



Partners in Parks program

Short-term stewardship activity: Litter clean-up in a city park

Help remove litter. See the difference your efforts can make!

Lend a helping hand by removing litter from your neighbourhood park in Waterloo from May to October. If you are 18 years of age or older, register your group's litter clean-up activity by completing the online Community Action form to receive free supplies and support.

Consider celebrating Earth Day by participating in the annual [Earth Day Community Cleanup](#) during the last weekend in April.



Responsibilities

- this program requires registration and a mandatory 30 minute orientation session provided to new Group leaders upon pick up of supplies to ensure an understanding of the City's safety guidelines and requirements for group participants working on municipal lands
- adult Group leader engages community involvement and ensures group participants are wearing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), have read and signed the Informed Consent Agreement and are directly supervised during the activity with suitable project tasks
- within 24 hours after your community cleanup, submit the online reporting form and drop off all forms to the Waterloo Service Centre so that garbage can be removed promptly and dangerous items responded to

Time and place

- public parks in Waterloo (view City of Waterloo's [online map](#))
- May to October (or consider an [Earth Day Community Cleanup](#) in April)
- no statutory holidays, daylight hours only (1 hour before sunset and 1 hour after sunrise)

Garbage pick-up

- *clean* and empty recyclables can be included with your household curbside collection
- full garbage bags can be deposited *beside* existing garbage cans within the park, park entrance or along stone-dust or paved trails in the park that have vehicle access
- provide a description and location of dangerous items, graffiti and active or abandoned campsites, shelters or forts on the Community cleanup results form

The only cure for **LITTER** is you.



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Safety guidelines

- wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including closed-toe footwear, cloth gloves, long pants, regulation-approved safety vests when working within the street boulevard and any additional PPE which may be advisable or appropriate for the conditions
- acceptable tools include garbage bags, cloth gloves and plastic garbage nippers; we recommend the Group leader have access to a first aid kit and cell phone
- this activity requires moderate physical exertion such as bending, lifting up to 20 lbs and walking on uneven terrain and within natural areas
- be aware of potential risks in natural areas such as uneven ground, branch/tree failure, exposure to stinging insects or plants (e.g. Giant hogweed, stinging nettle, poison ivy), and unstable or slippery ground near wetlands, creeks, stormwater management ponds
- suspend activities when weather conditions become inclement (e.g. thunderstorms)
- only pick-up litter - leave organic yard waste such as leaves, twigs, tree limbs and other plant material on the ground
- **avoid** picking up dangerous or heavy, large items including:
 - **Sharps** include any device having rigid corners or edges or projections capable of causing a cut, puncture or abrasion. Sharps include but is not limited to hypodermic needles/syringes, blades, pointed edged tools, knives, scalpels, probes, sharp metal, broken glass or clinical glass (possibly contaminated with blood, bodily fluids or chemicals)
 - **hazardous waste** - items that are corrosive, flammable, explosive or poisonous including paint products and coatings, asbestos, fluorescent tubes and bulbs, automotive-type fluids, batteries, propane tanks, medical waste, pressurized containers, garden and pest control products, smoke alarms, chemicals and flammable liquids
 - farm or agricultural debris, large items that are heavy, bulky, difficult to grasp or unstable

What to do with dangerous items, graffiti or other concerns:

On the Community cleanup results form, indicate any dangerous items including active or abandoned campsites/shelters/forts so that trained City staff can address these concerns.

- if you find a **needle** in a park, trail or other public space, contact the City 519-886-1550 (during business hours) or sharpscleanup@waterloo.ca. For more information, view our [Safe needle disposal webpage](#).
- report any **graffiti** on park infrastructure (signs, playgrounds, benches, picnic tables, other structures) within a city park to City Parks Services: **519-886-2310** or [Report an issue form](#)