

## Background and Historical Context

Recycling has long been a priority issue for Forest Park, both at the leadership level and among residents. However, past efforts, including operation of a City-managed recycling center, encountered significant limitations:

1. **High contamination rates** rendered large volumes of recyclable materials unusable.
2. **Elevated landfill costs** were incurred due to improper sorting, negating environmental and financial goals.
3. **Lack of monitoring** and accountability under earlier subsidy models led to widespread misuse.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many services—including recycling—were reduced or eliminated due to budget constraints. In 2022, a new operational contract with Waste Management was executed, prioritizing cost control and service oversight. That contract introduced **real-time monitoring capabilities** for curbside carts, presenting the City with new enforcement and education tools.

To pilot a monitored, community drop-off recycling program that maximizes education, minimizes contamination, and builds the foundation for a permanent, scalable recycling solution.

### Pilot Features:

1. **Duration:** 1 month (Trial Period)
2. **Location:** 327 Lamar Drive
3. **Schedule:** 6 hours of Operation
4. **Accepted Materials:** Clean, pre-sorted recyclables (specific list to be distributed in public materials)
5. **Partnership Terms:**
  - Waste Management will waive hauling costs during the trial.
  - The City will cover the cost of the on-site service attendant to support operations and educate residents