




MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Kimberly A. McNeeley, CPRP, Acting Director 
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

DATE: August 15, 2018

SUBJECT: Update on Council Resolution No. 20180614-072: Recycling Task Force

On June 14, 2018, the Austin City Council approved Resolution No. 20180614-072, creating a Parks and Recreation Recycling Task Force comprised of two representatives from the Parks and Recreation Board, two representatives from the Zero Waste Advisory Commission, and three representatives from non-profits and waste diversion businesses appointed jointly by the Parks and Recreation Board and the Zero Waste Advisory Committee. Staff support was provided by Parks and Recreation, Austin Resource Recovery, and the Office of Sustainability.

The following individuals were appointed to the Task Force: Amanda Masino (Zero Waste Advisory Commission), Andrew Dobbs (Texas Campaign for the Environment), Brandi Clark Burton (Environmental Community Leader), John Rooney (Austin Parks Foundation), Randy Mann (Parks and Recreation Board), Rick Cofer (Parks and Recreation Board), and Kaiba White (Zero Waste Advisory Commission). The Task Force met on July 18, July 27, and August 8, 2018.

The Task Force believes that full implementation of recycling in all Austin Parks and Recreation facilities will have a meaningful impact on waste diversion, in support of the city's Zero Waste goal. Beyond the direct impact of diverting waste, implementation of recycling in Parks and Recreation facilities will have significant educational benefits and foster behavior change, which the Task Force believes will help to increase recycling rates at homes and businesses. Fully implementing recycling in Parks and Recreation facilities will make recycling more visible to the community a large group of people and demonstrate that the City of Austin is committed to meeting the goals that it has established for itself and its residents.

Attached is the Task Force's recommendation, which the Parks and Recreation Department can support on the condition that recommendation is fully funded. Currently, there is no dedicated funding for this initiative in the draft FY2019 budget. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (512) 974-6722.

cc: Spencer Cronk, City Manager
Sara L. Hensley, CPRP, Interim Assistant City Manager

Attachment

Parks and Recreation Recycling Task Force
Report to Council
August 15, 2018

Background

On June 14, 2018, the Austin City Council approved Resolution No. 20180614-072, creating a Parks and Recreation Recycling Task Force (Task Force), comprised of two representatives from the Parks and Recreation Board (PARB), two representatives from the Zero Waste Advisory Commission (ZWAC), and three representatives from non-profits and waste diversion businesses appointed jointly by the Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) and the Zero Waste Advisory Committee (ZWAC).

ZWAC and PARB subsequently appointed Amanda Masino (ZWAC), Andrew Dobbs (Texas Campaign for the Environment), Brandi Clark Burton (Environmental Community Leader), John Rooney (Austin Parks Foundation), Randy Mann (PARB), Rick Cofer (PARB), and Kaiba White (ZWAC). The Task Force met on July 18, July 27, and August 8.

Value Statement

The Task Force believes that full implementation of recycling in all Austin Parks and Recreation facilities will have a meaningful impact on waste diversion, in support of the city's Zero Waste goal. Beyond the direct impact of diverting waste, implementation of recycling in Parks and Recreation facilities will have significant educational benefits and foster behavior change, which the Task Force believes will help to increase recycling rates at homes and businesses. Fully implementing recycling in Parks and Recreation facilities will make recycling more visible to the community a large group of people and demonstrate that the City of Austin is committed to meeting the goals that it has established for itself and its residents.

Past Progress

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for more than 300 natural, cultural, and recreational sites in Austin. These facilities include more than 20,000 acres of green space, 51 aquatic facilities, 26 recreation and senior centers, 11 museums and cultural centers, athletic fields, 6 golf courses, 5 cemeteries, historic buildings, and office spaces.

Presently, PARD has made recycling available at all PARD building facilities (administrative offices, recreation centers, museums, and cultural centers). However, signage and ease of access is inconsistent at this time and largely dependent on individual building management.

Since 2016, PARD has developed a pilot recycling program to expand recycling to additional PARD facilities and assets. Through the pilot program, recycling is now available at 17 (out of 51) aquatic facilities including all five year-round pools: Deep Eddy, Barton Springs, Bartholomew, Springwoods, and Big Stacy. Recycling is also available at 12 seasonal pools.

Additionally, the pilot program has brought recycling to: 3 out of 12 Metropolitan Parks (Zilker, Town Lake, and Walnut Creek); 5 out of 6 golf courses; 2 athletic complexes; 2 out of 14 District Parks (Bull Creek and Dove Springs; and 1 out of 114 neighborhood parks.

At these parks and facilities, approximately 100 paired trash and recycling receptacles have already been installed. Additional signage is needed at these receptacles.

Next Steps

PARD staff previously proposed to expand recycling to all PARD parks and facilities through three phases:

- Phase I: Aquatics, athletic complexes, metropolitan parks, and golf courses
- Phase II: District parks
- Phase III: Neighborhood parks and remaining PARD facilities

An estimated 800 additional pairs of receptacles and signs are needed to fully implement recycling at all Parks and Recreation facilities. Additionally, PARD requires one Program Coordinator and one Parks Grounds Specialist to develop and implement this program. Initial deployment of receptacles will also require some temporary employees.

A Program Coordinator is necessary to comprehensively develop a strategic waste diversion plan for all PARD parks and facilities. With over 20,000 acres of green space and parks ranging in size from less than one acre to hundreds of acres, there is no “one size fits all” approach to waste diversion at PARD facilities. A comprehensive and strategic plan is necessary, in addition to ongoing program implementation and management.

Budget Options

The Task Force developed budgets to achieve fully implementation in one or two years, and identified three sources of potential funding to meet those budget needs – General Fund, the Clean Community Fee, and private donations.

Recommendation

The Parks and Recreation Task Force recommends that the Austin City Council adopt Option B-2. Although the Task Force would like to see recycling fully implemented in Austin Parks and Recreation facilities in one year, we believe that taking one additional year will yield better results. Option B-2 relies on a minimum level of General Fund funding and the \$0.14 per month increase in the Clean Community fee will have a negligible impact on Austin residents.

Option A: 1-Year Implementation

\$90,000 - 1 Program Coordinator FTE - ongoing
\$50,000 - 1 Parks Grounds Specialist FTE - ongoing
\$50,000 - collection and hauling - ongoing
\$20,000 - public education - ongoing
\$210,000 - total ongoing expenses

\$70,000 - 1 temporary assistant Program Coordinator FTE - one year
\$50,000 - 1 temporary Parks Grounds Specialist - one year
\$260,000 - 8 temporary employees for installation of receptacles - one year
\$880,000 - 800 paired trash and recycling receptacles - one year
\$45,000 - 900 signs - one year
\$1,305,000 - total temporary expenses

\$1,515,000 - total FY 2019 budget for 1-year implementation

Option A-1: General Fund

- Allocate an additional \$1,515,000 from General Fund to the Parks and Recreation Department for year 1 and \$210K annually thereafter.

Option A-2: General Fund + Clean Community Fee*

- Allocate \$140,000 from General Fund for the two permanent FTEs.
- Increase the Clean Community Fee by \$0.28 per month and allocate the resulting funds to the Parks and Recreation Department to meet the remaining budget needs for year 1 and reduce the fee to \$0.02 per month thereafter.

Option A-3: Clean Community Fee*

- Increase the Clean Community Fee by \$0.31 per month and allocate the resulting funds to the Parks and Recreation Department to meet the entire budget for this program in year 1 and reduce the fee to \$0.05 per month thereafter.

Option A-4: General Fund + Private Donations

- Allocate \$670,000 from General Fund for the two permanent FTEs, the temporary staff, collection and hauling costs, and education costs. This includes \$80,000 to hire a temporary fundraiser to be housed at Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) or Austin Parks Foundation (APF).
- Solicit private funding for the \$925,000 to pay for the receptacles and signage. Donors would be recognized with a small plaque on each receptacle pair, in a manner that complies with Section 15-6-72(B) and Section 15-6-73(B) of City Code. The exact donation amount to sponsor a receptacle pair will be determined by staff, but would be approximately \$1,150.

Option A-5: General Fund + Clean Community Fee* + Private Donations

- Allocate \$140,000 from General Fund for the two permanent FTEs.
- Increase the Clean Community Fee by \$0.11 per month to fund the temporary staff, collection and hauling costs, and education costs. This includes an additional \$80,000 to hire a temporary fundraiser to be housed at Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) or Austin Parks Foundation (APF).
- Solicit private funding for the \$925,000 to pay for the receptacles and signage. Donors would be recognized with a small plaque on each receptacle pair, in a

manner that complies with Section 15-6-72(B) and Section 15-6-73(B) of City Code. The exact donation amount to sponsor a receptacle pair will be determined by staff, but would be approximately \$1,150.

* The Clean Community Fee increase could be reduced after FY19.

Option B: 2-Year Implementation

\$90,000 - 1 Program Coordinator FTE - ongoing
\$50,000 - 1 Parks Grounds Specialist FTE - ongoing
\$50,000 - collection and hauling - ongoing
\$20,000 - public education - ongoing
\$210,000 - total ongoing expenses

\$130,000 - 4 temporary employees for installation of receptacles - two years
\$440,000 - 400 paired trash and recycling receptacles - two years
\$22,500 - 450 signs - two years
\$592,500 - total temporary expenses in year 1 and year 2

\$802,500 - total FY 2019 budget for 2-year implementation

Option B-1: General Fund

- Allocate an additional \$802,500 from General Fund to the Parks and Recreation Department in FY19 and FY20, and \$210K annually thereafter.

Option B-2: General Fund + Clean Community Fee*

- Allocate \$140,000 from General Fund for the two permanent FTEs.
- Increase the Clean Community Fee by \$0.14 per month and allocate the resulting funds to the Parks and Recreation Department in FY19 and FY20 to meet the remaining budget needs.

Option B-2a: General Fund + Clean Community Fee*

- Allocate \$300,000 from the General Fund for the two permanent FTEs, collection and hauling fees, signage, education and one temporary employee.
- Increase the Clean Community Fee by \$0.10 (a dime) per month and allocate the resulting funds to the Parks and Recreation Department in FY19 and FY20 to meet the remaining budget needs.

Option B-3: Clean Community Fee*

- Increase the Clean Community Fee by \$0.16 per month and allocate the resulting funds to the Parks and Recreation Department in FY19 and FY20 to meet the entire budget for this program.

Option B-4: General Fund + Private Donations

- Allocate \$420,000 from General Fund for the two permanent FTEs, the temporary staff, collection and hauling costs, and education costs. This includes an additional \$80,000 to hire a temporary fundraiser to be housed at Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) or Austin Parks Foundation (APF).
- Solicit private funding for the \$925,000 (over two years) to pay for the receptacles and signage. Donors would be recognized with a small plaque on each receptacle pair, in a manner that complies with existing city code. The exact donation amount to sponsor a receptacle pair will be determined by staff, but would be approximately \$1,150.

Option B-5: General Fund + Clean Community Fee* + Private Donations

- Allocate \$140,000 from General Fund for the two permanent FTEs.
- Increase the Clean Community Fee by \$0.06 per month to fund the temporary staff, collection and hauling costs, and education costs. This includes an additional \$80,000 to hire a temporary fundraiser to be housed at Keep Austin Beautiful (KAB) or Austin Parks Foundation (APF).
- Solicit private funding for the \$925,000 (over two years) to pay for the receptacles and signage. Donors would be recognized with a small plaque on each receptacle pair, in a manner that complies with existing city code. The exact donation amount to sponsor a receptacle pair will be determined by staff, but would be approximately \$1,150.

Option B-6: General Fund + Private Donations

- Allocate \$275,000 from the General Fund for the two permanent FTEs, two temporary staff, collection and hauling costs, and education costs.
- Solicit private funding for the \$1,215,000 (over two years) to pay for the receptacles (including two temporary staff to install the receptacles), signage, and \$80,000 to hire a temporary fundraiser to be housed at a local non-profit. Donors would be recognized with a small plaque on each receptacle pair, in a manner that complies with existing city code. The exact donation amount to sponsor a receptacle pair will be determined by staff, but would be approximately \$1,500.

* The Clean Community Fee increase could be reduced after FY20.

Appendices:

1. Recycling Program Parks and Recreation Department, last update: April 6, 2018
2. Austin PARD Recycling Program Update to ZWAC and PARB, April 2018
3. Law Department Memo Re: Charitable Donations and Recognition on Recycling Bins
4. PARD Memo re: Status of PARD Recycling



Recycling Program Parks and Recreation Department

Objective

Develop, fund, and implement comprehensive strategies, policies and procedures to implement recycling at all Austin Parks and Recreation facilities.

Description

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department oversees a park system of more than 300 natural, cultural and recreational sites within the City of Austin. These park facilities have been set aside to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of Austin, share the legacies of our lands, and provide recreational opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Residents of Austin and visitors from around the world visit Austin's parks to marvel their beauty, recreate and have fun, and bring with them or generate onsite waste, much of which is recyclable.

The City of Austin has set ambitious goals for recycling. The City follows a "Zero Waste" philosophy that goes beyond recycling and focuses first on reducing trash and reusing material, before recycling and composting. In 2009, City Council passed the first *Zero Waste Plan* in Texas, and set a goal to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfills by 90% by 2040.

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) works closely with the Austin Resource Recovery (ARR) Department to ensure compliance with the mandates in ARR's Master Plan. PARD has implemented recycling in building facilities (administrative offices, recreation centers, museums, cultural centers) and has worked in partnership with ARR to offer recycling and composting at all special events hosted in PARD facilities.

In support of the City's Zero Waste goal, PARD marketing and education activities will emphasize the importance of "Reduce – Reuse – Recycle" with campaigns focusing on "Pack it in, Pack it out" and "Leave No Trace," highlighting how these strategies help the community and the environment by saving money, energy, and natural resources.

The intent for a Comprehensive Recycling Program is to extend recycling to parks, swimming pools, golf courses, sports complexes, and other open space venues.

Action Plan

A. Pilot Program – in progress

Pilot Facilities

Select PARD facilities to participate in the Pilot Program, assign personnel resources, and identify funding sources. Prioritize facilities that have high-impact recycling opportunities (i.e. year-round pools, athletic fields, and metropolitan parks)

Conduct Basic Waste Audit	<p>Evaluate current trash collection in pilot park facilities. Identify types of recyclables and waste, and potential cost saving opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas currently used for dumpster collections and examine feasibility of adding recycling dumpsters • Evaluate opportunities for landfill receptacle consolidation
Develop Pilot Plan	<p>Develop preliminary recycling strategies and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate containers to be used for each type of facility considering durability, cost, capacity, ease of handling and cleaning, and aesthetics • Establish standards for use (Landfill and Recycling) • Identify materials that should be recycled, address logistics, set goals, create educational material for employees and visitors
Collect Data	<p>Identify appropriate metrics, establish schedule for monitoring progress and assess performance</p>
Evaluate Resources	<p>Identify efficiencies, explore funding sources, and quantify impact on budget</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel – evaluate impact on current personnel levels and determine number of additional FTEs needed to support recycling operations • Equipment – Identify equipment needs to support operational management of material • Contractual and Commodities – evaluate impact of hauling fees on operating budget

B. Comprehensive Recycling Program – to be implemented

Assemble Recycling Team	<p>Select Recycling Coordinator</p> <p>Responsible for coordinating and implementing the recycling plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and prioritize high-impact facilities • Conduct baseline waste audit • Design collection system and select appropriate haulers • Train and educate crewmembers and building managers • Track progress <p>Build a cross-functional team representing key PARD divisions</p> <p>Team members will evaluate alternative options and serve as point of contact and secure decisions are made timely</p>
Conduct Waste Audit	<p>Evaluate current trash collection in all park facilities. Identify types of recyclables and waste, and potential cost saving and revenue opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map on GIS all locations of landfill and recycling containers • Identify areas currently used for dumpster collections and examine feasibility of adding recycling dumpsters • Evaluate opportunities for landfill receptacle consolidation • Calculate / estimate total tons of waste sent to landfill annually

Develop Recycling Plan	<p>Finalize recycling strategies, policies and procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify consistent containers to be used for each type of facility (distinctly different from landfill containers, durable, and labeled with clear and consistent signage) • Establish standards for use and classification of PARD receptacles utilizing Best Management Practices (Landfill, Recycling and Compost) • Identify materials that should be recycled, address and resolve logistics, calibrate goals, create educational material for employees and visitors and implement campaign
Collection System	<p>Design a collection system that is convenient and efficient for visitors, employees, and park maintenance crewmembers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receptacles and locations • Transferring to central collection / storage area • Evaluate and reconfigure central collection / storage area
Launch Recycling Program	<p>Organize events and solicit endorsements from City Executives and City Council.</p> <p>Implement phased-in approach:</p> <p>Phase I – high-impact facilities (aquatics, athletic complexes, metropolitan parks, golf courses, etc.)</p> <p>Phase II – district parks</p> <p>Phase III – neighborhood parks and remaining park sites</p>
Promote Participation	<p>Announce recycling program, highlight benefits, outline collection procedures, implement educational campaign, and create brochures about the park's recycling program</p>
Education and Outreach	<p>Create training presentations, handouts, posters, and signage. Coordinate with Austin Resource Recovery and use outreach material already developed to maintain consistent message and branding. Take advantage of Austin Resource Recovery training material.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop training and educational programs for crewmembers b. Develop educational and outreach programs for the public
Measure Performance	<p>Continue to collect data, monitor progress, refine metrics, and implement improvements as necessary.</p>
Refine Recycling Program	<p>Annual review and update of policies, procedures and standards, optimization of practices, and evaluation of budget impact.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personnel – evaluate impact on personnel levels • Equipment – evaluate needs to support operational management of material • Contractual and Commodities – evaluate impact on existing operating budgets • Evaluate and report on progress of the phased-in implementation approach • Provide suggestions for improvements that will increase diversion rates system-wide

Team Participants

The Recycling Coordinator, under the direction of the Assistant Director over Operations and Asset Management, will be responsible for coordinating and implementing the recycling program. The Recycling Coordinator will coordinate with Division and Workgroup representatives to conduct waste assessments, set recycling goals, develop recycling activities, create educational programs for employees and park visitors, and monitor progress.

The recycling team will be cross-functional, representing key PARD Divisions and Workgroups. Each Division is critical to the success of the recycling program. Team members will serve as point of contact to secure decisions to proceed.

- Maintenance and Operations
- Park Planning
- Park Development
- Asset Management
- Aquatics
- Golf Operations
- Museums and Cultural Centers
- Community Programs (Recreation Centers and Senior Activity Centers)
- Cemetery Operations
- Environmental Resource Management (Park Rangers, Community Gardens,)
- Special Events
- Financial Services (Office of Performance Management)
- Marketing and Communications

Funding

As part of the FY 2017 budget, PARD requested funding for the pilot phase of the recycling program – recycling receptacles, FTE positions, and resources for training, equipment and supplies. Although funding was not approved, PARD, in collaboration with ARR, put in place the pilot recycling program to evaluate implementation challenges, as well as budget impact, funding opportunities and required resources.

Availability of funding for personnel, receptacles, and operational expenses is critically important for the implementation of a comprehensive recycling program.

Based on preliminary evaluations, PARD will need:

- \$140K for two FTE positions (Program Coordinator and Parks Grounds Specialist)
- \$75K for receptacles and signage
- \$35K for recurring operational expenses (hauling fees, supplies, training, equipment and educational campaign)

The Department will continue to:

- Collaborate with non-profit organizations (Austin Parks Foundation, Keep Austin Beautiful, The Trail Foundation, etc.) to secure additional funding, and,
- Explore opportunities for grant applications

Resource needs will be re-assessed annually.

Timeline (subject to change)

Tasks / Milestones	Tentative Timeline
Pilot Recycling Program	Oct 2016 – Sep 2018
Progress Evaluation and Plan Refinement	Jun 2018 – Dec 2018
Develop Comprehensive Recycling Plan	Oct 2018 – Dec 2018
Phase I Implementation (pools, metro parks, sport complexes)	Oct 2018 – May 2020
Phase II Implementation (district parks)	Oct 2019 – Dec 2020
Phase III Implementation (neighborhood parks and remaining park sites)	Oct 2020 – Dec 2022
Collect data, evaluate performance, implement improvements	ongoing

Austin Parks and Recreation Department Recycling Program Update

Parks and Recreation Board | April 2018



Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, LEED Fellow, Assistant Director
Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager, Operations and Maintenance
Austin Parks and Recreation Department

Agenda

- Applicability of Universal Recycling Ordinance
- Parks and Recreation Department (PARC)
 - PARC 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



Liana Kallivoka, PhD, PE, LEED Fellow, Assistant Director
Charles Vaclavik, Division Manager, Operations and Maintenance
Austin Parks and Recreation Department



LAW DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Natasha Jackson
Grants Coordinator, Parks & Recreation Dept.

FROM: Maria Sánchez *MS*
Assistant City Attorney

DATE: April 6, 2018

SUBJECT: Questions regarding logos being included on recycling bins that are donated to PARD

Section 15-6-72 (B) states that a "person may not use a public trash receptacle for advertising purposes. A person who sponsors a public trash receptacle may display the sponsor's name on the receptacle in accordance with the rules adopted..."

Section 15-6-73 (B) states that a "donor may request the department to place the donor's name on the receptacle. The department shall place the donor's name on the receptacle in accordance with rules adopted under this article."

- a) Can recycling bins be installed in public parks if they include a logo representing a non-profit associated with a commercial entity or a group of commercial entities?

Based on Section 15-6-72 (B) the recycling bins may not include a logo representing a non-profit associated with a commercial entity or a group of commercial entities. Pursuant to Section 15-6-73 (B), if the donor requests the department place the donor's name on the receptacle the department shall include donor's name on the recycling bin. These code provisions are consistent and provide that only the name is to be displayed.

- b) Can recycling bins be installed in public parks if they include a logo representing a commercial entity or a group of commercial entities?

Based on Section 15-6-72 (B) recycling bins that are placed in public parks may not include a logo representing a commercial entity or a group of commercial entities. Pursuant to Section 15-6-73 (B), if the donor requests the department place the donor's name on the receptacle the department shall include donor's name on the recycling bin. These code provisions are consistent and provide that only the name is to be displayed.

- c) Can recycling bins awarded by a grant program be used in public parks if they include a logo and/or a logo registered by a commercial entity?

Based on Section 15-6-72 (B) recycling bins that are awarded by a grant program to be used in public parks may not include a logo and/or logo registered by a commercial entity. Pursuant to Section 15-6-73 (B), if the program awarding the grant requests the department place their name on the receptacle the department shall include their name on the recycling bin. These code provisions are consistent and provide that only the name is to be displayed.

- d) Is the advertisement considered a logo only if it is a commercial representation or is any representation by a commercial entity prohibited on public park property?

Based on Section 15-6-72 (B) any advertising is prohibited. A logo is considered advertising. Logos are designed to be easily recognized by the public. The code prohibits advertising whether it is associated with a commercial entity or non-profit. The code does not distinguish between a commercial entity or non-profit.



Recycling Program – Status Update

Parks and Recreation Department

Objective

Develop, fund, and implement comprehensive strategies, policies and procedures to implement recycling at all Austin Parks and Recreation facilities.

Summary

The Austin Parks and Recreation Department oversees a park system of more than 300 natural, cultural and recreational sites within the City of Austin. These park facilities have been set aside to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of Austin, share the legacies of our lands, and provide recreational opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. Residents of Austin and visitors from around the world visit Austin's parks to marvel their beauty, recreate and have fun, and bring with them or generate onsite waste, much of which is recyclable.

Austin's park system includes more than 20,000 acres of green spaces, 51 aquatic facilities, 26 recreation and senior centers, 11 museums and cultural centers, athletic fields, 6 golf courses, 5 cemeteries, historic buildings and office space for a workforce that exceeds 700 full-time employees.

The City follows a "Zero Waste" philosophy that goes beyond recycling and focuses first on reducing trash and reusing material, before recycling and composting. In 2009, City Council passed the first *Zero Waste Plan* in Texas, and set a goal to reduce the amount of waste sent to the landfills by 90% by 2040. The [Universal Recycling Ordinance \(URO\)](#) is intended to increase the life of local landfills, reduce harmful environmental impacts, decrease trash disposal costs and boost economic development.

Status Update

PARD has implemented recycling in **all building facilities** (administrative offices, recreation centers, museums, and cultural centers) and has worked in partnership with ARR to offer recycling and composting at all special events hosted in PARD facilities.

In 2016 PARD developed a pilot recycling program in order to better understand waste streams, reduce waste, and increase recycling without compromising the level of service we provide to the community. To get to our goal we intend to be methodical, deliberate and results-oriented.

As part of the pilot program, PARD prioritized facilities with the highest use, and recycling is now available in the following facilities:

Aquatic Facilities – 17 out of 51:

Recycling has been implemented in all five (5) year-round pools:

- Deep Eddy, Barton Springs, Bartholomew, Springwoods, Big Stacy

Recycling has been expanded to twelve (12) seasonal pools that recycle using neighborhood routes:

- Northwest, Dick Nichols, Westenfield, Garrison, Dittmar, Dove Springs, Rosewood, Ramsey, Walnut Creek, Givens, Martin, Dottie Jordan

Metropolitan Parks – 3 out of 12:

- Zilker Metro Park
- Town Lake Metro Park
- Walnut Creek Metro Park

Golf Courses and Athletic Complexes:

- 5 out of 6 Golf Courses (except Lions Municipal Golf Course)
- Krieg Softball Complex
- Havins Softball Complex

District Parks (total of 14) and Neighborhood Parks (total of 114):

- Bull Creek District Park
- Dove Springs District Park
- Ramsey Neighborhood Park

Other Park Facilities:

- Walsh Boat Landing
- Republic Square Park

The intent for a Comprehensive Recycling Program is to extend recycling to all park facilities. PARD recommends a phased approach for implementation.

