

Kent County Parks Trail Clean Project Guidelines

- Review Kent County Parks Safety Guidelines. Closely supervise children and explain the safety guidelines.
- For your safety, always watch for bikers along the paved trails! Please have a team leader at the front of the volunteer group and behind the volunteer group who is in charge of watching for trail users on bikes. Although etiquette calls for bikers to yield to pedestrians on trails, the bikers may not be watching for volunteers working on the trails.
- Bring trail maps with you and include in your service plan the time that it will take to return to your vehicle(s) Check the weather forecast before beginning your trail project.
- Parking along the trail is either available at Trail Head parking areas (noted on the trail maps) or along any public street near a trail/public road intersection that allows for public parking.
- If you see large trash items or fallen trees, you can report them to Volunteer Services so that a park staff person can pick up items or clear trees.
- You can put small bags of trash in a trash container at the Kent Trails Trail Head parking area if one is available. If no container is available, or for medium to large bags, please leave at trail head parking areas or on an area near a cross street by the trail so that staff can pick up the bags. To prevent injuries to trail users, do not place bags on the paved trail or sidewalks. Leave bags off the edge of the trail and contact Volunteer Services for pick up.
- **Trail Cleaning** includes the following:

Trash pick up (safe items only) Do not pick up any sharp objects, organic objects (food, animals, etc.) or broken glass. Always wear gloves!

Notify Volunteer Services regarding large trash items, damages to the trail, trees down, or any other trail issues.

Pick up/move branches or large sticks off paved trail area and the areas along the edge of the trail where it is mowed. This helps make the trail safer, and makes it easier for park staff who mow the edges. Do not pick up or move any branches that are too heavy! Do not stack or pile branches – just move them off the trail and mowed edges into the brush, field or woods next to the trail for natural decomposition – spreading them out to create a more natural look. Be careful that you don't walk the branches into an area that may have poison ivy! If you see ground vegetation, just gently throw branches off trail – being careful of other volunteers and trail users!

- **Trail Trimming** includes the following:

Trash cleaning (above)

Trimming Brush that extends over the trail or the side mow areas using loppers, handsaws and/or hand held nippers. No electric tools or chain saws are allowed on the trails! Please trim brush either flush with ground or flush with adjoining limbs so that no cut edges protrude (which can cause injury to trail users.) Cut limbs can be placed off the paved and mowed side areas. Do not pile brush or leave any brush on the trail or mow areas. Limbs and brush will decompose naturally off the trail areas.

Large weeds can be lopped or pulled and placed off the trail and side mowed areas. Be sure to wear gloves and watch for poison ivy!

- Do wear gloves, long sleeved pants, shoes with socks and dress for the weather! And don't forget bug spray, sun screen, hats and sunglasses or safety glasses.

If you have any questions, or if you need to notify Volunteer Services for bag pick up or for any concerns or trail damages, call Volunteer Services at 616-826-0438. Don't forget to send in your volunteer hours.

Be safe and have fun! Thank you for volunteering!