



NO! to lighting fires and smoking in the outdoors

You are not allowed to even light a cigarette in the forest, let alone make a fire!

Smoking is forbidden in all our forests with no exceptions. Lighting fires is permitted under some conditions. In some urban forests, the visitor's code may designate a place where visitors may light a fire. However, the person who lights or maintains a fire is always responsible for any potential damages. In this case, even an oil lamp or portable stove is considered to be a fire. So are fireworks or so-called sky lanterns - these are even banned in Prague. Wildfire can be life-threatening to people, animals, and plants, and causes economical damage.



NO! to nature vandalism

Don't trample or break anything in the forest and don't write your name anywhere...

Unauthorized felling of trees, snapping branches, damaging roots or bark can all be considered vandalism. Even trees and saplings growing outside the forest are protected, including those in gardens. Another problem is damaging forest and park inventory – benches, footbridges, gazebos, or information signs. Spraying graffiti over them or breaking them is an apparent attempt to damage them. Destroying geological formations, be it by spraying over them or breaking off pieces, is another separate issue. It also happens rather often, but the damage caused is irreversible – a destroyed sandstone formation or a collapsed shale slope cannot be replaced.



NO! to the entrance of motor vehicles

Motorized vehicles mustn't enter forests and parks!

Motorized vehicles, with the exception of electric bicycles, are forbidden to enter forests and parks, as they may severely damage plants and soil, and disturb wildlife and visitors. Parking by the edge of the forest, commonly practiced by mushroom hunters, is also forbidden. Unsurprisingly, electric cars are also not allowed in forests.

Reasons are quite obvious, the main one being consideration towards animals, who've got less and less space to live these days. Periurban parks and urban forests have usually got designated parking spaces, and movement within them is defined by the visitor's code



NO! to light pollution in nature

Shine a light under your feet, but nowhere else!

Light pollution, or photopollution, is a big problem and a threat to natural diversity. Almost a third of vertebrates and two thirds of insects are active after dark. The absence of darkness disrupts their natural life cycles and intense light sources (e.g. street lamps), shining all night long, are an irresistible attraction for them, as these insects prefer light over food and reproduction.

Too much light at night even affects plants' growth and their photosynthesis cycle. Last but not least, the absence of darkness has an impact on our health as well. A rather recent and valuable initiative is a declaration of so-called dark sky areas.



NO! to free-roaming dogs outside of designated

**Dog in a forest – almost exclusively on a leash!
Cat in a forest – only with a leash!**

An animal is not an item, but a living being. And if it has an owner, then that owner is obligated to take care of the animals' basic life needs. However, the owner also has responsibility for the animal and any damage it may cause. Unsupervised dogs can cause severe damage in nature.

Keep in mind that a free-roaming dog can chase hare, contaminate leavers or fawns with their smell, or disturb ground-nesting birds. Most people also don't realize that dogs allowed to swim in a pond in spring can destroy a clutch of frog eggs. In nature, domestic animals can move around only under the direct supervision of their owner or an authorized person.

In Prague, there are so-called dog meadows where they can move around without a leash. Construction and maintenance of these places are managed by individual city districts, and their locations can be found on their websites or on the Environmental protection website of the capital city of Prague.

A number of well-known personalities have participated in the „NO! in nature“ campaign, such as the artist Jiří Korn, actor Dagmar Havlová, signer Ben Cristovao, athlete David Svobody, model Kateřina Sokolová and more.

They've all got one thing in common – a positive attitude towards nature. In the campaign, they portray selfish city folk who, in their trips out to nature, behave exactly the way they shouldn't.

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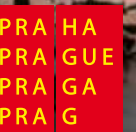
More about the NO! in nature campaign



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NO!

IN NATURE



NATURE ISN'T HERE JUST FOR YOU!

Staying out in nature has undoubtedly great mental and physical benefits for residents of big cities. The outdoors becomes a place for sports, relaxation, exploration, adventure, play, or meeting with friends. The state of the natural environment is rather important, but it can rapidly deteriorate due to our activities.

We have to keep in mind that nature, including urban nature, isn't here just for our amusement. It's primarily home to animal and plant species, and we're just guests. Thus we should be considerate and humble when we've got the opportunity to enter this „home“ of others.

That is the reason behind creating this information flyer. Urban and peri-urban park visitors often don't realize that their behavior harms these parks. That's why we've prepared information on the 12 most common issues that we can encounter out in nature.



NO! to feeding wildlife

We can feed wildlife, but it usually doesn't help them at all!

If you'd like to feed wildlife, you must do so without harming them. And how to do that?

1. Only use natural food, vegetables, or grains.
2. Only place the fodder at safe spots, from which the wildlife have a good view of their surroundings.
3. Keep the area clean. Only give them more if the previous fodder has been completely consumed.
4. Only feed them at a time when there is a shortage of natural food.
5. We mustn't forget that water can help more than food.



NO! to littering

Everyone knows that garbage has no place in the woods. Unfortunately, not everyone follows this rule.

Glass and plastics can break down after hundreds of years, some may not break down at all. Disposed garbage not only devalues nature but may even cause direct damage. Residues released from plastics into the soil can degrade surface and groundwater, other garbage may become a deadly trap for animals. Twine or wires may strangle the legs of birds or hedgehogs so that they don't make it in the end.



NO! to discharging of wastewater

We have to return water to nature in the same quality in which we've borrowed it.

Water in a flat, factory, or hospital changes. The temperature changes, food leftovers, toilet waste, or washing machine grime are added into the water. Many times, these added substances can be toxic. All this makes turns drinking water into wastewater. Its usual course is through the sewers into a sewage treatment plant.

However, the treatment plants are unable to get rid of all negative substances, such as medicine leftovers or artificial hormones. These may have a negative and even destructive impact on water organisms. Negative effects of these substances on people are also expected, but they're usually only discovered years later.



NO! to an illegal drawing of water from water

You can't draw water from waterways, lakes, and ponds without a permit!

Water is protected as an irreplaceable natural resource. If anyone intends to, for example, pump water out of a stream, they must have a permit from the Water Administration Authority. During the summer, a large number of even smaller pumps can turn a smaller river into just a set of near dried-out puddles. Each waterway has to remain at least at a so-called minimum remaining flow, i.e. an amount of water sufficient for water organisms to survive and to dilute treated water from sewage treatment plants.



NO! to disturbing peace and quiet in the outdoors

In the forests, you simply mustn't be loud enough to wake the dead!

Noise is dangerous to animals and disrupts their natural life cycles. Primarily, however, it interferes with their communication – acoustic communication between parents and offspring is crucial to many species. Furthermore, nocturnal species use almost exclusively their hearing ability to navigate at night. For example, hearing is key for owls. They fly so silently that they can hear any and all movement of their prey on the ground beneath them.

The biggest issue is, however, disrupting animals in the winter. Winter is the most energy-consuming time for wildlife as they try to balance a limited intake of energy and its expenditure on movement and body warming. Any disturbance will cause unexpected energy expenditure that they won't be able to compensate for.



NO! to cycling outside of designated routes

Bikers do not have the same rights as pedestrians in nature!

Bikers movement is limited to traffic roads, and it can even be prohibited by traffic signs. A kick scooter is also considered to be a bike. Marked pedestrian roads do not entitle bikers to ride through them. However, if these roads are along traffic roads that don't prohibit bikers from entering, then passing through is allowed.

The reasons for cycling restrictions in nature are primarily impending collisions with pedestrians, but also to prevent scaring animals and soil disturbance.



NO! to touching unharmed wildlife offspring

DO NOT TOUCH wildlife offspring.

When you're out for a walk, especially during the spring or summer, you may encounter seemingly helpless or vulnerable wildlife offspring. However, this vulnerability is just ostensible. If you encounter a wildlife offspring, whom you consider to be in need of assistance, always get in touch with a rescue station first. NEVER touch these offspring yourself!

Contact information in the Czech Republic is 774 155 155. In Prague, you may call the Wildlife rescue station at 773 772 771 or contact the Prague Animal Rescue at 774 155 185. Closely follow the directions given to you by the animal rescue worker.

Never take wildlife offspring home to personal care!