

What does it mean to adopt a park?

By adopting an Independence City park, your group, organization or school agrees to visit that park once a month to help keep it clean and to make note of any condition that requires attention by park maintenance employees.

By adopting a park you will be helping to extend your tax dollars by allowing City parks employees to spend more time on major renovations, repairs and other much needed maintenance work. You will also be able to take pride in the fact that you will be helping to improve the quality of life in Harry Truman's home town of Independence, MO.



Independence Parks & Recreation Dept.
Truman Memorial Building
416 W. Maple
Independence, MO 64050

Adopt-A-Park Program



**An opportunity provided by the
City of Independence
Parks and Recreation
Department for families,
schools, neighborhoods, clubs,
Organizations, and associations
to serve their community.**



Who qualifies to adopt a park?

Local service clubs, sports teams, youth organizations, church congregations, special-interest groups, fraternal organizations, schools, businesses, families and friends are welcome and encouraged to adopt a park. Youth organizations are required to have at least one adult supervisor for every five children while working at their adopted park.

What tasks are we volunteering to do by adopting a park?

Adoptive groups are asked to:

- ◆ Pick up litter
- ◆ Sweep court surfaces
- ◆ Sweep trails and sidewalks
- ◆ Clean picnic tables and benches
- ◆ Clean and rake children's play areas
- ◆ Weed flower beds
- ◆ Plant flowers or trees
(Plants and planting locations must be approved in advance.)

Groups are also asked to report:

- ◆ Vandalism damage
- ◆ Dirty restrooms
- ◆ Graffiti
- ◆ Buildings or structures needing repair
- ◆ Unsafe conditions

Adoptive groups are not expected to remove graffiti, mow grass, trim vegetation, clean restrooms or perform major maintenance.



Who will supply cleaning materials?

Adoptive organizations are asked to contact the Volunteer Services Department at 325-7860 to coordinate supplies furnished by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Supplied Items include:

- ◆ Trash bags
- ◆ Brooms
- ◆ Dustpans
- ◆ Rakes



May we choose which park we want to adopt?

Yes! Groups are encouraged to select a park near members' homes, schools or meeting places. Larger parks, such as The Independence Athletic Complex, Mill Creek Park, and Santa Fe Park would benefit by being adopted by more than one organization. Requests for a specific park will be granted whenever possible, but cannot be guaranteed.

Which parks can be adopted?

Any Independence City park or greenspace can be adopted. Some parks may even have two or more volunteer groups.

A complete list is available online at:

www.indepmo.org/parksandrec/

What do we get out of it?

A sense of pride in serving your community. Groups will also be recognized when they join the program through Independence's web site, in the CityScene Newsletter and on the City's Cable TV Channel, Independence Channel 7. An Adopt-A-Park sign will also be installed at the adopted site noting the adopting party

Is there anything else we should know?

Adopting a park isn't just about work; it's about fun! Your group's time at your adopted park could include a picnic, outdoor games, a hike or fishing outing (in some parks). Most of all, it's an opportunity to get to know one another better, while making a difference in your community.

How do we get started?

Contact Helen Matson at the Independence Volunteer Services Department at 325-7860.

