

A background image showing a green park in the foreground with a few people walking, and a city skyline with several tall buildings and construction cranes in the background under a blue sky with clouds. The image has a green tint.

Austin Parks and Recreation Department Recycling Program Update

Zero Waste Advisory Commission | April 2018



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Agenda

- Applicability of Universal Recycling Ordinance
- Parks and Recreation Department (PARD)
 - PARD Responsibilities
 - Current Recycling Program
- Recycling Pilot Program
 - Goals, Timeline, and Austin Resource Recovery Partnership
 - Aquatics, Metro Parks, Athletic Fields and other park sites
- Education and Outreach Campaign
 - Leave No Trace
- Next Steps
 - Comprehensive Recycling Program
 - Challenges, Approach, and Considerations
- Questions

Universal Recycling Ordinance

- **Chapter 15-6, Article 5.**

- Requires convenient access to recycling capacity for tenants and employees
 - As of October 1, 2017, all commercial properties in Austin are required to have recycling
- City facilities are expected to meet the requirements
- Open spaces, including public parks, are **not** included in the current ordinance

Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Mission

To inspire Austin to learn, play, protect and connect by creating diverse programs and experiences in sustainable natural spaces and public places



Current Recycling Efforts

- All administrative offices have recycling available for employees and visitors
- Recycling is also available at the following public facilities:
 - ✓ **All** recreation centers
 - ✓ **All** museums and cultural centers
 - ✓ **All** special events at parks
- Pilot Recycling Program implementation at selected high-impact facilities



Pilot Recycling Program

- Goal: develop, fund and implement comprehensive recycling
- Steps
 - Build cross-functional recycling team
 - Prioritize facilities with greatest demand for recycling
 - Conduct benchmark waste audit
 - Develop standards for collection system
 - Collect data and evaluate progress
 - Assess budget impact and needs
 - Launch comprehensive recycling program
- Partnership with ARR
 - Evaluate current status of recycling in PARD facilities
 - Conduct site visits and assessments
 - Develop checklists and tools
 - Create guidelines for parks
 - Identify funding opportunities
 - Establish metrics
 - Provide process to add PARD facilities to ARR curbside service routes
- Timeline

Pilot Recycling Program – Aquatics

- **Year-round pools**
 - Deep Eddy
 - Barton Springs
 - Bartholomew
 - Springwoods
 - Big Stacy
- **Expanding recycling to all seasonal pools**
 - 9 pools already recycle using neighborhood recycling routes
 - 3 pools will be added this summer



Pilot Recycling Program – Metropolitan Parks

Three (3) Metropolitan Parks:

Zilker Metro Park

Before: 136 Landfill Receptacles
After: 60 Landfill / 56 Recycling Receptacles

Town Lake Metro Park

Before: 65 Landfill Receptacles
After: 31 Landfill / 24 Recycling Receptacles

Walnut Creek Metro Park

Before: 79 Landfill Receptacles
After: 27 Landfill / 10 Recycling Receptacles



Pilot Recycling Program – District and Neighborhood Parks

District and Neighborhood Parks:

Bull Creek District Park

Before: 30 Landfill Receptacles
After: 10 Landfill / 10 Recycling Receptacles

Ramsey Neighborhood Park

Before: 9 Landfill Receptacles
After: 5 Landfill / 5 Recycling Receptacles

Walsh Boat Landing

Before: 10 Landfill Receptacles
After: 1 Landfill / 1 Recycling Receptacle



Pilot Recycling Program – Golf Courses and Athletic Fields

- **Golf Courses**

5 out of 6 Golf Courses (except Lions)

- **Krieg Softball Complex**

Before: 65 Landfill Receptacles

After: 33 Landfill / 33 Recycling Receptacles

- **Havins Softball Complex**

Before: 45 Landfill Receptacles

After: 9 Landfill / 9 Recycling Receptacles



Leave No Trace: The 7 Principles



1. Plan Ahead & Prepare
2. Travel on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors



Next Steps – Comprehensive Recycling Plan

- Identify funding and partnerships to build recycling team, purchase containers, and fund operational expenses
- Continue partnership with ARR to implement recycling at all parks
- Adopt consistent branding for public space recycling:
 - “Recycle on the Go” downtown
 - “Pack it in – Pack it out” parks and greenbelts
 - “Leave no Trace”



Implementation Challenges and Approach

Challenges

- Limited Resources
- Financial Impact
- Competing Priorities

Phase I

- Aquatics
- Athletic Complexes
- Metropolitan Parks
- Golf Courses

Phase II

- District Parks

Phase III

- Neighborhood Parks
- Remaining Park Facilities

Implementation Considerations

- Education and Outreach
 - Signage
 - Public Awareness Campaign
 - *Bull Creek* model
- Metrics
 - Establish benchmarks – we don't know what we don't measure
- Asset Management
 - GIS mapping of containers



Questions



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