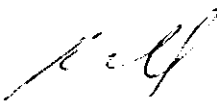


Source

Mike Hood



TO: City Council
FROM: City Manager and Staff 
DATE: December 31, 2007
RE: Update on Recycling Efforts in City Parks

Summary: This past fall, Council requested an update on recycling efforts currently being undertaken at the City's Park and Recreation Facilities. At the present time, the Park and Recreation Department is working jointly with the Public Works Department to sponsor recycling programs at the City's major recreation facilities including swimming pools, recreation centers, sports complexes, tennis courts and golf courses. A study, jointly sponsored by Parks and Recreation and Public Works, is currently being undertaken by a University of Missouri Environmental Studies student to develop recommendations for the expansion of the current recycling program to additional parks and facilities. That study is expected to be completed in the spring of 2008. The Department's goal will be to begin implementing the study's recommendations as quickly as feasible with the understanding that some recommendations may be dependent upon funding being included in the FY09 budget.

Fiscal Impact

YES x

NO

Other Info.

Discussion: The Parks and Recreation Department is currently working closely with staff of the Public Works Department on a jointly sponsored recycling program in Columbia's parks. Recycling efforts are sponsored at all of our larger recreation facilities including, but not limited to, swimming pools, recreation centers, beaches, sports complexes, and golf courses. Public Works handles the recycling containers located at both golf courses with park staff taking care of the remaining parks and facilities. The use of volunteers to provide the necessary labor to staff the programs has been tried. In general the volunteer program tended to work well initially, but as time progresses, commitment to the program seems to taper off, thus leaving the ongoing recycling responsibilities back with existing park staff. Volunteers have been used successfully to help coordinate recycling efforts at many of our large special events such as the Show Me State Games and soccer tournaments.

Park staff is also currently working with Public Works on a University sponsored student project to develop a proposal that would allow us to expand the recycling program to additional parks and facilities. The goal would be to initiate programs in our larger community parks (such as Stephens, Oakland and Cosmo-Bethel) and at

our reservable picnic shelters and trail head locations. The student that is coordinating this project is majoring in Environmental Studies and has been a Columbia resident for over 30 years. Her project's goal is to develop recommendations for a low cost program to recycle in the parks complete with an educational tie-in for local school children. She is also researching grant opportunities for equipment and container purchases as well as educational programs for the public. Staff anticipates that a draft report will be submitted by early spring 2008. Staff intends to begin implementing the study's recommendations as quickly as feasible, but recognizes that some actions may be dependent upon available funding. The opportunity should exist to consider including funding recommendations in the FY09 budget.

Suggested Council Action: This report is provided for Council information. Staff expects to make further recommendations to the Council upon completion of the on-going study.