



Solid Waste
Services
5900 Commerce Road
P.O. Box 1908
Fort Smith, AR 72916

MEMORANDUM

To: John Cooley, Future Fort Smith Committee Chairman

From: Nicole Riley, Director Solid Waste Services

Date: September 20, 2022

Re: Future Fort Smith Comprehensive Plan Update – Solid Waste Services Department

This memorandum is provided to give an update on the Solid Waste Services Department's (SWSD) goals and objectives as set forth in the Implementation Matrix of the Future Fort Smith Comprehensive Plan (FFSCP). The SWSD is committed to providing the most economic, efficient, safe, sustainable, and environmentally responsible waste management system for the city's residents and businesses. The following are responses to the goals identified in the Matrix.

Economic Development, ED – 6.1.1 Invest in beautification of major transportation corridors; the provision of trails, open lands, and public gathering spaces; innovative architectural and site design; and alternative transportation choices to all business areas. *Metric: Percent increase in funding for beautification in the targeted growth areas.*

The SWSD continues to purchase and maintain trash cages on Garrison Avenue, and works with 64.6 Downtown to assist in the downtown beautification process.

Community Character & Design, CCD – 1.1.1 Ensure "Keep Fort Smith Beautiful" is moving forward and gaining momentum. *Metric: Number of landscaping projects and percent increase in tree canopy.*

Keep Fort Smith Beautiful is funded in out of the Streets Department, however, the SWSD continues to support the program by providing free dumpsters and tipping fee waivers.

Public Facilities & Services, PFS – 2.1 Ensure that the City's planning and implementation process is transparent. *Metric: Transparency maintained.*

The SWSD has worked to improve communication by social media posts and providing outreach through GovDelivery, as well as providing study sessions as needed. It is the goal of the department to ensure residents are informed in a timely manner of any changes affecting their waste and recycling services and future plans of the Department. The SWSD is also working on reinstating waste education programs at public events.

Public Facilities & Services, PFS – 4.1 Seek opportunities to co-locate future community facilities to maximize efficiencies in service provision and reduce capital and operating costs. *Metric: Number of future facilities co-located*

The entire SWSD is located on the same property at the Fort Smith Sanitary Landfill with one recycling activities located at an outside entity. The Department would like to pursue a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) Feasibility Study to determine whether or not operations can sustain a MRF and house that facility on site. Currently, the Fort Smith Police and Fire Department's utilize the site for training purposes.

Natural & Cultural Resources, NCR– 2.3.1 Encourage responsible industry practices and reduce other mobile sources of air pollution. *Metric: Reduction in air pollution*

The SWSD has installed a compressed natural gas (CNG) fueling station and has committed to converting the collection vehicles to CNG, with the first six trucks arriving in early 2023.

The SWSD is also in excellent standing with regulatory agencies ensuring that air quality standards are met; methane is captured and converted to pipeline gas by a third party, dust control measures are in place, and heavy equipment is equipped with Tier 4 emission standards controls.

Natural & Cultural Resources, NCR– 2.3.2 Improve miles per gallon (MPG) for all vehicle miles traveled (VMT). Reduce any unnecessary mileage and increase usage of CNG where deemed appropriate. *Metric: Identify a baseline for the City's existing VMT and establish a goal consistent with projected growth that results in a reduction of per capita VMT*

As the City continues to grow, the collection routes are being revised to ensure that routing is done as effectively and efficiently as possible. The SWSD is continuing to evaluate the current routing software and looking to continue optimization of routing moving forward.

Conversion to the CNG system will allow for the increased overall usage of CNG and reduction of diesel fuel in the Department.

Natural & Cultural Resources, NCR– 2.4.1 Enhance and promote Fort Smith's recycling and reuse programs. *Metric: Recycling goals established and met by residents*

SWSD will continue to partner with Sebastian County Solid Waste Management District and Keep Fort Smith Beautiful for litter and recycling education and outreach in schools. This activity has been postponed due to Covid-19, but will be reinstated. The Department has also been approved to hire an Education Coordinator to further those efforts; this position will attend community events and spread the word on recycling in the City.

The Department has worked on digital education and outreach campaigns regarding materials that belong in the recycling cart, and what to throw in the refuse carts.

It is the goal of the Department to expand the recycling program and during the upcoming budget cycle, it has been requested to finalize a MRF feasibility study with future facility planning.