



FACT SHEETS!

BELFAST PARKS

Belfast has more than 3,000 acres of glorious parks. Green open spaces, parks and public gardens can be used by most people in Belfast.

FACT!

In Belfast there are over 50 parks and playing fields, more than 70 playgrounds, 3 working cemeteries, 4 historical graveyards and a zoo.

Botanic Gardens is one of Belfast's most famous parks. It was opened in 1895 by the Belfast Corporation (now known as Belfast City Council).

FACT!

Botanic Gardens attracts 700,000 visitors each year.

THE EFFECT LITTER HAS ON OUR PARKS

The large numbers of people using the park means that a large amount of litter is left behind.

FACT!

During a busy summer season a skipful of litter can be collected from Botanic Gardens every other day.



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THE EFFECT LITTER HAS ON WILDLIFE

- Worms pull down strips of plastic into their holes, mistaking it for leaves. This can make the worms ill and is bad for the ground.
- Birds can pick up plastic and put in their nests. This gets tangled up in young birds' feet.
- Glass can be very dangerous if stood on by wildlife, dogs or children playing in the park.
- Drinks cans and ice-cream tubs can trap small animals.
- Plastic bags can be mistaken for food and can suffocate animals.

DANGEROUS LITTER

- Dog Fouling: Standing in dog mess is very unpleasant. But did you know that dog mess can be dangerous to people? The disease Toxocariasis is an infection which people can pick up by coming into contact with dog fouling. Young children, especially toddlers are most at risk. Toxocariasis usually causes a mild infection in humans but in some cases can lead to blindness.
- Broken glass is dangerous for both people and animals. Cuts from sharp objects like glass or metal can even result in Tetanus (Lockjaw), caused by germs in the soil.
- Discarded needles can spread infections. If you come across needles or other sharp objects never pick them up. Report the items to an adult or call the council who will remove the items immediately.
- Litter and other rubbish can also be a fire risk, particularly if allowed to build up in a confined area.



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GRAFFITI AND VANDALISM IN OUR PARKS

Graffiti and vandalism make our parks and open spaces look bad and can be dangerous. If play equipment is vandalised and broken it is not available for others to enjoy. Graffiti can lead to a decline of an area and shows a lack of respect for our parks. It is also illegal.

FACT! Over £160,000 is spent each year by Belfast City Council cleaning up graffiti and vandalism in our parks and open spaces.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

Belfast's parks, playing fields and open spaces are open for all our enjoyment. However, we all have a responsibility to respect everything in the park and not to drop litter. The Council works hard to keep these areas clean and free of litter. Please leave the parks as clean as you find them so that others can enjoy them as much as you do. Always use the litter bins provided.

FACT! There are over 1,700 litter bins throughout the city of Belfast.

Most dog owners are responsible and clean up after their dogs. However, there are dog owners who allow their dogs to foul. Always carry a poop scoop or a bag to lift the dirt. Then tie the bag and dispose of it in one of the bins provided. Picking up after your dog is not just good manners – it's the law!

FACT! Owners can be fined £50 for not picking up their dogs' mess.