



Keep Our Parks Clean DIY Project

Civic Circle Area: Volunteer

The impact of COVID-19 continues to change our daily lives and routines, but volunteering and civic engagement are just as important as ever. This project can be modified to adhere to social distancing guidelines set by local and national authorities, to do virtually or to do at home and deliver via mail or drop off.

It's awful to see community parks, beaches and riverbanks strewn with litter. It's bad for humans as well as the plants and animals that live there. Help clean up parks, beaches and riversides to make a more beautiful and healthier environment.

What You Need:

- Trash bags
- Gloves to protect hands from sharp objects
- Clothes that can get dirty
- Drinking water and snacks to keep your energy up
- Rakes and other tools depending on project

Steps:

1. Identify a park, beach or river that you would like to clean up.
2. Contact the agency responsible for the park, beach or river and say, "We want to help clean up. What can we do to help?" (Pick up litter, paint benches, rake scattered debris, etc.)
3. Choose a date.
4. Ask friends and adult volunteers to help.
5. Notify the local paper or radio station! They may wish to notify the public about your cleanup effort. You might get more volunteers.
6. After you finish the cleanup, enjoy the park, beach or river.
7. Take pictures and write a brief article about your project for your local paper or to share on social media to inspire others to keep our parks, beaches and rivers clean.

Reflection Questions:

- How do you feel after cleaning up your local park, beach or river?
- How can you make people more aware that we all can make a difference in protecting the environment?