



American Restroom Association

Advocate with the ARA for Restrooms at Parks and Arenas!

The American Restroom Association (ARA) wants you to help us advocate for more public restrooms! Many of us enjoyed parks and arenas this summer – be it on vacation, to enjoy the weather, or attend a World Cup game. And as “toileteers,” we often thought about restrooms. Were restrooms there? Were they usable? Were they good?

We want to work with you to take these thoughts and make it into feedback that parks districts, municipal and county governments, and facility managers can use to make their restrooms better.

When you provide feedback, these organizations have an impetus to provide more, better, and more usable restrooms.

This guide will show you how to write a message to the right organization, four sample messages, and examples of successful advocacy from five places across the USA.



A restroom at Mill Ruins Park in Minneapolis, MN

Advocate for Restrooms: Step by Step

Identify your message

Before writing, it helps to know what you want to say. Do you want to tell the organization that you want more restrooms? Do you want to focus on better restrooms - for example, cleaner restrooms or better-maintained restrooms? Do you want restrooms to stay open for longer hours? Or do you want to say thank you for a great restroom?

Find the organization

Parks and arenas are managed by different organizations across the country. You will want to find who manages the park or arena for the feedback. Parks, arenas, and other public spaces are often managed by:

- Parks districts
- State Parks offices
- State or county recreation offices
- Planning departments
- Municipal public works agencies

This information is usually found on a park or arena's Google Maps listing.

Find where to give feedback

Most agencies will have a "contact us" form where you can send your feedback. If you cannot find it, we recommend finding a staff directory and looking for a staff member whose title is associated with parks or offices. You may also be able to telephone their offices.

Write your message

Now comes the fun part: writing your message! We have attached a few sample notes to help you write your letter. Your letter should be short, friendly, and direct. Then, send your message!

Please copy the ARA when you send your message at getinfo@americanrestroom.org. If you made a telephone call, just email to let us know.

Tell your friends and community

Advocacy works better when we do it together. Let your friends know that you wrote a message! You can also share any of the ARA posts on social media. We also encourage you to include local businesses near your park or arena.

When they respond

If and when you receive a response:

- Thank the person for responding
- Send the response to getinfo@AmericanRestroom.org
- Answer any follow up questions
- Refer to our other ARA materials to help you, which you can find on our website

Thank you for your hard work for restroom access!



A public modular restroom provided by Throne in Pasadena, CA

Sample Letters

Ask for more restrooms

Hello,

I hope you are well. I enjoyed visiting the City for the World Cup Games this year. However, I found it frustrating that there were so

few restrooms in the area around the arena. I need to use the restroom often because of my medical history, and the lack of restrooms meant that I was in a lot of pain. I saw that other cities have been adding new restrooms to their parks and arena spaces. These restrooms also help bring more visitors to their public spaces. Would the City consider it?

Thanks very much,

John Doe

Ask for better restrooms

Hello,

I hope you are well. I appreciate that the City had more restrooms available at the Arena during the World Cup this year. However, many of the restrooms were not clean, and I did not feel safe using them as a result. If the City is planning to keep these restrooms, would it be possible to clean them more often? These would make the restrooms more usable for me and everyone else.

Thanks very much,

Jax Doe

Ask for longer opening hours

Hello,

I hope you are well! I love that the County has restrooms at all their parks. However, I am frustrated that they are not open all day long. I often go to the park early in the morning, and it is harder for me to go to the park to exercise or walk my dog when I cannot use the restroom. Please consider keeping the restrooms open at all times. This would make the parks even better for me and many others.

Thanks,
Jasper Doe



A public restroom in Cincinnati, OH

Say thanks for a great restroom

Hello,

I just wanted to say thank you for installing the new portable restroom at the City Park! Having a restroom available means that I can more easily visit the City Park and enjoy its facilities. I appreciate that the restroom was clean and well-maintained. I hope you consider bringing more of these restrooms to other parks in the future.

Thanks,

Jane Doe

Advocacy in Action

Your input can help build more and better restrooms. Learn how citizen input helped improve restroom availability and access in five cities across the country.



Facilities at Carraway Park, West Columbia, SC (Photo City of West Columbia)

West Columbia, SC

Community members in the suburbs of South Carolina's state capital worked with urban planners and park designers to provide an inclusive restroom on the site of a new playground in the Carraway Community Park. This project began with citizen outreach to the local parks planners. The park opened in 2018, and the restroom includes an adult-size changing table, which makes the park more accessible for people with a range of complex needs.

Hyattsville, MD

The City of Hyattsville, in Maryland, responded to citizen input on restroom availability at parks by installing Throne restrooms in city parks in 2023. Residents and visitors advocated for additional restrooms, and the City is now planning to install permanent restrooms in several parks, while maintaining Thrones in some parks until the permanent restrooms are installed.

La Jolla, San Diego, CA

Residents and advocacy groups in the La Jolla neighborhood of San Diego advocated for the replacement of an outdated restroom facility at Scripps Park. They worked with a local public benefit corporation to raise funds for a visioning exercise, which they presented to the municipal parks office. The office took the advocacy and citizen input to develop the new restrooms, which were opened in 2022. The restrooms have since won multiple design awards.

Philadelphia, PA

Attendees at Philadelphia Eagles home games provided feedback on the usability of restrooms for people on the autism spectrum and their families. The team took this feedback and surveyed visitors and families to build a new sensory-friendly restroom at Lincoln Financial Field, designed specifically for people on the autism spectrum and other neurodivergent individuals. The new restrooms were unveiled this May.



Public restrooms at Merino Park in Providence, RI (Photo: One Neighborhood Builders)

Providence, RI

One Neighborhood Builders, a community development organization in Rhode Island's capital, started a participatory budgeting initiative with residents of Central Providence in 2022. In this initiative, citizens could elect how they wanted to spend an allotted budget. Community members called for and then voted for building new restrooms. One Neighborhood Builders took this information and initiated a partnership with Providence's parks department. New public restrooms from this initiative were opened in Merino Park in July 2025.

The ARA does not express any affiliation with other groups by listing them here; we merely provide this as examples of citizen advocacy for restrooms across the United States.