



Read the news article carefully. Classify whether each statement is a **FACT** or **OPINION**, then explain your reasoning in full sentences.

News articles mix reporter facts (verified data) with opinions from sources. Look for: statistics = often fact; quotes with "I think/best/should" = usually opinion.

## City Park Gets Robot Cleaners



**Greenfield, November 8, 2024** — Central Park, Greenfield's largest green space, is now home to a new team of robotic cleaners. Starting this week, five autonomous litter-collecting robots, nicknamed 'GreenBots,' will patrol the park daily from 6 AM to 6 PM. Each robot is equipped with sensors to detect trash and a small vacuum system to collect it. The city council approved the \$75,000 pilot program last month with a 4-1 vote, hoping to reduce manual labor costs by 15%.

Mayor Elena Rodriguez stated, "This innovative project will make our park cleaner and more efficient. We believe these GreenBots are the future of urban maintenance." Park Manager Mr. David Chen added, "Our human staff can now focus on landscaping and repairs, making the park a much better place for everyone."



However, not everyone is thrilled. Local resident Sarah Jenkins, a frequent park visitor, expressed her concerns. "I think these robots are a terrible idea. They are noisy, and I've already seen one get stuck near the pond. The city should invest in more human jobs, not machines."

A recent survey conducted by the Greenfield Gazette found that 68% of park users supported the introduction of the GreenBots, while 22% were against it, and 10% were undecided. The robots are expected to collect approximately 200 pounds of litter per week.



City officials plan to review the program's success after six months. If effective, more GreenBots could be deployed in other city areas. "This is undoubtedly the smartest decision our city council has made all year," commented Councilwoman Lena Khan. 🤖

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**COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS**

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(1) "The city council approved the \$75,000 pilot program last month with a 4-1 vote." Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**?

- (A) Fact     (B) Opinion

(2) "We believe these GreenBots are the future of urban maintenance." Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**?

- (A) Fact     (B) Opinion

(3) "A recent survey conducted by the Greenfield Gazette found that 68% of park users supported the introduction of the GreenBots." Is this a **FACT** or **OPINION**?

- (A) Fact     (B) Opinion

(4) The article states, "The robots are expected to collect approximately 200 pounds of litter per week." Explain in 1-2 sentences why this statement is a fact or an opinion.

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(5) Find a statement in the article that **SOUNDS** like a fact but is actually an opinion. Explain your thinking.

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**(6) Why do journalists include opinions from different people in news articles? What effect does this have on readers?**

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