



GLWC22

The Drill Down on Clean Ups

MARCH 28, 2022

COMMENTS, EDITS, AND ADDITIONS WELCOME TO ECONIAGARA@GMAIL.COM

Outline

- ▶ Review from last time – club commitment and site selection.
- ▶ Planning Notes and Walk Through
- ▶ 'Day Of' Starting Huddle
- ▶ Tools, experiences and Habitat
- ▶ Sharps
- ▶ Social Media
- ▶ Reporting
- ▶ Looking ahead

Planning Notes

- ▶ Your volunteers – develop a sign up sheet and other instructions
 - ▶ Start time, end time, washroom locations, cleaning up, etc.
 - ▶ Waivers – a sample waiver form is on the Resource Center. Share yours.
 - ▶ Insurance – let's go over club and partner insurance questions
 - ▶ Prepping the volunteers: proper footwear, safety, tools, gear, cleaning up, teamwork
- ▶ Key volunteers – assign roles to a few key folks
 - ▶ 'Sharps person' – have them find a sharps container and work out the training
 - ▶ Taking attendance: Waivers, check in, check out (very important); keeping track of person hours
 - ▶ Social media coordinator – someone who knows the # and platforms, make a sign, etc.
 - ▶ Base station (if needed): drinks, snacks, supplies, etc. Location for garbage bags for pick up.
- ▶ Partners involved and their key volunteers
 - ▶ Note that the items need to be weighed. They need the same instruction as Rotarians.
 - ▶ Include partner volunteer hours and contact information
 - ▶ Discuss with your partner(s) who will be hauling away the garbage.
 - ▶ For some, there may be a partner who will haul away that garbage.

Initial walk through

- ▶ Together with your key partner contact(s) you may need to arrange a walk through of the site to get a sense of the volume of garbage and the time it may take to clean up the site.
- ▶ If the terrain is hilly or slippery then you may need to consider some safety ropes or other equipment. Other safety factors may be an issue.
- ▶ If you are beside a significant stream or waterway you may need to ensure that the appropriate lifesaving devices are available (lifejackets, throw rings, hooks, etc.) and that there is appropriate personnel.
- ▶ Some growth may need to be trimmed. Your partner may be able to take care of this with their crew in prep so your crew can have improved access.

'Day Of' Starting Huddle

- ▶ Gather everyone at the start location and go over these issues:
 - ▶ Make sure you have identified to everyone volunteers trained in first aid and point to where the first aid kit is. Consider inviting a partner who provides first aid like the Red Cross.
 - ▶ Go over the procedures if someone finds a sharp object or needle.
 - ▶ Check that everyone has proper clothing and footwear.
 - ▶ Depending on your event, make sure everyone has a buddy and that all have the event coordinator's contact information on their device. Same thing for anyone who plans to post on social media – that they have the event hashtags. Make a poster. Take a picture.
 - ▶ Discuss preparation issues in terms of weather and terrain. No one should be going up or down steep slopes. There's going to be mud so having some cleaning supplies is a good thing
 - ▶ Note habitat issues – that we don't want to unnecessarily trampling and harm to growing plants - and animals including fish habitat and nesting sites should be respected. Tread lightly.
 - ▶ Social distancing may need to be in effect, but get everyone as close together as possible for a photo. Think about how you may need to produce a slide show to get others involved.
 - ▶ If there is any specific gear you have, or if people need extra garbage bags, then point to where these can be found or who has them. Go over where full bags need to go and if you are collecting metal where this should go, too.

Equipment and tools

- ▶ Supplied or sponsored: Gloves, garbage bags (clear and black), containers, some tools.
- ▶ Each volunteer: Good footwear. Dress for the weather.
- ▶ Gardening tools are good to bring along such as a rake or hand tools. Pruning shears and clippers are good for cutting garbage out of plants.
- ▶ A few garbage cans for items like glass and metal.
- ▶ Recycling bins for bottles, cans, paper, etc. Remember to follow your community's guidelines for appropriate disposal (no dirty stuff).
- ▶ Where possible buried items should be dug free with tools before picking them up by a gloved hand.
- ▶ Some cleanups need rope and if near a waterway, lifesaving equipment.

The actual clean up experience

- ▶ Some cleanups have a home base where there are supplies, but also hot beverages and snacks. Keep everyone hydrated, but you may want to find a site that has a nearby washroom.
- ▶ Some streams and their valley areas may have been trash pits at one time. Sometimes it is best not to disturb an area instead of cleaning it up.
- ▶ If you are cleaning up a park or walkable area consider forming a line and advancing across the terrain together. People can pick up garbage in front of them and it's a good way to keep everyone moving along.
- ▶ If someone comes across a needle they should stop and call out for the sharps container. The person with the container would come and remove the needle. Where there is one needle, there may be more.
- ▶ Fishing items out of streams and ponds is challenging. The water at this time of year is very cold and that safety should guide your work. Best to do this with good teamwork and the support of your key partners.

The watershed habitat – a few notes

- ▶ We need to tread lightly. Avoid going in streams and waterways. Muddy cool areas are often habitat for sensitive flora and fauna. Try and avoid leaving your footprints. Cleaning up often impacts habitat for many creatures so be careful when picking up trash as it may also be some critter's home.
- ▶ Paths and trails are great for getting out in the community, improving health, and meeting people. Their care is important and not be a hazard to foot and bicycle traffic.
- ▶ We need to consider signage and information so that litter is minimized in the future.

Some unusual issues to prep for

- ▶ Homelessness. You may come across a camp or even someone living in a park or off a trail. Best to avoid these folks, but if you can't, stay calm, be reasonable, and ask if they need help.
- ▶ You may come across a fire pit and a party place. Take out any garbage. Dismantle the firepit and scatter any organic debris. Charred wood should be treated as garbage.
- ▶ Large items. Shopping carts, batteries, tires, bicycles, etc. You may want to take metal items to the scrapper and get some cash. Leave buried items, but tag and photo these. Your partner may be able to bring their vehicle nearer where there is a large amount of garbage.
- ▶ In some parts of the watershed, people used to dump fill and refuse. This will become obvious because people will see this is more than a bag or two of garbage. You may not want to clean up this mess. Leave it buried. Tag and photo this area for future reference for your municipal or watershed partner to deal with or organize another specific clean up for later.
- ▶ You might come across people who are not part of your event. They might have good knowledge of the area and may want to help, but you and your team have to be mindful that everyone in your group has signed a waiver and these folks should too if they want to stop and help.
- ▶ Wild animals. You may come across a feral cat or dog, or even some other critter. Pets should stay home.
- ▶ Liquids in bottles may not necessarily be the liquid you think it might be. Same goes for human waste.
- ▶ Ticks. This is a thing. You should talk about this at the start and everyone do a tick check at the end.

A specific slide on sharps

- ▶ No one should get or want a needle stick. This is the #1 concern that should be discussed and avoided. During your safety briefing make sure everyone gets this and that when encountered they should signal for the sharps container and not pick up the item. Once the container arrives, make a plan to safely dispose of the needle. All should be careful when reaching for any items and it would be best to use a tool first and then pick up with a gloved hand.
- ▶ If you are contacting your local health unit for a sharps container, consider asking them if they are aware of other groups doing a clean up and where, and that other Rotary clubs may be in contact for a sharps container as well.
- ▶ Eye protection may be an issue as the other 'sharp' is getting a stick in the eye. Sure you can go into a dense patch to go after that piece of garbage, but protect your peepers. Talk about this in the huddle.

Social Media

- ▶ Designate a media contact
 - ▶ Prepare some posts. Create a page on your web site and social media sites
 - ▶ Have this person speak at the starting huddle
 - ▶ Coordinate with partners and their social media guidelines
- ▶ Take pictures and video
 - ▶ Load images up right away, or...
 - ▶ Have people send images to the media contact to put a slide show together
- ▶ Hash tags
 - ▶ Event specific
 - ▶ Rotary in general

Keep it focused and fun

- ▶ Set up a refreshments area if you want. Get donations and sponsors for food and beverages.
- ▶ Even though we seem to be emerging from the pandemic, have hand sanitizer and consider physical distancing measures
- ▶ Set an end time, but if people need to take off early that's fine
- ▶ Agree on an end time so that partners can close up. You can have a final huddle, but make sure you reach out and thank people afterwards.

Post Event Reporting – some points

- ▶ Garbage weight
- ▶ Types of garbage
- ▶ Any recycling that was done
- ▶ Unusual happenings
- ▶ List of things that went well
- ▶ List of things to improve or change the next year
- ▶ Partner satisfaction, feedback, and further engagement – invite them to speak at your club, attend other events, etc.

Looking ahead: Final Check In Session Topics

- ▶ We will huddle on April 14th, 2022 (TBC) to go over any last minute details
- ▶ Check in on paperwork – e.g. a draft form for the weigh in (who knows, we may be able to do this all digitally?)
- ▶ Update on partners and other Districts
- ▶ Keying in on social media
- ▶ Supporting partners and thanking them for their work
- ▶ Following up details – post event reporting data and dates