

We Need Your Help to Keep Our Parks Clean!

Carry In/Carry Out Program

The OPYBS are trying to be more conscious about generating less waste, using more reusable containers, increasing recycling, assuming responsibility for the trash we make and taking better care of our parks. 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 and 2011 to include t-ball fields at Holmes School, Hatch School, Carroll Park, and Julian Middle School. For the spring 2012 season, the OPYBS and the Park District are expanding the program to all player levels and game locations. The success of this program depends on the cooperation of all coaches, players and families. We need your help.



Q. How does the program work?

A. If you are the snack person for your child’s game, 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. Ask the manager of your child’s team to provide one before the game. 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. If your child’s team does not have an assigned snack person, it is the responsibility of each family to take your trash and recyclables with you when you leave the field.

If you want to be more environmentally-friendly, put the recyclables back in your cooler or bring a reusable tub or bin. Signs (like the one above) will be posted at all fields as a reminder and trash receptacles will be moved away from the playing fields.

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. 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. Since 2009 the Carry In/Carry Out program has been 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 and each family during their game that adds up to a huge benefit for all that use the park.



*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. Why a Carry In / Carry out Program?

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. Many of the fields 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.

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