



National Park Service
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Memorial Parkway
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George Washington Memorial Parkway News Release

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National Park Service, George Washington Memorial Parkway introduces *Trash Free Park* Program, beginning Earth Day, April 22, 2013

McLean, VA George Washington Memorial Parkway, a unit of the National Park Service (NPS), is introducing a *Trash Free Park* program at Great Falls Park (Virginia) and additional Parkway sites on Earth Day, Monday, April 22, 2013. The program follows a *Carry In, Carry Out - Leave No Trace* principal; one which upholds the reduce, reuse, recycle mission of the U.S. Department of the Interior. The purpose is to actively reduce solid waste collected in national park areas.

Under the guidelines of the *Trash Free Park* program, trash receptacles will be removed from twenty-seven (27) locations within the Parkway, including Clara Barton National Historic Site (Maryland), Daingerfield Island, Great Falls Park (Virginia), LBJ Memorial Grove on the Potomac, Netherlands Carillon, Roaches Run, Theodore Roosevelt Island, Turkey Run Park, and the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial. Parkway visitors will be asked to plan for and take their personal refuse with them when they leave and to dispose of their trash properly. Permanent signs will be installed at forty-three (43) locations, as well as providing park users with *Trash Take Out Bags* at various access points throughout the Parkway as a convenience to pack out their personal refuse.

The main principles and benefits of the program are:

- to encourage an outdoor ethic that embraces the idea of a park free of trash, as well as the role of the general public in sharing responsibility for park areas;
- to encourage less wasteful practices and promote recycling activities, to include the use of reusable and recyclable food containers and other supplies;
- to improve the overall appearance and safety of the park through the removal of unsightly refuse containers that attract pests;
- to make more productive use of our available resources by reallocating staff time and effort from trash pickup to other important park operations activities (i.e. trail and facility maintenance, resource preservation, grounds maintenance).

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

- By working together as a community, we demonstrate a commitment towards park sustainability and encouraging less wasteful practices and recycling for future generations.

The George Washington Memorial Parkway generates over 380 tons (760,000 pounds) of solid waste every year. As a climate friendly park and as part of our Environmental Management Program, our goal is to achieve 90% solid waste reduction by the year 2015. Columbia Island, Belle Haven, Collingwood, Fort Hunt Park, Glen Echo Park, Gravelly Point, Jones Point Park, and Riverside will be gradually phased in to the *Trash Free Park* program during 2014 and 2015. In addition, the Parkway is committed to take a leadership role in informing the public about what they can do to reduce refuse impacts in national park areas. **When you're visiting the Parkway, please contact one of our park employees or volunteers to learn more about the *Trash Free Park* program or visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp>.**

Here are some tips to help properly prepare you for a day in the park. If you are having a picnic or group outing we encourage you to do the following:

- Make your outing as trash free as possible. Bring food items in reusable containers. Avoid food items with heavy packaging.
- Use washable utensils, dishes and cups. Instead of throw away table coverings, use cloth, reusable plastic covers, or none at all.
- Bring containers, ziplock or plastic bags to carry out food scraps and leftovers. Some of these items could end up in your compost at home!
- As you plan to pack your bags and vehicle, leave room for items that you will be carrying out.
- Purchasing reusable products and containers and avoiding individually wrapped produce can reduce the amount of trash to be carried out of the park and the waste in our landfills.
- After leaving the park, please remember to recycle glass, plastic, and metal products.

Thank you for cooperating in our efforts to provide a more pleasant Parkway experience.



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