

# **Parks and Recreation Department Recycling Program Update**

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Parks and Recreation Department**

**Parks and Recreation Board  
August 22, 2017**

# Agenda

- Universal Recycling Ordinance
- PARD Responsibilities
- Funding for Recycling
- Current Recycling Efforts
- Future Implementation and Next Steps



# Universal Recycling Ordinance

- **Chapter 15-6, Article 5.**
  - Requires convenient access to recycling for tenants and employees
  - By Oct 1, 2017, all commercial properties in Austin will be required to have recycling
- City facilities are expected to meet requirements
- Open space, including public parks, are **not** included in the current ordinance

# PARD Responsibilities

*The mission of the Parks and Recreation Department is to inspire Austin to learn, play, protect and connect by creating diverse programs and experiences in sustainable natural spaces and public places.*

300 parks

78 mixed-use fields

20,000+ acres of greenspace

26 recreation & senior activity centers

212 miles of trails

11 museums, arts & cultural centers

51 aquatic facilities

6 golf courses

12 dog parks

10 stages & amphitheaters

36 sports complexes

23 historic building

124 tennis courts



# Funding for Recycling

- As part of FY17 budget, PARD requested \$510,000 to fund the Pilot phase of the Recycling Program
  - \$150,000 for recycling receptacles
  - \$350,000 for 6 new FTEs
  - \$10,000 for staff training and supplies
- In FY17 Austin Parks Foundation donated \$50,000 for recycling receptacles to aid in the Department's efforts to implement the Pilot Recycling Program

# Funding for Recycling

On August 9, 2017,  
ZWAC adopted a  
recommendation urging  
Council to prioritize  
funding for recycling and  
organics collection in  
City Parks



## BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

### Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: (20170809-003d); Recycling in Parks

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of ZWAC to review, evaluate and make recommendations to Austin City Council and the City staff regarding City policies concerning solid waste, recycling, organics management and Zero Waste; and

WHEREAS the City Parks and Recreation Department is currently limited by the availability of containers and staff hours to offering recycling in only 4 of 300 parks, 5 of 6 golf courses, and 14 of 51 pools; and

WHEREAS it is advisable for the City to model through its facilities and programs the practices required of residential and commercial properties in the City; and

WHEREAS City parks, golf courses, and pools serve well over 2 million visitors per year; and

WHEREAS the collective zero waste impact of providing services at pools, parks, and golf courses would divert significant quantities of material from landfill; and

WHEREAS the Parks and Recreation Department seeks financial support to expand their current recycling efforts to encompass all of their managed facilities;

THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED THAT the Zero Waste Advisory Commission advises the Austin City Council to prioritize action to expand recycling and organics collection in City Parks; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission advises the Austin City Council to take appropriate and necessary budgetary steps to ensure the same; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission advises the Austin City Council to direct Austin Resource Recovery to identify available assets that could immediately be used to expand recycling and organics collection at City parks, golf courses, and pools.

Date of Approval: August 9, 2017 Vote: 9-0-0-1

For: Commissioners Acuna, Masino, Gattuso, Rojo, White, Blaine, Bones, de Orive, Joyce

Against: 0 Abstained: 0 Absent: Commissioner Hoffman

Attest:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Sullivan".

Michael Sullivan, ZWAC staff liaison

# Current Recycling Efforts

- PARD provides recycling at:
  - ✓ **All** office buildings
  - ✓ **All** recreation centers
  - ✓ **All** museums and cultural centers
  - ✓ **All** special events at parks
- In FY15 and FY16, PARD installed more than 100 recycling receptacles, at a cost of \$40K+ *(not inclusive of installation costs)*



# Recycling Efforts – Pilot Program

In addition, recycling is now available at:

- **4 of 300 parks**, specifically Zilker, Bull Creek, Beverly Sheffield, and Bartholomew
- **5 of 6 golf courses**, specifically Morris Williams, Clay, Kizer, Lions, and Hancock
- **14 of 51 aquatic facilities**
- Zilker Nature Center
- Krieg & Havins Fields



# Future Implementation

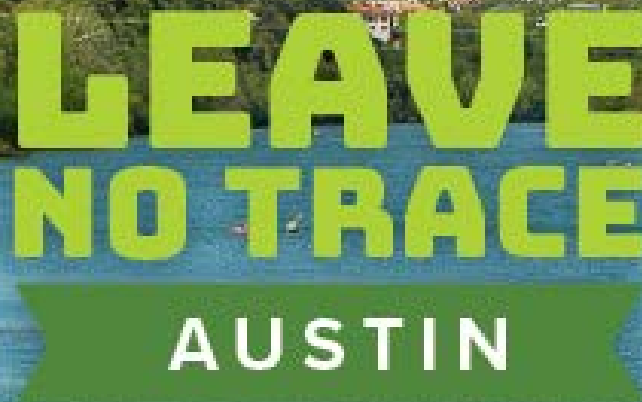


- Recycling and Composting



# Next Steps

- Identify grant funding and partnership opportunities to purchase appropriate containers
- Partner with ARR to gradually develop and implement recycling plans for all PARD facilities
- Adopt consistent branding for public space recycling:
  - “Recycle On the Go” currently used downtown
  - “Pack it in – Pack it Out” parks and greenbelts





# Implementation Considerations

- Education
  - Signage
  - Public Awareness Campaign
    - *Bull Creek* model
- Metrics
  - Don't know what we don't measure
  - Need to establish benchmarks



A scenic view of the Austin skyline reflected in the water of a lake. Several people are kayaking on the water, and a bridge is visible in the background. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

# Questions

