

Tips to Make Your Stream Investigation Successful

Before You Begin

A few days before you plan to walk the stream for the first time, e-mail (PatapscoFriend@gmail.com) the stream watch coordinator that you plan to do a recon/cleanup. We will either e-mail you or mail you a blank report form. A disposable camera will be provided for you if you do not have a digital camera or other camera to use. We suggest you use GOOGLE maps for a layout of the stream. Patapsco Heritage Greenway (PHG) may be able to get a map from other sources if needed.

Supplies Recommended to Take Along the First Day of Your Investigation

- Old, comfortable clothes - long pants & long shirt
- Boots or sneakers
- Digital camera (if you don't have one, PHG can provide you with a disposable camera)
- 1-2 Pens and/or pencils
- Borrow a safety vest
- Clipboard or something to write on to complete form and notes
- Stream report form (provided by PHG) and extra paper (for any additional notes)
- Work gloves or something else so you don't have to pick up any questionable litter w/your hands
- Tape measure and yard stick (only needed the first time to measure the stream)
- Plastic bag (to pick up a few litter items-if there is extensive litter, talk to the PHG stream watch coordinator after your investigation to schedule a group cleanup)
- Cell phone (in case of emergency)
- Identification (in case of emergency)
- Bottled water or water bottle
- Sunscreen (if sun sensitive)
- Insect repellent (if needed)
- Map of stream with nearest streets & landmarks (in case of emergency and for reference points)
- Back pack or bag to carry all this stuff!
- **IMPORTANT - Be sure to let someone close to you know where you are, or better yet bring a friend!**

After the Stream Investigation

- Complete report
- Email the report and any photos taken to PatapscoFriend@gmail.com, highlighting any special concerns or comments in the body of the email. If you don't have access to email or a digital camera, talk to the Stream Watch Program Director to make other arrangements.
- Give yourself a big pat on the back for a job well done!

Thanks for being a stream watcher and making a difference in the Patapsco River watershed!