

# Livermore Area Recreation and Park District

## Staff Report

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TO: Chair Palajac and Board of Directors

FROM: Mathew Fuzie, General Manager

PREPARED BY: Patricia Lord, Assistant General Manager

DATE: May 13, 2020

SUBJECT: Information Only: Trash Management Improvements in Park System

COMMITTEE: Reviewed by the Facilities Committee on May 7, 2020

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**INFORMATION ONLY:** This is an information only report on plans to implement operational efficiencies in managing trash collection and promote “Pack it in, Pack it out” for the District’s parks, trails and open space areas. An Ad Hoc Safety Committee reviewed current practices, identified areas for improvements, and made the following recommendations at the April 30, 2020 Safety Committee meeting:

1. **SAFETY TRAINING:** Continue ongoing training for staff on safe lifting practices.
2. **DESIGN STANDARD:** Replace existing trash cans with new standard trash receptacles made of steel, with a lid, and a side opening to remove garbage bags. (See Attachment A)
3. **MARKETING CAMPAIGN:** Launch a public education campaign on the benefits of “Pack it in, Pack it out” and promote with signage, website, social media, and support of Park Ambassadors. Create incentives for participation in program. (See Attachment B)
4. **INCREMENTAL APPROACH:** Limit the number of strategically placed trash receptacles in neighborhood parks, depending on park usage and amenities. Initial phase to reduce the number of trash cans in neighborhood parks by 50%.
5. **MULTI-USE PARKS:** Continue to provide trash receptacles as needed for special use parks where customers pay for rentals, such as, group picnic reservations and sports fields.
6. **DOG PARKS:** Discontinue the provision of dog waste bags and remove “Mutt Mitt” stations throughout the parks system. The District has already started doing this through messaging on social media (Facebook, Instagram, and the website). (See Attachment C)
7. **STAFFING AND SUPPLIES:** By reducing staff time spent on trash removal, and the associated costs, resources may be reallocated on other park improvements.(Attachment D)

Staff will evaluate and quantify results of plan with measurable objectives. Benefits associated with the reduction of trash receptacles and employing recommended trash management plans include: design standards, cost savings, leveraging staff resources, safety measures, and environmental stewardship with a “Pack it In – Pack it Out” campaign.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Recommended Design Standard for Trash Receptacles
- B. Draft Marketing Information
- C. Press Release on Discontinuation of “Mutt Mitts”
- D. Staff and Supplies Cost Estimates

## TRASH RECEPTACLE DESIGNS

Newer tot lots (May Nissen, Pleasure Island) 32-40 gallon concrete receptacles:  
 Cost estimate \$1,200 each; customizable to add logo



### Why these work:

- Stationary
- Attractive
- Cohesive look

### Why these don't work:

- Easy to damage; hard to repair
- Difficult to access
- Smaller, needs to be emptied more frequently

LARPD PARKS 55 gallon re-purposed oil drum, with and without lid;  
 Cost estimate \$15 for re-purposed oil drum; \$58 for lid



### Why these work:

- Easy to access in parks
- Moveable
- Resistant to vandalism and graffiti
- Inexpensive and easy to replace

### Why these don't work:

- Unattractive
- Hard to lift out the trash from the top (but can be turned on its side or tilted)

Ad Hoc Committee Recommended Design Standard:  
 Cost estimate \$500-\$1000 depending on size quantity purchased



- Steel, side opening, lid
- Attractive
- Resistant to vandalism and graffiti



# Trash Talk

**Pack It  
In...**

**...Pack  
It Out**

**DRAFT**  
5/7/2020

**Take everything you bring into the park home,  
including your trash and recyclables!**

## **Did You Know?**

- Efforts are being focused on keeping parks and trails safe, open, and accessible.
- Trash receptacles have a high "touch factor" and can be a health and safety hazard for staff and community members.
- LARPD has 114 garbage cans in our neighborhood parks that get emptied 2x per week or 11,856 cans emptied annually.
- Park staff removes over 3000 cubic feet of trash per month. That's 36,000 cubic feet annually - Enough garbage to fill an Olympic sized swimming pool!

## Mutt Mitt Social Media Post – April 2020

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has been able to supply free mutt mitts to pet owners utilizing our parks, dog parks, and trails for many years, however, this is a benefit that we will no longer be able to support. The COVID-19 situation has changed the way that many organizations are doing business and for us, this is just one of many changes and difficult decisions we have had to make in recent weeks. There are several reasons for this decision:

- The health and safety of our community is a top priority. These dispensers have a very high “touch factor” and are not sanitized which may increase the spread of germs.
- Due to the pandemic, we have reduced service levels in our parks and staff is working hard to provide essential services to the community.
- The District pays over \$75,000 annually between the cost of product and staff time to provide this free service to a small portion of the community. In a time when very difficult financial decisions are being made, we believe this money can be better utilized to support essential District services and programs.
- It can take up to 1000 years for a plastic mutt mitt to fully dissolve in a landfill. There is a large environmental impact associated with their use and we are doing our part to reduce our impact on the environment.

You may have noticed recent notifications on the mutt mitt dispensers informing you that the District will no longer re-fill the stations. Once our current supply of mutt mitts runs out, the dispensers will be removed from the parks. We know this is a big change and ask that you now supply your own mutt mitt, clean up after your pet, and dispose the waste in an appropriate receptacle. We recommend using biodegradable mutt mitts which can be purchased online or in stores.

We understand that some community members may be disappointed with this change, but we ask for your understanding as we work through these difficult and unprecedented times. Together we can get through this, and we appreciate your support as we navigate through the impacts COVID-19.





March 4, 2020

10:30am

**4.4: Pounds of trash generated, per person, per day in the USA.**

# Let's Talk Trash

*29: The number of times Americans visit their local parks annually.*

Clean Up Schedule		Shifts Scheduled Just for Trash	
<b>Fall/Winter</b>			
Mondays	6 Crew	8 hour shift (full day)	48 hours
Fridays	4 Crew	4 hour shift (1/2 day)	16 hours
Weekly Totals	10		72
<b>Spring/Summer</b>			
Mondays & ½ Tuesday	6 Crew	8 hour shift & 4 hour shift	72
Fridays	6 crew	8 hour shift	48
Weekly Totals	10		104

NOTE: Crews of 10, include 4 contractors who can't drive LARPD fleet vehicles.

\*Holiday weekends require an additional ½ day for trash removal.

## Costs:

Item	Per Case	Cases per order	Cost per Order (w/ shipping)	Price Per Unit	Ordering Frequency
Can Liners	\$43.32	25	\$1082.00	\$0.87	Monthly
Mutt Mitts	\$59.99	80	\$5478.00	\$0.80	Every other month

Recommendations for the number of 55 gallon trash receptacles at parks:

- High Use/Multi Use Parks (such as Big Trees, Ernie Rod., Independence, Max Baer, May Nissen)  
*Recommendation: 15-20 cans onsite*
- Moderately Used Parks (such as Altamont Creek, Bruno, Christensen, Hagemann, Pleasure Island)  
*Recommendation: 10-15 cans onsite*

NOTE: Park use constantly fluctuates based on seasons, weather, events and improvements.

Aesthetic Improvement Suggestions for Existing 55 Gallon Drums:

- "Spray-On" designs or LARPD logo
- Commission local kids and artists to paint cans-*excellent* Community Service Day project!

