



COMMUNITY CLEANUP GUIDE

FOR NEIGHBORHOODS, NATURAL AREAS AND CIVIC EVENTS



Metro | *Keep nature in neighborhoods*

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INTRODUCTION



Courtesy of Bruce MacGregor

Oregonians are known around the world for their commitment to the environment. We care about pristine natural areas and healthy urban areas that welcome people and wildlife.

The Community Cleanup Guide was created for people who put their environmental and community values into action through volunteerism and civic involvement. Metro – with funding from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and support from dozens of community members and government staff – has created a resource that will help involved citizens build better communities and keep nature in neighborhoods.

Sharing what works

For years, community volunteers have taken the lead on cleanup projects in neighborhoods and natural areas within the Metro area. This guide offers a condensed presentation of their best ideas and successes. It is a forum for sharing what works. Specifically, this guide is designed to:

- ✓ help both new coordinators and veteran volunteers improve recycling and waste prevention at cleanup events
- ✓ improve effectiveness of community volunteers through training and acknowledgement
- ✓ ensure the safety of the many volunteers needed to make projects successful
- ✓ leverage business and government dollars
- ✓ ensure best use of Metro disposal vouchers and local government grants
- ✓ inspire community by highlighting regional model cleanup activities.

INTRODUCTION

The Community Cleanup Guide focuses on neighborhood, natural area and civic event cleanups. These three project types are separated into two sections: neighborhood cleanup events and natural area and civic event cleanups.

- **Neighborhoods** Includes local residential areas and commercial districts, including bulky waste and yard debris collections and school or street cleanups. Examples include Richmond and Cully neighborhood cleanups in Portland, the Martin Luther King, Jr. business district's Spiffin' event and a student-initiated project at W. L. Henry Elementary School in Hillsboro.
- **Civic events** Includes large events that provide opportunities for recycling. Each year, thousands of people attend large fundraisers, sports events, outdoor music performances and parades. These crowds generate a lot of trash, making waste management an essential part of event planning. Portland's huge Race for the Cure and the lower-key Earth Day Celebration provide excellent examples of best practices in sustainable civic events.
- **Natural areas** Oregonians' heavy use of natural areas results in a lot of litter. The natural area cleanups section addresses the problem of waste in parks and wilderness areas, as well as alongside lakes and rivers. On page 59 the Cleanup Guide highlights the Down the River Cleanup, an effort that removes tons of debris from the Clackamas River each year.

How to use this guide

This booklet contains information, tips and resources to help you hold an event that will achieve the goals of your organization and maximize recycling opportunities. It is intended to put critical information at your fingertips, whether you're a seasoned cleanup organizer or planning your first event. The appendices contain other resources to help you run a successful event.

The guide is organized into *before*, *during* and *after* sections to lead you, your organization and your volunteers through every stage of a cleanup. In each section, you'll find information about specific activities that happen at each stage of event planning and implementation. For example, before an event, you'll need to consider a number of critical planning issues: funding, site planning, volunteers, publicity, management of the materials you'll receive and how to work with haulers. Similarly, there are important steps to take during and after an event.

Thank you for your leadership in helping to keep neighborhoods clean, safe and livable.