

Are the following adequate?

- | Yes | No | |
|-------|-------|--|
| _____ | _____ | 1. Signs at entrances to neighborhood are attractive |
| _____ | _____ | 2. Neighborhood entrances are landscaped, mowed and well-maintained |
| _____ | _____ | 3. Non-running vehicles removed or screened from public view |
| _____ | _____ | 4. Church and school grounds attractively landscaped with well-maintained trees and shrubs |
| _____ | _____ | 5. Dilapidated or substandard houses removed or plans made for improvement |
| _____ | _____ | 6. Streets clean and well marked |
| _____ | _____ | 7. Refuse containers adequate and refuse areas clean and well-kept |
| _____ | _____ | 8. Dead trees properly removed from parks, streets and private property |
| _____ | _____ | 9. Vacant lots and unoccupied areas mowed and kept free of weeds and litter |
| _____ | _____ | 10. Diseased trees identified and the planting of trees and shrubs encouraged by a neighborhood tree committee |
| _____ | _____ | 11. Business and residential sidewalks in good repair |
| _____ | _____ | 12. Nonresidential areas |



Tips to Make a Project Work

- ✓ Be creative in selecting a project. Restoring an old monument, for example, is an opportunity for students to learn about local history and help to preserve it for the future.
- ✓ Select a project whose benefits will be enjoyed by the whole neighborhood.
- ✓ Get permission from the property owner responsible for the land before taking action.
- ✓ Visit the site. Knowing that there are large objects makes it easier to plan their removal.
- ✓ Take "before" and "after" photos.
- ✓ Tell your local newspaper, radio, and television station about the project and the positive impact it will have.
- ✓ Keep a diary, complete with names and phone numbers, should you decide to host the project again.
- ✓ After the project, write thank-you letters to all who donated goods or services.
- ✓ Be sure to thank everyone who volunteered their time and effort.

Keep Carrollton Beautiful

The city of Carrollton currently partners with *Keep Carrollton Beautiful* 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization, dedicated to beautifying our community and providing valuable programs to enhance the quality of life.

The organization hosts a variety of noteworthy programs such as:

- Great American Cleanup
- "Yard of the Month" Award
- Don't Mess With Texas Trash Off
- Texas Recycles Day
- Recycling, Environmental Impact and Texas SmartScape Gardening Education
- Texas Waterways Cleanup
- Adopt-A-Spot
- Green Business Practices

For more information visit: www.keepcarrolltonbeautiful.org



COMMUNITY SERVICES

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP



Community Services Division
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Conducting a Neighborhood Clean-up and/or Fix-up Campaign

Your community-improvement project will encourage more neighborhood pride and responsible attitudes.

There is power in beautification. It can motivate people to believe their problems can be solved. It can give them ideas. When those ideas come together, they can create a safer neighborhood, as well as a prettier one.

A clean, attractive neighborhood is not only a more pleasant place to live, but the value of the good impression it makes on prospective residents and others who visit your neighborhood should never be underestimated. Clean-up campaigns can involve a large number of neighbors and give them a sense of accomplishment. They can even be fun!

You may have a project in mind already. If not, there is one waiting right now to be discovered:

- * A graffiti paint-over
- * The restoration of a historic monument
- * Turning a vacant lot into a neighborhood garden
- * "Adopting" an area and keeping it clean
- * Planting and maintaining trees and shrubs

Organizing a Committee

- ✓ Project leaders are needed who are skilled in organizing publicity, equipment, transportation, sanitary facilities, communications and volunteers.
- ✓ Solicit willing workers and people with the kind of enthusiasm that is infectious. Also, recruit leaders who work well with others. A dozen people with a sincere desire to improve their neighborhood are

worth a hundred professionals.

- ✓ Plan and organize early. Good planning takes time, and many weeks may be needed to complete arrangements.
- ✓ Stay flexible. Be ready to accept and carry out suggestions from others.
- ✓ Share the work. Invite members from other community organizations to join the project. Contact civic and service clubs, 4-H, Boy and Girl Scouts, women's groups - everyone with an interest in the community environment.

If any part of your project includes cleaning up litter or removing a pile of trash, there are several important things you should know before getting started.

Why People Litter

Research conducted by Keep America Beautiful, Inc. has found that people litter because: they feel no sense of ownership for the property; they believe someone else will pick up after them; and the litter has already accumulated.

Dealing With Illegal Dumping

Some people also dump garbage, old appliances, tree branches and anything that fits in a car or truck in less-traveled places or somewhere they think they will not be caught. This is illegal dumping. It may also happen because material

has been banned from a landfill without an alternative plan, or because people think the cost to dispose of their household garbage legally is too high. This attitude can be combated through cleanups, restricting access to places where people can drive in and dump, and asking area residents to report suspicious activity.

Your Project Can Change Attitudes

Changing attitudes about waste and its handling reduces litter and dumping.



Your project can help in two important ways. Removing litter or graffiti and cleaning up the area will make it less likely to attract more waste. And involving people helps them appreciate the environment more and learn that their actions matter.

Developing a Plan

Develop a detailed plan for your clean-up campaign: what to do, when, by whom and how. If costs are involved, draw up a budget and possible methods of financing or raising money.

Recruiting Volunteers

Send leaflets about the campaign to members of your community organization and others and follow up with a telephone call asking for help. Be prepared for and accommodate individuals who hear about the projects and want to do their share. Make them feel welcome and give them a job to do. Ask appropriate business firms to furnish transportation and refreshments. Ask workers to bring tools needed for the jobs. If the area and facilities are suitable, conclude the project with a picnic or block party. Perhaps a local entertainer can help reward the volunteers by performing.

Using a Checklist to Select a Beautification Project

Using the results of the clean-up and beautification checklist that follows, make a list of suggested projects. It may be necessary to make a tour of your community to assess the situation and set priorities. Encourage action-based programs and offer activities for neighborhood youth to get involved.

The clean-up committee or other leaders may find it helpful to check the items that follow before deciding who and what to include in the campaign. Other areas or efforts not listed may be included.