

A large, light blue recycling symbol (three chasing arrows forming a triangle) is centered in the background. In the middle of the recycling 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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# Agenda

- Applicability of Universal Recycling Ordinance
- Parks Department Overview
  - PARD Facilities
  - Current Recycling Efforts
  - Recycling at Special Events
- 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: Facilities

- 271 Parks
- 29,000+ acres of parklands
- 358 Playground Structures
- 211 miles of trails
- 94 Sports Fields
- 50 Aquatic Facilities
- 41 Greenbelts
- 20 Recreation Centers and 3 Senior Activity Centers
- 11 Museums, Arts and Cultural Centers
- 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: 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 and Cultural Centers
  - 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

# PARD: Special Events

- Events are required to contract for necessary resources for an event trash, recycling and litter control plan.
- Organizers are required to submit proof of services for recycling containers, dumpsters and sufficient staff during the event to service the containers.
- Most events generate the following materials: Cardboard, Plastic bottles, Aluminum Cans, and Paper fliers/documents; Styrofoam is prohibited.
- Working in tandem with ARR, organizers are reducing the impact of events by retooling approaches to service provision. Austin Resource Recovery provides an educational event flyer for end-users and offers event organizers a rebate to implement recycling and other diversion efforts.
  - For example: food service items are provided hand held or do not require a plate, condiments are placed out in bulk, versus single serve packets, picnic packs are no longer frequently found at events which contain multiple single use items, and water refilling stations are established for refillable containers.
  - Single Use Plastic Bags are prohibited by Ordinance.
- ACL 2015 1<sup>st</sup> weekend resulted in 50% Diversion Rate according to KXAN article

# 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: \$1,363 per season
  - Recycling Bags: \$184 per month (\$733 for 4 month season)
  - Collection Service: \$630 per month

# Cost Example: Zilker Park

- **One Time Costs: \$25,500**
  - 50 Exterior Containers: \$440 per container
  - Installation Costs: \$50 per container
  - 10 Patron support kiosks: \$100 per kiosk
- **Additional On-going Costs: \$11,244 per year**
  - Recycling Bags: \$307 per month
  - Collection Service: \$630 per month

# Patron Support Kiosk



# Updates

- FY15 Grounds Maintenance Division purchased 50 recycling receptacles at a cost of \$21,871.50 (not including the costs of installation, bags, etc.).
- Remaining parks to be transitioned in as funding allows (purchases of containers, signage, custodial equipment, etc).
- Athletic Complexes, Aquatic Facilities and Golf Courses to be added as funding allows.
- On-going analysis of peer cities and organizations for best practices



# Next Steps

- Utilize a master contract for the purchase of trash/recycling containers for PARD facilities
- Identify program funding, including partnerships with local organizations to purchase appropriate containers
- Adopt consistent branding for public space recycling; “Recycle On the Go” launched 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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