



Frequently Asked Questions

What should I know about the Help Make Rochester A Litter Bit Better! Event?

What is the Help Make Rochester A Litter Bit Better! Event?

Every April, thousands of volunteers work together to scour ditches, parks, waterways and other areas to pick up tons of trash and litter. Service groups, businesses, scout troops, schools, faith groups, individuals, and neighborhoods pitch in to make the City of Rochester A Litter Bit Better! On average, over 3000 volunteers participate each year and pick up over 10 tons of trash from more than 500 acres in Rochester.

When did this event start?

In 2006 two citizens proposed a City-Wide litter clean-up event to Mayo Ardell Brede and the Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Brede brought together a team of organizations that coordinated the first annual Help Make Rochester A Litter Bit Better! event in 2007. Generous sponsors and volunteers have made this event a success each and every year since.

Where can I get more information about the event?

- General event information and past event summaries: www.rneighbors.org/litterbitbetter
- Media Inquiries: Megan at 507-328-2440 or mmoeller@rochestermn.gov
- Registration and Event Logistics: Mike at 507-254-8169 or mkraszewski@rochestermn.gov
- Steering Committee: Megan at 507-328-2440 or mmoeller@rochestermn.gov
- Website: Rene at 507-529-4150 or rene@rneighbors.org

How do I register for a clean-up location?

Group leaders can visit www.rneighbors.org/litterbitbetter to identify which preset pickup locations they would be interested in cleaning up. Registering for a clean-up location can be done online (www.rneighbors.org/litterbitbetter). If a group has previously participated, the group leader can contact Mike (mkraszewski@rochestermn.gov or 507-254-8169) and indicate their preferred pick up areas. Groups are encouraged to create their own pick up locations that they know need attention.

How many areas can my group pick up?

Groups can pick up or adopt as many areas as they want. It is recommended that groups be fairly familiar with their chosen sites so that they have a good understanding of the time required to adequately pick up all of their locations.

Is an area ever claimed by more than one group?

It depends. If sites are small, we try to make sure that multiple groups are not picking up at the same location. Other locations, such as large parks or stretches of roadway near commercial centers, generate enough litter that they can be picked up multiple times during the event.

How much litter is going to be at my chosen pick up site?

Many sites in Rochester such as sports fields, turf grassed parks, and school properties can be relatively free of litter. Many of these sites remain clean because are picked up throughout the year. Sites near commercial properties, roadway ditches, active construction sites, and riverine corridors can generate more litter and usually take more time to clean.

We have a large group, do we have to pick up during the specified week long dates?

We prefer groups to schedule their pickup during the event dates, however, we are aware of inclement weather, schedules, and conflicts that make this difficult. Groups can pick up outside the event dates. Please be sure to make arrangement to get bags ahead of time and to call 507-254-8169 to make sure bagged garbage gets picked up.

Continued...

What is the Group Leader Guide?

The Group Leader Guide is a one page document that has general event information and safety information for participants. The document is emailed to the group leader when they register for the event. The document is also available at www.rneighbors.org/litterbitbetter.

Are garbage and recycling bags provided for participating groups?

A Litter Bit Better! provides green garbage bags and blue recycling bags for participants to use during their clean-up. The bags are available for pick up at any Kwik Trip in Rochester for five days prior to the event and during the event itself. Bags are also available at the Public Works Department Office in the Government Center (201 4th Street SE, Room #104). Please make arrangements to pick up bags from Public Works if your group is going to pick up outside of the event dates.

Is any safety equipment provided to groups?

Each group or individual needs to provide their own safety gear. Gloves and vests are not provided. *A Litter Bit Better!* encourages participants to wear protective gloves and clothing during the pickup, work with a team, and use caution when near streets, water, and on slopes. Use extreme caution if picking up alongside a roadway or near any traffic areas.

Should I sort garbage and recyclables into different bags while picking up?

Green bags are for garbage and blue bags are for recycling. Bulky items such as tires can be left with the pile of filled garbage bags. Guidelines for what is considered trash and recyclable are in the table below:

Acceptable recyclables:

- Clean, dry cardboard
- Clean plastic & glass bottles
- Aluminum & tin cans

Considered as trash:

- Wet or dirty cardboard
- Plastic or glass other than bottles
- Metal that isn't tin or aluminum
 - * Bulky metal items and metals that aren't tin or aluminium should be left unbagged in a pile next to filled bags

What should my group do with filled garbage and recycling bags?

Collected garbage should be left in a pile at the pick up site. Leave a message at 507-254-8169 or mkraszewski@rochestermn.gov stating the location of the bags and that they are ready to be picked up. It is helpful if bags are tied so the litter does not become mobile again. If groups have only collected a small amount of litter (e.g. one small bag on a walk) feel free to dispose of it in your own trash. Please do not take garbage to Kwik Trip stores. Most bags are collected within a two days of being reported; however, if you notice bags that have not been picked up report their location.

Our adopted site is free of litter, what should my group do now?

There are many locations that go unclaimed every year. Feel free to check the maps online for an additional site that has not been adopted and switch to that location. Volunteers can also call 507-254-8169 to request another location.

Will someone pick up roadkill that is near my adoption area?

Contact Rochester Animal Control at 507-328-6960 for removal of dead animals.

Do you want photos from our groups pick up efforts?

Yes! Photos are a great way to promote the event and are used in the Event Summary and future promotional materials. Groups can email their photos to rene@rneighbors.org or tag them on social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc) using [#litterbitbetter](https://twitter.com/litterbitbetter)

Is there a prize for completing the on-line event survey?

Yes, each year five \$20 Kwik Trip Gift Cards are given to 5 random survey respondents. Group leaders, please share the survey link found on the Group Leader Guide with volunteers in your group.

Learn more at: www/rneighbors.org/litterbitbetter