



LOVE YOUR BLOCK

LITTER WALK

EARTH WEEK APRIL 22ND – APRIL 29TH



ABOUT THE LOVE YOUR BLOCK PROGRAM

The **Love Your Block program** is a two-year Cities of Service grant program that brings City leaders and residents together to build stronger neighborhoods, one block at a time. Through this program, the City of White Plains will award mini-grants to residents and community partners to help make neighborhoods cleaner and more livable as well as to spur neighborhood-driven change.

If you are interested in learning more about the Love Your Block Program and seeing what other cities have done in their community, check out the Cities of Service website: <https://citiesofservice.jhu.edu/loveyourblock2021/>.

SHOW A LITTLE LOVE FOR THE PLANET ON EARTH DAY, STARTING WITH YOUR OWN BLOCK!

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The **Love Your Block Litter Walk** is a way for you to slow down, see your neighborhood with fresh eyes, and enjoy the beauty and nature you find in the little things around your home. If we take the time to look closely, we will notice the beauty of our block, but also more litter and/or things that do not belong.

The purpose of the litter walk is to observe and take in the beauty of our community and remove what we know does not belong.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1) Take a slow walk through your neighborhood.

Take the time to observe and notice things you don't usually see. Pick up litter when you find it, and help make the beautiful things on your block stand out! Use your own gloves and trash bags, or contact the Love Your Block team if you need litter cleanup supplies.

2) Check off items from your scavenger hunt list.

Make it a fun game or competition - how many things can you find from the list? Who in your household or group can find the most? Reflect using the discussion questions about how litter impacts your environment as you go.

3) Tell us about your cleanup!

Visit the White Plains Love Your Block page to report on the great work you did. During your walk, share a photo of your group with your bag(s) of litter on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram and tag us **@WPLoveyourblock**

Important Note:

During your litter cleanup walk, please make your safety a priority! Always keep an eye out for traffic. If there is a piece of litter that you just can't get to safely leave it. Do not pick up anything that looks dangerous, such as rusty metal or broken glass.



LOVE YOUR BLOCK SCAVENGER HUNT

Your neighborhood is full of beautiful and amazing things. These beautiful things can be natural, human-made, seasonal, or long-lasting. If you look closely, you might notice beautiful trees, flowers, puddles to splash in, or even cool bugs or tree stumps. Many of our daily human activities impact this environment, and not always in positive ways. The point of this activity is to slow down, take an honest look at how we are impacting our environment, and take action to help care for it.

As you notice the beauty and pick up litter around your neighborhood, check things off your scavenger hunt list!

LITTER/ ITEMS THAT DON'T BELONG

- Disposable water or juice bottle.
- A plastic bag or plastic film.
- Litter that might endanger an animal
- Bottle cap or lid
- aluminium can
- Single use drinking cup (coffee cup, fast food cup)
- Litter smaller than a quarter
- Something that could have been recycled
- Fast food wrapper
- Something paper
- Something metal
- Candy wrapper
- Something that could have been reused

BEAUTIFUL THINGS I SEE

- A tree or plant the same height as you
- A blooming flower
- An interesting leaf
- Your favorite building or house on the block
- Something rainbow colored
- A bird nest
- An animal or insect
- An interestingly shaped branch, stick, or tree
- Something soft
- Something that smells good
- Something that is your favorite color
- An interesting rock
- Something that makes you smile

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- How do you think the litter got here?
- What would have happened to this litter if you had not collected it?
- Which items that you picked up could have been reused or recycled?
- Which items will degrade quickly, and which ones will be around for a long time?
- Which items would be most harmful to people, animals or nature? Why?
- How else can we take care of our community and add more beauty?
- What are some everyday choices we make at home that could improve the overall health of our environment?
- What did you learn while doing this activity?

HOW WE IMPACT THE NATURAL WORLD AROUND US...

Observing the beauty in the environment around you also helps you notice things that are out of place or unattractive, such as litter and pollution. Pollution from trash and litter can cause physical harm to animals and plants. Litter that's not picked up can eventually make its way into the storm drain system, where it pollutes our water. Litter can also be dangerous to people, limit play space or recreation areas, and attract pests. A littered, uncared-for space is not welcoming.

By removing litter and caring for your space, you create a healthy environment. Your actions help reduce animal endangerment and prevent future pollution while ensuring cleaner water, green spaces, and safer neighborhoods for all.

Reducing litter in your neighborhood is one fantastic way to beautify the community. Taking a small step like picking up litter brings neighborhoods together. If a neighbor sees someone else cleaning up, they tend to help. Studies have also shown that when people see less litter in an area, they are more likely to find the right receptacle for their waste, and not litter. Even the smallest steps you take to beautify your block help increase pride in your neighborhood and build a sense of community.

Thanks for participating!

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DEADLINE IS APRIL 30TH 5:00 PM

Submit your scavenger hunt check list and answers to the discussion questions on our webpage <https://www.cityofwhiteplains.com/990/Love-Your-Block-Mini-Grant-Program>, and tag us on your Litter Walk photos on social media @WPLoveyourblock to win a prize from our White Plains Love Your Block team. Share your contact information with the Love Your Block team, so we can contact you about your prize.

Contact information

Full Name

Phone Number

Email Address

**CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION AT: LOVEYOURBLOCKGRANT@WHITEPLAINS.NY
OR CALL US AT (914) 422-1300**

FOLLOW US:

@WPLoveyourblock

