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APR 11 2011

DEP - WASTE REDUCTION

Recycling pilot Program for St. Johns County Active Recreation Areas

A. The areas that were focused on for this grant project were major sports parks, the beaches, and beachfront parks, golf course, skate parks, the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and special events. As the program gained momentum within the community the project expanded to elementary schools, County Offices and inspired some business to take the initiative to start recycling on their own.

1. The project began through a few motivated employees within the Recreation department who recognized a large amount of plastic bottles and aluminum cans being thrown away in the garbage. The Recreation Department was paying for someone to pick up the trash and then paying again to throw it away. The cost associated with this and the amount of recyclable items getting buried in the landfill inspired staff to seek an alternative. After pursuing funding through the existing budget and getting denied, staff's research discovered the grant program through DEP and submitted an application. Fortunately this project we funded and it has changed the way this department will handle its waste in the future.

2. The goal of this project was to capture as much recycling as possible and keep it out of the landfill. This would lower the cost of the tipping fees of the contractor, raise awareness within the community about recycling and develop a foundation that the Recreation Department could build off of in creating a "greener future".

3. The project is innovative because through all of staff's research there was no other recycling program in parks at that time and only one at beaches which was funded through the same grant process but was not going to move forward after the end of the grant.

4. Upon the successful closure of the grant presentations will be offered at FRPA and NRPA which are the state and federal recreation association conferences. There have been presentations made at smaller regional meetings through FRPA and a number of conversations with neighboring counties on how to begin a program similar at their sites. Another County on the East Coast of Florida, Volusia County, has adopted a very similar program since they discovered the success of the program in St. Johns County. A recycling program has also been adopted in a neighboring Anastasia State Park.

B. The implementation of the project was and still is a work in progress. What we thought was the easiest way to do it from the beginning was not the most efficient and as the program moved forward the perception changed and the resources available changed as well. The program has been streamlined to allow for continued success although there is still significant room for growth.

1. The majority of the purchases were to identify the appropriate container that was affordable, could withstand the elements of an active recreation area, and was easy to maintain. There were a variety of different styles that were used and there is one that is the most successful. These containers were used to collect the

recycling from the public at the different sites. From there the materials needed to be picked up and transferred to the main recycling facility. This was initially done with a truck along with a trailer that had larger containers that would be filled at each site. The containers on the trailer would be returned to the main site and emptied into a much larger container or a dumpster, which then would be picked up by a contractor and taken to be processed. Plastic bottles and aluminum cans were everywhere and the containers were filling up at an alarming rate and this system was not sufficient. In an effort to reduce the number of miles traveled by the recycling truck and to bring in the maintenance division of the Recreation Department large recycling dumpsters were placed in the large sports parks and the staff on site would empty the container in the parks into the larger container and then call for the container to be picked up by a contractor. This process continues after the grant has ended demonstrating the department's commitment to the future of the program and this is groundbreaking for St. Johns County. For the other sites that could not support a container the size of a dumpster the program purchased a large dump trailer that could be carried with a full size pick up truck. This dump trailer could be used for a variety of different sites and be taken directly to the site where the recycling was being processed. This is the current status of the program and seems to be working well except that the containers still fill faster than we can pick them up.

2&3. The elements of the program and the timeline are ever changing as well. The key element that has come out of the program is as follows: The program's focus is on what we can and do capture and not on what we don't or can't capture. The timeline for the project went much faster than anticipated and grew at a much quicker rate with the cost being much lower. The grant received two extensions which St. Johns County is grateful for and the entire amount awarded was not spent. The infrastructure was the last big purchase that was intended for the program but a facility to support that infrastructure both a location and the staff was lacking the long term commitment that was necessary. The program has been a much bigger success than anticipated and in the 3 years since the initial application there has been a paradigm shift in the community and now the residents and visitors expect recycling.

C.

1. The main goal of this project was to create an on-going recycling program modeled after the pilot program and have the program or something similar to it adopted by other municipalities. This happened during the program and continues to grow after the grant is over.

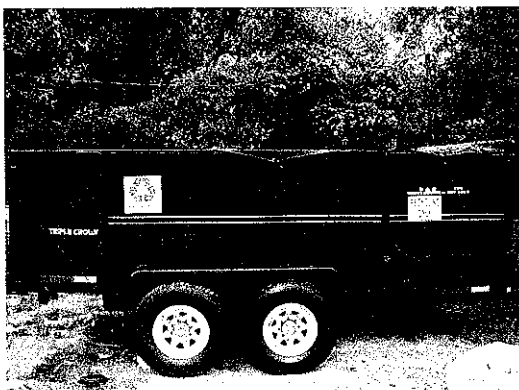
2. Recycling in parks and at beaches was not common in the state of Florida and is still not. Is a recycling container that has information on it about what is recycling and what goes in the trash an advanced technology or process, it is in the state of Florida, and St. Johns County is proud to have it as part of the community.

3. This program has recovered tens of thousands of pounds of plastic, aluminum, and glass alone. These have all been processed, baled and taken to a facility to allow them to be used again. In addition the hundreds of dumpsters filled with cardboard

and paper that have been recycled as a result of this one program in a small ocean front community in Northeast Florida.

4. Programs like this could be adopted by any municipality with the initiative to be more environmentally responsible. The beach recycling program has been adopted by Volusia County to the South and the City of St. Augustine is beginning a pilot project in the parks with a team member from this grant as a key consultant. It is a simple package program that could be adopted

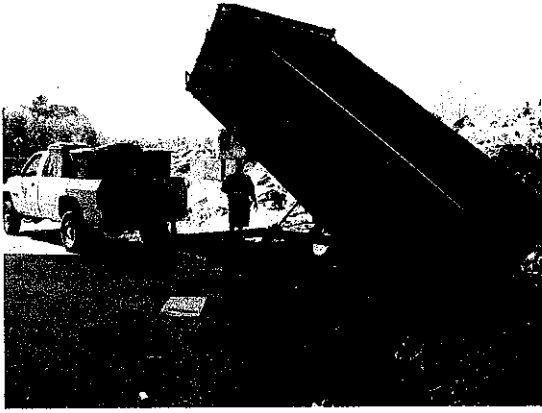
Below are some pictures that portray the items purchased through the grant and how they are continuing to be used to keep the recycling program going.



Dump Trailer used for pick up and delivery of recyclable materials



Recycling Set up used on Beaches



Dump Trailer in Action at Recycling Facility



Truck Trailer and Containers at the home site



Volunteers in Action collecting over 2200lbs

August 30, 2010

Johanna Poston M.S. 4565

2600 Blair Stone Rd.

Tallahassee, FL. 32399-2400

Re: St. Johns County's Innovative Waste Reduction and Recycling Grant #IG8-14

Final Report

Dear Johanna,

In accordance with St. Johns County Grant Agreement #IG8-14 with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, I am presenting the final progress report. The final project will be include Attachment D, and the Matching funds summary.

Final Project Summary

This project was monumental for St. Johns County. There is a permanent recycling program in place at the beaches, several elementary schools, large recreational parks, the St. Augustine Amphitheatre and several County offices.

The project has been well received by the community and has been responsible for tens of thousands of pounds of waste being diverted from landfills. There have been stories in the local papers and another County to the South Volusia has adopted a similar program with the guidance provided from St. Johns County.

The future of the project will depend heavily on identifying funds to add more parks and more staff. There will be annual budget requests to expand the program along with staff attempting to secure grant funding to move the project forward. There is currently a climate showcase community application outstanding that would be a huge boost to the future of the project.

It should be also noted that through this project there were key positions that were lost due to changes in the budget and there are staff that worked extra hours and took a personal interest in this program to allow it to succeed.

The remaining balance is the 5% retained which is included on attachment D.

Financial summary to date

	Grant Funds	In-Kind Contribution
Project Budget:	140,500.00	43,900.00
Cost for the First Quarter	6,902.65	5,750
Less 5%	342.34	
Cost for the Second Quarter	11,176.94	8,150
Less 5%	625.05	
Cost for the Third Quarter	6,469.29	5,750
Less 5%	323.47	
Cost for the Fourth Quarter	1,637.81	1,320
Less 5%	81.89	
Cost for the Fifth Quarter	11,140.29	7,940
Less 5%	557.02	
Cost for the Sixth Quarter	9,458.39	8,512
Less 5%	472.92	
Cost for the Seventh Quarter	7,274.74	5,750
Less 5%	363.74	
Costs for the Eighth Quarter	7,429.04	5,750
Less 5%	361.46	
Costs for the Ninth Quarter	5,2415.14	5,750
Less 5%	262.24	
Costs for the Tenth Quarter	4,468.23	5,750
Less 5%	223.41	
Costs for the Eleventh Quarter	8,363.62	5,750
Less 5%	418.19	
Final Request	3,956.72	