

Howard County's 20 Minute Cleanup

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 20 Minute Cleanup?

- It is an annual event where volunteers remove litter from the environment.

How do I participate in the 20 Minute Cleanup?

- Form a group with colleagues, friends, neighbors, or students. Get outside for 20 minutes and safely pick up litter around your office, store, school or neighborhood.
- Let us know the results! Please email 20minutecleanup@howardcountymd.gov with how many people participated and how many bags of trash and/or recycling were collected.

We will thank your group on the livegreenhoward.com website and let you know the overall results. Pictures are encouraged.

What if I am busy the “official” day of the event?

- Anytime close to the date listed is fine for a cleanup. If a different day or weekend day works better for you and/or your group, that is perfectly fine.

What do I do with the trash and recycling?

- Dispose of the collected trash and recycling using your regular business or residential pick-up. Recycle everything you can!

Will the County pick up our collected trash?

- The County is not doing extra pickups for this event. Please use your existing home or business collection.
- If it is a big cleanup and it's on County property, you may be able to get some help picking up the trash. Please email 20minutecleanup@howardcountymd.gov or call Elissa Reineck at 410-313-1175.

I don't have a group - is there one I can join?

- Individuals are VERY welcome to do a cleanup on their own, around a neighborhood, favorite walking path, etc. It all helps!
- Or use the tools listed in the next question to form a group.

Are there any tools I can use to promote the event?

- A promotional flyer and sign-up sheet you can customize are available on livegreenhoward.com. Forward them or post them in common areas.

Why should I participate?

- No one likes seeing trash in our streets, land and streams. If enough people participate, we can get a lot of trash out with just a little bit of effort. This can have a lasting effect because people are less likely to litter on clean areas.
- According to Keep America Beautiful (KAB), litter cleanup costs the U.S. almost \$11.5 billion each year. In a national study, KAB also found that the presence of litter in a community decreases property values by 7%.

That's it! If we all work together we can make a real difference.

Have additional questions about the 20 Minute Cleanup? Contact Elissa at 20minutecleanup@howardcountymd.gov or 410-313-1175.