

LOVE YOUR BLOCK LITTER WALK

Show a little love for the planet, starting on your own block.

Keep Omaha Beautiful invites you to explore your neighborhood with the *Love Your Block Litter Walk*.

Sponsored by:

METROPOLITAN
UTILITIES DISTRICT

ABOUT THIS ACTIVITY

The *Love Your Block Litter Walk* is a way to slow down, see your neighborhood with fresh eyes, and enjoy the beauty and nature you find in the little things around your home. We sometimes walk past things every day and do not notice. If we take the time to look closely, we will notice more — more beauty, but also more litter and/or things that are out of place.

The purpose of the *Love Your Block* walk is to observe the beauty of your neighborhood and remove what's not supposed to be there.

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 Keep Omaha Beautiful 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 on the discussion questions about how litter impacts your environment as you go.

3. Tell us about your cleanup!

Visit the **KOB 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 or Instagram and tag @KeepOmahaBeautiful.

Important Note:

During your litter cleanup walk, please make your safety a priority. If there is a piece of litter that you just can't get to safely, it's okay to let it go. Always keep an eye out for traffic, and take COVID-19 precautions (e.g. wave to your neighbors from a safe distance). 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.

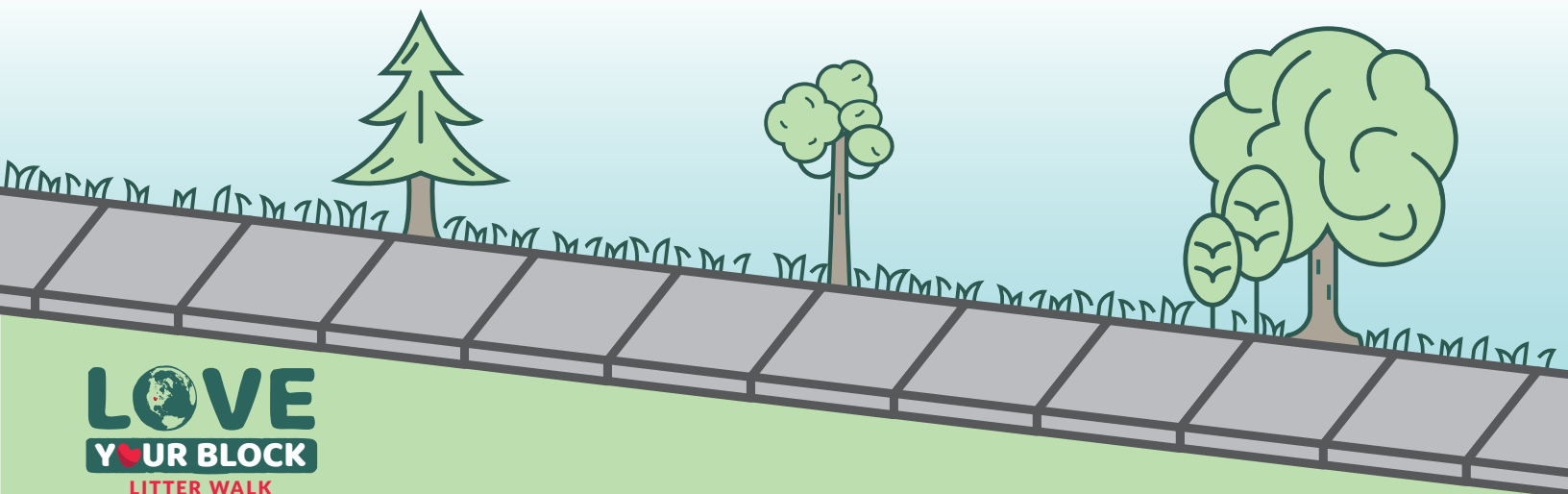
As you notice the beauty and pick up litter around your neighborhood, check things off your scavenger hunt list!

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 or width 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 playspace 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, greenspaces, 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!

Learn More | Do More

When it comes to caring for our planet, small steps can add up to big changes. Here are some fun activities to help you learn more and do more to help the environment!

LEARN MORE



Family Activity: Ecosystem Scavenger Hunt

Explore the natural world right outside your door!



Watch: Peanut the Turtle Video

Meet Peanut the Turtle and learn how litter affected her life.



Watch: Freddy the Fish Stormwater Video

Learn about what happens to rain after it hits the ground, where stormwater drains lead to, and what we can do to help prevent pollution.



Watch: Materials that Break Down

This video of an experiment helps explain which materials break down quickly or slowly. Try repeating the experiment with materials of your own!



Family Activity: Pollution Search

Litter is just one form of pollution. Investigate the pollution in your neighborhood by doing a pollution search activity.



Family Activity: Home Waste Audit

Do a home waste audit to learn about recycling, examine what you throw away, and see how you can reduce your waste.



Virtual Nebraska Earth Day Passport

April 22 - May 22, 2022

Participate in virtual Earth Day activities and win prizes!



Nebraska Science Festival

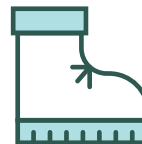
April 1 - 30, 2022

Engage in more than 120+ interactive science activities during this statewide celebration of science.



Cleanup Your Community

Contact KOB about litter cleanups and other volunteer opportunities. Ongoing dates, spring through fall.



Explore a Park or Trail

Discover a new park, trail or outdoor recreation area you haven't been to before.



Earth Day Omaha in Elmwood Park

April 23, 2022

Join KOB for a park cleanup and other Earth Day Omaha activities.



Do Good Days

May 17-19, 2022

Support KOB and local nonprofits, sign up to volunteer or donate at ShareOmaha.org.