

Memorandum

TO: City Council Workshop
FROM: Krista Billerbeck , Natural resources manager
DATE: November 17, 2025
SUBJECT: Cleanup Day Event Evaluation
ITEM NUMBER: 1.c
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

INTRODUCTION

Staff are looking to have a discussion with the council on the cleanup day event and consider the future of the event.

DISCUSSION

The cleanup day event is currently offered annually on a Saturday in May at McCullough Park to provide a convenient way for residents to properly dispose of unwanted items that aren't typically accepted in curbside recycling and trash pickup. Items accepted are appliances, electronics, tires, mattresses, bikes, scrap metal, construction debris, cardboard, and bulky trash. The curbside recycling hauler, currently Republic Services, collects scrap metal, construction debris, cardboard, and bulky trash. Staff contract with other vendors, such as Repowered, JR's Advanced Disposal and Second Chance Recycling, to collect appliances, tires, mattresses and bikes. Each vendor brings trucks and staff to collect and haul the material. On the day of the event, city staff manage traffic control, staff the payment station, and assist with unloading. Vehicles are charged a fee based on the size of the vehicle (sedan \$20, standard \$40, trailer \$60, and oversize \$120). The flat fee by size of vehicle is used to keep vehicles moving through the event and not slow the process down by itemizing loads and charging per item.

Prior to 2011, cleanup events were conducted by Waste Management. Spring and fall cleanup events were entirely run by the hauler from 2001-2010 in combination with Arden Hills. The hauler handled all fees collected and sent the city a bill for the materials collected and labor after the event minus the money that was collected.

Beginning in 2011, the city took on more coordination, staffed the event, and collected vehicle fees. From 2011-2019, a spring and fall event continued to be held each year at the Ramsey County Public Works site for Shoreview and Arden Hills residents. Spring events tended to have higher attendance than fall events, typically ranging between 300-500 Shoreview vehicles. There were no events in 2020 or spring of 2021. Events resumed in fall of 2021 at the new location of McCullough Park for Shoreview residents only. The fall event was dropped due to low attendance with a spring event only being held since 2023. Since 2023, attendance has held at around 400 vehicles coming to the spring event each year.

The cost of the cleanup event has ranged over the years depending on the amount of material brought in, vehicles coming through, and costs of disposal and labor. For the most current example, this year's event cost about \$30,000 and vehicle fees brought in about \$15,000. This does not include staff time to plan and coordinate the event. Staff involved in event coordination are natural resources, public works and parks maintenance, and finance.

Ramsey County recently opened its new Environmental Center in Roseville earlier this year. It is now a central location that collects electronics, scrap metal, cardboard, general recycling, household hazardous waste, food scraps, and plastic bags at no charge to Ramsey County residents. It has regular hours Tuesdays through Saturdays. With this new center, the collection of electronics, scrap metal, and cardboard at the cleanup event becomes a redundant service.

In partnership with Ramsey County, the city offered a fall curbside mattress collection through Second Chance Recycling in 2024 and 2025 and will seek to continue this offering. This program makes collecting mattresses at the cleanup event unnecessary.

There are many other convenient options to dispose of other types of materials accepted at the cleanup event such as bulky trash, appliances, and tires. Three drop off sites are located in Blaine, not far from McCullough Park - Walters Recycling & Refuse, Dem Con, and SKB Environmental - which charge by type of item. Example prices are \$30-60 for various types of furniture and \$100-150 per ton of construction debris. Appliances are accepted for public drop off at other facilities, in addition to the locations listed above, such as Cloud Recycling, JR's Advanced Disposal, Recycle Technologies, The Retrofit Companies, and others, with prices typically ranging between \$10-30 per appliance. Junk removal companies and dumpsters are also available with a variety of size and price options.

The recent opening of the Ramsey County Environmental Center offering free collection of items typically accepted at the clean-up event for a fee, the wide variety of disposal options available, and staff time required to plan, coordinate and staff the event raise the question of continuing the event in its current form. Staff are seeking to partner with an existing drop-off disposal site in an effort to reduce the redundancy with other services, lower the city's cost, and continue providing a disposal service to residents. The Walter's Public Drop-off Facility in Blaine accepts the same items as the city's event and is just over six miles from McCullough Park. Initial discussions with Walter's show that this may be a feasible option to host an event for city residents. Staff recommend continuing to explore this option for future cleanup day events.

Based upon the information provided in this report, staff is looking for the reaction of the City Council in regards to the following:

1. Since there are a number of opportunities for free or affordable disposal of unwanted items, is it important for the city to continue coordinating this program on our own for Shoreview residents?
2. Is it acceptable for staff to continue to explore a new option with a disposal provider to hold an event rather than the City of Shoreview staff?
3. Should the City of Shoreview continue to subsidize the disposal of unwanted items? If so, what types of items for disposal should be subsidized?

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the city council discuss the cleanup day event and provide direction.

ATTACHMENTS