

# Rally With Us...Recycle!

## *Playbook of Best Practices*

### Why?

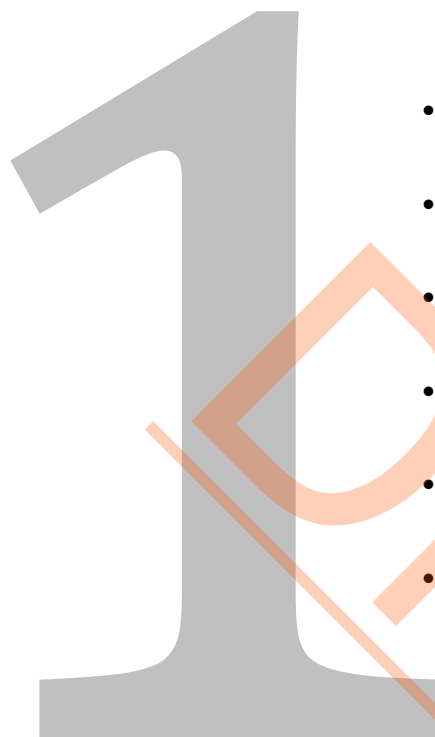
- It is the right thing to do
- Improves guest experience with opportunities to recycle
- Reduces our environmental footprint
- Park saves money on trash costs
- Achievable goal at any level or size of campground
- Earns income to sustain/grow parks recycling program
- Project aligns with DNR's waste reduction goals



Montauk's overflowing trash containers in the park were unsightly and they attracted vermin. Staff decided to address these challenges by targeting waste reduction through recycling. The results, trash container collections were reduced from 3 times a week to 2 times a week. More than 2.25 tons of recycling materials were collected. Campers participated enthusiastically and showed sincere appreciation for our recycling program.

Single use and disposal items are the norm in campgrounds. While recycling is offered in most parks, these recycling programs report low to moderate participation. This is because most recycling is done at a centralized location, near the dumpsters. People are unaware that recycling is an option and have no motivation to sort through their trash to recycle. This problem was solved by having two recycling bags at each camp site. People will recycle when it is easily accessible. Our recycling program works and it can easily be transferred to your park too!

# Step 1-Getting Started



- Contact solid waste management district
- Purchase bags
- Train hosts and staff
- Distribute bags to customers
- Gather and sort recyclables
- Deliver to a recycling facility

In the state of Missouri, there are 20 solid waste management district with the information you need for developing your recycling program. Find your district representative at the following link: <https://dnr.mo.gov/env/swmp/swmd/swmdinfo.htm>. Then contact your local recycling facility to find out what they accept and their needs for receiving materials or if they will pick-up materials.

Montauk obtains green mesh recycling bags that blend into the landscape. We are working on purchasing a large quantity of bags the will be available from the DNR warehouse. Until then, the following resources are provided: SWI Webster County, Sheltered Workshops. Contact Mike Frazier, Director of Community Awareness at 417-468-5890, Harris Seeds, Rockford Packaging Supply, or other vendors online.

Recycling is part of our initial training for hosts and we work as a team. Upon arrival the guest receives 2 bags (one for plastic/aluminum) with verbal instructions. A hangtag attached to the bag lists what we recycle, Aluminum cans, Plastics #1 and #2, caps off.

Recycle bags are picked up by hosts when cleaning the site, and recyclables are sorted according to the recycling facility's needs. Sunday is our designated sorting day and we support hosts by collecting recycling bags, sorting materials and washing bags. We find minimal contamination and hosts often state campsites are cleaner than before our recycling program. Park staff deliver recyclables to the recycling facility. Aluminum is recycled for money which in return is used to support our recycling program.

# Step 2-Monitor and Adjust

- Track your progress
- Reporting
- Adapt to fit your needs

In 2020 Montauk recycled 408 cubic yards, which consisted of 2,546 pounds of plastic, 2,631 pounds of aluminum, and 8,660 pounds of metal. Montauk collected \$953 from metal and aluminum recycling which can be used to further Montauk's recycling program. Trash collection at Montauk was reduced by 408 cubic yards for period of June, July and August of 2020. This saved \$3,108 in operational funds for the year.

Montauk recyclables are weighed and reported in Re-TRAC. Plastic is weighed with a scale before it is taken to the recycling facility. Aluminum is weighed at a scrap metal recycling center and money is paid and used for additional recycling needs. Keep detailed records of your recycled materials.

Don't be afraid to make adjustments to your recycling plan. Every park is a little different. Be flexible and make corrections as needed to ensure success and accessibility to the participant. Montauk's plan looked a lot different in October compared to when they started in March of this year. Our biggest time saver was handing out 2 bags per site so the customer could separate their aluminum and plastic at the site, eliminating the need to sort the aluminum.

# Step 3-Grow your Program

# 3

- Apply for grants
- Celebrate your success
- Promote and educate
- Host a recycling awareness event
- Rally with us

Grow your program by recycling cardboard, paper, glass or a larger variety of plastics.

Grant funding for growing your program may be available through your local solid waste management district. Montauk was granted \$7,400 for a dump trailer through our local district, Ozark Rivers. Some recycling facilities may even have rental or loan programs for trailers.

Tell your customers about your success. Develop an interpretive program about the impact of recycling. Montauk's interpreter included the importance of recycling in programs and thanked our guests for recycling. We promoted our program with fliers on bulletin boards throughout the park. We verbally informed, praised and educated anyone who showed interest in our program. Host an Earth Day, River Day or crafting event to build interest in recycling.

Rally with us! Join Montauk, Stockton and Echo Bluff State Parks as they help collect data to see the impact we're having on our environment and budget!

# The Value of the Recycling Rally

The return on investment will vary for each park. By using Montauk's example and data collected this past season, this proves if it can work for one of the largest Campgrounds in the State Park system, it can work for any size park. Let's look at the numbers.

## Montauk's Returns for March through October of 2020

### Cost:

Bags	Free
Vehicle Mileage	\$196.00
Increase in staff labor hours*	\$3,400.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$3,596.00</b>

- Bags for Montauk's recycling rally were acquired through a partnership with a shelter workshop. For expansion of this project to other State Park campgrounds we have received a bid to purchase bags at \$0.47 per bag.
- Mileage cost will vary by park. Montauk made one trip a month to each recycling facility, totaling 140 miles each month for June-October during peak times.
- The increase in staff hours dedicated to recycling will vary by park. Montauk increased the staff recycling hours from 70 hours to 270 hours total for March through October. They also reduced their estimated hours of trash management from 64 to 0 hours total for March through October.

### Revenue:

Reduction in dumpster fees	\$3,108.00
Recycling revenue	\$953.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$4,061.00</b>

- Montauk reduced their trash expenses by **15%** resulting in a saving of \$3,108 for the year.
- Total trash costs for 40 state parks with campgrounds in FY20 was \$261,323. If 15% was spread to all 40 State Parks, there could be **possible savings of \$39,000 in operation funds** division wide.
- Montauk increased their recycling revenue from \$21.90 in 2019 to \$953.00 in 2020. This rate would vary from park to park.

*Other revenues to consider not included in ROI*

<b>Valued Revenue</b>	
Increased volunteer hours**	\$16,422.00
Grant	\$7700.00
<b>Non-Valued Revenue</b>	
Improved guest experience	
408 cubic yards less waste in land fills	

## Montauk's ROI = 13%

$$(Revenue (4,061) - Cost (3,596)) / Cost (3,596) = 13\%$$

\*Staff hour cost estimated at \$25 per hour

\*\*Volunteer hour revenue estimated at \$23 per hour