



General Information

Adopt-A-Park

Adopt-A-Park Program encourages community groups, businesses, and individuals to monitor, maintain, and care for the City's neighborhood parks, facilities, landscaped areas, nature trails, and other public areas. It also provides opportunities for participants to volunteer their time, effort, and resources to care for City parks, facilities, landscaped areas, nature trails, and other public areas.

Who Can Adopt A Park?

Any civic-minded individual, group or organization can adopt a city park. Garden clubs, corporations, scout groups, student organizations, social clubs, youth sport organizations, homeowner associations are just a few examples. Participants must be at least 12 years old to participate.

What are the Responsibilities of an Adopting Organization?

1. Each Participant must accept the terms and conditions contained in this Administrative Regulation as a condition of being allowed to participate in the Adopt-A-Park program.
2. Each Participant is responsible for performing all of the services identified on its application.
3. Each Participant must perform a minimum of four (4) hours of Approved Services at its Adopted Location quarterly, for a minimum of sixteen (16) total hours annually.
4. Each Participant must designate a representative responsible for coordinating and communicating with the Parks & Recreation Department.
5. Each Participant must organize, schedule, and supervise all volunteers and those performing Approved Services at its Adopted Location, and ensure that adult supervision is provided for anyone under 18 years of age.
6. Each Participant must ensure that all equipment and unused supplies provided by the City are returned timely and undamaged. Participant will be responsible for replacing or repairing any City property damaged while under its care or control.
7. Each Participant must submit a quarterly report to the Parks & Recreation Department identifying the Approved Services performed at its Adopted Location, the time spent performing the Approved Services, and any other information as required by the Parks & Recreation Department.
8. Participants must ensure all City safety guidelines are followed, and that each person participating in Approved Services at an Adopted Location completes and submits a Volunteer Release Form to the Parks & Recreation Department prior to performing any Approved Services.
9. Each Participant must exercise reasonable care, precaution, and due diligence to protect, maintain, and preserve all City-owned property at their Adopted Location. Prior to and after the commencement of any

Approved Services, Participants must conduct a thorough examination and inspection of the Adopted Location and any City-owned property provided, and identify any unsafe condition or defect. Immediately upon becoming aware of any unsafe condition or defect, Participants must notify the Parks & Recreation Department or other City authorized designee, and stop operations so as not to endanger persons or property. A Participant's failure to report, remedy, or make safe an unsafe or defective condition will relieve the City of all liability and responsibility for the unsafe or defective condition.

10. Without further direction from the City, Participants may perform any of the following Authorized Services at its Adopted Location:
 - A. Collect litter and debris.
 - B. Sweep sports court surfaces and pathways.
 - C. Remove weeds.
 - D. Refresh and replace mulch.
 - E. Report unusual or suspicious activity, vandalism, broken equipment, items in need of repair, or unsafe or unsanitary condition to the Parks & Recreation Department.
 - F. Maintain existing plants, flowers, and trees.
 - G. Promote the Adopt-A-Park program and Approved Services throughout the community.
11. Upon receiving the prior written permission from the Parks & Recreation Department Director or designee, Participants may perform the following Approved Services at its Adopted Location: A. Provide Approved Services outside the standard park hours for the Approved Location. B. Repaint equipment. C. Purchase and install plants, flowers, and trees. D. Use power tools and motor-driven equipment. E. Other Approved Services as described in the prior written permission.
12. Participants must abide by the City's facility rule and adhere to the following restrictions and safety guidelines:
 - A. Participants are prohibited from modifying field conditions, entering into facilities or buildings, moving equipment or creating situations that may be considered hazardous without prior authorization from the Parks & Recreation Department Director or designee.
 - B. Approved Services must not be provided during inclement weather.
 - C. Participants must not perform any activity outside of their physical capabilities.
 - D. Participants must wear appropriate personal protection, including sunscreen, safety glasses, gloves, clothing, and shoes.
 - E. Participants must drink plenty of fluids. F. Participants must beware of bees and other irritants at the Approved Location, and apply insect repellent as necessary.
 - G. Participants must remain aware of vehicle traffic when working near roadways and parking lots.
 - H. Participants must avoid picking up discarded syringes and/or needles, or coming into contact with unknown chemicals. I. Participants must not approach or attempt to touch unfamiliar animals or pets.
13. Participants whose organizations also carry workers' compensation insurance, must provide proof of such insurance in the statutorily required amounts to the Parks & Recreation Department.

How it Works

To Adopt A Park:

1. Applicants must submit a complete Adopt-A-Park application to the Parks & Recreation Department.
2. Each application must identify the City-owned property requested to be the Adopted Property, and a list of Approved Services intended to be performed. Each Participant must coordinate Approved Services with

the Parks & Recreation Department in order to ensure that all necessary tools, materials, and supplies are provided as needed.

3. Participants are encouraged to recruit and schedule volunteers to implement Approved Services.

Benefits

Volunteer groups and organizations derive great satisfaction by becoming stewards of the city park system and enjoy the knowledge that by being part of this program truly makes a difference. In addition the City of North Port will provide a plaque or recognizable sign erected at the adopted park acknowledging the group's contribution and commitment to the program. Adopt-A-Park helps people help each other so that all may have a better recreational opportunity and experience.

What are the Safety Guidelines?

The following safety guidelines are provided to participating groups for the safety of the participants and park personnel. The City of North Port has a safety program in place designed to prevent accidents before they occur by emphasizing a sound, common sense approach to safety. The Parks & Recreation Division provides and maintains a safe healthful play environment in its park system by educating its participants to act responsibly in preventing injury. Adopt-A-Park groups are expected to accept responsibility for the actions of their participants with regard to safety and causing damage to the facilities.

- Organizations must provide adequate supervision for participants under the age of 18.
- All volunteers must sign a waiver prior to participating and a parent/guardian must sign for anyone under the age of 18.
- Volunteer groups are prohibited from modifying field conditions, entering into facilities or buildings, moving equipment or creating situations that may be considered hazardous without prior authorization from the Parks & Recreation Department.
- Each volunteer group should not schedule any activity when threatening weather is present.
- Volunteers should not perform any activity outside of their physical capabilities.
- The use of power tools and motor-driven equipment is discouraged unless pre-authorized by the Parks & Recreation Division.
- Wear appropriate clothing and shoes and use sunscreen.
- Work during daylight hours only and drink plenty of fluids during hot, humid days.
- Beware of bees and other irritants and apply insect repellent when necessary.
- Be aware of traffic when working close to roadways.
- Avoid picking up discarded syringes and/or needles or coming into contact with unknown chemicals.
- Do not approach unfamiliar animals or pets.