

IMPORTANT: Please Read

Carry In/Carry Out Program

OPYBS Coaches, Players and Families,

A “Carry In / Carry Out” Waste Minimization Program was piloted by the OPYBS and the Park District in spring 2009 at the Holmes School T-Ball Field and expanded in 2010 to include T-Ball fields at Holmes School, Hatch School, Carroll Park, and Julian Middle School. For spring 2011 this program will be maintained at all of these locations. The success of this program once again depends on the cooperation of all coaches, players and families. We need your help.

Q. How does the program work?

A. If your child is participating in a game at any of the “Carry In / Carry Out” fields and you are the snack person, please bring one garbage bag that the team can use during and after the game for non-recyclable waste. Please put recyclables in one of the BLUE BAGS that will be available in each field’s equipment box, take them home, and place them in your residential recycling bin. If you don’t want to use the BLUE BAG please put the recyclables back in your cooler or bring a reusable tub or bin.

Q. Why are the T-Ball leagues participating in the Carry In / Carry out Program?

A. This program was created to help mitigate the solid waste / trash issues in general, but in our case, specifically at the T-Ball Fields at Holmes, Hatch, Carroll and Julian. We are trying to be more conscious about generating less waste, using more reusable containers (i.e. water bottles), increasing recycling, assuming responsibility for the trash we make (i.e. pick up and removal) and taking better care of our parks.

Q. When will the program start and how long will the program last?

A. This program will start on Opening Day and continue through the entire season.

Q. Where do we get the trash bags for the garbage and the blue bags for recycling?

A. Blue bags will be stocked in the equipment box at each playing location. Ask the manager of your child’s team to provide one before the game. As for the trash bag, the snack person should provide that along with the snack.

Q. Aren’t the trash bags going to clutter the garbage cans at the park?

A. This is where cooperation becomes critical. In an effort to ease the effect OPYBS has on the garbage output at these parks, we are asking the snack person to please take the garbage bag and blue bag with them at the end of the game and throw it out at home. Due to the size of the T-Ball league there is a huge impact on the parks from a garbage standpoint. In order to be a respectful partner with the Park District we are trying to mitigate this aspect of our participation in order to leave the parks clean and usable for all of those who wish to enjoy them.



*This program is an initiative of the Park District of Oak Park’s Greening Advisory Committee.
For more details visit <http://www.oakparkparks.com/AboutUs/GoGreen>*

Q. What if parents on my team refuse to participate?

A. There is obviously no formal punishment or fine for not participating. We are asking for everyone's participation based on what we feel is a responsible approach to mitigating our impact on the parks we use for our games. The 2009 pilot program and the 2010 expanded program were very successful. There was no garbage overflowing from garbage cans, no bee problem and there was no smell. The parents, kids and teams did a great job getting behind the effort, and many people commented how much nicer the playing area was because of the lack of overflowing garbage. It is a small effort by each team during their game that adds up to a huge benefit for all that use the park.

Q. Why did you choose to implement this program at t-ball sites?

A. T-ball players were selected because they are the youngest participants in the league. By instilling these environmentally-friendly practices in the youngest players, it is hoped they will become common practice as the players continue their participation throughout the years. Additionally, all of the sites are at or near District 97 schools which are currently promoting "Zero Waste" and recycling initiatives. The Carry In / Carry Out program can be deemed as an extension of the schools' efforts. For those of you who are go-getters, by all means do this for your games at the other parks as well.

Q. What do we hope to accomplish with this program by the end of the season?

A. The benefits are multiple...1) It is just another way for our kids to learn about taking responsibility for their actions. 2) It keeps our parks cleaner for everyone. OBYBS is responsible for a lot of trash and everyone who uses the park has to suffer for it. We need to mitigate our impact. 3) Environmental awareness....the days of being wasteful are gone. We all need to start being aware of our actions. 4) I think we will find our kids are already doing this in their schools.

Have a great day and **thank you** in advance for your support and participation. If we all accept this one small responsibility, we'll have cleaner, safer and more enjoyable parks and athletic fields.

Sincerely,

Oak Park Youth Baseball Softball
& Park District of Oak Park