

COUNTRY AND MARINE PARKS BOARD
Country Parks Public Education Programme:
Take Your Litter Home

1. Purpose

1.1 This paper aims to brief members on the progress and the future work plan of the Country Parks Public Education Programme “Take Your Litter Home” (the Programme).

2. Background

2.1 To encourage the public to nurture a good habit of taking their own litter away from country parks after hiking and develop a sense of environmental consciousness, the Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department (AFCD), in collaboration with local green groups and hiking groups, launched the Programme by phases since 2015 and laid down action plans through a three-pronged approach comprising facility management, publicity and education.

3. Phases I and II of the Programme

3.1 In Phase I of the Programme (September 2015 to July 2016), AFCD removed litter containers and recycle bins from five selected trial sites (i.e. Tai Po Kau Nature Reserve, Ma On Shan Country Trail, Tai Lam Chung Country Trail, Dragon’s Back on Hong Kong Island and Lantau Trail Section 3 on Lantau). There had been a significant decrease in the amount of litter collected at the trails. The results suggested that hikers and visitors were becoming accustomed to the absence of litter containers and recycle bins from the trails.

3.2 With the encouraging results in Phase I of the Programme, AFCD launched the Phase II Programme (September 2016 to July 2017) and further reduced the number of litter containers and recycle bins along hiking trails by about 50% (256 numbers in total) in 2016. They included litter containers and recycle bins located along all family walks and nature trails, as well as some of those along country trails, long hiking trails and other trails. Besides, an array of related publicity and education activities were organised to boost up the promotion. They included the

Country Parks Green Walk, Green Walk cum Family Fun Day, Take Your Litter Home Selfie-Day, public lectures, photo exhibitions, roving exhibitions at shopping malls, clean-up activities, and promotion through TV/radio Announcements in the Public Interests (APIs), country parks volunteers, hiking groups and green groups, etc.

3.3 AFCD closely monitored the hygiene conditions at selected trail sections where litter containers and recycle bins had been removed and collected information for evaluating the effectiveness of the Programme.

3.4 According to AFCD's observations and the data collected, as well as the reports filed by volunteers and supporting organisations, the general cleanliness and hygiene of the trails were well maintained. Amongst the 11 trail sections selected for intensive monitoring, nine of them recorded a notable 33% to 89% decrease in the average amount of litter collected. The amount of litter collected at MacLehose Trail Section 6 decreased slightly by about 3% while that at Pineapple Dam Nature Trail increased slightly by about 10% (See the Annex). According to our observations, macaques were found searching for food from litter containers and recycle bins at recreation sites and a refreshment kiosk in Shing Mun and Kam Shan Country Parks, thus litter might have been spilled over to the two hiking trails (i.e. Pineapple Dam Nature Trail and MacLehose Trail Section 6) there. To address this issue, recycle bins with special monkey-proof design have been installed Shing Mun and Kam Shan Country Parks since April 2017 as a trial. AFCD will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the measures at these trails.

4. The Way Forward

4.1 The Phase II programme generally yielded satisfactory results with decreases in the amount of litter collected in various degrees. AFCD plans to remove all remaining litter containers and recycle bins (257 numbers in total) along hiking trails in country parks by the end 2017. Advisory notices will be erected at the entrances of trails with high visitor traffic and other appropriate locations to inform park visitors of the measure. After removing all the litter containers and recycle bins along hiking trails, AFCD will continue to maintain the hygiene conditions of the trails and take necessary measures to keep country parks clean.

4.2 According to the plan, hiking trails in country parks will become litter bin free by the end of 2017. AFCD recognises the importance of upkeeping the education and publicity efforts for the public to internalise the green concept of waste

reduction and “Take Your Litter Home”. We will continue the collaboration with the supporting organisations to promulgate the message and strengthen the promotion through instilling the message in various education programmes, events and activities. Relevant publicity and education activities planned for 2017 include:

- (a) Promote the message to the wider public through advertisement in billboards at the portals of suitable tunnels;
- (b) Continue to broadcast TV and Radio APIs;
- (c) Promote the message through the Country Parks 40th Anniversary Celebration Programmes including Excursion with Experts, “Joy” us Hiking, Go Green Family Camping, Tai Tong Fun Carnival, roving exhibitions and Nature’s Secret Talk;
- (d) Deploy Volunteer Patrol Team and supporting organisations’ patrol teams to patrol the hiking trails, collect litter and promulgate the message of waste reduction.

5. Advice sought

5.1 Members are invited to note the progress of the Programme and comment on the future work plan of the Programme.

Country and Marine Parks Authority
Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department
August 2017

Average Amount of Litter Collected
(Before and After Removal of Litter Containers and Recycle Bins)

| Trails | Regions | Percentage Change Before and After Removal of Litter Containers and Recycle Bins |
|------------------------------|------------|--|
| Lantau Trail, Section 8 | Lantau | -89% |
| Tai Mei Tuk Family Walk | North | -64% |
| Hok Tau Country Trail | North | -76% |
| Tai Tam Family Walk | HK | -79% |
| Wilson Trail, Section 2 | HK | -86% |
| Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail | Sai Kung | -52% |
| Sheung Yiu Country Trail | Sai Kung | -46% |
| Ho Pui Reservoir Family Walk | West | -64% |
| MacLehose Trail, Section 10 | West | -36% |
| MacLehose Trail, Section 6 | Central NT | -2.7% |
| Pineapple Dam Nature Trail | Central NT | +10% |

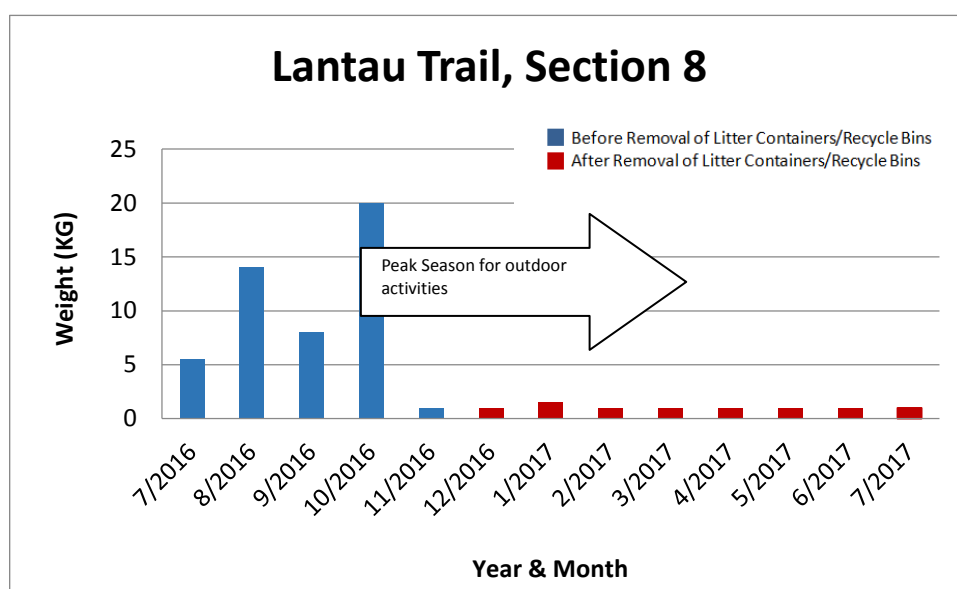


Chart 1: Litter Collected at Lantau Trail, Section 8 (The amount of litter collected decreased by 89% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

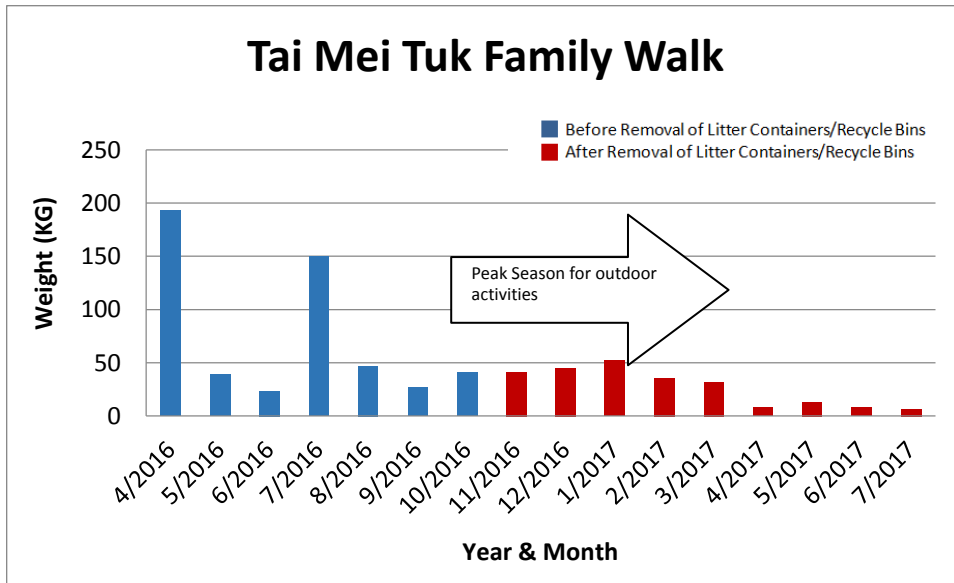


Chart 2: Litter Collected at Tai Mei Tuk Family Walk (The amount of litter collected decreased by 64% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

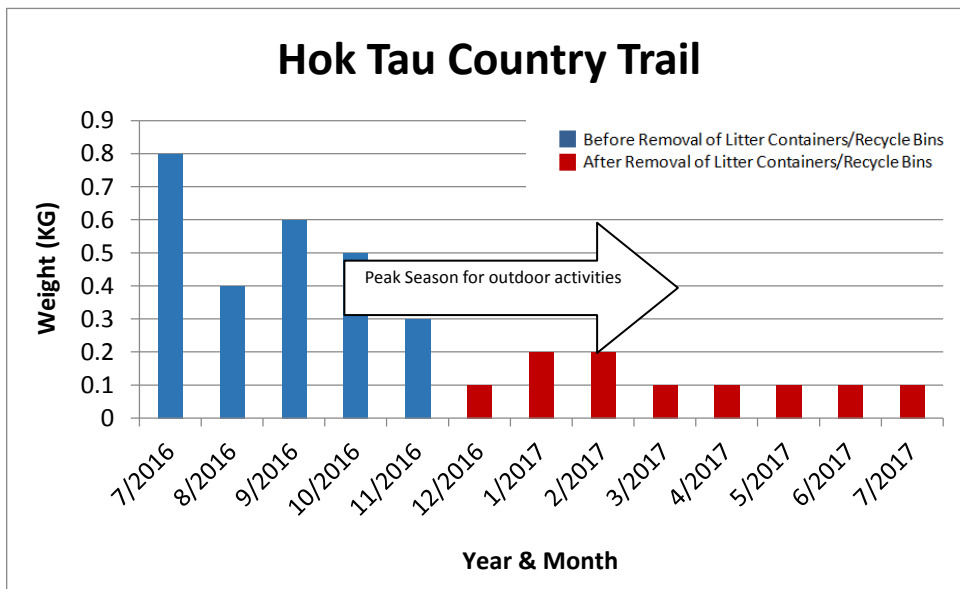


Chart 3: Litter Collected at Hok Tau Country Trail (The amount of litter collected decreased by 76% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

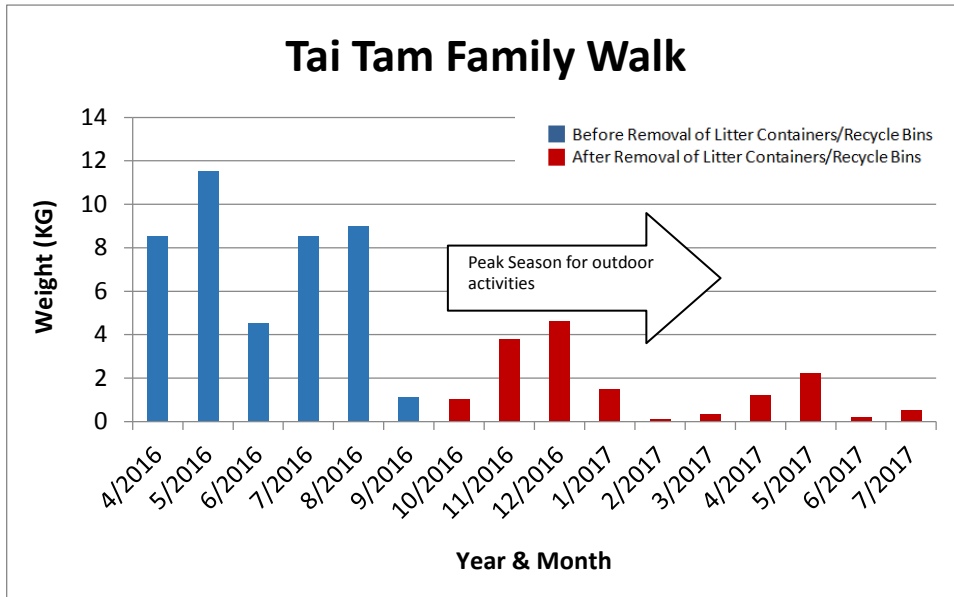


Chart 4: Litter Collected at Tai Tam Family Walk (The amount of litter collected decreased by 79% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

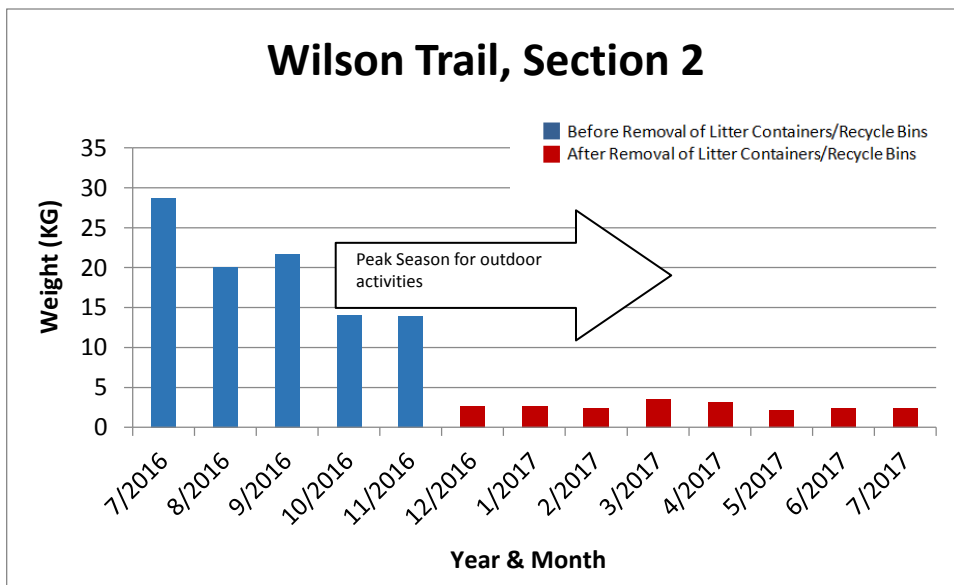


Chart 5: Litter Collected at Wilson Trail, Section 2 (The amount of litter collected decreased by 86% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

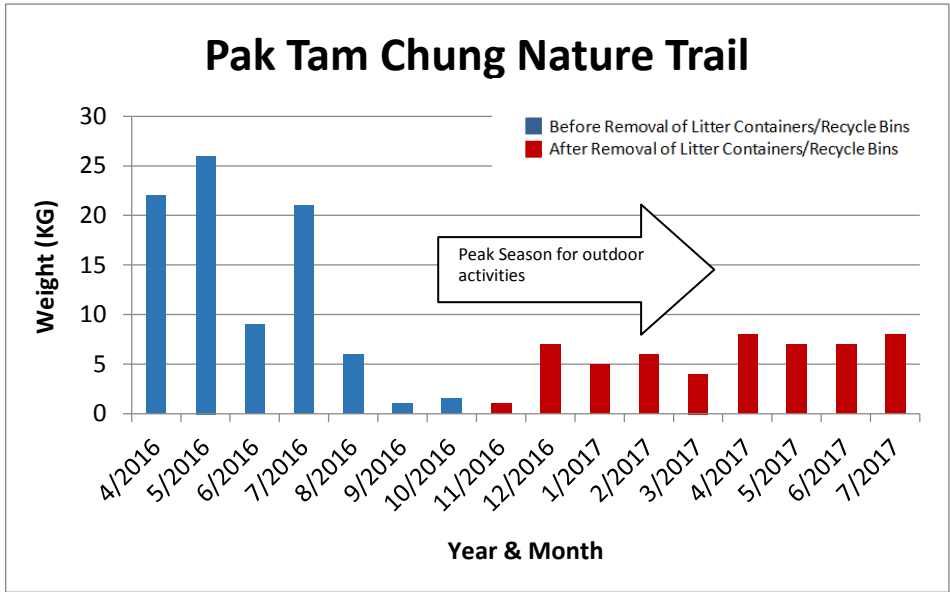


Chart 6: Litter Collected at Pak Tam Chung Nature Trail (The amount of litter collected decreased by 52% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

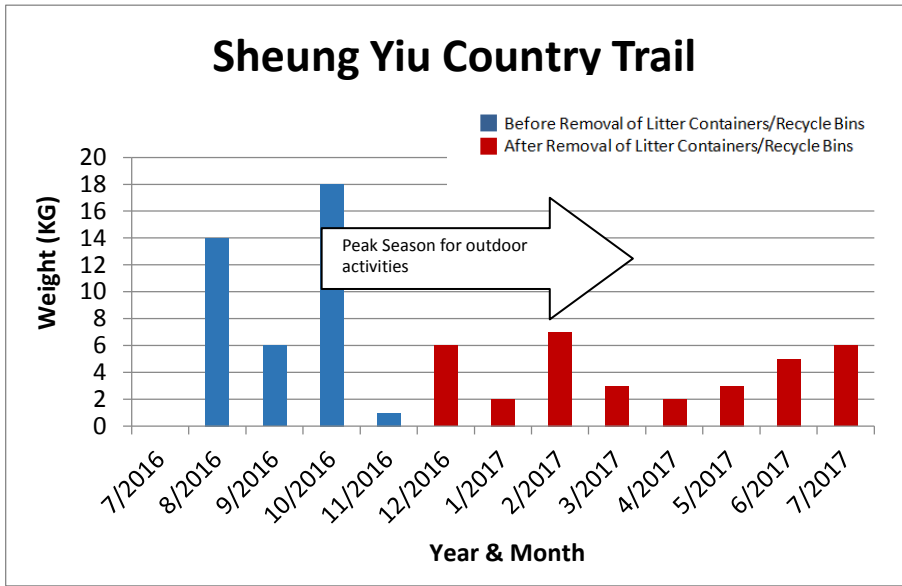


Chart 7: Litter Collected at Sheung Yiu Country Trail (The amount of litter collected decreased by 46% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

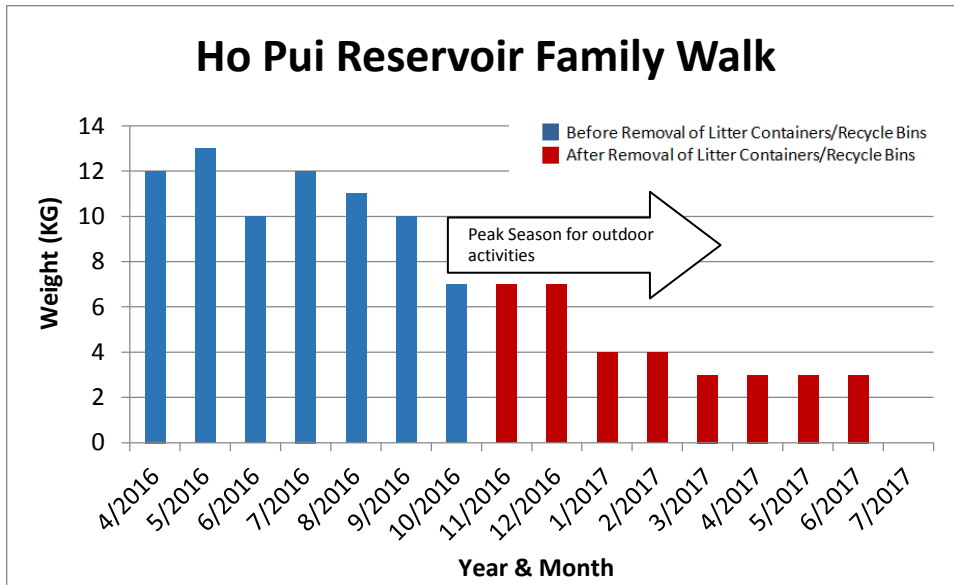


Chart 8: Litter Collected at Ho Pui Reservoir Family Walk (The amount of litter collected decreased by 64% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

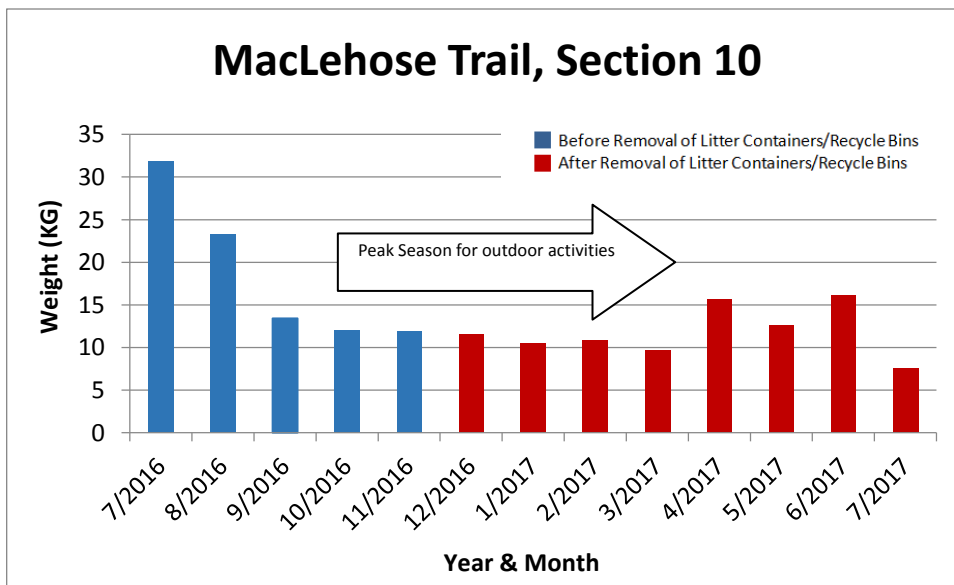


Chart 9: Litter Collected at MacLehose Trail, Section 10 (The amount of litter collected decreased by 36% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

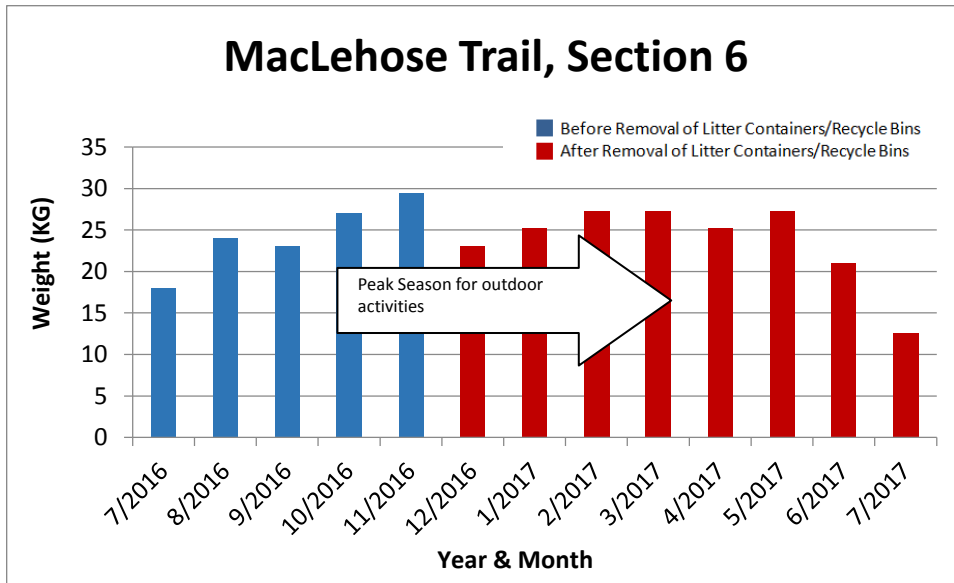


Chart 10: Litter Collected at MacLehose Trail, Section 6 (The amount of litter collected decreased by 2.7% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).

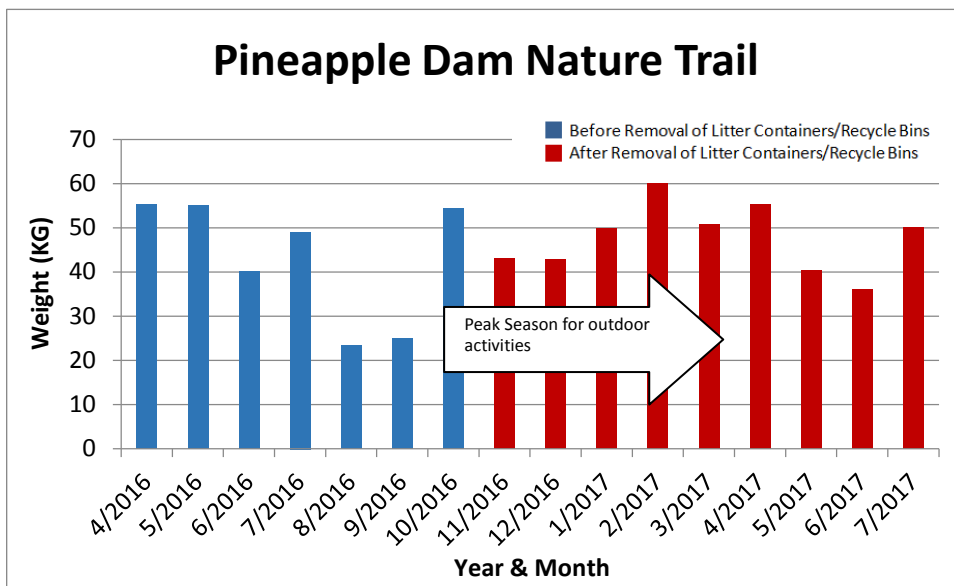


Chart 11: Litter Collected on Pineapple Dam Nature Trail (The amount of litter collected increased by 10% after the removal of litter containers/recycle bins).