

## **Volunteer Service Description: Trash Removal**

Types of trash volunteers may collect:

- Cans, glass bottles, “Tetrapak” (aseptic) containers, food containers
- Trash already bagged, if the bag is intact
- Clothing or other discarded personal items, but none from what appears to belong to unhoused persons (present or not)
- Debris from fishing, camping, hiking, cycling, or other activities in the park
- Adults may choose to collect dangerous items including broken glass, jagged metal, fishhooks, drug paraphernalia, and bagged pet waste, but may choose not to do so if they don’t feel comfortable with it. Youth may not touch these items.

Types of trash volunteers may not collect:

- Tires, barrels, or drums
- Human or animal waste that is not in a bag or container
- Anything that exceeds their own personal limit to what is too heavy
- Artifacts older than 50 years
- Anything buried
- Anything in water that cannot be easily or safely reached from shore

Method of trash collection:

- Volunteers may use their hands or trash “grabbers” to pick up the trash, whichever they feel most comfortable with.
- Volunteers handle sharp trash (broken glass, jagged metal, fish hooks, etc.) at their own discretion and put sharps into hard containers to reduce the chance of injuring someone else.
- When a bag of trash is full or the volunteer has decided to stop filling it, they must take the bag to the pre-designated trash collection site (such as a group meeting place) or, if they are removing trash on their own, place it where they can remove it from the park when they leave. Volunteers will not leave trash in the park once they leave unless directed by project leaders to leave it in a designated location for later pickup.

Physical demands:

- Volunteers should be able to walk and stand throughout the entire project. They should not carry anything that is heavier, larger, or more awkward than what they feel comfortable with.
- Volunteers should be able to use the tools that they have chosen to use during the project, such as trash grabbers, and may choose to trade off with other people.
- Volunteers will have been told in writing before the project date and again verbally before the project begins that they may be walking on uneven ground, up or down small slopes, and may be walking on rocks or roots. Volunteers should avoid areas that make them feel uncomfortable.

Safety:

- Before work begins, the project leader will address safety issues and provide safe options for volunteers.
- Volunteers will wear work gloves while volunteering. If they are working near a parking lot, sidewalk, road, railroad tracks, or the towpath, they will also wear yellow high-visibility vests. Projects that take place beside any of these except the towpath will be available to adults only.

- First-aid kits, including poison ivy wipes, will be available onsite. Volunteers are invited to bring their own medical or first-aid items according to their needs and preferences.
- PPE such as masks and hand sanitizer will be available. Volunteers may choose to bring their own PPE or project supplies from home at their own risk and in accordance with park and Trust guidelines for performing the task.
- In writing and verbally, volunteers are reminded that they are not expected to perform any task that makes them uncomfortable and to notify a project leader if they'd prefer to do a different task.

**Skills and training:**

- The park or the Trust will provide at least one project leader who has the blessing of the park Resources Team and is comfortable with leading every project.
- Volunteers are not expected to have any previous training or experience with the tasks, but should be willing to be trained on the project and how to follow guidelines and expectations.