

PITCH IN for the PARKS!

A CITYWIDE VOLUNTEER PARK CLEAN-UP EFFORT

WITH THE Chicago Parks FOUNDATION

Volunteer Safety Guidelines

UPDATED JUNE 2020

Thank you for participating in the Chicago Parks Foundation's "Pitch In for the Parks!" citywide, season-long volunteer initiative!

In partnership with the Chicago Park District and our communities, CPF is providing cleanup supplies, safety guidelines, and help with volunteer recruitment where needed to support the parks' ongoing maintenance throughout the summer.

In addition to standard cleanup practices, all participants should be aware of the extra safety guidelines currently in place due to COVID-19, and should work in accordance with [City of Chicago](#) and [Chicago Park District](#) guidelines in the parks.

- **All participants must complete the CPF [online release waiver](#)** before beginning cleanup activity. At this time, volunteers must operate in groups of ten (10) or less, so completing the waiver in advance helps coordinators to plan supplies and physical distancing practices effectively and safely.
- **All participants are required to wear a protective face mask or covering in the park at all times;** participants are encouraged to use their own mask/covering from home as onsite supplies will be limited.
- **Group sizes cannot exceed ten (10) people at this time;** volunteers are encouraged to work individually or in smaller pairs/teams in order to maintain physical distancing. Also be mindful that the park you are in will be open to the public - maintain 6ft.+ physical distancing not only from the rest of your cleanup group, but from other park visitors.
- **All participants must wear protective gloves during cleanup.** Beware of hazards such as sharp objects and glass – do not pick up these items. Do not reach into leaves or bushes to pull out trash. If you come across hazardous debris that requires equipment you do not have, notify the cleanup leader, who will pass this information back to CPF.
- **Volunteers should come prepared** - wear a face mask/covering, long pants, closed-toe shoes, sun protection, and bug repellent. Bring your own water - supplies will be available onsite but limited, and park drinking fountains are currently turned off. Fieldhouses are open from 9AM to 5PM for restrooms and shelter only.
- **All playgrounds remain closed.** Volunteers may clean up in playground areas, but do not use the playground equipment during this time.
- **If you are feeling unwell or exhibiting any COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home.** Volunteers do not need to notify us if they are unable to make it to their registered cleanup event(s). We advise you to take all precautions to protect your own health and the safety of others in the parks.