



Neighborhood CleanUp

Help us keep the Blackstone River Valley clean! Litter is not only unsightly and a blight on our cities and towns, but it also adversely impacts water quality. One piece of litter can find its way from a storm drain to a local waterway or river, and eventually to the ocean.

You can start in your own neighborhood!

What you'll need

- Plastic bag to collect trash
- Gloves
- Trash Pick-up stick
- Separate bag for recyclables

Instructions

Assign gloves and a trash bag to each family member. Turn trash collecting into a “rubbish race” and see who can pick up the most trash in a certain amount of time.

Take all necessary precautions including wearing sturdy gloves, being careful on river banks or near roads, and having adults nearby to help. You can pick your favorite walk and do a one-time sweep, or make clean-up a regular neighborhood event.

Reflections

Did you find a lot of litter? What kind of litter did you see most often? What could be done to help with that problem? Why is it important to pick up litter? What would our neighborhood look like if everyone littered? How would you feel about living here? What other ways can we take care of the spaces where we live?

**Take a few photos of what you've picked up.
Share them on the [GearHeads](#) gallery webpage.**

Fast Facts About Recycling

- The average person generates over 4 pounds of trash every day and about 1.5 tons of trash per year.
- Americans make more than 260 million tons of trash each year, enough to fill a football stadium from top to bottom twice a day.
- The EPA estimates that 75% of American trash is recyclable, but we only recycle about 30% of it.

