



Raleigh
Parks

Volunteer Safety Reminders

General Safety:

Parks and trails 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. All minors should have a parent/guardian or group leader chaperoning their project to ensure proper safety procedures are being followed. 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.

Personal Protection Equipment (PPE):

Always be prepared with PPE to prevent injury. PPE should include gloves (disposable nitrile for park cleanups, cloth for landscaping, and nitrile-coated non-disposable for invasive removals or working with brush/debris with thorns). Safety glasses should be worn when doing an invasive removal, or if there is dust or windy conditions. Safety masks should be worn 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 getting dirty. Dressing in layers and wearing a hat/sunglasses and bringing a water bottle is recommended.

Hazardous conditions:

Exposure to wildlife and plants are common in City of Raleigh parks and trails. 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 trails. 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. 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.).



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Hazardous debris:

You may encounter various types of litter in our parks that could include but are not limited to broken glass or items with bodily fluids. 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. 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 email Volunteer Services Staff at the following email address so that it can be reported: prvolunteer@raleighnc.gov. Individual items such as a single shirt, sock, etc. can be disposed if it does not look to be part of someone's encampment. Refrigerators are a safety hazard and should be reported to the Volunteer Services email above so that it can be disposed of properly.

Illegal Items:

If drug paraphernalia or weapons/bullets are found, do not handle, and immediately contact the Raleigh Police Department non-emergency number at 919-831-6311 to notify in case of an open investigation, or for proper disposal.

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

Emergency number: 911

Non-emergency number: 919-831-6311

Volunteer Services staff: Prvolunteer@raleighnc.gov