

## IN LACONIA

# No generation gap in park cleanup

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**D**alton Stender is in readiness class — about half way between kindergarten and first grade — but Monday at Tardif Park he had work on his mind.

Armed with a rake and wearing one yellow glove — the other being worn by a friend — Stender was just one of about 50 youths from the Boys and Girls Club of America who joined the employees of U.S. Cellular for their annual Earth Day clean up.

“Look, we made our own pile,” said Stender, proudly pointing to the pile of leaves underneath one the trees on the far side of the park.

As Stender rushed off to make another pile of leaves, Boys and Girls Club Program Director Sara Nichols said the youths from the club often play at Tardif Park, and she sees cleanup day as one great way to give back to the community.

This is the second year the employees at U.S. Cellular have helped clean Tardif Park as part of their Earth Day community program.

Nearly 10 employees from U.S. Cellular joined Public Relations Counsel Kel-

ly Cioe for the cleanup on what ended up being a glorious New Hampshire day.

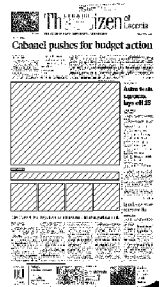
The group was assisted by Mike Seymour and employee for the city Parks and Recreations Department which picks up the litter every day from all of the city parks.

He said there was not as much raking to do this spring as there was last spring because of a major cleanup the department did in the fall.

“This is a really nice program,” said Seymour, who is proud of the way the city takes care of its parks.

Cioe said the company provides the rakes, some snacks and beverages, the paper bags and most of the muscle for this and four other similar events in Maine and New Hampshire, including a park in Manchester and one in Portland, Maine.

Other events supported by U.S. Cellular include Teachers Appreciation Day in which the company will donate \$1 million to the Calling All Teachers Website at [www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org), a website where public school teachers post needs outside of their budgets and people can choose which projects or needs they wish to support. The closing date for teacher requests is May 4.



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ALAN MACRAE/FOR THE CITIZEN

MEMBERS OF the Boys and Girls Club of the Lakes Region join forces with employees of US Cellular to clean up Tardif Park in Laconia on Monday.