

- Before starting the clean up, please make sure all participants have signed [the provided volunteer waiver](#).
- Set clear boundaries for your clean up. Create clean up teams to disperse and conquer the litter or stay as a group and work your way to the end of the litter site. If your group splits up, set a time to meet back together. Never work alone, always have a clean up partner.
- At the end of your clean up, make sure all bags of trash and any bulky items are placed properly inside a public dumpster, or a listed dumping site. If arranging separate pickup, place all items in one easily accessible location for waste pickup. Follow the instructions provided by your waste department to make sure your items are picked up successfully.

## SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT

- Check the weather leading up to your clean up. Rising water levels in creeks can be extremely dangerous and are not suitable to host a clean up
- Ensure that you are knowledgeable about the right contacts for special waste removal.
- Wear closed toed shoes, long sleeves, and long pants to prevent injury. Dress and prepare for the weather: wear layers in the winter and hydrate as much as possible in the summer.
- Check the site upon arrival for any hazards (slippery rocks, hazardous trash, poisonous plants and animals, etc.) and inform your group.
- Avoid picking up or manipulating hazardous trash such as syringes or weapons. (More information regarding hazardous waste can be found on the following page)
- Wear bright safety vests when roadside and use extreme caution.
- Use trash grabbers as much as possible and wear gloves at all times during the clean up.
- If children under 18 are participating, make sure they stay with their guardian and are monitored when picking up trash. Children must be at least 12 years of age to clean up in the stream.
- Always keep a first aid kit with the group.
- Know where the closest hospital or emergency care center is located.

# Medical/Hazardous Waste

## SAFETY & RISK MANAGEMENT



Medical waste can be very dangerous. If not disposed of properly and safely, items such as syringes, needles, lancets, soiled bandages, used dialysis filters, disposable sheets/clothing, and even old medication, can seriously harm family, friends, and sanitation workers. Ensure that if any medical/hazardous waste is found, the appropriate authorities are notified for proper disposal.

## Contacts for Hazardous Waste/ Paraphernalia Removal per County

**Etowah: (256) 549-5465**

**St. Clair: (205) 884-6840**

**Cleburne: (256) 463-8911**

**Clay: (256) 354-2176**

**Talladega: (256) 716-1556**

**Calhoun: (256) 237-9119**

**Shelby: (205) 439-1919**

**Chilton: (205) 755-4698**

**Coosa: (256) 377-2211**

**Elmore: (334) 567-5441**

**Autauga: (334) 361-9911**

Not sure or need help?  
Call us at 205-981-6565



# BEFORE YOUR CLEANUP

## CHOOSE A SITE

- Follow the link to the Cleanup Map below to choose your first clean up site! Sites are color coded with red, yellow, and green symbols. These colors represent how long it has been since it has been cleaned, with red meaning that it has been more than 6 months and green indicating that its been cleaned recently! Please note that the color of the site may not be indicative of how clean the site currently is, as we are consistently updating the map and currently require more user data to ensure 100% accuracy.
- If you have a site in mind that is not located on the map, but is within the Coosa watershed, let us know where it is, and we can add it to the map!
- **Map Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/Volunteer-Cleanup-Map>

SCAN FOR  
SELF-LED  
CLEANUP  
MAP



## CHOOSE A HUB Hub symbol on the map:

- Various Hubs have been created around the Coosa Watershed for your convenience! Hubs can serve as a meeting point and also contain useful clean up supplies such as gloves, trash grabbers, neon vests, and trash bags free of charge.
- Hubs can be found on the Cleanup map and are marked with a unique symbol. While hubs are always available to help your clean up, they are not a required stop! If you already have approved supplies and feel confident with them, feel free to pick a clean up site and head straight there!

## PICK UP SUPPLIES

- Once a Site and a suitable Hub has been picked out, coordinate with your group on when to head out/meet up to pick up supplies. At each Hub location, supplies can be located within a locked foot locker on the premises. If you notice that a hub is missing supplies, please contact our Field Coordinator Lucas or our Program Director Chad so that we can resupply!

**Email:**

**Lucas:** [Field@CoosaRiver.org](mailto:Field@CoosaRiver.org)

**Chad:** [Chad@CoosaRiver.org](mailto:Chad@CoosaRiver.org)

**Phone:**

**(205) 981-6565**

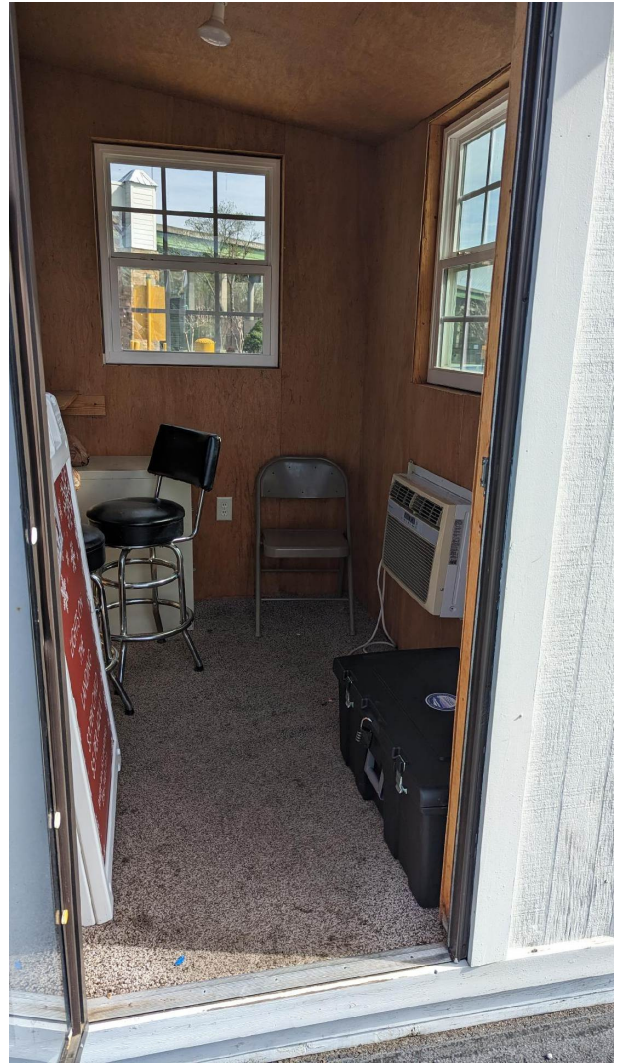
# Hub Locations



## River Rocks Landing

| River Rd, Gadsden, AL 35901

- Hub located just inside the small shed right before the gate to River Rocks Landing.



**Lock code for every hub: 2010**



# Hub Locations



## Pell City Lakeside Park

2801 Stemley Bridge Rd, Cropwell, AL 35054

- Hub located at the front of of the small security station in the boat ramp/swimming beach parking lot.



**Lock code for every hub: 2010**



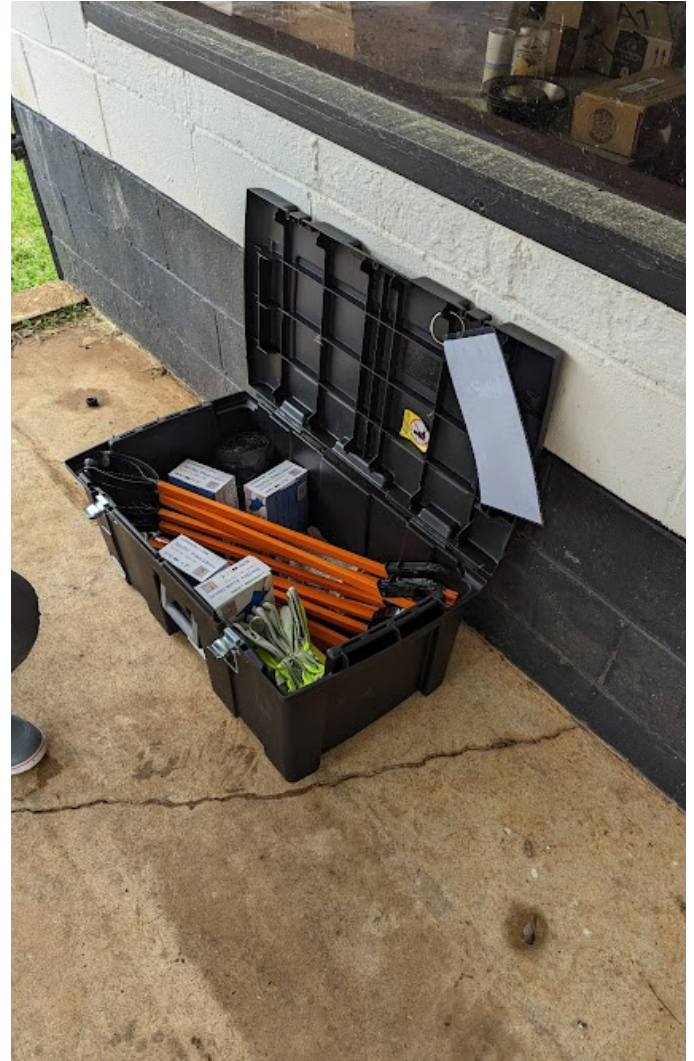
# Hub Locations



## Cedar Creek Marina

1551 Cedar Creek Rd, Sylacauga, AL 35151

- Hub located to the left of the front door to Cedar Creek Marina.



**Lock code for every hub: 2010**



# Hub Locations



## Lake Mitchell Marina

522 Co Rd 469, Clanton, AL 35046

- Hub located to the left of the dock walkway, behind the large bait well & under the mounted toolbox.



**Lock code for every hub: 2010**



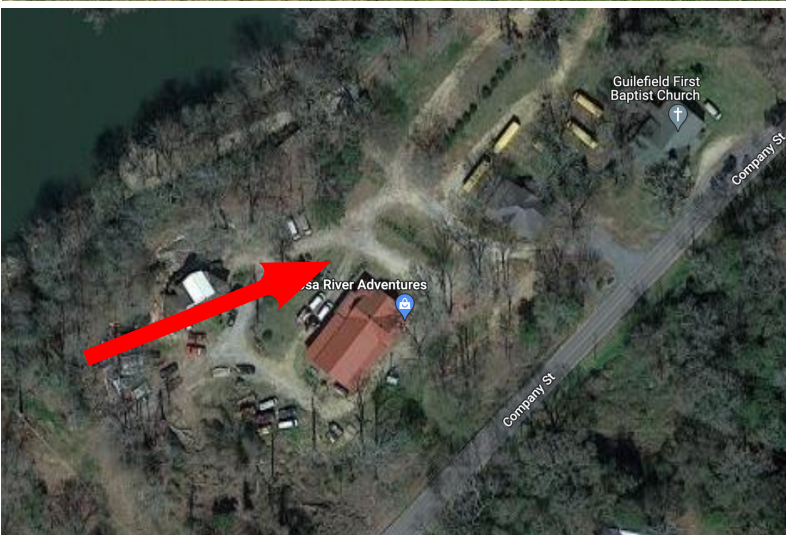
# Hub Locations



## Coosa River Adventures

415 Company St, Wetumpka, AL 36092

- Hub located to the right of the Outfitter office, near the trash cans and recycle receptacles. The dumpster can be used by volunteers to dispose of trash after clean ups!



**Lock code for every hub: 2010**



# CLEANUP SUPPLIES

**Please make sure you have all of these items before beginning your clean up!**

**Coosa Riverkeeper can provide all of these items:**

- ☐ Gloves
- ☐ Trash bags
- ☐ Grabbers
- ☐ Signed Waiver
- ☐ Neon Vests

**Coosa Riverkeeper does not provide these items, but highly recommends them:**

- ☐ Closed toed shoes/Waders
- ☐ Long Sleeve Shirts and pants
- ☐ First Aid Kit
- ☐ Hand Sanitizer
- ☐ Sunscreen
- ☐ Bug Repellant

# AFTER YOUR CLEAN UP

## REPORTING

- Once you have finished a clean up, make sure that you report it to us using the [Post-clean up survey](#). You can also find a link to this survey at the top of the clean up map, or the QR code to the right! The survey is short and should take less than 5 minutes. The survey is a crucial part to the clean up process. Completing the survey allows us to keep the map updated to real-time. The data collected through the survey allows us to analyze the individual sites, amount of trash and what kind of trash is being collected, organize photos, recognize our wonderful volunteers. Additionally this data will be used in future grant requests to provide funding to make upgrades to the map, and expand our volunteer program.
- Please send photos from your clean up! This could be of your group having fun, unique items you found, the whole clean up crew, and before & after photos. We might even post them on our social media!

SCAN FOR  
THE POST-  
CLEAN UP  
SURVEY!



## RETURN SUPPLIES

- Please make sure all Coosa Riverkeeper supplies (trash grabbers, vests, reusable gloves, unused supplies) are placed back in the bin provided and that the padlock is securely in place.
- Please inform us of any low supplies so that we can restock accordingly.

## DISPOSAL PLAN

- Although the map has disposal locations, they may not be close to your clean up site. If you are at a park, locate the closest public dumpster for disposal. You may need to contact your local municipality or waste department to schedule pickup if you are not at a site with a public dumpster. Make sure your disposal plan is in place before the day of your clean up.



# YOU'RE ALL SET!

**You should now have all the knowledge needed to plan and host a clean up! Don't forget that this document can be referenced as many times as you need to ensure a safe, effective clean up.**

**If you have any questions that may not have been answered or if you need any clarity on anything specific, don't be afraid to contact our Field Coordinator, Lucas, or our Program Director, Chad, through email or phone!**

**Email:**

**Lucas: [Field@CoosaRiver.org](mailto:Field@CoosaRiver.org)**

**Chad: [Chad@CoosaRiver.org](mailto:Chad@CoosaRiver.org)**

**Phone:**

**(205) 981-6565**

---

**Our staff, Board, members, and our mighty river sincerely appreciate you! Thank you for your valuable time and commitment to protecting, restoring, and promoting the Coosa River!**

***Thank  
you!***