

Memorandum

TO: City Council Workshop
FROM: Krista Billerbeck , Natural resources manager
DATE: July 20, 2026
SUBJECT: Cleanup day event discussion
ITEM NUMBER: 1.c
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

INTRODUCTION

Staff will provide the council an update on this year's cleanup day event and seek input on future events.

DISCUSSION

The council discussed the cleanup day event at the November 2025 workshop. At the workshop, staff shared the history and structure of the cleanup event, changes over time, and evaluation of the event given current considerations such as the variety of disposal options available to residents and staff time required coordinate and staff the event.

Based on the discussion, staff held this year's cleanup day event at the Republic transfer station in Blaine on May 9 from 8 am - noon. Republic staff handled the traffic control and disposal stations and city staff checked vehicles and collected payment. Republic took in the majority of items brought such as bulky trash, scrap metal, and general recycling, and their vendor took in appliances and tires. The number of city staff needed to work the event was greatly reduced. There was also less coordination needed by staff since we did not schedule outside vendors to attend for specific materials.

Approximately 150 vehicles disposed of items at the event this year, compared with recent typical participation of about 400 vehicles. Vehicles were charged a fee based on the size of the vehicle/load, similar to past events. This year's event cost approximately \$8,000 with vehicle fees bringing in about \$6,200, or a little over 75%. The event in 2025 cost about \$27,000 with vehicle fees bringing in about \$16,000, or about 60% of the cost.

Based on the information from the change in format to this year's cleanup day event, staff are seeking feedback from the council for future planning. Staff suggest two options to consider:

Option 1 - Hold a cleanup day event in 2027 in the same format that was held this year at the Republic transfer station. This event format is less time intensive for city staff and vehicle fees covered a greater percentage of the cost. As part of funding received for recycling, the county encourages providing bulky waste item collection to residents. A cleanup day event is one way to offer collection for this type of item. Holding an event at the transfer station in 2027 would

provide more data to see if participation increases or stays at the lower number.

Option 2 - Cancel the event for 2027. The number of vehicles participating in the event decreased significantly with the change in location. If the council is interested in canceling the event, staff ask that the council discuss whether other options for bulky item collection should be explored.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the city council discuss this information and provide direction to city staff.

ATTACHMENTS