

NeighborWorks Great Falls
Great Falls, MT
MApril Communitywide Spring Cleanup
Budget: \$2,445



During its 2009 [MApril cleanup](#), [NeighborWorks Great Falls](#) (NWGF) mobilized more than 600 volunteers to collect big trash items, perform maintenance tasks for the elderly and pick up litter throughout their Great Falls, Montana community. This year the two-weekend event, which occurs annually during the last weekend in April and the first weekend in May, marked its 27th anniversary with the collection of 27 tons of trash.

NWGF's Resource Development Manager Carrie Kopyy says that the "neighborhood camaraderie during MApril is remarkable. Folks are out raking, painting and generally cleaning, and they hail each other as they work."

Participants generally include families, businesses, service organizations and church congregations. This year, the principal of a local alternative school and 20 of her students joined in the effort. Kopyy says the same people contribute to MApril every year, but each year they create a snowball effect by bringing more people with them.

NWGF has established valuable partnerships with nearby Malmstrom Air Force Base, the Montana Department of Transportation and Montana Waste Systems. These organizations help make MApril run smoothly by respectively providing truck crews that haul trash, donating trash bags for volunteers and waving dumping fees during the event.

This year, NWGF also teamed up with Home Depot to host a picnic during which about 150 volunteers celebrated the first weekend's accomplishments with hot dogs, burgers and an inflatable jumper for the kids. Kopyy hopes the picnic will encourage even more participation in future MApril events.

