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Streets Swept Pristine by Somerville Spring Clean-up

Andrew Firestone

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Denise Provost removes harmful burdock root from the community path.

Do you feel like your city is on the cusp of rude messiness? If so, Somerville had a message this last Saturday: Ask what you can do for your city.

Despite the original rain-out on May 8, the annual Spring Clean-up in Somerville brought together dozens of volunteers from all over the city in an effort to make their neighborhood's shine this last Saturday June 19. From Davis Square to the Mystic River, residents of Somerville showed their civic pride by getting involved.

"I like to make my city look better," said Jessica Garrett of Ward 6, who spent her morning brushing off the sidewalks and picking up litter by the Davis Square Rite Aid. "I'm proud of my city."

Despite being pushed late into the Spring, the clean-up, sponsored by Xfinity in partnership with Groundwork Somerville showed Somerville residents dedicated to the beautification of their city. "We have a vibrant neighborhood," said Jesse Baker, who acted as captain for Ward 5. "It's not about the city serving the residents, its about the residents serving the city."



DPW Worker Marty Pantanella helps out.
~Photos by Andrew Firestone

One city worker, Marty Pantanella of the DPW was happy for the company on such a hot day. "We appreciate it," she said, "because everyday there's a lot of work to do. Pantanella's group filled several trash bags with litter, and disposed of a few abandoned shopping carts.

Aside from picking up debris, much of the work involved brushing off sidewalks caked with grim, or clearing out wildly grown vegetation from the paths. State Representative Denise Provost spent her morning painstakingly removing overgrown burdock root from the community path, being careful not to disturb the rhododendron nearby. "I really like plants," she said. "They are especially welcome in a place with so much pavement and heat."

The event ran from 10 AM to Noon, after which many workers made their way over to Trum field for a community barbeque.