



# **Adopt-A-Park Program**

## **General Information**

### **Adopt A Park**

The Adopt-A-Park program is designed to promote community involvement, while maintaining and beautifying neighborhood parks and recreation facilities. The program is designed to be a low-key, relaxed and informal approach to involve people in the community to keep an eye out for potential hazards, vandalism and general park mistreatment. Through these partnerships the City is able to maintain and improve the park system, keep our parks beautiful and safe for the enjoyment of our park users. The idea is for residents of a neighborhood to take ownership of their local park and improve the quality of the park through synergistic collaboration and creative activities as well as increased manpower. The adopted park is encouraged to be used as a focal point of neighborhood activities.

### **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?**

By adopting a park, an organization commits to enhancing and maintaining the parkland through tree plantings, pruning, clearing, painting, flower bed preparation and planting and any other approved projects that will enhance the beauty of the park for a one (1) year period. The adopting group would also monitor the park site for safety conditions and vandalism. Organizations are asked to schedule one volunteer project per quarter to remain active in the program. The program is flexible and can be tailored to your group's needs and interests.

## **How It Works**

To Adopt A Park:

- Identify a park or trail you would like to adopt and the type of project/activity you would like to do.
- Request an application form, complete the application and return it to Parks and Recreation. You will then be contacted to discuss the adoption procedure. Parks staff will work with the volunteer group to identify park needs.
- Once the "Adoption" is approved, the Adopt-A-Park Agreement is signed, and the requesting group can begin.
- Coordinate your project(s) with the Parks and Recreation Department. Necessary tools, materials and supplies may be provided to help the adopting group with their projects.
- All volunteers must sign a waiver release and service agreement prior to participation in the program.
- Recruit and schedule volunteers from your organization to implement the program.
- Submit a quarterly activity report to update your progress.

## **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 Department 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 Department.
- 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.



# City of North Port Adopt-A-Park Program

## Application

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
What park would your group like to adopt or beautify?

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe the type of project or activity your group desires to perform.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you need tools and/or materials to perform the work assigned. (Specify)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Each adopting organization is responsible to schedule an activity project on a quarterly basis during the year. The term for the program is 1 year, renewable for another year, if desired.

Return To: City of North Port  
Parks & Recreation Department  
4970 City Hall Blvd.  
North Port, FL 34286