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# Live NFK: An Interns Perspective



## Making a Qualitative Difference

For the past couple of weeks, I have teamed up with two other interns from Storm Water to conduct park surveys regarding the painted trash cans that have been added to Lafayette Park. The survey includes three yes or no questions regarding the trash cans and their potential impact on the park; the goal was to be as nonintrusive to park goers as possible. However, after just one round of surveying I began to realize that many respondents had much more to say about their park. Most of the people we talked to had an overwhelmingly positive response to the painted trash cans. Some stated that they've seen volunteers picking up trash in the park and they always say thank you, while others said that they themselves have participated in park clean ups. One thing almost every interviewee has made clear is that they want more painted trash cans to help beautify the park. In the park, we encountered families, summer camps, dog walkers, exercisers and entire pickup basketball teams and each group were passionate about the state of the park that has become a large part of their lives. Public parks like these allow for a fun environment free of charge for people to enjoy their day, and it is important environment remains as clean and inviting as possible.

Talking to people who use the park on a monthly, weekly and even daily basis has given me a new perspective about the importance of clean up initiatives. I know scientifically and intuitively why its imperative that we remove litter and try our best to prevent it, but when at a certain point I began to forget that at its most basic level, litter in public spaces is detrimental to the public. The main goal of Keep Norfolk Beautiful is to serve the people, the methods by which we do so are just means to a much greater end. I am so proud to have been given the opportunity to work in a place that allows me to have a direct positive impact on the city that I have always called home.

