

From: Breezy Point MN <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 3:02 PM
To: Steve Jensen <sjensen@cityofbreezypointmn.us>
Subject: Yard Waste/Compost Site Safety Issues
Name: Josef Garcia
Email: josefgarcia264@gmail.com

Message: Date: April 23, 2025 Subject: Request for Card Access Gate at Brush Dump and Compost Site Council Member Jensen: I am writing to respectfully request that the City of Breezy Point consider installing a card access gate at the city's brush dump and compost site. This solution—successfully implemented in municipalities such as Medina, Monticello, Becker, and St. Michael—would help address mounting safety, equity, and infrastructure concerns associated with the current open-access model. Numerous Breezy Point residents have expressed their concerns to me directly about the increasing volume and nature of traffic headed to the site. They are particularly alarmed by the frequent presence of large commercial vehicles and trailers, many of which appear to be operated by non-residents or businesses with no ties to our community. These vehicles are commonly observed traveling through otherwise quiet residential areas, posing an immediate safety risk and contributing to long-term infrastructure wear. One of the most consistent concerns I hear from community members is that there was no formal communication to residents when the brush and compost site was relocated to its current location several years ago. Many residents were unaware of the change at the time, and even today, confusion remains regarding the site's access rules, intended users, and operational expectations. This lack of transparency and public notice has eroded trust and left many residents feeling blindsided by the dramatic increase in traffic through their neighborhoods. These concerns are not new. I am aware that the City Council has previously discussed potential options for restricting or even relocating access to the brush dump in response to complaints and growing neighborhood disruption. While relocation would involve considerable cost and planning, a card access gate presents an immediate, low-cost, and highly effective alternative to ensure the site is being used as intended—by Breezy Point residents and property owners.

Key Issues Identified by Residents:

- Public Safety Hazards:** Families have reported unsafe conditions for children playing outdoors, pedestrians, bicyclists, and pets due to the volume and speed of large vehicles heading to and from the site. Residential roads are simply not built for frequent commercial traffic.
- Road Damage and Maintenance Costs:** Heavy loads from trailers and commercial trucks are causing accelerated damage to neighborhood roads, leading to increased maintenance burdens funded by Breezy Point taxpayers—not those benefiting from the use.
- Unfair Use by Non-Residents:** Taxpayer-funded resources are being utilized by individuals and businesses with no stake in the community, creating inequity and site overuse.

Proven Solutions from Other Minnesota Cities:

- City of Medina:** Implemented a card access system in 2024, requiring residents and property owners to purchase an access card for \$25.00. The system restricts access to authorized users, reduces illegal dumping, and minimizes commercial misuse. The site is monitored by video surveillance to enhance security. (medinamn.us)
- City of Monticello:** Issued free access cards to

property owners for the compost site, with strict rules prohibiting contractors and non-residents. The site is under 24-hour surveillance, and violations result in loss of access. City of Becker: Requires residents to obtain a compost card to access the yard waste site. The initial card is issued at no charge, and the site is monitored by security cameras. City of St. Michael: Issues access cards to residents for the compost site, with a \$5.00 replacement fee. The site is under 24-hour surveillance, and violations result in loss of access. Benefits for Breezy Point: 1. Enhanced Safety for residents, particularly children and pedestrians in residential zones 2. Preservation of Road Infrastructure by reducing unnecessary commercial and out-of-town traffic 3. Equitable Use of Services, limited to those who fund and support city operations 4. Decreased Risk of Illegal Dumping, particularly during off-hours 5. Cost-Effective Alternative to relocation or more significant capital projects Given the volume of resident feedback, the clear safety risks, and past council discussions on this matter, I urge you to consider the implementation of a card access gate. This would be a forward-thinking, community-first approach to managing city resources and protecting neighborhood quality of life. Thank you for your time and consideration. I would be happy to provide further input or assist with community engagement if needed. Respectfully, Josef Garcia 29461 Percheron Dr Breezy Point, MN 56472