

## Rinconada Park Zero Waste Pilot

Community Services and Zero Waste are conducting an innovative waste management pilot at Rinconada Park. During the pilot, the park's waste will be consolidated at four central locations and the park's 44 individual waste "cans" will be removed. The 44 waste cans consist of recycle, compost, and trash. However they are scattered throughout the park and defeat the source separation goal. The proposed centralized waste stations will place the recycle, compost, and trash together, increasing the promotion for source separation. The goal of the pilot is to help parks comply with Palo Alto Municipal Code (PAMC) Chapter 5.20, decrease contamination, increase service efficiency by decreasing the effort required by Parks contractors to service the 44 existing cans, decrease overflow and litter, create public awareness regarding zero waste, and reduce wildlife access to waste.

Waste sorting at City parks and the resulting contamination of recyclables is a big problem for the City, as wastes including garbage, recycling and compostables are commonly comingled into one can at many locations. Waste sorting at City parks can also be difficult because of the large number of public members that use the park, including non-residents who may be unfamiliar with the City's waste sorting procedures. Excess litter can also be a problem when smaller cans fill up and overflow at the individual sites or when these smaller cans are moved around by the public. These smaller cans are consolidated by the Parks maintenance contractor on a daily basis and the waste is disposed of in bins at three locations within Rinconada Park.

This Rinconada Pilot will remove all 44 waste cans and replace them with four waste stations consisting of larger bins, which will be centrally located, accessible to park users and maintenance staff, and easily serviceable. These waste stations will be color coded with the proper waste sorting signage clearly visible. Signs educating the public about the pilot will be posted throughout the park and distributed through the picnic reservation system. Poster maps will also be posted to guide the public to the centralized waste stations. Public feedback and data will be collected regarding the effectiveness of the new waste stations, waste sorting, and litter control. The data and feedback will be analyzed to evaluate if contamination, overflow/litter, and maintenance has decreased. They will also be used to determine if the measures are successful and if some or all of these measures should be used at other parks.

### **Feedback:**

We would greatly appreciate your feedback for the pilot. Please follow this link to provide us with your thoughts, <https://tinyurl.com/Rinconada-Pilot-Project>.

**Project Information:**

For questions about the pilot program, please contact Parks and Recreation at (650) 496-6962 or [parks@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:parks@cityofpaloalto.org) or if you have questions about waste sorting please contact Zero Waste Palo Alto at (650) 496-5910 or [ZeroWaste@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:ZeroWaste@cityofpaloalto.org).