

# Yard Waste Collection

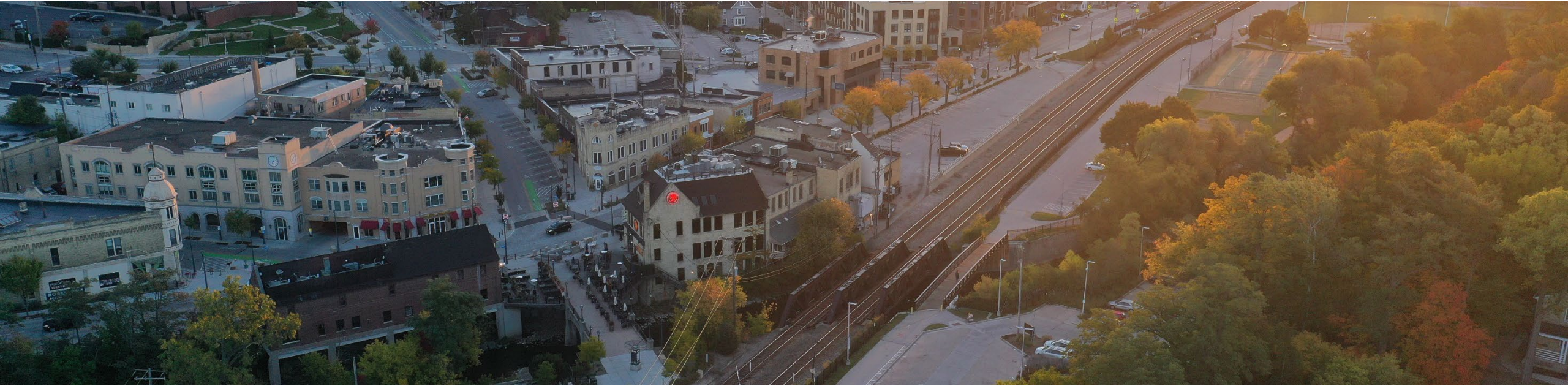
## Alternative Delivery Options

Community Affairs Committee  
May 13, 2025





# Current Yard Waste Collection Program | SCHEDULE



- Yard waste is collected on the week opposite of recycling collection.
- Curbside yard waste collection runs for 26 weeks, generally beginning mid-April through mid-October resulting in an average of 13 collections per residence.



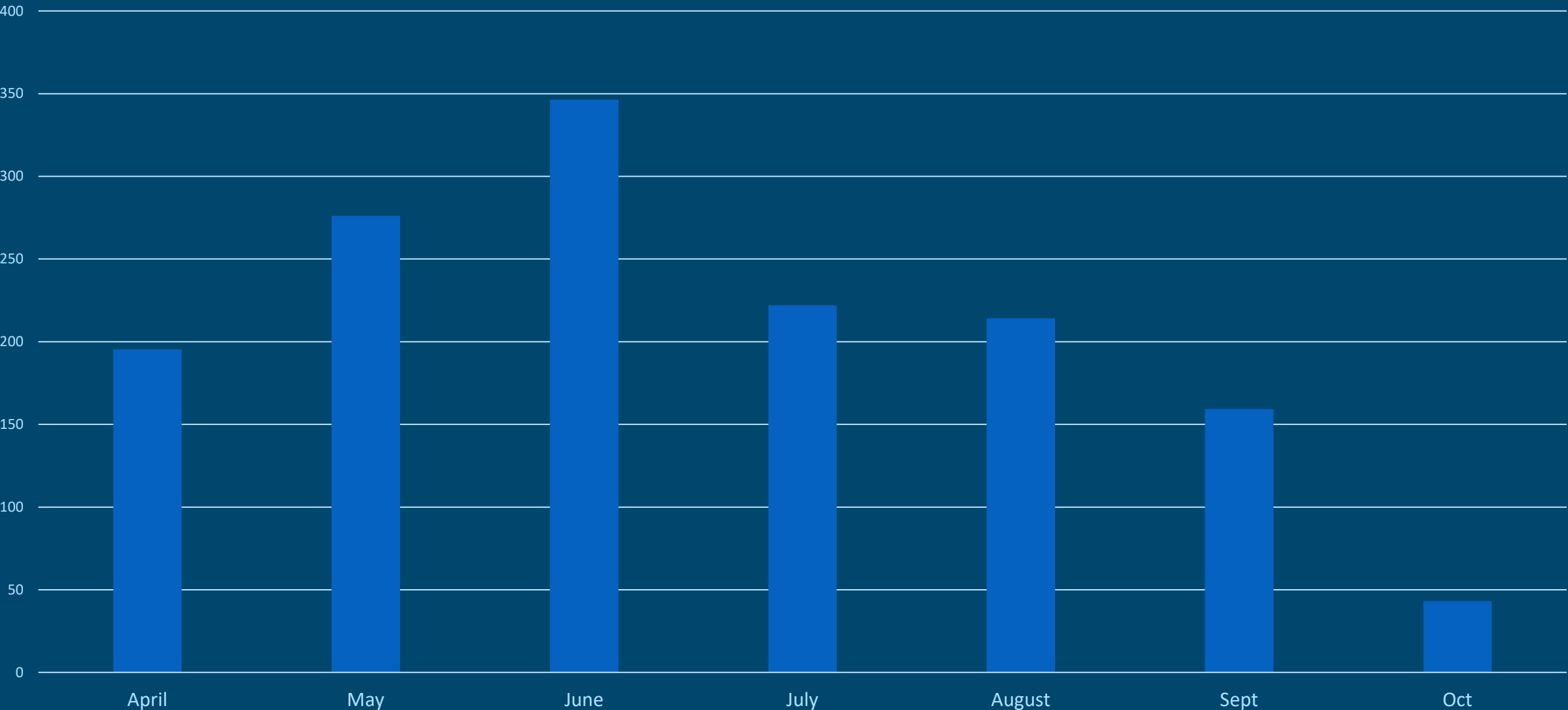
# Current Yard Waste Collection Program | PROCESS & UTILIZATION



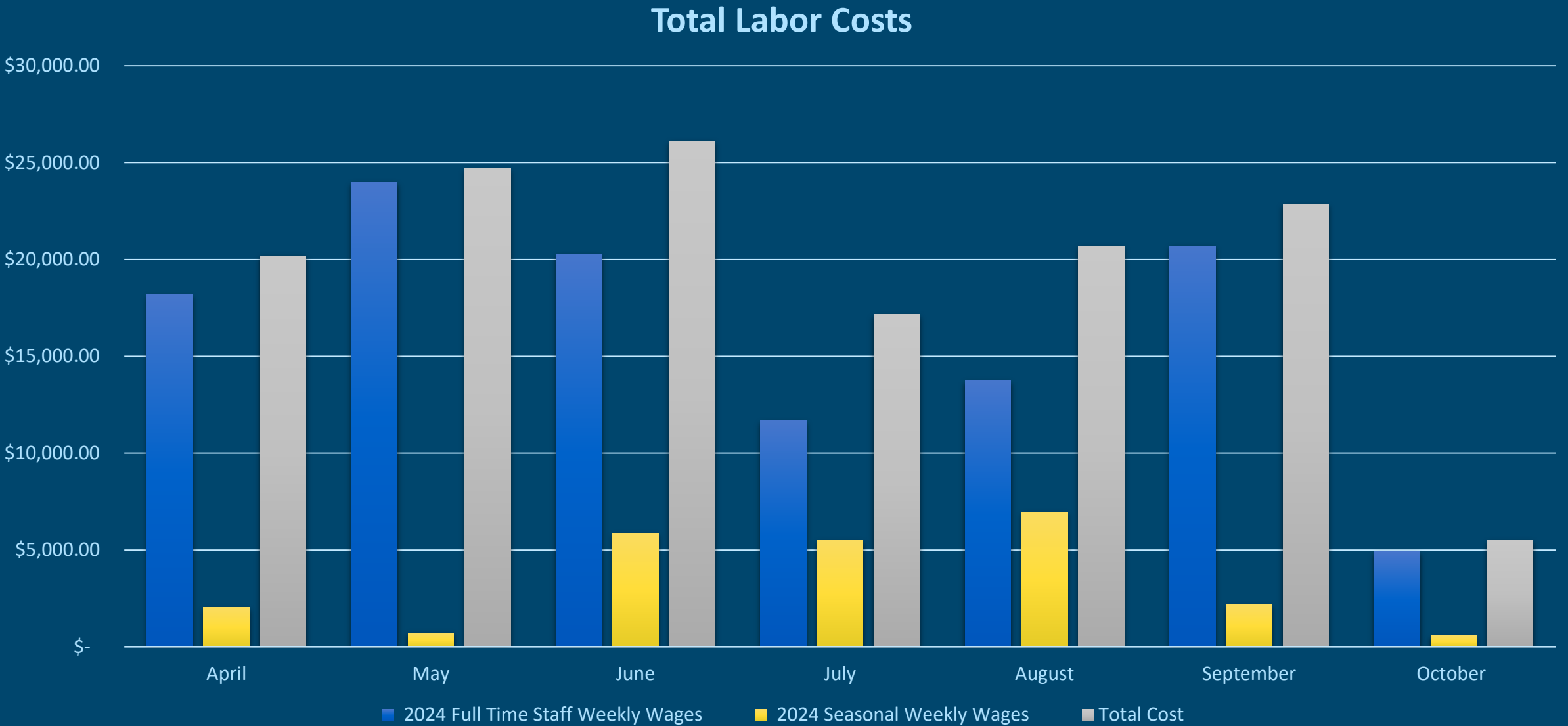
- Collection Services
  - There is a 50-pound weight limit for each container of material and/or bundle of brush set out at the curb, and there is a limit of 10 bags or bundles each collection day.
  - 1,491 tons of yard waste was collected at the curb in 2024.
- Drop-off Center
  - Users pay an annual or single use fee.
  - 1,714 tons of yard waste was brought to the drop-off center in 2024.

# Current Yard Waste Collection Program| COLLECTION VOLUME

2024 Monthly Tons Collected



# Current Yard Waste Collection Program| LABOR COSTS



# Current Yard Waste Collection Program| EQUIPMENT COSTS

	Total Repair Costs	Fuel Quantity (gallons)	Fuel Cost	Miles
2006 Heil Rear End Packer	\$12,096	1,179	\$3,744	3,221
2006 Heil Rear End Packer	\$1,207	486	\$1,566	1,346
2007 Loadmaster Rear End Packer	\$1,569	31	\$107	113
2007 Loadmaster Rear End Packer	\$5,435	93	\$279	229
2005 Leach Rear End Packer	\$378	228	\$705	645
Totals	\$20,685	2,018	\$6,402	5,554

The total fleet equipment expense for the 2024 curbside yard waste collection season was \$27,087, which includes all equipment repair needs and fuel usage. The yard waste trucks travel 213.62 miles weekly for curbside yard waste collection. This averaged a cost per mile driven of \$4.87.

# Current Yard Waste Collection Program| TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS- 2024

Month	Current Yard Waste Collection Program				TOTAL PROGRAM COSTS- 2024					
	Tons	Miles	Weeks	Equipment Costs	Labor Cost	Total Cost	Cost Per Ton	Tons Per Mile	Gallons of Diesel	Pounds of CO2
April	195.46	640.86	3	\$3,125.40	\$20,194.57	\$23,319.97	\$119.31	0.30	232.80	5,226.36
May	276.07	854.48	4	\$4,167.30	\$24,700.51	\$28,867.81	\$104.57	0.32	310.40	6,968.48
June	346.4	1068.1	5	\$5,209.12	\$26,113.40	\$31,322.52	\$90.42	0.32	388.00	8,710.60
July	222.01	854.48	4	\$4,167.30	\$17,155.63	\$21,322.93	\$96.04	0.26	310.40	6,968.48
August	214.16	1068.1	5	\$5,209.12	\$20,679.05	\$25,888.17	\$120.88	0.20	388.00	8,710.60
Sept	159.26	854.48	4	\$4,167.30	\$22,846.54	\$27,013.84	\$169.62	0.19	310.40	6,968.48
Oct	43.42	213.62	1	\$1,041.82	\$5,492.17	\$6,533.99	\$150.48	0.20	77.60	1,742.12
Totals	1456	5554	26	\$27,087.36	\$137,181.86	\$164,269.22			2,017.60	45,295.12

# Current Yard Waste Collection Program| CHALLENGES



## Funding

Budget challenges continue to push our team to look for opportunities to reduce expenditures. Changes to yard waste collection has been discussed for many years as a potential levy reduction opportunity.



## Productivity

Current collection program utilizes multiple full time public works employees that could be reassigned to more critical work.



## Safety

The yard waste collection program exposes employees to activities that have a greater risk of injury vs. many other public works functions.



## Equipment

Current refuse trucks used for this operation are past the end of their useful life and equipment reserve funds are not available for replacement.



## Yard Waste Collection Program| COMPARABLE PROGRAMS

A survey was completed of the following 23 communities, which have similar populations and/or are located in the metro area:

Appleton

Beloit

Brookfield

Butler

Eu Claire

Elm Grove

Fond Du Lac

Green Bay

Greenfield

Janesville

Kenosha

Madison

Manitowoc

Menomonee Falls

Milwaukee

New Berlin

Oshkosh

Racine

Shorewood

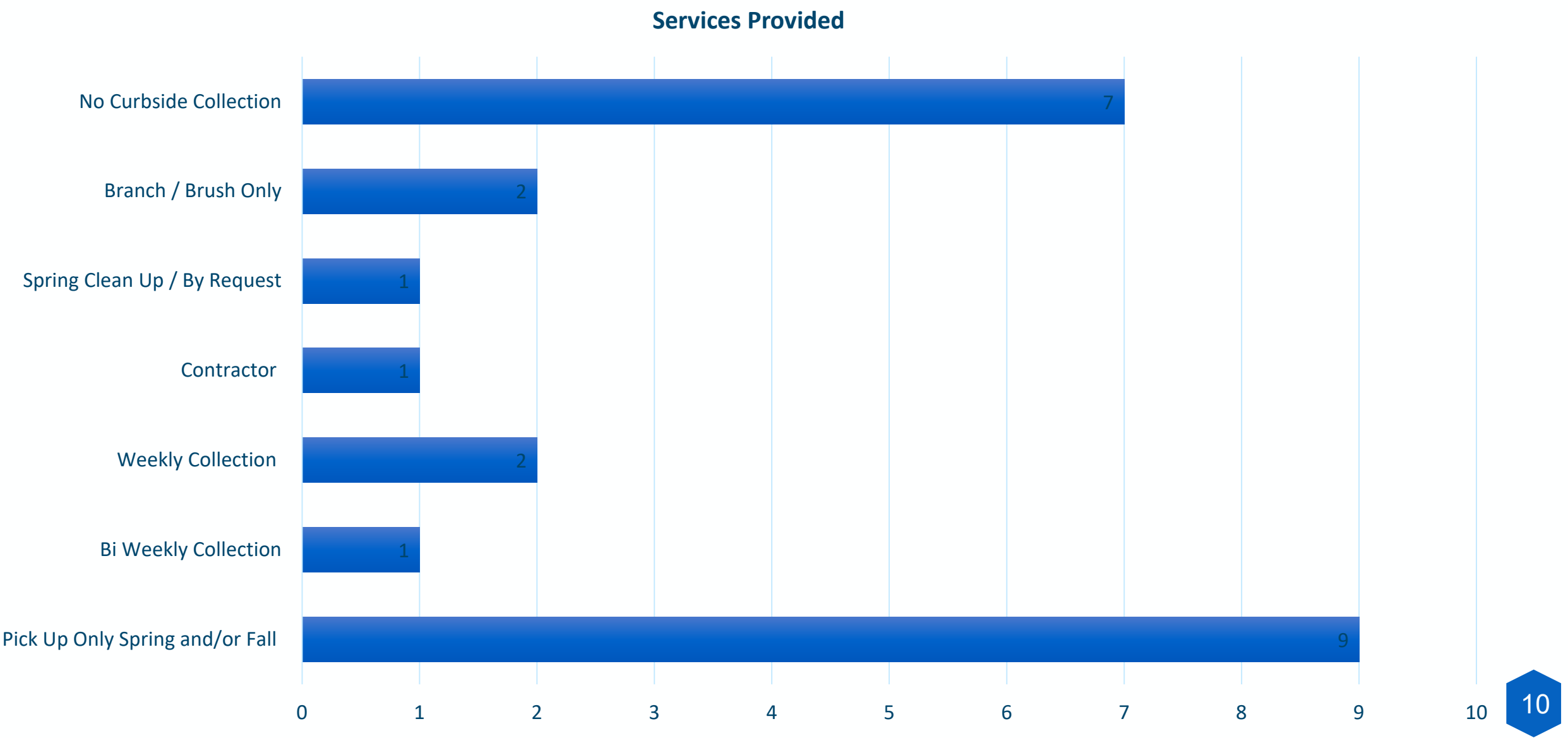
Waukesha

Wausau

West Allis

Whitefish Bay

# Yard Waste Collection Program| COMPARABLE PROGRAMS



# Yard Waste Collection Program| ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

## No Changes

Bi-weekly collection, the opposite week of recycling for 26 weeks, starts in April and ends in October. Carts, lawn bags, and bundles of brush and branches are accepted at the curb.



## Reduced Yard Waste Schedule

Explore reducing bi-weekly collection or move to seasonal pickup. Carts, lawn bags, and bundles of brush and branches are accepted at the curb.

## Spring Pick-up & Subscription Yard Waste Collection

The city provides a yard waste cart for an annual fee, with free spring pick-up city-wide and free yard waste drop-off year-round.



## No Curbside Yard Waste Collection

Elimination of curbside yard waste collection. Free yard waste drop-off year round.



# Yard Waste Collection Program| NO CHANGES

## Pros:

- Most convenient for residents
- DPW – Leading service among peer communities. Only three of the surveyed communities have weekly or bi-weekly collection
- Curbside collection has less contamination than yard waste brought to the drop-off center

## Cons:

- Inconsistent utilization by residents requires the yard waste crew to check every street. This results in the trucks driving down roads that do not have any yard waste out for collection which is wasteful monetarily, inefficient, and increases our carbon footprint.
- A full-time DPW employee is required to drive the truck. Seasonal help, mostly college students, are unavailable until May and leaves in August. This requires three full-time DPW employees to collect yard waste in April, September, and October.
- Rear-end loaders need to be replaced which are currently not budgeted.
- No budgetary savings available for levy reductions.

# Yard Waste Collection Program| REDUCED CURBSIDE COLLECTION

## Pros:

- Still better or similar service level that other municipalities provide for their residents
- Cost savings can be utilized for levy reduction
- Curbside collection has less contamination than yard waste brought to the drop-off center
- Limiting the collection times encourages residents to use the service during that period
- DPW will be able to reduce staff utilization, which will allow reassignment
- Reduction in carbon footprint

## Cons:

- Limits the time residents can put yard waste
- Less convenient than the current yard waste collection program
- Inconsistent utilization by residents will still require trucks to drive every route.
- Rear-end loaders need to be replaced, which are currently not budgeted.

# Yard Waste Collection Program| REDUCED CURBSIDE COLLECTION

## Option #1- Shortened Collection Cycle- May through August

- Curbside Yard Waste Collection would start the first week of May and end the last week of August, reducing the current 26-week period to 18 weeks. Residents will have nine opportunities for curbside yard waste collection instead of thirteen.
- April, September, and October are the lowest-utilized months, and as a result, the distance driven per ton collected is the most inefficient and the cost collected per ton are the most expensive.
- DPW will be able to utilize seasonal employees, limiting having more than one full-time employee on the yard waste crew.
- Offer free yard waste drop-off year-round.
- Summary of Changes:
  - Reduce annual distance driven by 1,700 miles
  - Reduce annual fuel use by 600 gallons
  - Reduction of 13,936 pounds of annual CO2 emitted
  - Reduction of \$56,867 in total annual program costs
  - Would still need to fund the purchase of new trucks.



# Yard Waste Collection Program| REDUCED CURBSIDE COLLECTION

## Option #2- Spring and Fall Collections

- The DPW would pick up yard waste once in the spring and fall.
- All residents will put their yard waste out in the second week of May and September.
- DPW would communicate the collection process using a map similar to the leaf map. Depending on the amount of waste the residents set out, we estimate that collecting the entire city would take five to ten business days. The goal would be to keep routes and an assigned pickup day, however, this may be difficult to accomplish depending upon volume.
- Offer free yard waste drop-off year-round.
- Summary of Changes:
  - Reduce annual distance driven by 4,700 miles
  - Reduce annual fuel use by 1,707 gallons
  - Reduction of 38,326 pounds of CO2 emitted annually
  - Reduction of \$115,401 in total annual program costs
  - Would still need to fund the purchase of new trucks

# Yard Waste Collection Program| SPRING PICKUP & SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

## Pros:

- Still better or similar service level to that of other municipalities for their residents
- Cost savings can be utilized for levy reduction
- Curbside collection has less contamination than yard waste brought to the drop-off center
- Limiting the collection times encourages residents to use the service during that period
- DPW will be able to reduce staff utilization, which will allow reassignment
- Reduction in carbon footprint
- Funding source for the purchase of new trucks by having the fee
- Yard waste drop-off would be free for residents
- Encourages on-site composting

## Cons:

- Limits the time residents can put yard waste out for free collection
- Less convenient than the current yard waste collection program
- Residents who want extended service would have to pay a fee

# Yard Waste Collection Program| SPRING PICKUP & SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

The DPW would offer a hybrid service that offers a spring curbside yard waste service for all city residents at no cost and a subscription service for residents who still want year-round curbside collection. In addition, all yard waste can be brought to the drop-off center for free.

## Potential Program Details

- All city residents could place yard waste at the curb in the spring for two collection cycles.
- Residents who want extended curbside collection must rent a cart from DPW for an annual fee.
- Estimate that 1/3 of residents would opt for a subscription curbside pickup; however, this is very difficult to estimate.
- Cost per year would likely range between \$50 and \$100, depending on participation.
- The program could pay to replace collection trucks used for yard waste collection with limited general levy support. This could save the general levy as much as \$1,000,000 for the initial purchase.
- Subscription service would allow DPW to route all households, reducing the time and miles driven for curbside collection, which would reduce fuel use, time, and carbon emissions.
- Direct savings of reducing the seasonal labor budget.
- Indirect saving would allow for more street sweeping, sanitary sewer cleaning and televising, and levy reduction work.



# Yard Waste Collection Program| REDUCED CURBSIDE COLLECTION & SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

Spring Collection and Subscription based on assuming 5,000 participants

## Summary of Changes:

- Spring collection for two cycles
  - 854 miles and 310 gallons of diesel
- Subscription pick-up would cover the entire city in one week
  - Estimated 1,300 miles to service subscription cart in June, July, August, and September
- Reduce annual distance driven by 3,400 miles
- Reduce annual fuel use by 1,234 gallons
- Reduction of 27,716 pounds of CO2 emitted annually
- General fund savings would be as much as \$145,000 plus additional savings for overhead cost allocations and purchase of trucks being funded by the program subscription fees. It is estimated that this approach could reduce the City's current and future general fund costs by more than \$250,000 annually.

# Yard Waste Collection Program| NO CURBSIDE YARD WASTE COLLECTION

## Option # 4: Elimination of Yard Waste Collection & Free Yard Waste Drop-Off

### Summary of Changes:

- Free Yard Waste Disposal at Drop-off Center
- Total Program Savings of \$145,000
- Residents still would have the option to contract out for yard waste collection, similar to Compost Crusaders
- Would still need to replace the refuse trucks for the leaf collection program



# Questions & Discussion