



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM

DATE: 3-6-2025

TO: Public Works Committee

FROM: Travis Peterson – Director of Public Works
Joel Kolste – Deputy Director of Field Operations

SUBJECT: Discussion Item Only – Neighborhood Association Large Item Collection Days

ISSUE

Should the Public Works Committee recommend the Department of Public Works continue to provide large item collection programs to the officially recognized neighborhood associations as we have done so for the past 8 – 10 years, or should the Public Works Committee recommend providing large item collection services to all city neighborhoods under the recommended program as discussed below?

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends approval of providing large item collection services to all neighborhoods within the City under the recommended program proposed by the Department of Public Works.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

The Department of Public Works wants to provide an update on the direction City Administration is leading staff on the topic of providing dumpster and disposal services for the City's neighborhood associations (also known as Dumpster Days). Dumpster Days have been a successful project for the last 8-10 years that the neighborhood associations have appreciated. The program was led by the neighborhood association volunteers. The Department of Public Works provided the equipment and labor necessary to dispose of collected materials properly. While this format in its original form has functioned well over the years, the Department of Public Works continues to review its operations and the services it provides. To ensure services are provided in a cost-effective manner, program adjustments to services are often necessary to ensure the Department will be able to provide these types of services in the future.

CURRENT SERVICE

In 2024, fifteen official neighborhood associations held Dumpster Days throughout the City. City wide there are 60 total neighborhoods. These events were scheduled over the course of eight (8) weekends between April and June. These events were held in areas within the specific neighborhood it was servicing (typically on the street or designated private parking lot). The Department of Public Works staff coordinated the ordering, delivery, and collection of the dumpsters through the City's contracted vendor for tipping and transfer services. Department of Public Works staff also provided a rear loading garbage truck for accepting generally smaller waste items. An additional Department of Public Works vehicle was provided to collect scrap metal. Scrap metal is required to be separated due to it not being accepted in the landfill because it's recyclable. With the additional equipment being provided, Department of Public Works staff are required to be on site to operate this equipment. Each

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

2026 NEW JERSEY AVE.
SHEBOYGAN, WI
53081

920/459-3440
sheboyganwi.gov



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

event was staffed with one employee. A sanitation supervisor was present during these events to coordinate efforts between the multiple event locations.

WHY THE PROPOSED SERVICE CHANGE?

- While cost is not the primary factor as to why changes are being proposed, it is the Department of Public Works responsibility to provide all services in the most cost-effective manner as possible while providing for an efficient and effective program. By incorporating these changes, the Department of Public Works believes we will be able to provide for a more cost-efficient method of achieving the desired outcome, removing excessive garbage from neighborhoods by providing an outlet for disposal.
- The Department of Public Works desires to be forward-thinking and be prepared to effectively provide these types of services long term. Under the current program and process, providing these services will become more challenging and ultimately become unsustainable as more and more neighborhoods become "official".
- As the City continues to encourage and provide support for additional neighborhoods to become "official" and recognized, additional event dates need to be added to the calendar. With the numerous weekend events and responsibilities, the Department of Public Works staff has throughout the year, finding available weekends to hold these events are limited and becoming more difficult to establish. Events must be held between the months of April through June. After June, the event season begins and demands on staff to provide services on weekends increase dramatically.
- The new proposed format will provide inclusive services to all residents of the city. There continues to be a growing desire and need throughout the community for this service. Neighborhoods who struggle to become an "officially recognized" neighborhood association, may not have the opportunity to take advantage of such services, while demand increases for an outlet to dispose of items normally not collected or accepted through the curbside collection program.
- Illegal dumping of materials is becoming common place at the City's Recycling Center. This site was originally designed as a recycling center in which residents were able to utilize for disposing yard waste, branches, and select recyclable materials such as used motor oil, cooking oil, and scrap metals. The State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources requires the City to provide a method of management for these materials. While the site is staffed daily, staff may not physically be on site due to their responsibilities of hauling the material to the vendor disposal sites. Users take advantage of the fact the site is not being monitored to drop off items not accepted at the City's Recycling Center. This site is not a "dump" as treated by many residents. The cost to dispose of these items continues to grow and must be covered under the Department of Public Works operating budget.
- Staff believe the proposed changes will allow for a better, more efficient material management, ensuring disposed items are properly sorted and handled, and ensuring the services are being offered to City of Sheboygan residents only.



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

- Staff also believes having a large “drop off” area off the street will provide a safer environment for those providing support and those dropping off materials. While there have not been any incidents on record, Department of Public Works staff have commented on the increase in pedestrian traffic crossing streets in non-designated crosswalks to utilize the disposal containers.

PROPOSED SERVICE – WHAT WOULD IT LOOK LIKE?

In 2025, the Department of Public Works is recommending a transition to providing large item collection events on designated dates open to all City of Sheboygan residents. These events will be open for Sheboygan residents between the hours of 8:00 am and 1:00 pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month between May and October. This will allow City residents six different opportunities to dispose of large items that typically do not fit in the carts during weekly curbside collection.

The events will be open to all City residents requiring them to provide proof of residency. Contractors will not be allowed to utilize these events to dispose of construction materials, even if they are “contracted” for a residential property.

Materials that **will be accepted** are bagged or boxed trash, unused furniture, mattresses/box springs, toys, swing sets, misc. junk. A separate container for scrap metal will be provided.

Materials that **will not be accepted** include tires, construction materials (roofing, drywall, tiles, paint, etc.), large appliances (refrigerators, etc.), yard waste (tree branches, brush, leaves, grass, garden debris), recyclables, and electronic waste (microwaves, T. V's, stereos, computers, printers, DVD players, etc.).

While this change is a big adjustment from its current configuration, making this adjustment now will address the following concerns:

- The Department of Public Works would be providing a much-desired service inclusive to the entire community.
- Provide for a more controlled environment to ensure only residential material is being collected.
- A safe environment for all, including workers and residents.
- A reduction of administration costs and staff time coordinating with specific neighborhood associations to establish these specific events.

FUNDING IMPACT

CURRENT SERVICE COST (2024)

Service provided to existing official neighborhood associations only

- *Labor Cost*
Cost to provide Department of Public Works staff to operate the equipment and monitor the disposal of materials was \$5,213.63.
- *Dumpster Cost*



AGENDA ITEM MEMORANDUM (CONT.)

Rental fees for the roll off containers which included delivery and pickup totaled \$2,414.68.

- *Disposal Cost*

In 2024, the Department of Public Works disposed of 56.10 tons of trash at a cost of \$3,000.32 in disposal fees.

Total cost associated with providing the services to these events in 2024 were \$8,975.48.

PROPOSED SERVICE – ANTICIPATED COST

Understanding this would be an expansion of the current service provided, determining the disposal costs is an unknown. After several years of the program being in place, reductions in overall quantities would eventually be anticipated.

2025 Labor Cost - \$5,037.90 Estimated

As proposed, the Department of Public Works would need to staff these six (6) events with three (3) employees per event (one supervisor and two sanitation workers).

2025 Dumpster Cost - \$6,300.00

At a rate of \$175.00 per dumpster rental and an estimated need for 6 – 30-yard dumpsters for six (6) events would be required.

2025 Disposal Cost - \$4,392.00 Estimated

At a rate of \$61.00 per ton, it is estimated each 30 - yd dumpster can collect 2 tons of material. Six (6) events would be estimated at 72 tons of waste materials.

The total estimated cost for the proposed program is \$15,700.00
(Including labor, dumpsters, and disposal fees)

When reviewing the associated costs, keep in mind, providing multiple opportunities for disposal of previously not accepted materials to all City residents, a reduction in illegal dumping should be realized over time. The cost associated with current illegal dumping is unable to be quantified under current processes.

In either case, the Department of Public Works is currently absorbing this cost within its operating budget.

IF APPROVED, NEXT STEPS:

With approval of the proposed service change, the Department of Public Works would establish dates for the events and reach out to City residents through the various media platforms notifying them of these opportunities.