



Trees4Trash Volunteer Toolkit

As part of its mission to protect, conserve, and restore wildlife and habitat in North Carolina, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation (NCWF), in partnership with Plastic Ocean Project (POP), organizes trash clean-ups and native plantings in communities throughout North Carolina. Trees4Trash is a statewide initiative that empowers volunteers and local residents to remove trash from their communities and natural areas and replace it with native trees and plants.

You can help remove at least 20,000 pounds of trash from the environment and plant 2,000 native trees and 3,500 native pollinator plants annually by participating in clean-up and planting events and reporting results. One tree will be planted for every 25 pounds of trash collected and reported using the tracking form on our website.

All events must adhere to the NCWF's [COVID-19](#) protocols and follow any restrictions and guidelines put in place by the State

How to Organize a Trees4Trash trash clean-up event:

- Decide on key elements of the event
 - Date of event
 - Areas for clean-up
 - How volunteers can participate
 - Designate key partners
 - Select lead volunteer for post-event reporting
- Event organizers create a sign-up/registration form for participants
- Promote the event
 - Word of mouth
 - Social media
 - Flyers/Newspaper
 - Local radio
- Gather materials for the clean-up event
 - Discuss with NCWF what materials may be available
 - Recommended materials can be found in the table below
- Host your clean-up day!
- Dispose of trash in designated bins and take to waste facility
- Report your results to NCWF via form on [the website](#)
 - 1 kitchen size trash bag roughly equals 25 lbs.
- Follow up with participants to organize your next clean-up event



How to Organize a Trees4Trash planting event:

- Decide on key elements of the event
 - Date of event
 - Location for tree/plant planting
 - Make sure to ask for permission on location (public and/or private where necessary)
 - How volunteers can participate
 - Designate key partners
 - Cooperation and collaboration with public parks and cities
 - Decide on maintenance schedule and who will lead
 - Select lead volunteer for post-event reporting
- Event organizers create a sign-up/registration form for participants
- Promote the event
 - Word of mouth
 - Social media
 - Flyers/Newspaper
 - Local radio
- Order trees and plants 2-4 weeks in advance and gather materials
 - Decide on the number of plants based on location
 - Discuss with NCWF if there are planned sites already and if trees may be available
- Designate a water source & plan watering schedule during establishment period (at least 4 weeks)
- Host your planting day!
 - We have provided a list of recommended supplies for your event below
- Report your results to NCWF via form on [the website](#)
- Follow up with participants to organize your next planting event

How to Organize a Trees4Trash trash clean-up and planting event:

- Decide on key elements of the event
 - Date of event
 - Location for tree/plant planting and trash clean-up (can be same area or different location)
 - Make sure to ask for permission on location (public and/or private) where necessary
 - How volunteers can participate (volunteer coordinators organize tasks)
 - Designate key partners
 - Cooperation and collaboration with public parks and cities
 - Decide on maintenance schedule and who will lead
 - Select lead volunteer for post-event reporting
- Event organizers create a sign-up/registration form for participants
- Promote the event
 - Word of mouth
 - Social media
 - Flyers/Newspaper



- Local radio
- Order trees and plants 2-4 weeks in advance and gather materials
 - Decide on the number of plants/trees based on location
 - Discuss with NCWF if there are planned sites already and if trees may be available
- Designate a water source & plan watering schedule during establishment period (at least 4 weeks)
- Host your clean-up/planting day!
 - We have provided a list of recommended supplies for your event below
- Place collected trash in designated bins and take to waste facility
- Report your results to NCWF using the form on [the website](#)
 - Standard 13-gallon, kitchen trash bags hold roughly 25 lbs.
- Follow up with participants to organize your next clean-up/planting event

Trash Clean-Up Event:

- Tools Needed:
 - Trash pickers
 - Reusable bags, buckets or trash bags
 - Gloves
 - Handheld scales for accurate trash weight (1 trash bag = ~25 lbs of trash)
- General Recommendations:
 - Wear closed toe shoes
 - Wear sunscreen
 - Bring water
 - Wear a safety vest around busy roads and intersections
 - Collect trash with a buddy or in a group
 - Wash/sanitize hands thoroughly after clean-up
- Dispose of trash in provided trash bins, city waste facilities or in a designated bin with the permission of the owner

Tree Planting Event:

- Tools Needed:
 - Shovels
 - Trowels
 - Gloves
 - Mulch
- General Recommendations:
 - On the day of event, demonstrate how to properly install a tree/plant
 - Wear closed toe shoes
 - Wear sunscreen
 - Bring water
 - Wear a safety vest around busy roads and intersections
 - For larger trees, lift with your knees, using your leg muscles rather than your back to prevent injury or ask another participant to help
- Always ask permission before planting anything on someone else's property