

## ***Trash Free Park***

### **Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet**

#### **1. Where are the Trash Free Park areas in the City of Urbana?**

The following site will be a *Trash Free Park*:

- Pointe North

#### **2. What is a Trash Free Park?**

Many Ohio State parks have a long track record of success implementing this concept.

It is a solid waste management strategy of removing trash receptacles from all or sections of a park. Visitors are expected to carry out the refuse they generate and dispose of it properly at home or at another appropriate destination. Integral to the concept is fostering a partnership between visitors and the parks by encouraging all visitors to help maintain clean parks, reduce solid waste within the park, and embrace the ideas of reduce, reuse, and recycle.

#### **3. What do we (visitors) do with our trash in the park?**

Visitors are responsible for removing all refuse they generate in the park when they leave the park. Trash must be picked up and the area left in a clean condition before departure. Visitors are encouraged to come prepared when visiting the park. If they plan to picnic, barbecue, or in any way generate waste, they should plan ahead to provide the means to organize materials needed, and correctly package items and refuse, in order to efficiently take it with them by the means in which they came -by walking, bicycle, car, etc.. The park encourages visitors to consider how they package items. Using materials that can be recycled or composted when they return home is a positive way to help the environment.

#### **4. What are the benefits of a Trash Free Park?**

- Fosters a partnership between visitors and the parks by encouraging all visitors to help maintain clean parks.
- Encourages an outdoor ethic that places emphasis on recycling and reusing materials in order to reduce our impact on the environment.
- Improve the appearance of the parks by removing trash cans that detract from the beauty of the park environment.
- Encourages visitors to bring reusable containers and to recycle as much as possible.
- Increases visitor safety by reducing the number of bees, wasps and other pests in the picnic areas and eliminates odors associated with trash cans.
- Eliminating the need for trash receptacles and disposal services will allow the park an opportunity to make more productive use of its available resources and redirect staff to other important park projects and operational needs (i.e., educational programs and tours, facility maintenance, grounds care, safety patrols, and trail work.

#### **5. What am I supposed to do with my pet waste?**

Park visitors will be expected to remove pet waste from the park.

## **6. What do I do with my large group?**

Larger groups consume and require larger resources. More planning will be involved to provide the materials necessary to pack out refuse. Plan well ahead of time. Bring enough supplies to remove your trash when you leave.

## **7. What are you going to do about the litter? People won't listen and will throw or leave their trash on the ground.**

The City's maintenance staff has been and will remain actively engaged in maintaining the area. This fact does not mean it is okay for people to package their refuse and leave it for the park to clean up. The City is introducing a program by which park visitors can make a personal commitment and have a stake in reducing solid waste in the park – they remove and dispose of their refuse. If done properly, they will leave no trace. Other, well established park programs have shown average ranges of success between 80-95%. This statistic means 80-95% of the people who visit *Trash Free Parks* are responsibly removing their refuse. The City will deal with visitors who leave trash behind; littering is an illegal activity, enforced by the local authorities and subject to penalty.

## **9. What does *Carry In, Carry Out* Mean?**

*Carry in, Carry out or Pack it in, Pack it out* means put litter—even crumbs, peels and cores—in garbage bags and carry it home. Be sure to properly dispose of materials. Many items that are carried out should end up in the recycling bin. Food scraps can be composted.

## **12. Why did the City decide to go to a *Trash Free Park Program*?**

The City of Urbana, like many municipalities, is responsible for managing park operations efficiently and sustainably on a very limited budget. The Trash Free Park Program places the trust for the ongoing day-to-day litter control on those who use the area for relaxation. It is our belief that those who frequent the lakes will take pride in maintaining a quiet, undeveloped area of enjoyment.

- It reduces the amount of money we have to spend on disposal.
- It reduces fuel consumption associated with trash pick-ups and disposal.
- It also reduces staff hours spent on trash removal and allows the park to allocate work hours to other important park functions and projects.