



TRASH CLEAN UP CHECKLIST:

Use these tips to prepare for your cleanup. Additional safety measures and instructions may also be appropriate for your area. Always conduct an orientation to provide safety information prior to allowing participants to begin the cleanup.

PREPARING FOR YOUR CLEANUP

- Did you register your group on Wildlands Conservancy's Clean Creeks web page? This helps us alert your group that another group has already been scheduled for that site.
- Do you have landowner permission?
- Did you check the weather leading up to the event and the day of the event?
- Do you have an appropriate ratio of adults and children?
- Did you scout the area ahead of time to determine hazards, what tools might be helpful (rakes, wheelbarrow), layout of the sites & how to break up your group, where the starting and ending points should be, etc.?
- Did you advise participants on how to dress ahead of time?

Email Volunteers or Hand Out Information well before event:

- Meeting time and location with specific directions.
 - Volunteers MUST:
 - wear long pants (even in the summer! protects skin against thorny plants, sharp objects and poison ivy)
 - long-sleeve shirts
 - sturdy, thick-soled shoes (no running shoes!),
 - bring leather gloves if you have a pair
 - Wear a hat and apply sunscreen.
 - Provide a contact number the day of the event to help with directions.
 - Describe what to do in case of rain: heavy rain cancels, light rain cancels, will email by 9 am if event cancelled, etc.
 - Suggest that volunteers bring tongs, helpful when picking up pieces of broken glass and other objects.
- Did you determine how to properly dispose of your trash? A local trash hauler may help with this element.
 - Do you have a first aid kit?
 - Do you have drinking water and cups?

- Do you have heavy duty trash bags?
- Do you have gloves appropriately sized for the age group?
- Do all the leaders have the plan for contacting emergency authorities?
- Do you have hand sanitizer, if restrooms are not available?
- Do you want to supply a snack?

DAY OF THE CLEAN UP

- Did you gather and load up the supplies mentioned above?
- Did you check on the latest weather?
- Did you go over the SAFETY RULES with leaders and volunteers?
 - Volunteers may not work alone. Work in groups of three or more.
 - Volunteers should carry their trash bags with care. Sharp objects within the bags can puncture through.
 - Always watch for cars when working near roads and parking lots.
 - Do not attempt to remove any dangerous items, drums or containers that may contain toxic waste. Report them to proper authorities.
 - Advise your group to stay away from hypodermic needles or medical wastes. Care should be exercised when picking up bags or other soft containers. Advise caution when handling broken glass, sharp objects, aerosol cans, and containers with chemical residue.
 - Warn the group about poison ivy if it is present (www.gpnc.org/poison.htm), so they can avoid those areas. Teach: “Hairy Rope, Don’t be a Dope.” “Leaves of Three, Let it Be.”
 - At the end of the cleanup, participants should always check for ticks. Use your event as an opportunity to teach everyone how to identify blacklegged ticks (deer tick).
<http://www.ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/pdfs/ticks.pdf>
 - Advise against lifting heavy objects like engine blocks.
 - Avoid dangerous locations and stay clear of animals.
 - Be sure to tell a leader if you are hurt and seek first aid.
- Do participants know where to put trash that has been collected? If a municipality or hauler agreed to pick up the trash, check back to make sure that it was done.
- Did you take photos and record your results (number of volunteers, number of hours, number and types of trash)?
- Did you submit your accomplishments on Wildlands Conservancy’s website so we can provide your group with well-deserved recognition and track the progress volunteer stewards have made in the watershed?