



Invasive Species  
Council of BC

HOW TO TAKE ACTION

# Lead a Shoreline or Trail Clean-Up



## WHY ARE CLEAN-UPS IMPORTANT?

It's our responsibility to put trash in its place, but sometimes it does not end up where it is supposed to be. Leading garbage clean-ups are incredibly important because they take unwanted plastic pollution out of the ecosystem, which is dangerous to smaller organisms. Mismanaged garbage, particularly plastics, have physical, biological and chemical impacts, which are felt throughout the food chain.

## HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO INVASIVE SPECIES?

Both terrestrial and aquatic invasive species can hitch a ride on pieces of plastic and other litter, allowing them to be introduced to new habitats near and far. Invasive species impact native ecosystems by reducing biodiversity and increasing the risk of new diseases.

## WHAT SUPPLIES DO I NEED?

To host a successful shoreline or trail clean up, there are a few important supplies you need:

- » Garbage bags and Recycling bags
- » Container(s) for sharps and other pointy objects
- » Gloves
- » Masks
- » Pickers
- » Hand sanitizer
- » Optional: snacks and refreshments for volunteers

## HOW DO I PLAN A GARBAGE CLEAN-UP?

### Before the event

#### Step 1

Set your date and time. Keep in mind, clean-ups can go ahead rain or shine so make sure you and your volunteers dress for the weather.

#### Step 2

Gather your supplies! Reach out to your municipal government and ask if they have any supplies to donate.

#### Step 3

Some sites may require a specific garbage collection at the end of the day. Contact your local municipal government to see what is needed.

### During the event

#### Step 1

Arrive at the cleanup site, brief your volunteers and hand out supplies.

#### Step 2

Clean up the site.

#### Step 3

Ensure the garbage is properly disposed of and recyclables make it to the recycling depot.

### After the event

#### Step 1

Send a thank you note to your volunteers for coming out to the event.

#### Step 2

Share your success on social media! Don't forget to tag ISCBC.

## OTHER THINGS TO CONSIDER

The first thing you should consider is where you are going to have the event. The best garbage clean-ups happen in places that are easily accessible, close to transit, have sufficient parking and are well used by the public.

The second thing you should consider is where the trash will go after your event. Dumping multiple bags of collected garbage in public garbage bins can cause them to overflow, which won't do the community any good.

During a garbage clean-up, you want to remove as much litter as you can from the area, however, there are several items that you should not clean up during a clean-up event. Such items include medicinal waste, large, heavy items, excrement, dead animals, flammable materials, explosive materials, asbestos, or other dangerous items that can be considered dangerous. If spotted during an event, these items should be left in place and reported to the municipal government that you are in.