

LEAVE NO TRACE POLICY

PURPOSE:

To establish uniform policies and procedures for the City of Miami Beach ("City") Parks and Recreation Department employees and various City departments involved in the process of managing debris removal services provided to City-owned and operated, Monument Island, City parks and other City-owned lands and recreational facilities situated in the city limits ("City parks and facilities").

This policy is governed by Chapter 66 and 82 of the City of Miami Beach Code of Ordinances ("City Code"). It works in conjunction with the Parks and Recreation Department general use guidelines. Nothing herein, including penalties for violation, shall be construed to conflict with the provisions of Florida Statute § 403.413 ("Florida Litter Law"), § 327.46 (Boating Restricted Areas), or § 327.60 (Local regulations; limitations) as may be amended or revised occasionally. Law enforcement officers enforce Florida Litter Law and additional regulations. "Law enforcement officer" means any officer of the Florida Highway Patrol, a county sheriff's department, a municipal law enforcement department, a law enforcement department of any other political subdivision, or the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

As defined by the Florida statute, "Litter" means any garbage, rubbish, trash, refuse, can, bottle, box, container, paper, tobacco product, tire, appliance, mechanical equipment or part, building or construction material, tool, machinery, wood, motor vehicle or motor vehicle part, vessel, aircraft, farm machinery or equipment, sludge from a waste treatment facility, water supply treatment plant, or air pollution control facility, or substance in any form resulting from domestic, industrial, commercial, mining, agricultural, or governmental operations.

BACKGROUND:

The City of Miami Beach recognizes the importance of preserving the natural beauty and environmental integrity of its islands, lands, and facilities and is committed to promoting responsible and sustainable use of these natural resources. The City owns, operates, manages, and strives to preserve the positive environmental qualities of numerous city parks and recreation facilities, which are essential to the public health, safety, welfare, and economy of the city and the surrounding communities. Implementing a "Leave No Trace" policy for City parks and facilities is essential to achieve the goals of preservation and responsible stewardship. It is within the Parks and Recreation Department's mission to promote responsible use, conservation, and minimal environmental impact for visitors and users of these areas.

Leave No Trace is a national educational program to inform visitors about reducing the damage caused by outdoor activities. Leave No Trace principles and practices are based on respecting the natural world and fellow wildland visitors.

This policy also includes the City's plastic free initiatives, aimed to minimize the use of single-use plastic in the City, as adopted through Ordinance 2017-4068, Ordinance 2018-4205, Ordinance 2019-4295, and Ordinance 2024-4590.

GUIDELINES

The City is responsible for coordinating trash removal at Monument Island, City parks and other city-owned lands and recreational facilities. Upon adopting this policy, the Parks and Recreation Department will:

- A. Implement “Leave No Trace” principles within its management strategies.
- a. Update the City of Miami Beach website and install signage, as needed, at City parks and facilities educating visitors on the “Leave No Trace” principles. The principles applicable include:
 - Plan Ahead and Prepare
 - Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
 - Dispose of Waste Properly
 - Leave What You Find
 - Respect Wildlife
 - Be Considerate of Other Visitors
- B. Update, as needed, maintenance standards to preserve the positive environmental qualities of its city parks and facilities further.
- a. Garbage and recycling receptacles will remain available at City parks and facilities except Monument Island. The City will monitor facilities without garbage receptacles to ensure compliance with Florida Litter Law and may revise park operations as needed.
 - b. Garbage is to be deposited in receptacles & recycling bins provided onsite. Where garbage containers are unavailable, park visitors should “pack it in and pack it out,” packing out all trash, leftover food, and litter for disposal. It shall be unlawful for any person to litter within City parks and facilities.
 - c. The Parks Department will require the use of reusable, recyclable, and compostable alternatives to polystyrene containers. It shall be unlawful for any person to use, carry, place, sell, distribute, provide, provide food or drink in, or discard any expanded polystyrene product in any City parks and facilities.
- C. Enforce the City’s plastic free initiatives in City-owned and operated Monument Island, City parks and other City-owned lands and facilities situated in the City limits:
- a. Ordinance 2024-4590 prohibits balloons in City parks, public marinas, marine facilities, and along City beaches.
 - b. Ordinance 2019-4295 prohibits the sale and use of single-use plastic beverage straws and single use plastic stirrers citywide. This applies to all city properties, including marinas, parks, piers, docks, boat ramps and sidewalk cafes (as well as contractors and special events permittees). The ordinance does not allow for biodegradable or compostable plastics or bioplastics as substitutes.
 - c. Ordinance 2018-4205 prohibits the use and distribution of single-use carry out plastic bags on the right of way and to sidewalk café patrons.
 - d. Ordinance 2017-4068 This ordinance prohibits the sale and use of expanded polystyrene (also known as Styrofoam) within the City and includes: parks, beaches, city-owned facilities, sidewalk cafes, special event permits, city marinas, unencapsulated docks, buoys, platforms, piers and boat ramps
- D. Collaborate with the City’s grants division to leverage funding for the City and stretch available park funding through grants, partnerships, and philanthropic opportunities. Identify any synergies with the Blue Zones program.
- E. Coordinate with other City departments and partners to position the Parks and Recreation Department to address complex community challenges most important to residents.

- F. Collaborate with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection to implement the Adopt-an-Island Program to motivate individual citizens, local organizations, and other groups interested in participating in litter prevention program activities.
- G. Create an outreach plan that integrates the existing We Love Biscayne Bay campaign which includes “Don’t Be Trashy” messaging on reducing litter. Determine the most effective strategies to maximize outreach and promote community education and action.
- H. Regular meetings and community forums will be established with the City of Miami Beach Environment and Sustainability Department, Miami-Dade County, Florida Wildlife Commission, Florida Inland Navigation District, law enforcement officers, and appropriate agencies to foster opportunities for cross-functional collaboration.