

## Recycling Virtual Town Hall Questions & Answers

December 9, 2020

1. If we decide to stay with recycling and other residents would like to go with only trash service, can the City take the upper hit and stay with recycling or do we have to go with whatever everyone else chooses? *It is basically all or nothing because it is provided through Parks and Sons. We will either continue the recycling program or convert it to trash.*
2. Are we discussing residential recycling service only? We are not talking about the businesses and schools in our City? *That is correct.*
3. Does anyone in the City have the ability to tell us our contamination rate? Does the City have anyone check the bins before they are emptied or do we have to rely on Parks and Sons for that information? *The City goes to Parks and Sons for that information. Each truck has a camera on the hopper to see what is being emptied from the container. They also audit the truck's contents as it is emptied at the recycling facility.*
4. Can citizens go to the recycling facilities for a tour? *The City would be happy to reach out to either Glendale or Parks and Sons to assist with this. El Mirage does not have a recycling facility. All the recycling that is processed by Parks and Sons either goes to the Glendale handling facility or the Freidman Recycling facility.*
5. Statement from resident - My opinion on this issue would be because the increases are very small, between one to four dollars, either option if we decide to eliminate recycling at least give residents who prefer the recycling option a couple of locations around the City, receptacle bins, so if we do eliminate recycling residents can have that option to use the recycling bin as well. Give that option to the City in the future if they decide to eliminate recycling. *That is a possible option. Surprise currently offers a facility that is open during business hours for residents to bring their recycling.*
6. If the City went with option 1 (suspend recycling) would residents have two bins for regular trash? *Yes. Both bins would be disposed of as trash and residents would still have the opportunity to practice recycling with a blue bin as one of the two. Would it be possible to put bulk trash items in those bins and possibly eliminate a bulk trash pickup? Regular trash/recyclable items should be placed in bins. Any especially bulky/heavy items may damage the container or equipment.*

7. Why not change the recycling pickup from weekly to bi-monthly or monthly? *We will need to work with Parks and Sons on that. That is something we would need to discuss with Parks and Sons. The City will provide more information on this when it is available.*
8. Either option will result in at least a \$1.25 increase and if we continue recycling it would be an additional \$2.70. Is that correct? *Yes, that is correct.*
9. Who do we call with an issue with the trash pickup service from Parks and Sons? *Parks and Sons would be able to resolve your issue quickest or contact El Mirage Public Works for assistance. Parks and Sons can be reached at 623-974-4791 and the Public Works Department can be reached at 623-935-6405.*
10. If we do keep the recycle is there a way to educate people on how to recycle? *Yes, we are working on a few different items to educate our residents. We have the recycle wizard on the City recycle webpage as well as a staff member who specifically assists with getting important information out to residents.*
11. Are recycling costs going up for other cities or just us? *Yes, recycling costs are increasing for all parties. This is caused by the overall increase in labor and processing time in order to make recycling streams acceptable to purchasers. Currently recyclable streams need to be 99.5% free of contamination in order to be acceptable to the majority of materials purchasing companies.*
12. Is it possible to take away the recycling bins of the homes that do not properly recycle? Give 2 warnings, educate the homeowners, and then a final warning would be followed by taking away the recycling bin? It wouldn't be fair to penalize every homeowner in the city due to a handful of individuals who may simply be uneducated/uninformed on recycling. Some of us are trying to lower our carbon footprint and recycling is a substantial way to do so. *Yes, there are options that include the removal of bins from residences that do not follow the correct recycling procedures. The City will need to work with Parks and Sons to formalize a process for this so it complies with County regulations for mandatory residential trash services.*