



MEMO

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

To: Board of Public Works
From: Jake Van Gompel, Street Superintendent
Date: September 15, 2025
Re: Agenda Item 2c, Recommendations for Disposal Site

Background information:

When discussing operational changes with the refuse dumpsters at the Municipal Disposal Site a full cost analysis of the site was suggested along with gathering information on what percentage of users are utilizing the refuse dumpsters vs the other material services. Currently there are five categories of materials accepted, and each material has its own process and timing for servicing. Residential garbage, recycling, brush, yard waste, and motor oil are the current accepted materials.

Garbage being the biggest concern also carries the highest cost of all materials accepted. Estimated yearly labor cost is \$19,200 and estimated yearly tipping fees based on today's pricing are \$24,200. Total collection cost \$43,400.

Recycling, which has been the second most concerning material accepted, comes at a cost of \$9,000 per year with current collection rates.

Brush and yard waste were combined to produce total costs as both materials are managed at the same time with the same equipment. With the bulk of material coming in during the growing season the costs were based off 7 months of collection. Yearly labor costs were estimated at \$28,000 and contracted grinding costs of \$6000-\$12,000.

Waste oil is currently hauled by GFL and comes with no cost to the city.

Currently there are 2088 site users which net \$52,200 a year. With site fees only covering around 56% of actual costs of operations, changes need to be considered. 15% of site users utilize the refuse dumpsters which is roughly 47% of total operational costs. The continued concern of staff safety, non-compliant dumping, costs of tipping fees, and enforcement of this material need to be considered and determined if this material is worth the continued risk and cost for collection.

Recycling, Which sees misuse of not breaking down large boxes, overfilling of dumpsters, and piling materials on the ground is another material that should be discussed. Outagamie County will not accept this material for free or a discounted cost even though material from the Municipal Disposal Site is from Outagamie residents. The only recycling accepted for free is through the Outagamie County curbside contract and their drop-off site at the landfill. Even though this material does not pose the safety risk the garbage material does, it still comes with cost. Residents do have the option to dispose of excess recycling at the Outagamie County Landfill for free during normal business hours.

If the desire were to remove the garbage and recycling material from the Disposal Site, we would reduce our cost by 56%. This could allow for access fees to stay flat and still cover increases in operational costs.

Strategic Plan:

To continue providing a high quality of life through services staff looks at ways to provide collection services while keeping staff safe and being financially responsible.

Budget:

Costs from the Municipal Disposal site are budgeted in waste collection operational budget.

Recommended action:

1. Direct staff to remove garbage and recycling dumpsters from Disposal Site on determined date and update Waste Material ordinance 11.11.
2. Direct staff to remove garbage dumpsters from the Disposal Site on determined date and update Waste Material ordinance 11.11.
3. Direct staff to remove garbage dumpsters on weekends and update Waste Material ordinance 11.11.
4. Direct staff to bring back a recommended yearly access fee amount to cover operational costs if all materials continue to be accepted.





