



How To Get Started

If you love the idea of borrowing R.U.B.Y. for a neighborhood cleanup or beautification effort and don't know where to start, this is the place.

Planning Your Cleanup Event:

- Talk to your neighbors by going door to door or attend a neighborhood meeting. Does the neighborhood landscaping need a little pick-me-up? Could the alley use a good cleaning? Is there an area approved for a community garden? What about assisting the neighbors who could use a helping hand?
- Pick a date and time for the event that fits in with the schedule of as many neighbors as possible. Choose a backup date for inclement weather. Remember there must be a minimum of five households involved in the project or a group of five volunteers.
- Involve local churches in your neighborhoods. Call your local schools college to see if they could provide volunteers. Often National Honor Society groups need extra-curricular credits.
- Make sure you plan to have at least water available for the participants. Some groups follow up the cleanup event with a carry-in along with a neighborhood celebration.
- Make sure you recommend your participants dress for the event. Wear boots or sturdy shoes, no sandals. Wear sunscreen and if needed, insect repellent. Gloves and safety vests are available in R.U.B.Y..
- Have a work plan and a safety plan ready before you begin. What needs to be done, who or how many people are assigned to the task? What tools will they need? Where is the nearest medical facility if needed? Have emergency telephone numbers available with a cell phone.
- **Take before and after pictures and send them to recycle@YoungstownOhio.gov.**
- Have a plan to dispose of your waste. Participants can put it out with their normal trash, or we can pick it up. If you need us to haul it away, we need prior notice so we can schedule the workers.
- Have a parking area where participants who are driving in for the event can park.

Tips:

- Always use good judgment and be safe. Watch out for all of the participants. Keep them in sight.
- If something looks suspicious or dangerous, call local law enforcement. Do not pick up or touch any suspicious or dangerous item.
- Promote recycling during the cleanup event. Use your curbside bins or drop off recycling at a nearby drop-off site. (www.greenteam.cc).
- Be sure to let us know the success of your event. We provide a Cleanup Summary Form with R.U.B.Y.
- Take a look at your work at the end of the event and note how much of a difference your efforts made.
- **HAVE FUN!**