

VILLAGE OF GREEN TRAILS PARK

ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP REPORT: NON-BIODEGRADABLE WASTES

May 2015

The Village of Green Trails is cleaning up non-biodegradable and hazardous wastes in the Green Trails Park. The new program providing for removal of materials posing a threat to health and safety and impacting property values was initiated in 2015. The goal is to eliminate environmental pollution and health and safety risks to residents, pets and wildlife caused by littering and dumping in the common ground woodlands and creeks. The environmental impact is far reaching because Green Trails creeks are part of the Creve Coeur watershed, they flow into Green Trails Lake and to the Creve Coeur Lake. A recap of the first annual cleanup event follows.

Environmental Cleanup

May 29, 2015

8:30am - 3:30pm: 35 man-hours onsite labor

Cost

\$1125 for two grounds crew onsite cleanup, plus haul away and disposal

Workers

Two contracted grounds crew; Zach and Bob from Terrill Landscape Co.

Village of Green Trails Trustees H. Rosenberg, M. Bour, S. Clayman

Non-Biodegradable and Hazardous Debris Removed from Green Trails Park

Large asphalt barrels, chemical containers, car engine, 100+' abandoned drain tubing, iron lawn furniture, indoor furniture, rusty metal swing set posts, two barbeque grills, pool filter (200+ lbs.), lawn equipment and mower, fire pit cover, steel soccer goal, school desk, cast iron posts and pipes, large galvanized steel pipe, construction materials, 24 barbell weights (est. 500 lbs.), 150+' utility cable wire, cement planters, metal construction sign and materials, automotive and household discards, AC Freon canister, mechanical parts, air filter, plastic sheeting, plastic mesh, fencing, oil and gas containers, hundreds of food and drink containers, plastic bags, golf balls, soccer ball, tennis balls, fishing lures, clothing, shoes, soccer nets, flower pots, glass and plastic containers, broken glass, beer cans, liquor bottles, soda cans; plastics, paper, and miscellaneous trash.

Hazardous Materials

Included broken glass and cans, sharp and pointed objects, rusty metals, snaring objects including wire, cable and pieces of wire fencing, materials that can trip and entrap, large heavy items, objects that move and tumble on slopes of ravines, and corroded debris containing hazardous components and fluids.

Common litter also hazardous to pets and wildlife included plastic bags, cans and bottles that entrap; sharp edged objects, objects that can choke and poison, leaking fluids, rusty debris, pieces of glass and metals; broken objects, wire, cable and six-pack bottle rings that can ensnare, and debris that contains toxic components.

Planning

Large items, non-biodegradable and hazardous debris were located during Park inspections. Grounds maintenance workers were hired because many areas are ravines and creeks with hazardous conditions including unstable earth, downed trees, and partially buried objects. The work would require hauling objects from the creeks and ravines and handling large heavy items, rusty, broken and corroded debris, and leaking chemicals and contaminants.

Process

Complications and time consumption were due to the terrain, weight of objects, and because some items were partially buried, semi-filled with sediment, including iron furniture, lengths of discarded drainage pipes, large galvanized corrugated steel pipe and utility cable wire, that had to be dug out of the creek bed and ravines. Debris including large heavy items were hauled up from the ravines. The abandoned pool filter was filled with sand, too heavy to lift, and it had to be emptied before it could be moved.

A V8 car engine in the woods at the first destination had to be extracted by attaching a chain and pulling it out by truck. In the same vicinity large heavy metal asphalt barrels, buckets and miscellaneous debris were removed. Massive amounts of drink containers and trash in a deep creek at the eastern end of that area will have to be removed when plants are dormant.

Abandoned steel soccer goal posts had to be dismantled and sawed into segments. The pieces were then attached to the utility vehicles with bungee cords and hauled to the trailer. The 24 barbell weights totaled about 500 pounds and were hard to pry from the ground.

Large items abandoned and dumped in the woods and thickets included BBQ grills, lawnmowers, lawn equipment, furniture, rusty broken swing set posts, automotive and household discards. Hundreds of small discards were cleaned up from the common grounds, ravines, creeks and from the lake spill-out area.

Two hired grounds crewmen and three trustees worked on the cleanup. Zach and Bob with Terrill Landscape Company were hard workers. Two utility vehicles were filled with debris again and again, and unloaded at the truck and trailer that remained parked on the street to prevent damage to the grounds. The debris was hauled away by the grounds crew for proper disposal and recycling.

Work Sites

Trailtop E & S locales; creek at Ladue and Green Trails; Bramblewood ravine; thickets behind pool on Forest Crest; lake spill-out area on Ladue Rd.; woodlands, thickets near Green Trails School and Trailswest; Saylesville Creek; woods east of 'big field', creek N of 'black locust row', and others.

Necessary Equipment Thanks to Harvey for bringing tools!

Utility vehicles	Fork hoe	Hexagon nut wrench
Truck and trailer	Chain saw	Metal reciprocating saw
Wheelbarrow	Hand saws	Trash receptacles and bins,
Chain	Vine/limb clipper	Trash bags
Shovels	Bungee cords	Gloves

Results

Safer environment for residents, pets and wildlife
Beautification of Green Trails Park common grounds
Benefits the Creve Coeur watershed, Green Trails Lake, and Creve Coeur Lake

Environmental Cleanup Responsibility

Two or three cleanup events will be scheduled each year. Costs of the necessary cleanups will be paid from the annual Village of Green Trails homeowner assessments. The next common ground Park cleanup event will be in November 2015 - April 2016 when dormancy will expose debris and produce maximum results. Future dumping will be cited and cleanup expenses will be billed.

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