



Great Lakes Watershed Cleanup Orientation 2022

DISTRICT 7090

MARCH 14TH 2022

Overview of Topics in this Session

- ▶ Issues now and in the future
- ▶ Why we are doing this?
- ▶ Basic items to get going on over the next two weeks
- ▶ Partners
- ▶ Selecting a site
- ▶ Considerations in the Rotary world
- ▶ A few examples
- ▶ Next steps for the eager beavers

A peek forward: March 28th – Deeper Dive Items

- ▶ 'Day of Checklist'
 - ▶ Meeting up and doing a safety check
 - ▶ How to deal with 'sharps' and sharp objects
 - ▶ How to deal with large items
 - ▶ What we know so far about insurance, waivers, and similar mumbojumbo
- ▶ Social Media
 - ▶ Tools available to you and your partners (and time to use the drone your friend's kid got for Christmas)
 - ▶ Things to plan for when bragging about your event: hashtags that are event specific and for Rotary in general, and what channels and apps are available
 - ▶ Using other social media to 'geotag' large items and report areas of concern
- ▶ Post-Event Reporting
 - ▶ Hey, look what we found!
 - ▶ Totaling up the amounts of garbage and recycling

Spring Watershed Cleanups

- ▶ These are relatively easy to do, active, and fun events
- ▶ Gets people engaged early in the warmer weather
- ▶ A great opportunity to work with likeminded groups and volunteers
- ▶ A chance to invite potential Rotarians/Rotaractors to be a part of this event
- ▶ Sends a positive message to your community
- ▶ Rotary now has Environment as its seventh area of focus!
- ▶ Whether you are by a lake, or near a stream, we all live in a watershed

The Very Basics

- ▶ Has your club done a cleanup?
 - ▶ If yes, great. You may have to coach your neighbouring Rotary club on how to do one.
 - ▶ What will you do differently this year over last year?
 - ▶ If no, you could start one – even a small, simple clean up – or you might want to reach out to a neighbouring club to help.
- ▶ Ask around. Has a group in your club's area already have a clean up event planned? Do they need help or a partner? Your key partners likely know of existing and planned cleanups.
- ▶ Organize your event around Earth Day – April 22nd. It's OK to have it the weekend before or after. Keep your options open and then narrow this down. You can do your event one day, and those keeners can go help another club on another day.
- ▶ Consider that you may need to postpone the date based on poor weather so have a back up date in the works.
- ▶ We will want to report in on the amount of trash (weight, number of bags, etc.) removed from the waterways and trails so we will accommodate everyone on the reporting in.

Key Partners – some possibilities

- ▶ Your municipality
 - ▶ Parks Department, Public Health Department (source of sharps containers)
- ▶ Schools (teachers and classes, but also families)
- ▶ Specialized watershed groups
 - ▶ In Canada – The Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority and the Hamilton Conservation Authority – we can call these groups 'CAs', Ministry of the Environment
 - ▶ In Western New York – Niagara River Greenway, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, State Parks, DoE.
- ▶ Other groups such as land trusts, trail groups, environmental clubs, etc.
- ▶ Companies that see environment as part of the 'triple bottom line'

The site selection – some immediate tasks

- ▶ Start thinking about options for a clean up site and possible dates. This can be a trail, park, or wilder area such as a stream and its valley.
 - ▶ You may need to do a field trip to walk a prospective site and consider the amount of time (person hours) your event needs.

The Bigger Picture - looking kinda inward

- ▶ District 7090 – Best of Friends – this type of local work can continue by doing other cleanups and education throughout the year
- ▶ This is big! Other Rotary Districts – There are 16 Districts associated with the Great Lakes Basin.
- ▶ Next steps:
 - ▶ Jennifer Jones visit in Toronto on July 5th. There will be a demo cleanup.
 - ▶ Who can you invite to speak to your club about the environment?
 - ▶ With the Environment being added as a seventh area of focus some clubs have created an environmental role for a member. This person (and perhaps committee) can work on making decisions to lower the club's carbon footprint, promote member and community education, and recommend new activities. In 7090 we can include this role in our Healthy Communities project.

The Bigger Picture - looking sorta outward

- ▶ The cleanup is a springboard. What other environmental concerns does your community have?
 - ▶ Are these something your club can address?
 - ▶ Who are the other local groups and are they working on these concerns?
 - ▶ Are any of these concerns the responsibility of an organization – someone who you could engage with on a progress report?
- ▶ On a specific topic, can you use the convening power of Rotary to bring leaders, youth, stakeholders, and citizens together to address a concern in a positive way?
- ▶ We are not alone. Find out if another Rotary club may have dealt with an issue you are facing. As a resource Rotary has a number of internal groups that deal with some persistent environmental issues – these are Rotary Action Groups or RAGs.

Experiences from those who have cleaned up

- ▶ Amherst South-Scott Marcin
- ▶ Grimsby/Lincoln – <https://glwscleanupwn.ca/>
- ▶ Niagara County Central – David Evans
- ▶ Rotaract Club of Niagara/Brock Rotaract
- ▶ Live updates see <https://www.facebook.com/groups/814977885733650> for now.

In summary...and questions/discussion

The next few weeks should focus on:

- ▶ Club agreement to participate
- ▶ Identify a member to be the lead
- ▶ Finding a site
- ▶ Set a date and times
- ▶ Invite non-Rotarians to participate
- ▶ Provide contact information to the District



Upcoming Meeting Dates

- ▶ Cleanup Meeting on the Details – March 28th (Monday, 7pm until...?)
 - ▶ The draft slides for this meeting are available for any eager beaver who wants to read ahead and make suggestions/edits.
- ▶ Pre-Event Check In – April 13th (Wednesday, 7pm for an hour)
 - ▶ Mopping up any prep details
 - ▶ Awareness of any contributions by regional partners
 - ▶ Update on progress from other Districts and clubs in the Great Lakes
- ▶ Your clean up date: insert here!
- ▶ Post-Event Wrap – May 16th (Monday, 7pm, cocktails...)
 - ▶ How much crap did we remove from Mother Nature's sensitive bits?