

Adopt-A-Park



The City of Topeka Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for approximately 1,600 acres of parks. Keeping these parks clean is a major task. In order to provide for litter control of public park and recreation areas, the Park Department has developed the **Adopt-A-Park program**. This program is designed for non-profit organizations that are looking for community service volunteer opportunities. The Adopt-A-Park program is vital to our community and assists the Park Department in maintaining clean parks and recreation areas for all to enjoy.

Each volunteer adopting group assumes responsibility for an assigned park and agrees to remove litter and trash a minimum of 12 times a year for a one-year period. The group's responsibility is to pick-up trash and litter, not mowing or trimming of shrubs and/or weeds. Parks and Recreation, in cooperation with Keep America Beautiful, can provide trash bags to the adopting group. Bags are provided at no cost but must be picked up at the Park Management Office, 201 NW Topeka Blvd.

After 1 (one) year of documented service, a sign can be placed in the park recognizing the adopting agency. The sign will remain up as long as monthly tracking sheets are turned in. If tracking sheets are not received for 3 consecutive months, the sign will be removed. If your organization is interested in adopting a park, please contact the Park Management Office at 368-3700. ***A new contract must be signed each year and kept on record with the Park Management Office.***



NOTE: The city of Topeka reserves the right to reject any agency, individual, group or organization that wants to adopt-a-park.

Remember

Protection

- Discontinue work in inclement weather, especially in times of severe storms.
- Work during daylight hours.
- Avoid over exertion. Drink plenty of water, especially on warm humid days.
- Do not try to remove known or suspected toxic/hazardous substances or dead animals. Notify the Park Management Office or the Police Department of the location of such items immediately.

Cautions

- Be alert for places where snakes may be located such as old logs, rocky areas or tall grass. Be alert for stinging insects.
- Avoid contact with poison ivy.
- Do not attempt to pick-up litter on bridges, underpasses or overpasses. These areas are especially dangerous to pedestrian workers.
- Do not attempt to compact or squeeze trash sacks to gain room for more trash. Injuries from broken or jagged objects often results from this practice. Fill the sack with what goes in easily, and then get another bag.
- Do not enter the roadway or its shoulder areas, paved or unpaved, to pick-up trash.

Clothing

- Wear heavy gloves. Do not pick-up discarded syringes or other hazardous materials.
- Watch your footing. Wear suitable leather shoes or boots with ankle support. Stay off steep slopes.
- Wear a hat and long sleeves to avoid sunburn. You should use a sunscreen on sunny days.

Emergencies

- Every crew should possess an adequate first aid kit. Select an emergency room/hospital, and know the route from the work area to the designated treatment center.
- Every crew should have transportation immediately available.

