

|  |
| --- |
| **CONTACT**Emily Easterling, DirectorClinton Parks and Recreation Department 978-365-4140eeasterling@clintonma.gov |

**Dr Pepper Snapple Group and Keep America Beautiful Bring Recycling to Clinton Parks and Recreation Department’s Park Facilities!**

**Clinton, MA** – Residents visiting Clinton park facilities such as Central Park, Hamilton Square, Savage Field and Philbin Memorial Park should expect to see cleaner public parks this fall thanks to a significant grant made possible by Dr Pepper Snapple Group (NYSE: DPS) in collaboration with Keep America Beautiful. The Dr Pepper Snapple Group/Keep America Beautiful Park Recycling Bin Grant Program provides funding for 900 new recycling bins to be placed public parks across the country in 2016, making recycling more accessible for Americans enjoying the outdoors.

Director, Emily Easterling applied for this grant with the goal of mirroring the recycling effort the Clinton community has introduced over the last year within the park properties managed by the Clinton Parks and Recreation Department. The department received fourteen recycling bins to be placed at its major park properties. The bins will be placed adjacent to existing bins at these properties giving residents the opportunity to make the environmental friendly choice of recycling appropriate items. Bins will be monitored and emptied by the Parks and Recreation Department. The grant is valued around $6000 and will go a long way in improving these properties.

Now in its fourth year, the public park recycling grant program has awarded more than 3,400 recycling bins to Keep America Beautiful affiliates, local governments and other community organizations across 28states to expand the availability of recycling. This investment in recycling infrastructure has improved recycling accessibility and convenience in a variety of park settings, including neighborhood and larger regional parks, beaches, athletic fields and walking trails.

When residents visit a park, they might not think about all the factors that go into making the property appealing to users. A park that is clean and well-maintained offers a safe and enjoyable place for people to visit for exercise, socializing, picnicking or just relaxing. The Parks and Recreation Department works hard to keep all the properties under their management looking their best. “Keeping parks clean can be every visitor's job, which helps contribute to a more welcoming park atmosphere. Recycling can be an important part of maintaining these properties and encourages users to be more contentious of valuable open space recreation opportunities “ said Director Emily Easterling.

“We’re taking aim at two challenges that communities face nationwide – cleaning up parks and other shared spaces and reducing the strain on landfills,” said Vicki Draughn, vice president of corporate affairs for Dr Pepper Snapple Group. “Our partnership with Keep America Beautiful puts more recycling bins in more cities within reach of more consumers who are on-the-go, helping tackle both of those challenges.”

The lack of away-from-home recycling opportunities is reflected in a recent national survey by Keep America Beautiful to understand where people normally recycle. While 92 percent said they recycled at home, only 19 percent indicated that they typically recycle in public parks. Additional research conducted by Keep America Beautiful indicated only 12 percent of surveyed public locations had recycling infrastructure in place to recover the containers. The Dr Pepper Snapple Group/Keep America Beautiful Park Recycling Bin Grant Program is designed to address the obstacle of overcoming a lack of recycling convenience.

“With the help of Dr Pepper Snapple Group, we’re transforming public spaces into beautiful places by making sure more recyclables are being placed in proper receptacles in our parks and natural areas,” said Brenda Pulley, senior vice president/recycling, Keep America Beautiful. “Our partnership is helping to make recycling more accessible and convenient, which is one of primary factors in making recycling a daily habit.”

To view a full list of community organizations receiving grants, click [here](https://irecycleonthego.wordpress.com/2016-grant-recipients/).