

Presented at the April 8, 2019, Meeting of the Board of Park Commissioners of Mill Creek MetroParks

The Environmental Standing Committee recommends that the Mill Creek Metro Parks Board of Commissioners adopt the following waste reduction, litter control, and recycling measures:

- Prohibit the intentional launching of balloons into the atmosphere from all park locations, include that ban in park facility rental agreements, and post an explanation of the ban and rationale for it on the Metro Parks website;
- Encourage all park users, including hikers, to pick up litter they encounter and deposit it in the nearest trash can or recycling container, as appropriate;
- Endorse an annually-scheduled and publicly-promoted litter cleanup day, in addition to the Earth Day cleanup. This additional cleanup would originate from a park cabin and target a nearby heavily-littered park area in conjunction with Youngstown Litter Control and Recycling and the Mahoning County Recycling Division;
- Request that park-office-sponsored printing and photocopying be done on both sides of each sheet of paper to conserve paper, whenever possible, and encourage paperless communication, where possible;
- Request that park gift shops issue only paper bags, and not plastic bags, to their customers as soon as any current stock of plastic bags in the Metro Parks' possession is exhausted;
- Consider offering a reward to gift shop customers who do not take any single-use, gift shop issued bags for their purchases;
- Request creation of reusable canvas Metro Parks souvenir bags to be sold in gift shops;
- Encourage food and drink vendors and caterers operating on park premises to issue paper, not plastic, drinking straws, and to issue drinking straws only to customers who request them;
- Commend the Kravitz cafe at Fellows-Riverside Gardens for issuing paper drinking straws to its customers;
- Endorse the installation on park premises of food waste composting bins for use by park food vendors and caterers, if suitable locations and funding sources can be found for the bin installations;
- Request completion of installation of cigarette-butt collection containers the park district has acquired free of charge from Keep America Beautiful outside park buildings, including rental pavilions. The board should also ask park staff to send the collected butts, if it's practical to do so, to a company that will recycle them into other plastic products;
- Request completion of installation of fishing line collection containers with explanatory signs at popular park fishing locations. The board should also ask park staff to send the collected fishing line, if it's practical to do so, to a company that will recycle it into other products, such as fish habitat structures;
- Request to place any waste reduction, litter control and recycling recommendations it adopts on the parks web site and social media for public education and awareness purposes.