



City of McKinney Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

McKinney residents adopt-a-park to save tax dollars

Volunteers pick up litter in parks, reducing city resource investment

McKINNEY, TEXAS (Oct. 15, 2009) – McKinney volunteers are picking up what others have left behind. Groups like Boy Scouts, elementary school environmental clubs and employees from a local restaurant are adopting parks across the city to pick up litter, reducing considerable city resources of time and money spent on ridding city parks of trash.

The new adopt-a-park program is a joint effort between the city's Office of Environmental Stewardship and the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Department to reduce litter and save operational costs by partnering with community groups to clean up city parks.

"We are looking for organizations to help pick up parks on a monthly basis, though the commitment is flexible. Our residents are proud of their parks and this gives them an opportunity to take ownership of keeping McKinney beautiful and clean," said Green Program Manager Julie Smith.

The city provides materials for the groups. Gloves for adults and children, trash bags, recycle bags and first-aid supplies are given in a kit for each organization. The first-aid supplies are donated by Medical Center of McKinney.

"At many parks around the city, we've been able to get multiple organizations to help with the effort. Bennett Elementary is a great example of community involvement. They have three organizations – the Green Club, Brownies and Cub Scouts – to rotate the responsibility of cleaning up the adjacent Eubanks Park," said Environmental Education Specialist Martha Cavazos-Fipps. "We would love to duplicate that at every city park."

So far, seventeen organizations have agreed to adopt a park on a regular basis. To volunteer or get more information about the program, call 972-547-7335.

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About McKinney

McKinney, Texas, is unique by nature. As one of the fastest-growing cities in the U.S., McKinney has a current population of 122,000. Incorporated in 1848, the city is located 30 miles north of Dallas and is the county seat of Collin County. McKinney offers rolling

hills, lush trees, a historic downtown square and unique neighborhoods and developments, and it was recently ranked as one of the Top 10 Best Places to Move by Forbes Magazine. Visit the city's Web site at www.mckinneytexas.org.

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