

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release through May 31, 2012

"Take One, Leave One" Program reduces costs, reuses plastic grocery bags

Missoulians love their dogs—and their parks. Each year Parks and Recreation spends over \$14,000 to purchase and restock Mutt Mitt® dispensers throughout the park system. "Take One, Leave One" is a pilot program to encourage pet owners to use plastic grocery bags for waste removal to save money and reuse bags which would likely end up in the landfill.

"Take One, Leave One" programs have been successfully implemented in many parts of the country where communities want to reuse plastic bags, reduce the expense of purchasing specialty waste bags, and ensure dog waste does not pose health risks to pets and people. Many of the plastic bags used in this program would normally go from the grocery store to the home to the trash can—and would ultimately end up in a landfill. With "Take One, Leave One", the bags are efficiently utilized one more time before they reach the landfill to help keep Missoula's parks, trails and open space clean and safe for people and pets.

"Take One, Leave One" tubes have been installed at 20 parks and trailheads throughout the city to encourage citizens to reuse bags to pick up after Fido. If citizens support this pilot program, cost savings would allow the department to direct Mutt Mitt funds to other priority needs throughout the park system. If you'd like to comment on the "Take One, Leave One" pilot project, please e-mail dselvage@ci.missoula.mt.us or leave a message 552-6252.

"Take One, Leave One" Pilot Sites:

Bentley Trail	Boyd Park	Greenough Park
Mt. Jumbo Cherry St. Trailhead	McLeod Park	Bess Reed Park
North Hills Waterworks	Franklin Park	Gregory Park
Trailhead	South Hills trailheads	White Pine Park
Mt. Sentinel Gasworks Trailhead	Maloney Ranch Park	North Hills Froelich Trail
Bonner Park	Fort Missoula Park	Bitterroot Branch Trail
Playfair Park	44 Ranch Park	Shady Grove Trail
Elms Park	Pineview Park	(end)

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