

Memorandum

TO: City Council
FROM: Tom Wesolowski , Public Works Director
DATE: December 15, 2025
SUBJECT: Future operation of the Cleanup Day event
ITEM NUMBER: 10.b
SECTION: GENERAL BUSINESS

REQUESTED MOTION

Motion option #1 - Partner with Walters Recycling & Refuse to hold and operate the 2026 Cleanup Day event at their Blaine, MN location.

or

Motion option #2 - Eliminate the Cleanup Day event in its entirety.

or

Motion option #3 - Continue to host an annual Cleanup Day event operated by city staff, the city's recycling contractor, and other vendors.

INTRODUCTION

Based on discussions from the November 17, 2025 city council workshop, staff has prepared three motions for the council to consider concerning the future operation of the Cleanup Day event starting in 2026.

DISCUSSION

The City of Shoreview has held annual clean-up day events since the early 2000's. The main reason the event was created was to provide residents an opportunity to dispose of items that typically had been difficult to dispose of properly. Some of these items included household hazardous waste, electronics, mattresses, bulky items such as furniture, tires, appliances and outdoor power equipment. Over the years the items accepted at the event changed as other disposal options became available. Items accepted at the most recent event included appliances, electronics, tires, mattresses, bikes, scrap metal, construction debris, cardboard and bulky trash. The other major change over time is the number of events. Prior to 2020, a spring and fall event were held each year with attendance ranging between 300-500 vehicles with the spring event tending to have higher attendance than the fall event. No events were held in 2020 or the spring of 2021. A fall event was held in 2021 with the expectation there could be higher attendance due to the lack of events the previous year, but that was not the case. Due to the lower attendance rates, the fall event was dropped and only a spring event has been held since 2023 with an average attendance of around 400 vehicles.

The cost of the cleanup event has ranged over the years depending on the amount of material brought in, vehicles coming through and the costs of disposal and labor. This year's event cost about \$30,000 for labor and disposal and vehicle fees brought in about \$15,000. This does not include staff time to plan and coordinate the event. Departments with staff involved in event

coordination include natural resources, public works and parks maintenance and finance.

Ramsey County opened its new Environmental Center in Roseville earlier this year. It is now a centralized 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. In partnership with Ramsey County, the city offered a fall curb side mattress collection through Second Chance Recycling in 2024 & 2025 and will seek to continue this offering. With this new center and the curb side mattress pick-up, the collection of these items at the cleanup day becomes a redundant service. Also, residents are charged for the disposal of these items at the city's cleanup day event .

In recent years, many other convenient disposal options have become available for many of the types of materials accepted at the cleanup day event such as bulky trash, construction debris, appliances and tires. Three drop off sites are located in Blaine and there are also public drop off sites for appliances in Roseville and Saint Paul which charge by the item. Junk removal companies and dumpsters are also available with a variety of size and price options.

The new Ramsey County Environmental Center offering free collection of items typically accepted at the cleanup day event for a fee, the wide variety of other disposal options available, the staff time required to plan, coordinate and staff the event, the cost associated with the event given the number of vehicles and the reduced attendance over time raise the question of continuing the event in its current form.

Based on the discussion at the November 17 council workshop, staff has evaluated three options for city council consideration for the future of the cleanup day event.

Option 1 - Continue the event in the spring of 2026 and partner with Walters Recycling & Refuse to hold and operate a cleanup day event at their location in Blaine, MN. Walters would open their facility for four hours on a Saturday in early May to allow Shoreview residents to drop off items and would be charged per item.

Staff is recommending this option as it would provide residents with many of the benefits such as disposal of all the items in one location during a weekend, which may be a more convenient time for some. It also significantly reduces the amount of staff and time involved in coordinating and planning the event and the overall cost to the city.

The city cost for the event would be \$4,500 for Walters to open and staff their facility for approximately 400-vehicles. Walters would have staff available to help residents unload larger items. A portion of the city's annual SCORE grant from Ramsey County would be used to fund the event. The city could also consider providing residents with the ability to download a \$10 coupon off the cost of disposal from the city's website which would also be funded from the SCORE grant. Staff would evaluate the event afterwards to see if there is the demand to continue it in the future.

Option 2 - Eliminate the cleanup day event and provide information on other existing disposal options in the Shoreviews and on the city's website.

Option 3 - Continue to host an annual Cleanup Day event operated by city staff, the city's recycling contractor, and other vendors. Staff would continue to evaluate the cost to operate the event and adjust fees as required to keep the city's subsidy to approximately 50% of the

labor and disposal cost. Item such as electronics, scrap metal, card board and mattresses that are accepted at the Ramsey County Environmental Center for free or picked up curb side for a reduced fee may be removed from items collected at the event. Based on future cost and participation levels of the event, staff may approach the city council at a later date with other recommendations concerning the event.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the adoption of Motion option #1, partnering with Walters Recycling & Refuse to hold and operate the 2026 Cleanup Day event.

ATTACHMENTS