



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Zero Waste Advisory Commission

Recommendation Number: 20160810-3e Recycling in Parks

WHEREAS the Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) is currently seeking to address the current unmet need of recycling on parkland, and

WHEREAS PARC is a City department and City departments should lead by example in regards to timely and proactive implementation of the Zero Waste Master Plan and the Universal Recycling Ordinance.

WHEREAS Zilker Park is the first metropolitan park to have recycling receptacles installed this year, and is the only park of approximately 130 outdoor parks providing recycling containers for park visitors, and

WHEREAS PARC is addressing this need incrementally with funds in its current operating budget and by providing recycling in a phases, beginning with Aquatic Facilities, Metropolitan Parks, and Athletics Complexes, and

WHEREAS PARC's long term plan is to install new stand-alone recycling receptacles consistent with PARC's standard for trash receptacles, and

WHEREAS PARC has determined that it will also be necessary to increase staffing to meet the minimum amount of time to service and repair items in the parks and

WHEREAS PARC has submitted an unmet need request in the FY17 budget request for a more comprehensive approach to recycling on parkland and

WHEREAS costs for implementation of a pilot phase of this initiative in FY17 are estimated at \$510,000: \$150,000 for recycling collection bins (one time cost); \$350,000 for contract collection on a weekly basis for each park (ongoing cost); and \$10,000 for staff training and supplies (ongoing cost), and

WHEREAS this funding request supports priorities 4,5,7 and 8 listed in the Imagine Austin Comprehensive Plan: to use green infrastructure to protect environmentally sensitive areas and integrate nature into the city; to invest in Austin's creative economy; to create a Healthy Austin Program; to revise Austin's development regulations and processes to promote a compact, connected city.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Zero Waste Advisory Commission advises the Austin City Council to allocate funding in the FY17 budget for the following increased resources needed to improve recycling in City of Austin Parks: collection cans, collection points, staffing to collect recycled materials, and staff/equipment to transport the recycled materials.

Date of Approval: _____

Record of the vote: _____

Attest: _____

(Staff or board member can sign)