

Litter Cleanup Logistics

Choose Clean up Locations

A community-wide effort is recommended. To involve the entire community, meet with the local government (public works, solid waste/sanitation, planning and/or administrative department(s), downtown organization, and neighborhood associations to determine areas of need to be cleaned up, beautified and/or improved. Affiliates may want to schedule their Litter Index 2-3 weeks prior to Target Date to identify problem litter areas.

Locations that may need attention include:

- ▶ rights-of-way
- ▶ gateway(s)
- ▶ park(s)
- ▶ non-profit community area
- ▶ historic area
- ▶ neighborhoods
- ▶ school yard
- ▶ vacant lot
- ▶ downtown
- ▶ hiking trails/bike path
- ▶ illegal dump site(s)
- ▶ riverbank/lakefront
- ▶ highway embankment
- ▶ railroad right-of-way



Sometimes permits must be obtained to clean up and beautify certain areas. Appoint someone to find out what may be required. You need to determine if the property is public or private. If private property is involved, you will need permission from the landowner, preferably in writing.

Boundaries

Once you have decided what area(s) to target, establish cleanup boundaries. Remember to set realistic goals - trying to clean too large an area will only make your efforts seem small. Consider dividing roads into 1-2 mile sections or parks into acre plots.

Team Leaders

Naming team leaders is helpful for large cleanup or beautification projects. Team leaders may be assigned to each site within the boundaries or mile markers along a highway. These individuals make sure their cleanup runs smoothly and safely, and they report participation and collection results.

Along waterways the leaders can be placed strategically along the shoreline or embankment. Team leaders should be trained in advance of your activity so they can answer any question that a volunteer may have. Be sure that property ownership has granted permission for any work to be accomplished. For government rights-of-way this may be granted through a proclamation or resolution. For private property this may require a written letter or waiver form. Be sure coordinator and/or team/task force member is designated to check in advance to see what may be required.

Who should you contact for hauling?

Begin by contacting your government offices to let them know about your cleanup plans. Determine if they are able to assist you with waste hauling – or if you will need to partner with a private hauler. Be sure to coordinate drop off and/or collection filled bags.

Work with your waste hauler to determine the best locations for volunteers to drop their bags off for pick-up, and if they are able to weigh the trash collected. If they are not able to weigh the waste for you, you will have to have your team leaders keep track of the weight or count the number of bags and large items collected.

About Tipping Fees

Landfill operators charge a "tipping fee" to dispose of waste. Occasionally these fees are waived and considered as an in-kind contribution. The fees may be absorbed by the city or waste hauler. You should determine as quickly as possible to determine the party that will be responsible for incurring this cost.