



## **Adopt A Green Project Safety Guidelines**

REMEMBER: YOU ARE WORKING IN A POTENTIALLY DANGEROUS ENVIRONMENT-ADJACENT TO TRAFFIC AND HAZARDS.

### **1. Crew Member –Qualifications**

Crew members should possess the following minimum qualifications:

- Good common sense
- Good physical condition, including sight and hearing
- Mental Alertness
- A sense of responsibility for safety of the public and the crew
- Crew members must be at least 11 years old
- Crew members who are under the age of 16 must be supervised at a ratio of one adult for every four children. Supervisors must keep children in sight at ALL times. Children may not work on projects within a public right-of-way (Parks only)

### **II. Safety Procedures**

- Designate a safety supervisor for your group
- Hold a training session on safety each time the crew goes out.
- All work sites must be drug and alcohol free
- NO HORSEPLAY
- Knives, machetes, axes, etc. should not be carried by crew members
- Have a First Aid Kit at the work site.
- Know the route to the nearest hospital
- Avoid over exertion
- Drink plenty of water, especially on warm humid days
- Discontinue work in inclement weather, especially when visibility is reduced, roads are wet or icy, or lightening storms threaten.

### **III. Traffic Alert**

- Post a lookout to be aware of traffic situations
- Be prepared to move out of the way of vehicles in an emergency
- Do not enter the travel lane or the shoulder of the road to pick up litter
- Face oncoming traffic while you work
- Work during the hours and days that are not peak travel times
- Do not pick up trash on the roadway shoulder or medians
- Do not enter or cross the traveled sections of the road
- Stay well clear of any moving operations, road maintenance/construction

#### IV. What to Wear

- WEAR A SAFETY VEST AT ALL TIMES
- Wear heavy work gloves
- Wear substantial leather shoes or boots with ankle support
- Wear long pants to avoid fleas and ticks.
- You may wish to use sunscreen
- Do not use headsets that could interfere with your ability to hear oncoming traffic or other potential hazards

#### V. On-Site Safety

- **Call Onondaga County Water Environment Protection (WEP) to request trash bags and safety equipment (orange reflective vests and traffic cones).**
- Watch footing when walking on slopes. Stay off steep slopes
- Be alert for holes and obstacles
- Be alert for places where snakes may be located, such as around old logs and in tall grass, and avoid these areas
- Be alert for stinging insects, especially fire ants
- Avoid contact with poison ivy, oak and other noxious weeds
- Avoid areas where herbicides were applied that day

#### VI. Bagging the Litter

- Do not pick up needles or syringes
- Do not attempt to remove known or suspected toxic/hazardous substances. Notify the police of the location of such items immediately
- Do not attempt to compact (squeeze) trash bags to gain room for more trash. Injuries from broken or jagged objects often result from this practice.
- Please let us know what kind of litter was picked and how many bags were filled.

#### VII. Filter Insert Maintenance

- Use eye protection, reflective vests, traffic cones, and wear heavy work gloves (edges are sharp!)
- Hold a training session to ensure proper safety and minimize damage to inserts
- Minimum of two people for maintenance (one will need to remain in the street to ensure nothing will enter the catch basin), **DO NOT ENTER THE CATCH BASIN UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.**
- Be alert for passing automobiles

Onondaga County thanks you for participation in the “Adopt a Green Project” program!