



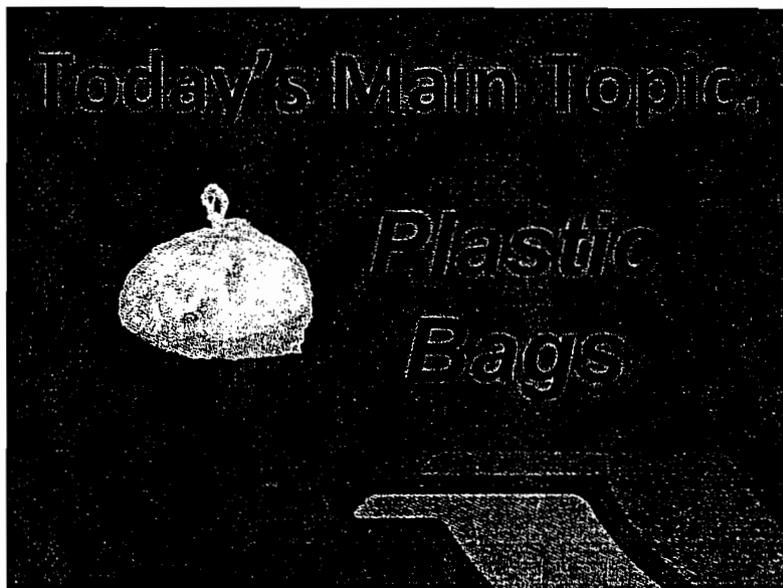
## Mesa's Recycling Programs

- Blue Barrel Program
- Green Barrel Program
- Business Recycling Program
- Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events
- A.C.E. Express Events
- Document Shredding Event
- Backyard Composting Program



## Mesa's Recycling Programs

- Green Sweep Program
- Appliance Recycling Program
- Paint Reuse Program
- Public Drop-off Recycling Sites
- Christmas Tree Recycling Program
- Internal Programs for City Employees





## What is the problem?

- In a municipal solid waste report by the EPA, it was estimated that 2.9 million pounds of bags, sacks and wraps were produced in the U.S. in 2008
- Of that, only 390 thousand pounds were recovered (13.4%)
- Traditional plastic bags are made of petroleum or natural gas, both limited resources
- Plastic bags can take up to 700 years to start to decompose when buried in the landfill
- Non-recycled plastic bags can cause excess litter



## What types of plastic bags are available?



## Regular Plastic Bags

### • Pros

- When compared to paper bags, plastic bags:
  - Generate 80% less waste
  - Require less than 6% of the water needed during production
  - Require 70% less energy to be manufactured
  - Require 91% less energy to be recycled

### • Cons

- Are not recycled as much as paper bags
- Take 700+ years to break down



## Biodegradable Plastic Bags

(additive added in production to begin to break down bag)

### • Pros

- Degradable & compostable
- Little or no fossil fuels used
- Faster degradation than degradable plastic bags

### • Cons

- Not as durable as petroleum based bags (moisture can cause them to fall apart)
- Short shelf life
- Does not decompose well in home composters or in landfills; requires a 'controlled composting environment' (i.e.- commercial industrial composting facility)
- Is considered a contaminate if mixed with petroleum-based bags and can compromise load
- Critics argue that with hunger existing in the world, it is not being socially responsible to use food for corn starch based bags



## How is the problem being handled?

- **San Francisco:** Has banned non-biodegradable plastic carryout bags
- **Washington D.C.:** Imposed a \$.05 fee on all disposable recyclable plastic and paper carryout bags from Retail Food Establishment license holders (i.e.- grocery stores, food vendors, convenience stores, drug stores, restaurants) and Class A&B liquor stores



## What about the Phoenix area?

- **Almost all major retailers have recycle containers in their stores for customers to recycle their plastic bags**
- **Bag Central Station**





## What about Mesa?

- Promotes waste reduction and encourages the use of reusable bags
- Provides information about plastic bags on City's Web site ([mesarecycles.org](http://mesarecycles.org))
- Quality Assurance Inspectors help educate residents about plastic bags during daily inspections



## What about Mesa?

- Promotes plastic bag recycling via community outreach:
  - 2010 MPS Earth Day Plastic Bag Round-up Recycling Challenge
  - Currently working on a plastic bag recycling PSA encouraging reusable bag concept
  - City employee plastic bag recycling drive in honor of Earth Day
  - Distributes information at community events
  - Enrolled all 58 elementary schools within Mesa Public Schools to participate in the Wal-Mart plastic bag recycling challenge during 08/09 academic year
- Met with the AZ Food Marketing Alliance to discuss partnership opportunities



This slide features the Mesa, Arizona logo at the top left. To the right of the logo is the section title "Recommendations" in a bold, sans-serif font. Below the title is a bulleted list of recommendations. The first bullet point is "Continue to promote reducing plastic bag usage, using reusable bags & recycling plastic bags voluntarily among Mesa residents". This is followed by four sub-bullets: "Truck signs", "Newsletter articles", "Public Service Announcement", and "Web". The final bullet point is "Work with Arizona Food Marketing Alliance on partnership opportunities". The bottom right corner of the slide has a dark, textured background.

**Recommendations**

- Continue to promote reducing plastic bag usage, using reusable bags & recycling plastic bags voluntarily among Mesa residents
  - Truck signs
  - Newsletter articles
  - Public Service Announcement
  - Web
  - Inspection efforts
- Work with Arizona Food Marketing Alliance on partnership opportunities



*"Just as we cannot blame others for  
destroying the environment, so we  
cannot look to others to protect the  
environment. Responsibility for both  
begins at home."*

*Paul Griss, environmental activist and author  
of The Daily Planet*

# Leashed Dogs in City of Mesa Parks

Presented by:

Parks, Recreation & Commercial Facilities

Neighborhood and Community Services  
Committee

April 15, 2010



mesa.az

# Background

- Leashed Dogs:
  - 17 of 56 City of Mesa Parks (designated areas)
  - 133 (All) Retention Basins
  - 1 Multiuse Path: Consolidated Canal (HoHoKam Stadium-8th St/Harris)
- Park Ranger Program: Reduced From 26 to 4
- Regular Observations: Dogs in All Mesa Parks

# Ongoing Citizen Concern

- Regular Communications
    - Leashed Dogs Not Allowed-All City Parks
    - Ineffective Park Signs-Designating Dog Areas
    - Complaints
      - Unleashed Dogs
      - Aggressive Dogs
      - Irresponsible Owners
- (not cleaning up dog waste)

# Comparisons

- Majority of Phoenix Metropolitan Parks
- Most Parks Across the Nation
- City of Mesa is the Exception
  - Leashed Dogs only allowed in 31% of Mesa Parks

## Discussion

- March 2009: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Appointed Dogs in Parks Subcommittee

- Goal: *Determine how best to manage dogs in Mesa parks for the long-term while taking into consideration ongoing and frequent citizen inquiries.*

# Dogs in Parks Subcommittee

- Spring/Summer 2009:
  - Explored Alternatives to Gathering Citizen Input
  - Utilized City of Mesa Resources:
    - Management Performance & Accountability
    - Public Information & Communications
- August-November 2009: Citizen Input Opportunity
- December 2009:
  - Analyzed Findings and Conferred With City Stakeholders
- March, 2010: Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Approves Subcommittee Recommendation

# Recommendation

- Allow Leashed Dogs in ALL Mesa Parks in ALL Areas Except:
  - Sports Complexes
  - Sports/Athletic Fields
  - Sport Courts
  - Ramadas
  - Playgrounds.

# Recommendation

- Utilize City of Mesa Public Information & Communications Office:
  - Educate/Engage Mesa Residents & Park Patrons
    - Be Responsible Pet Owners
    - Follow safety and Sanitary Guidelines
    - Dogs on Maximum 6' Leash and Under Control,
    - Clean Up Dog Waste
    - Become Advocates for Keeping Neighborhood Parks Clean & Safe (Regarding Dogs in Parks)
  - Accept & Monitor Citizen Feedback Through December, 2010
    - Park Rangers, Maintenance, Front Line Staff
    - Revisit January 2011
  - Permanent Park Rules and City Code changes Required?

# Fiscal Impacts

- Park Sign Replacement  
(Parks Rules & Mesa City Code  
Modifications)
- Additional “Doggie Pots”  
(waste receptacles)