



Livermore Area  
Recreation and Park District  
*An independent special district*

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**General Manager**  
Mathew L. Fuzie

April 20, 2020

**NOTIFICATION:**

The Livermore Area Recreation and Park District has been able to supply free mutt mitts to pet owners utilizing our parks, dog parks, and trails for many years, however, this is a benefit that we will no longer be able to support. The COVID-19 situation has changed the way that many organizations are doing business and for us, this is just one of many changes and difficult decisions we have had to make in recent weeks. There are several reasons for this decision:

- The health and safety of our community is a top priority. These dispensers have a very high "touch factor" and are not sanitized which may increase the spread of germs.
- Due to the pandemic, we have reduced service levels in our parks and staff is working hard to provide essential services to the community.
- The District pays over \$75,000 annually between the cost of product and staff time to provide this free service to a small portion of the community. In a time when very difficult financial decisions are being made, we believe this money can be better utilized to support essential District services and programs.
- It can take up to 1000 years for a plastic mutt mitt to fully dissolve in a landfill. There is a large environmental impact associated with their use and we are doing our part to reduce our impact on the environment.

You may have noticed recent notifications on the mutt mitt dispensers informing you that the District will no longer re-fill the stations. Once our current supply of mutt mitts runs out, the dispensers will be removed from the parks. We know this is a big change and ask that you now supply your own mutt mitt, clean up after your pet, and dispose the waste in an appropriate receptacle. We recommend using biodegradable mutt mitts which can be purchased online or in stores.

We understand that some community members may be disappointed with this change, but we ask for your understanding as we work through these difficult and unprecedented times. Together we can get through this, and we appreciate your support as we navigate through the impacts COVID-19.

-LARPD-

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