

## SEED Trash Collection Study

### Pilot collection study protocol

- Since some of the items you pick up could have sharp or jagged edges, please wear durable work gloves when you pick up trash.
- Use caution when picking up trash. Avoid handling sharp objects or walking on slippery or uneven terrain. If you see trash that is unsafe to retrieve, take a picture of it and [report it](#) for Public Works to remove.
- This is a voluntary activity. The city is not responsible or liable for any injuries occurring during this activity. Proceed at your own risk.
- We live in a biodiverse place, so watch for snakes. You can find safety tips from the Savannah River Ecology Lab Herpetology program here: <https://srelherp.uga.edu/snakes/snake-safety.htm>
- Once you read through the instructions, you can start entering data here: <https://forms.gle/r4DFdw5pkZSfw6C48>



- 1- Pick one of the eight sections around the lake and plan to spend 15 to 25 minutes in the area (or until you have run out of trash you can safely pick up). The lake edge was split into sections to determine what kind of trash gets tossed in each area.
- 2- Collect any trash on or near the shore while wearing your gloves and place it in a trash bag. Once you are finished collecting the trash, carefully pour out the contents on the ground to photograph them; a phone camera is perfect. You will need to take one photograph of all the items. That photo will give us a simple count of the types of trash, so please make sure to arrange the items so that they are all visible and can be clearly distinguished from each other (for example, make sure the plastic bag you collected doesn't cover up the candy wrapper and fishhook you also picked up). Below is a sample image of how to arrange the things you find:

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3-Once you have a good, clear photo you can use to count the types of items you picked up, toss that trash! Make sure to recycle aluminum cans or plastic bottles. You can drop off any recyclables at the beach house recycling bins if convenient.

4-spot the trash in the photo! For the initial assessment of trash for the moratorium, we are using 3 simplified categories:

- **Fishing trash/litter:** fishing line, hooks, floating bobbers, sink lines, etc.
- **Recyclable trash:** aluminum cans, plastic bottles. Please note DeKalb county does not currently accept glass in its curbside pickup recycling, but you *can* recycle unbroken glass at DeKalb Farmers Market and the Center for Hard to Recycle Materials (CHaRM).
- **Non-recyclable trash:** Candy wrappers, Styrofoam, broken glass, cigarette butts, and everything else that doesn't fit into the categories above. **[Tip]:** if you find trash that seems to have come from the same source, like the many pieces of caution tape in the sample photo, count that trash as one item. If you aren't certain whether trash pieces came from the same source, it's OK to count them separately.
- Note: we ask for your count and a photo so that we have the ability to re-analyze trash type in the future if needed (for example, how many beverage cans compared to child toys?)

5-Upload your data here, citizen scientist: <https://forms.gle/r4DFdw5pkZSfw6C48> !

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Note: to upload a photo into the google form, you will need to sign into your google account. If you don't have one, you can send a copy (make sure to include the day and lake section for each photo in the subject line) to [seed@pinelakega.net](mailto:seed@pinelakega.net).

### Other tips:

- You are welcome to contribute data on trash from multiple sites, but please keep trash separate by section. That way we can tell what is being left behind in each location, and potentially form specific responses for each area.
- For clarity and speed in our analysis, **please submit one photo per section for each day you collect.**