

Organise an environmental clean-up event

Spring comes, and the snow melts. There is a lot of rubbish under the snow that makes our environment less welcoming. The city wants to support the voluntary collection of rubbish and clean-up events organised by the residents. The purpose of the voluntary clean-up events is to clean public areas, i.e. forests, parks, roadsides and beaches. Cleaning private plots and yard areas is not part of the voluntary clean-up events.

Join us and gather a group of volunteers! You can register your voluntary spring-cleaning event on the online platform at puistotalkoot.hel.fi. Events can also be registered by calling the Urban Environment Division's customer service, tel. +358 9 3102 2111.

If you have any problems registering, please contact Volunteer Coordinator Armi Koskela, whose contact details are provided at the end of this bulletin.

Notify us about the cleaning event – no later than 8 days in advance

1. Each registration is sent to the regional voluntary work contact person for approval.
2. Once approved, you will receive a confirmation message with the contact person's contact details. They will provide you with the cleaning equipment and handle the pick-up of collected litter for your event. You can agree on the details of your spring-cleaning event with the contact person.
3. If your voluntary spring-cleaning event takes place at the weekend or on a public holiday, the cleaning equipment will be delivered on the preceding weekday and picked up on the next weekday after the event. In this case, please ensure you have a place for storing the equipment before and after the event.

Important information

Only non-natural waste is to be collected, not organic material, such as leaves and twigs. Volunteers are provided with litter pickers and refuse sacks. Gloves are not provided. If you wish to rake in addition to collecting litter, please agree on this with your local voluntary work contact person. The City of Helsinki's contractor will loan out the equipment and pick up filled refuse sacks and other waste after spring cleaning events. The litter must be collected and deposited in a pre-determined place, or the pick-up location must be reported to the voluntary work contact person after the event.

Demountable containers will only be provided for large spring-cleaning events, and their delivery will be decided by the regional voluntary work contact person.

Putting sand in the refuse sacks is prohibited! If there are large amounts of crushed gritting aggregate in the area, its collection must be agreed upon separately with the area's voluntary work contact person.

When collecting litter, watch out for sharp objects, such as glass shards and hypodermic needles. Piles of leaves or litter should not be touched by hand. Always use a litter picker to pick up litter.

Hypodermic needles must not be placed in litter bins or refuse sacks unprotected to avoid injuries when collecting the sacks. Needles should be collected in a closable, compact container (such as a bottle with a stopper), which can then be placed in a mixed waste

container or put aside and reported to the voluntary work contact person. If you find large amounts of needles, please leave them be and report them to the contact person.

Any metal waste, waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE, such as TVs, computers, stereos), hazardous waste (such as batteries, oil canisters), tyres and wood waste (such as timber, wooden furniture) must be **sorted and separated** into separate piles. Tyres and other large scrap items do not need to be placed in sacks. If there is a demountable container at the event, sort the waste in the container. Waste must not be put in the container mixed.

Volunteers participating in spring cleaning events work on their own or the event organiser's responsibility. The City of Helsinki has not insured volunteers participating in spring cleaning events.

Announcing spring cleaning events in residential areas

Spring cleaning events can be announced using Good Things Grow in Helsinki posters, which can be printed out at vapaaehtoistoiminta.hel.fi/tehtavat/talkoot/. You can also request a printed copy by email from puistokummit@hel.fi. We would like to ask event organisers to please remove the posters after the event.

Campaign to collect a million bags of litter starting on 13 April

This spring, the whole of Finland will collect a million bags of litter. In the two-month-long cleaning campaign, 142 municipalities and cities, a number of organisations and communities as well as familiar faces from Yle will join forces with all Finns to collect one million bags of litter from the environment.

You can add the number of litter bags collected to the calculator updated in real time at yle.fi/miljoonaroskapussia, specifying the location where the bags were collected. The progress of the campaign will be followed all over Finland on Yle's channels.

How to participate in the campaign:

1. Take your litter pickers, gloves and an empty bag.
2. Go out – alone or with a group.
3. Pick up litter from the environment.
4. When the bag is full, put the litter you have collected into the mixed waste bin.
5. Go to yle.fi/miljoonaroskapussia and indicate how many bags of litter you have collected and where.
6. Challenge your friends!

Read more about Yle's campaign to collect a million bags of litter (in Finnish): yle.fi/miljoonaroskapussia

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Urban Environment Division's customer service
tel. +358 9 310 22111

Armi Koskela,
Volunteer Coordinator
tel. +358 40 719 0824
armi.koskela@hel.fi or puistokummit@hel.fi

In cooperation with:

