



Raleigh
Parks

Volunteer Safety Reminders

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE): Always be prepared with PPE to prevent injury. PPE should include: gloves (disposable nitrile not latex for park clean up, cloth for landscaping, and nitrile coated non-disposable for invasive removal, working with brush or debris with thorns). Safety glasses should be worn when working with invasive removal, dust or windy conditions. Safety masks if working with cement or working in windy conditions where landscape particles could blow in your face. Safety vests are also recommended as a way to identify yourself and make others aware that you are volunteering.

Your clothing should be considered for proper PPE. Please remember to wear sturdy closed toed shoes (boots, tennis shoes, etc) and loose, comfortable clothing you do not mind to get dirty. Dressing in layers and wearing a hat/sunglasses and bringing a water bottle is recommended.

Hazardous debris: You may encounter various types of litter in our parks that could include but are not limited to: broken glass, items with bodily fluids, or drug paraphernalia. Please be aware that broken glass bottles could be sharp, so use caution when picking up and disposing in bags. Items with bodily fluids should not have contact with the skin. If you do come in contact with bodily fluids, immediately wash the contaminated skin area and consult your doctor. If drug paraphernalia is found, immediately contact 911 to notify and for proper disposal. All minors should have a parent/guardian or group leader chaperoning project to ensure proper safety procedures are being followed. Personal items or belongings that could indicate someone is living there may be found in a park or trail. If such items are found, please call 911 to report homeless encampment. Individual items such as a single shirt, sock, etc. can be disposed if it does not look to be part of someone's encampment.

**** Volunteers are not required to pick up any litter debris if they do not feel comfortable.***

Hazardous conditions: Exposure to wildlife and plants are common in City of Raleigh Parks and Trail. Please be aware that natural wooded areas do have critters, such as ticks, snakes, birds, dogs, etc. It is always a good idea to check your clothing after being in a wooded area. It is recommended that volunteers stay on greenway paths and in open areas in parks. If you come in contact with poisonous plants, such as poison ivy, sumacs, and oak, please make sure you immediately remove yourself from the area. If allergic, immediately consult a doctor and wash all clothes that have come in contact with the poisonous plant. Uneven surfaces are also common in City of Raleigh Parks and Trail. Please use caution when walking on unpaved greenways as you may see tripping hazards such as tree roots, uneven walkway boards, slick walkways, and leaves that mask the depth of the ground. Volunteers should refrain from entering any stream, pond, lake, or body of water in park or along greenway trail. Litter along the banks and edges may be picked up, but volunteers are not allowed to get in body of water to pick up litter. Volunteers should not assist in parks and trails during inclement weather (thunder, lightning, etc).

General Safety: Parks are open from dawn to dusk. It is advised that all volunteering should take place during these hours, when there is daylight. It is recommended that you do not volunteer by yourself and have a cellular device on you in case of an emergency; you can call for medical, fire, or police services. Minor volunteers should have a parent/guardian or group leader with them to assist with supervision. Volunteers should not police or engage patrons who are participating in any illegal activities. If there is a dangerous situation, please call 911 and then inform Parks staff. If volunteering at a site with a staffed facility, you can report any issues to staff working that day.