

Greenscapers Tips for Volunteers

Thank you for being a Greenscaper! We want this to be a fun and rewarding experience for you. Because your safety, and that of others, is of primary concern, please make sure that you have read the safety guidelines and that you always wear your Greenscaper T-shirt when volunteering.

Listed below are some tips that will help you fulfill your role in making and keeping Derby a beautiful place to live. Thank you for volunteering.

General Clean-up

Before beginning, please make certain that you have ample trash bags. All trash, weeds, pruned material, etc. should be removed prior to leaving the site. Trash bags may be obtained from the Public Works & Parks Department at 333 W. Market, 7 a.m. – 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Each group may also provide its own trash bags.

Clean up the landscaped area and the surrounding hike and bike path. Remove items such as trash, leaves, twigs, and other non-garden “stuff.”

Bags of trash should be tied and may be deposited in any of the City dumpsters. These are located at High Park, Garret Park, City Hall (611 Mulberry), or City Yard (333 W. Market). Please do not use the city trashcans as these fill quickly. When depositing trash bags in the City dumpsters, please wear your Greenscaper shirt. This will prevent any problems regarding questions concerning unauthorized dumping. Individual members may use their own trash receptacles at home.

While rare, there may be an occasion when a tree limb is too large to break into smaller pieces and place in a bag. If this is the case, please notify the Parks, Forestry, & Stream Department at 788-9776.

Weeding

Remove all weeds in the landscaped beds and from around the trees and shrubs. Keep mulched areas as clean as possible. If you are not sure if it's a weed, please ask someone in the Parks, Forestry and Stream Department.

Please do not use any weed, grass, or bug killers. All landscaped areas are professionally treated and additional treatments may result in damage to or killing the treated plant as well as those in the surrounding area. If you notice a problem with bugs or extensive weed or grass growth, please contact 788-9776 to report the problem and location.

Mulching

Landscaped areas should have 2-4 inches of mulch. Move or add mulch as required. If additional mulch is needed, please contact the Park, Forestry, & Stream Department at 788-9776.

Mulch should be at least 6 inches or more from the tree trunks; mulch should be as close in and around as the shrubs and flowers as possible. Remove all mulch from the sidewalks and walkways.

Pruning

Limbs or twigs on young trees and shrubs should be pruned to remove any winter freeze damage or vandalism.

Prune all suckers from trees. Suckers are shoots that sprout from the very base of the tree and should be removed as close as possible to the trunk.

Flowers

If you are working in a landscaped area and the flower blooms have died, remove the bloom, but not the whole stem. This is called “deadheading” and will allow the flower to create a brand new bloom to replace the dead one.

At the end of the tulip flower season, remove the leaves only after they are yellow-brown and dried out. After they have dried out, they can be removed to the ground level.

Watering, Fertilizing, and Edging

The Parks, Forestry & Stream Department will water and fertilize all trees and shrubs. Please do not use any fertilizer. The Department will also edge the landscaped areas.

Monitoring

In addition to all of the important jobs you have as a Greenscaper, one of the most important is to notify the Parks, Forestry & Stream Department of any problems. This is important for your safety, the safety of others, and the health of the trees, shrubs, and plants. Please immediately report the following:

- Vandalism
- Safety hazards
- “Yellowing” or “browning” of leaves, stems, evergreens, or shrubs
- Insect or bug infestation

Questions

We want this to be a fun experience for those who participate. Enjoy the gardening experience and learn all that you can. If you have questions or need some assistance, please call the Parks, Forestry & Stream Department at 788-9776.