

Thank you SO MUCH for your willingness to assist the local community and wildlife by offering some of your time to assist in collecting litter! We hope that you and your family will enjoy the flexible approach to choosing your own location(s) and schedules that will work best for you!

We have outlined some tips below on collecting litter with younger children, recommended supplies, as well as some local resources for waste disposal and safe practices if sharps are encountered...

Recommended Equipment:

- **Garbage Bags** - many plastic grocery bags can be found along the way unfortunately, also. Due to their smaller size and handles, they can be easier for younger children to carry if they would like to take the role of bag-carrier. 3-5 standard garbage bags from home should be sufficient for most outings.
- **Cardboard Boxes** – you may have some smaller boxes at home such as cereal boxes/etc that you can bring along with you in case any broken glass or other sharp objects (wire, etc) might be found. Placing these items in a box before putting them into any plastic bag will prevent a possible tear in the bag, which could risk undoing so much of your hard work!
- **Gloves** – You might already have gardening or heavier-duty rubber gloves at home, and they can be purchased affordably in individual pairs at local hardware stores, as well. In case of wet conditions or the discovery of sharper objects, gloves with a rubber or leather layer will provide extra hand protection.
- **Hand Sanitizer** – collecting litter is a very rewarding and highly valuable task, but after spending time picking it up even with gloves on, it can be reassuring to have a small bottle of hand sanitizer to use before heading home.
- **Reusable Water Bottles** – If you expect to be out for a little while tidying up a local spot, you might like to have a beverage available to rehydrate along the way. If you do not already have a reusable water bottle or thermos at home, please consider making a great, one-time purchase to prevent the accumulation of more of the types of trash you are generously collecting. Some water bottles are stainless steel and insulated, and can be used for cold and hot beverages alike.
- **Litterless Snacks** – most of our children have quite frequent snacking habits, lol... Packing a snack to keep up energy and morale along the way is recommended, even for shorter outings.

It can be difficult to find appropriate gloves that fit well for younger children... Kids can still be a part of the process and have a lot of fun by being given the task of “Seeker...” A special phrase or “alarm call” when they find a piece of garbage can make for an amusing search method, and serve to keep them well engaged. They may also like to show off their growing strength skills by carrying the bag while parents and/or older siblings collect the found items.

Waste Disposal/Sharps:

From ARCH Guelph's Website (<https://www.archguelph.ca/needle-disposal>)

If you are a member of the community and you find a syringe on public property, **Stay Sharp provides site-specific needle pick up Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

To report a needle on public property, please contact our Harm Reduction Program for HIV/AIDS Resources and Community Health at **519-240-4098**.

*Please leave your name and contact information for follow up.

After collecting litter, please tie your bags tightly to ensure they do not blow open and/or spill their contents. Any public waste receptacles at City-owned parks and trails can be used to dispose of the waste collected. If you find the bags will not fit, extras can be left near to the provided trashcans – in such a case, a quick notification to the City of Guelph Parks Department will ensure a quick pick up by a City employee...
parks@guelph.ca / 519-837-5626