

About our Program



The Adopt-A-Park program allows individuals, groups, and other organizations to show pride in their community by assisting the Parks staff with routine maintenance, clean up, and beautification of parks, open spaces, and trails, creating a beautiful, clean environment for all to enjoy.

Warner Parks is very fortunate to have 3,200 acres of wooded hills, open meadows, streams, and 16.75 miles of hiking trails. Through the use of volunteers, designated areas will be spruced up by removing litter and debris, removing invasive plants, identifying hazards/repairs needed, reporting vandalism, and planting trees, along with other approved vegetation.

Our Volunteers

Our AAP program unites and supports all people interested in improving Warner Parks' open spaces and trails. Our volunteers can include:

- Individuals
- Neighborhood Associations
- Youth Groups
- Businesses
- Church Groups
- Hiking and Biking Enthusiasts
- Schools
- Scouts

Requirements & Expectations

Fill out an [Adopt-a-Park Application](#). Once your application is approved, Park staff will train the group leader, group, or individual to do the tasks for which you have volunteered. We ask for a minimum commitment of one year of service to your adopted park or trail. We also ask that volunteers perform tasks at their location a minimum of four times a year.

Each group must select a group leader. This person will be the point of contact for the organization. The group leader will also be responsible to assure that each participant complies with the Adopt-A-Park program requirements and safety procedures and has signed a liability release. The group leader will reserve tools through the [Tool Reservation Form](#), pick up and return the supplies provided by Warner Parks and fill out the online [Volunteer Report](#) after each visit.

- The adopting individual or group must enter into a signed agreement with the Friends of Warner Parks Department.
- Park sites, trails, and open spaces will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis.
- All work must be performed during park hours (sunrise to 11:00 pm)
- All volunteers under the age of 18 must have responsible adult supervision.

What You Can Do

Volunteers can: pick up litter, clear trails, remove invasive plants, plant trees/plants, and report storm damage, vandalism, illegal dumping, and other safety hazards and/or necessary repairs. Other improvements as suggested and approved by Park staff.

Adoption Types

- Open areas
- Trails
- Picnic shelters
- Signs
- Historic Structures

Recognition

- Adoption certificate
- Listed as an adopter on the Friends of Warner Parks website
- Mention adopter on a Park program brochure or flyer

Trail Stewardship Guidelines

1. Clean drainage structures, including water bars, grade dips, and ditches.
2. Knock out berms alongside the trail, using a fire rake, pull them onto the tread surface and then outwards to maintain an appropriate out-slope.
3. Cut plant growth, including woody growth, such as branches, saplings, blackberry, briars, and especially privet and honeysuckle. Guidelines call for a 4 foot wide by 8 foot high clearance.
4. Remove invasive plants (privet and honeysuckle) from within 10 feet on either side of the path.
5. Where possible, remove fallen trees that block the trail. Report trees that are too large so that appropriate actions can be taken to clear them in a timely manner.
6. Check signs for damage or decay as well as blazes, report findings to the volunteer coordinator.
7. Pick up and pack out litter along the trail.
8. Eliminate short cuts and walk-arounds.
9. Remove loose rocks or roots from the trail.
10. Inform the volunteer coordinator of all dates and times regarding planned work as well as any tools that you may need.

One Day Clean-ups

If you or your group or business cannot commit the time to adopt a park, trail, or open space, but would like to help, you are welcome to organize a one-day clean-up of an area. Please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Elizabeth Griscom at EGriscom@warnerparks.org