

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 25, 2019
Michelle Dunn, Program Coordinator
Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful
Tel: (724) 836-4121 x113
Email: mdunn@keeppabeautiful.org
Web site: www.keeppabeautiful.org



Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Reports 48% Reduction in Cigarette Litter in Program Areas



Through a \$10,000 grant from Keep America Beautiful, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is continuing their work with the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program (CLPP), the nation's largest program aimed at reducing cigarette litter. This is the ninth year that Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful has received funding from the national organization.

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is working with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) to implement the program in Benjamin Rush, Nockamixon, Ridley Creek and Tyler State Parks.

To combat litter, the Cigarette Litter Prevention Program advocates for the enforcement of litter laws, including cigarette litter; raising awareness about the issue; placing ash receptacles at transition points, like entrances to public buildings; and distributing portable ashtrays to smokers.

Corey J. Snyder, Park Manager at Tyler State Park said he has seen a great reduction in cigarette litter throughout the day use areas where the receptacles have been

installed. "Giving the public a place to dispose of their waste in an appropriate container has made all the difference. They are visible, clean and accessible. The public has also reached out to us and thanked us for providing them. We are extremely grateful to Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful for making it possible."

November marked the mid-point of the program for the participating parks. Together they reported a 48% combined reduction of cigarette litter. Another count will be taken in April to determine the final reduction of cigarette litter attributed to the program and it's recommended approaches toward litter.

"By focusing on Pennsylvania State Parks with recreational lakes and tributaries to the Delaware River and Bay, we can prevent cigarette litter from ending up in our local waterways and eventually our oceans where they leach toxic substances and are mistaken for food by birds and marine animals," explained Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful. "We are thankful to Keep America Beautiful for providing funding and the State Parks for working with us to implement this highly effective program at a local level."

The CLPP, created by Keep America Beautiful in 2002, is the nation's largest program aimed at eliminating cigarette litter. Since its inception, the program has been successfully implemented in more than 1,800 urban, suburban and rural communities nationwide. Over the past decade, participating

communities have consistently cut cigarette butt litter by 50 percent based on local measurements taken in the first four months to six months after program implementation.

#

About Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful's mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful. Since 1990, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful and its volunteers have removed over 141 million pounds of litter from Pennsylvania's roadways, greenways, parks, forests, and waterways. To learn more about Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, visit www.keeppabeautiful.org.