



Thank you for participating in this year's Adopt-A-Park Litter Removal efforts!

Returning this year, Five Rivers MetroParks is offering an alternative way to celebrate Earth Day and make a difference in our community. Five Rivers MetroParks is a conservation agency with a mission to protect our region's natural heritage, including more than 16,000 acres of land. Your participation in Adopt-A-Park helps MetroParks meet its mission and improves our local environment. Adopt-A-Park also provides you and your family the opportunity to experience the outdoors in your MetroParks, on the trails, in your favorite local greenspaces, or even in your backyard to clean up litter and then report what you collected.

Please join us in thanking this year's sponsors: Montgomery County Environmental Services/Keep Montgomery County Beautiful and QEI Engineers, Inc.



Here's what's inside your Adopt-A-Park service kit:

- **Step-by-step directions:** Ensure you have a safe, fun experience making a difference at this year's Adopt-A-Park.
- **Gloves:** Wear gloves to protect yourself while helping clean up our community.
- **Trash bags:** Place litter items you collect in the trash bags.
- **Litter pick-up tool:** Use this tool to collect small or light items.
- **Seed Paper Thank You:** Plant and watch me grow!

Adopt-A-Park service kit materials come in a reusable Five Rivers MetroParks bag and include a **plantable seed paper** -- the seed paper contains wildflower seeds! When you're finished with your litter clean-up effort:

- Pre-soak the seed paper (tree shape) in a shallow dish of water for 1 minute before planting.
- Place seed paper under a 1/3-inch layer of soil (inside a planter or outside from Spring to early Fall).
- Water and keep the soil moist through seed germination, then water plants as needed (germination typically takes 7 - 10 days, and flowers should start to bloom at 12-14 weeks).
- Continue watering and watch the wildflowers grow – reminding you of your efforts to create and support a greener, healthier community!

How to Report Your Impact

- [Complete the Adopt-A-Park Litter Pick-Up Survey:](https://forms.office.com/r/nwdnzfBXJ5) You will receive a link to the Adopt-A-Park Litter Pick-Up Survey in your email (<https://forms.office.com/r/nwdnzfBXJ5>). Once you have completed your litter pick-up efforts, you can scan the QR code below with a smart device to complete the survey. This short survey helps us extend your service by reporting the amount of litter and trash you collected.
- **Volunteer Hours:** The Team Leader of your group can log group's volunteer hours in Get Connected by using the Manage Team feature. If you need assistance in logging your team's volunteer hours, please contact Volunteer Services at volunteer.services@metroparks.org or at (937) 275-PARK.



Step-by-Step Directions:

1. **Familiarize yourself** with the contents of this service kit and read all directions. Contact Volunteer Services at volunteer.services@metroparks.org or (937) 275-PARK (7275) with any questions or concerns. For safety concerns, contact the MetroParks Rangers at (937) 225-HELP (4357) or 911.
2. **Decide on a park, trail, or greenspace** to focus your litter clean-up efforts and plan your trip. Five Rivers MetroParks' mobile app, powered by OuterSpatial, can help you plan your route. **This kit also includes a list of targeted sites for litter clean-up.** Be mindful of boundaries and do not trespass. Practice [Leave No Trace principles](#), and stay on the trail when possible.
3. **Check the weather** for rain or excessive heat/cold warnings and plan accordingly. Wear sunscreen and drink plenty of water!
4. **Wear bright, fluorescent colors** or clothing with reflectors to stay visible, especially when working near roads or other high-traffic areas. This not only keeps you safe but also helps others recognize the important work you're doing to keep the environment clean.
5. **Wear gloves.** Always wear gloves when picking up litter! Practice good glove etiquette, and **DO NOT TOUCH** your face, clothes, exposed skin, or water bottle with gloves that have been in contact with unknown litter. Your personal safety is the most important priority! Gloves can be washed and reused.
6. **Use a litter pick-up tool.** Use the provided tool to safely and easily collect litter—without having to touch potentially contaminated litter. Sanitize your pick-up tool after use with hot, soapy water or disinfectant wipes.
7. **Keep an eye on your surroundings.** While you're cleaning up litter, stay alert and pay attention to your surroundings. This will keep you safe — and you may notice beautiful details in your environment, like flowering native plants or Eastern Bluebirds returning for the season.
8. **Wash your hands.** As soon as your gloves come off, use hand sanitizer or wash your hands in hot, soapy water.
9. **Properly dispose of your collected litter.** If litter is collected within a MetroPark, please place litter in available trash receptacles. If you collect litter in your community, please take the trash with you. If you are collecting litter at a City of Dayton park and you cannot take your litter with you, please contact volunteer services at

volunteer.services@metroparks.org with details of where you left the bagged litter, including a picture if possible.

10. **Celebrate your efforts!** Every clean-up effort should be celebrated with pictures. Please post pictures of your clean-up efforts to social media and tag #AdoptAPark so we can see the good work you've done. MetroParks will share some of the photos on its social media channels.

Thank you for helping us with this year's Adopt-A-Park!

RESOURCES:

If you're looking for more ways to support the environment, check out these additional resources available online and connect with Volunteer Services regarding additional volunteer opportunities at www.metroparks.org/volunteer.

- Earth Day Tips: <https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-tips/>
- Earth Day Educational Resources: <https://www.earthday.org/education-resource-library/>
- Montgomery County Resources: <https://www.mcoho.org/417/Brochures>

