

Ready to get started?

- Select a date & time for your cleanup.
- Notify us at least one week in advance of date, time, location, and group size. (contact information below)
- We will confirm that no other cleanups have occurred there recently.
- If you need to reschedule due to weather or other factors, please notify Volunteer Program staff during business hours (M-F, 8a - 4p) and at least 24 hours ahead of time.
- We will provide liability release forms, a litter cleanup report, and volunteer parking passes for fee sites. These can be picked up during business hours at our Carter Lake or Horsetooth Reservoir office locations.
- Trash bags and nitrile gloves available upon request.

Volunteer Program Staff:

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Independent Litter Cleanup Guide





Stewardship

Help keep our open spaces beautiful and more sustainable by picking up trash. Organize your friends, family, co-workers, or community group to give back one piece of trash at a time.

Independent cleanups are intended for groups who want to organize themselves and volunteer on their own schedule.

Group Details

- Volunteers under age 16 must be accompanied by an adult.
- Maximum group size allowed is 30 people per day.
- All participants must sign our liability release forms before volunteering.
- Group leader is responsible for returning forms to LCDNR staff.
- Groups should provide their own trash bags and gloves.

Outdoor Safety

Dress appropriately for outdoor work.

- Sturdy closed-toed shoes
- Layers of clothing for changing weather conditions.
- Disposable or work gloves.

Bring essentials for the day.

- Water (re-fillable water bottle)
- Snacks
- Sun protection (sunscreen, hat, sunglasses)
- Insect repellent

Check the weather before heading out.

Rattlesnakes Happen:

- Rattlesnakes live at many of our properties
- Use caution and do not reach blindly into brush or under rocks.
- Always give wildlife space and respect.

Stay on designated trails or within public day-use areas. Going off trail can be unsafe for volunteers and can cause damage to plants and wildlife.



Park Courtesy

Be courteous of other visitors. If picking up litter along trails, please split into smaller groups of 10 or less. Spread out along the trails to avoid congestion.

If picking up litter in day-use areas, please be respectful of others who are there to enjoy our natural spaces.

Avoid volunteering during peak visitation: Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m.—2 p.m. May through September.

Busiest areas are: Horsetooth Reservoir, Horsetooth Mountain Open Space, Carter Lake or Devil's Backbone Open Space.

Parking is extremely limited at these locations during peak times.

Do not enter reserved campgrounds or cabin areas.

Trash Rules

Do not pick up sharp or other unsafe items, such as needles, broken glass, and hazardous materials. Please note the location of unsafe items and include this information with your Litter Cleanup report.

Volunteers must haul out and dispose of all filled trash bags at the conclusion of their volunteer project.

If you do not have a means to haul out the trash, please contact the Volunteer Program staff to discuss options before scheduling a cleanup date.