

## Risk Assessment of Pond and Bank Clearance, Litter Picking and General Tidy

Date of assessment: 09/10/2016

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### Description of activity

Volunteer spring cleaning  
 Clearance of the stream banks and some clearance in, or near to the 2 shallow ponds (Millenium pond and pond near to the Park).  
 Litter picking and general tidying

Hazards and risks	Severity (Max 3)	Likelihood (Max 3)	Risk (SxL) (Max 9=3x3)	Controls
<b>Water - Slip, trip and fall into the ponds:</b> There is a high likelihood that someone will slip or fall into the water given the types of tasks that will be undertaken. The banks are less than 1m high and the water is very shallow. Given that people will not be working alone the risk of drowning is very low.	1	3	3	# Volunteers will need to wear suitable footwear i.e. wellington boots with a good grip. # Volunteers will need to take care of themselves and if necessary ask for assistance climbing up and down the banks. # Volunteers should not work in isolation or alone.
<b>Water - Leptospirosis (Weil's Disease):</b> This is a water-borne disease which is most prevalent in open waters, especially where there is little flow. The disease comes from rat urine. Faster flowing water generally does not breed this disease. In most people, the symptoms of Weil's disease are similar to a heavy cold or flu, however in rare cases symptoms can be more severe.	3	1	3	# Information of Weil's Disease and the telltale symptoms will be posted on the blog alongside this risk assessment
<b>Water - Other contamination and diseases:</b> There are <u>no</u> known contaminants or diseases present within the stream that are likely to cause harm to human health.	2	1	2	# Following the pond and bank clearance all volunteers should wash themselves thoroughly to remove dirt and stream water, especially before consuming food
<b>Road traffic - Risk of road traffic accidents:</b> The work will take place near to roads, of particular concern is where work is undertaken near to the blind bend near the Millennium pond. With so many helpers (which will inevitably involve some younger children), we will need to look at measures of traffic calming and warning drivers and cyclists of the presence of people, in particular younger children.	3	2	6	# Traffic calming measures need to be implemented near to the sites where activities are taking place. This may include cones, signs and a notice on the blog to advise people to slow down.
<b>Sharp objects - Risk of cuts:</b> Whilst it is not considered that there will be any dangerous sharp objects in the water, it is possible. The occasional steel can, broken bottle or other items could be present. Also some of the heavy grasses can also cause cuts to your hands when trying to pull them from the river banks. Brambles and nettles are present and may puncture through gloves, therefore extra care must be taken.	2	2	4	# All volunteers should wear strong gloves to protect themselves. # All volunteers should take extra care and be vigilant. Any glass and other sharps should be carefully removed from the stream and suitably disposed of. # Take extra care handling brambles and nettles
<b>Pneumonia, cold, overheating:</b> It is likely that the water temperature will be cold during the activities. The outside temperature during the activity at the time assessment was completed is unknown. It could be that volunteers will witness both cold and hot times (i.e. hot once they have been actively helping).	2	1	2	# It is important that people come dressed in appropriate clothes for the weather conditions on the day of the event. Correct footwear is essential. # If there are any extreme weather conditions i.e. thunderstorms, high winds, lightning strikes, etc. then the activity will be suspended or cancelled. # Volunteers should also consider bringing with them a flask with a hot drink. Sycamore to provide refreshments after the event

<p><b>Tools - risk of injury from the use of tools, or from others using tools:</b> Everyone using tools must ensure they are capable, able and if necessary trained in the use of tools, especially in the use of power tools. People using power tools should wear the appropriate personal protective equipment for the specific tool. People using tools (and power tools) should ensure the safety of those around them.</p>	2	3	6	<p># Volunteers must only use tools that they are able and capable of using.  # Those using power tools must be suitably skilled and trained and wear the appropriate personal protective equipment.  # Volunteers must take care of their own safety and that of fellow volunteers  # Children should not use tools or equipment unless they have been trained and/or have been given permission. Children must take extra care when using any tools and be aware of others around them.</p>
<p><b>Tippers and dumpsters - Risk of people being run over, risk of contact injuries:</b> To help clear away the debris we may use the tippers and dumpsters of local people. It is vital that these volunteers are skilled and trained to drive and operate these vehicles. It is key that children are managed around the on-site vehicles.</p>	3	1	3	<p># Volunteer helpers must be trained and skilled if they are to operate site vehicles such as dumpers.  # Volunteers (especially young children) should be cautious and aware of the dangers with the vehicles and should not go near to the vehicles when they are switched on, or being operated.</p>
<p><b>Manual handling of materials - risk of back strains and contact with hands on the tipper bucket:</b> The job of shovelling the debris into the tippers is heavy work and should only be completed by those who are physically capable. The work should also be shared amongst as many people as possible to reduce the risk of injury and spread the effort.</p>	3	1	3	<p># Volunteers manually handling debris or items should be physically capable. This is an assessment that each volunteer should make about themselves.  # Volunteers must 'ask for help' where ever necessary.  # Gloves and other protection must also be worn.</p>
<p><b>General safety of children, risk of falling, inappropriate use of tools, risk of drowning for younger children, risk of traffic or on-site vehicle incidents:</b> It is vital that children are involved in the clean-up activities. Children (depending upon their age / abilities and maturities) will need varying levels of supervision. Where possible the parents of the children should be present to help supervise them. Other volunteers can not be wholly held responsible for other peoples children. Children must wear appropriate clothing and appropriate protection from the cold. Inc. spare clothes</p>	3	3	9	<p># Parents of 'volunteer children' allow their children to attend the clean-up activities at their own risk. There will be no <u>formal</u> supervision of your children by the other volunteers.  # Children &lt;9years old must be accompanied by a responsible adult and supervised at all times.  # Children should not use tools or equipment unless they have been trained and/or have been given permission. Children must take extra care when using any tools and be aware of others around them.  # All children should wear wellingtons and other appropriate clothing.  # It is important that children look out for each other  # Children should return home following the clean-up, they may come for refreshments at the Sycamore after the event, but only with their parents permission  # Children must get themselves clean following the activities to minimise any risk of Weil's disease  # The greatest risk present for children will be the traffic travelling through the village. It is therefore essential that they cross roads away from blind corners  # Before commencing the clean-up children should receive a short safety briefing warning of any dangers and things to look out for.</p>
<p><b>Litter picking - Risk of cuts, contamination and disease:</b> Generally most litter will be food wrappers, drinks bottles (plastic or glass) and other forms of waste. It is possible that some of the litter will be sharp, may contain degrading food and mould, insects may be present and there is a possibility that animal faeces will be present around the areas. It is vital that each of the volunteers wears suitable strong gloves when handling litter and that any animal faeces is handled only by an adult using disposable gloves and/or a disposable plastic bag.</p>	2	2	4	<p># Volunteers must wear strong gloves for collecting / handling litter.  # Volunteers should take extra care when handling glass or other sharp objects  # Care must be taken handling animal faeces, in rare cases contact with faeces can cause toxocarasis (blindness) in young children, if ingested or contacted. Only adults must handle animal faeces and this must be done using disposable gloves or suitable plastic bags.  # All volunteers should wash their hands thoroughly after handling litter.</p>