

A large, light blue recycling symbol (three chasing arrows forming a triangle) is centered in the background. Overlaid on the center of this symbol is the official seal of the City of Austin, which features a shield with a red and white design, topped with a torch and surrounded by the text "CITY OF AUSTIN" and "FOUNDED 1839".

# **Parks & Recreation Department Recycling Program**

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Parks and Recreation Department (PARC)

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**Zero Waste Advisory Commission June 10, 2015**

# Agenda

- Applicability of Universal Recycling Ordinance
- Parks Department Overview
  - Organizational Structure
  - Department Responsibilities
  - Funding
  - Current Recycling Efforts
- ARR Site Assessments of Parks Facilities
  - Partnership and Site Visits
  - Observations
  - Challenges
  - Cost Examples
- Next Steps

# Universal Recycling Ordinance

- Chapter 15-6, Article 5.
  - Requires convenient access to recycling capacity 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 the requirements
- Open space, including public parks, are **not** included in the current ordinance

# PARD: Organization

16 DIVISIONS	
Aquatics & Athletics	Grounds Maintenance
Capital Improvement Projects	History, Art & Nature
Centralized Programs	Management Services
Community Programs	Marketing and Communications
Cultural Affairs	Nature-Based Programs
Facility Services	Office of Performance Management
Financial Services	Planning and Development
Golf Services	Special Events

- **STAFFING:**
  - 702 FTE
  - 1,272 Seasonal/Part-Time

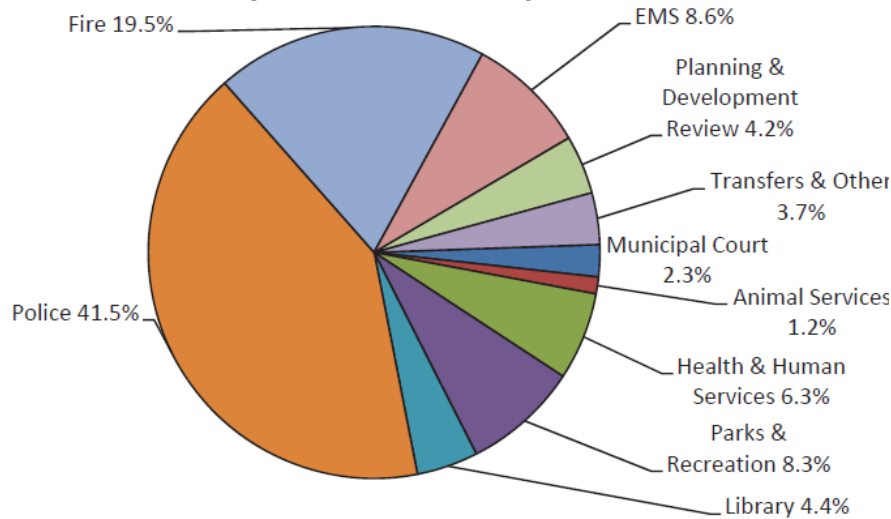
# PARC: Responsibilities

- 271 Parks
- 29,000+ acres of parklands
- 358 Playground Structures
- 211 miles of trails
- 94 Sports Fields, including  
36 Sports Complexes
- 50 Aquatic Facilities
- 41 Greenbelts
- 20 Recreation Centers  
and 3 Senior Activity  
Centers
- 11 Museums & Cultural  
Services
- 6 Golf Courses
- 5 Cemeteries
- 3 Tennis Centers
- 2 Hillside Theaters

**The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural and outdoor experiences for the Austin community.**

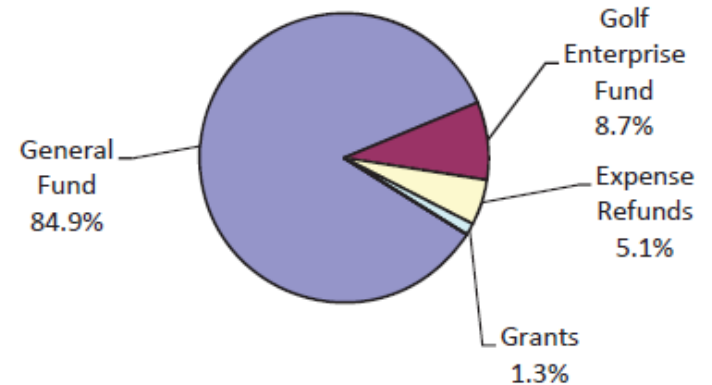
# PARD: Funding

**Uses of Funds - General Fund  
(\$854.0 million)**

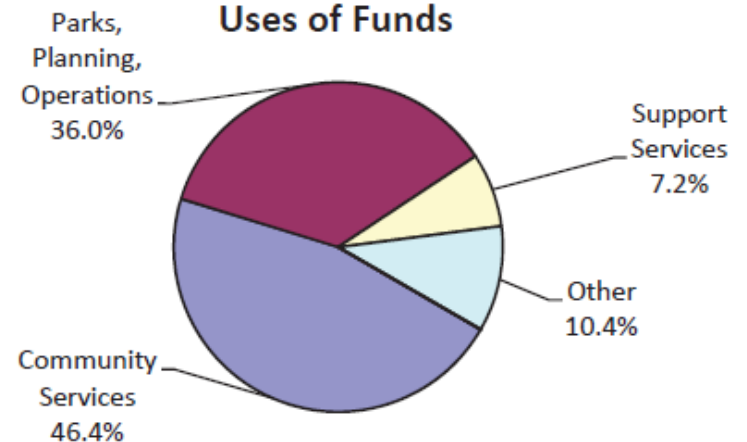


8.3 % of General Budget

**Sources of Funds**



**Uses of Funds**



\$83,462,865

# PARD: Current Recycling Efforts

- All PARD Administrative Offices have recycling available for employees and patrons
- Recycling available at the following public facilities:
  - All Recreation Centers
  - All Museums & Cultural Services. Additionally, all special events are required to provide recycling during their event.
  - 2 of 50 pools, including Barton Springs and Bartholomew
  - 1 of 271 parks, specifically Zilker Park (limited)
  - 3 of 6 golf courses, including Hancock, Clay, and Kizer
  - 1 of 36 sports complexes have limited recycling availability

# ARR Site Assessments

- ARR/PARD Partnership
  - Develop a plan to implement recycling in parks facilities
  - Prioritize facilities with greatest demand for recycling
  - Develop an estimated budget
- ARR Staff performed site visits of:
  - Northwest Municipal Pool
  - Asian American Resource Center
  - Emma Long Metropolitan Park
  - Zilker Metropolitan Park
  - Northwest Recreation Center
  - Kreig Field Sports Complex



# ARR Site Assessments

- ARR Staff Observations:
  - PARD staff who are supportive of adding recycling service for patrons
  - Challenges with implementation due to:
    - Severely limited funding
    - Limited of staff
    - Limited space to contain support equipment
    - Limited space for dumpsters at some locations
    - Container requirements due to wind/rain/vermin, etc
    - Overlap in data collection

# Cost Example: Northwest Pool

- One Time Costs: \$5,608
  - 6 Exterior Containers: \$418 per container
  - Installation Costs: \$50 per container
  - Patron support signage: \$500 for all signs
  - Custodial Equipment: \$2,300 to manage material
- Additional On-going Costs: \$11,320 per season
  - Recycling Bags: \$2,200 per month
  - Collection Service: \$630 per month

# Cost Example: Zilker Park

- **One Time Costs: \$94,000**
  - 60 Exterior Containers: \$1,500 per container
  - Installation Costs: \$50 per container
  - 10 Patron support kiosks: \$100 per kiosk
- **Additional On-going Costs: \$51,840 per year**
  - Recycling Bags: \$3,690 per month
  - Collection Service: \$630 per month

# Patron Support Kiosk



# Next Steps

- Develop a master contract for the purchase of trash/recycling containers for PARD facilities
- Identify grant funding and partnerships with local organizations to purchase appropriate containers
- Adopt consistent branding for public space recycling; “Recycle On the Go” launching downtown in July
- Identify phase in plan to start with metro area parks, pools, athletic fields, and golf courses by next summer



# Question and Answer

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Parks Grounds Manager



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Strategic Initiatives Division Manager

