

City of Scottsbluff, Nebraska

Monday, April 21, 2014

Regular Meeting

Item Reports6

Council discussion and instructions to staff regarding yard waste options – no Council action will be taken.

Staff Contact: Nathan Johnson, Assistant City Manager

Overview of Sanitation Services

Executive Summary

The executive summary addresses the current sanitation services offered within the City of Scottsbluff. In looking at future goals of offering all three (3) sanitation services (trash, yard waste & single stream recycling) to all accounts, evaluation of the current level of services provided is needed in order to expand those services in the most cost effective and efficient way possible.

As a local government, we are always looking at ways to be more efficient and to do more with less. If the City's sanitation services were contracted out to a private organization, residents would have little if any input on where or how those services would be provided or containers collected.

It is our goal, as a City, to provide a wide array of services in a sustainable manner that minimizes rate increases and decreases government spending.

- Many accounts have rollouts for each sanitation service (trash, yard waste & single-stream recycling).
 - Many have multiple rollouts for each sanitation service
- Over the years, rollouts have been switched to more square shaped containers from round containers to reduce wind related overturns
- 1,756 accounts (35% of residential accounts) have tan metal trash dumpsters with alley pick-up
 - Approximately 1,200 participate in yard waste recycling (32% of 2013 yard waste participants)
- On average, 809 black trash rollouts get picked up per day curbside (Residential only)
- On average, 975 yard waste rollouts get picked up per day (Residential only)
 - One truck route, when other sanitation routes are completed extra truck(s) help pick up the remainder of the route, if needed.
 - 34 green yard waste dumpsters
- Trends have suggested that people are willing to move the collection of sanitation services curbside
 - 232 of the 445 accounts (52%) participating in single stream recycling have tan metal trash dumpsters with alley pick-up
 - These accounts voluntarily take single stream recycling rollouts curbside
 - Over the past three (3) years, ten (10) blocks have voluntarily converted from tan metal dumpsters to black trash rollouts
 - As of 04/17/2014, five (5) blocks are voluntarily on the waiting list to switch from dumpsters to curbside rollouts
- Operating trucks two (2) less hours reduces carbon footprint and alley dust
- Bringing all yard waste containers to the curb will save money
 - **Based on saving two (2) hours per day for the yard waste route over a sixteen (16) week season**
 - **\$2,400 - \$3,200** in staff wages
 - \$8,104.43 in blading and re-graveling alleys / 2 (decreasing alley usage by one truck) = **\$4,052.22**
 - Truck maintenance per year = \$15,000 per truck/per year (based on 2 hour savings per route, per day, per 16 week season)

- \$78.10 per week X 16 week season = **\$1,249.60** per season maintenance savings (based on 2 hour savings per day per 16 week season)
- Diesel Fuel at \$4.00 per gallon averaging 10 gallons per day = \$40.00 per day/per truck (based on 2 hour savings per day per 16 week season)
 - \$50.00 per week X 16 week season = **\$800** per season fuel savings (based on 2 hour savings per day per 16 week season)
- \$225,000 approximate truck cost / 5 year average life cycle = \$45,000 per year (based on 2 hour savings per route per day per 16 week season)
 - \$234.30 per week X 16 week season = **\$3,748.80** per season (based on 2 hour savings per day per 16 week season)
- **Total amount saved per year by reducing a route by 2 hours per day per 16 week season = (\$2,400 + \$4,052.22 + \$1,249.60 + \$800 + \$3,748.80) = \$12,250.62 - \$13,050.62 per season**

Comments & Opinions of those Opposing this Change in Service

- Alleys were built for trash collection
- In-efficient process, trucks will now have to go down one side and up the other instead of one pass
- Rollout containers will blow around in the wind
- Rollout containers are not aesthetically pleasing
- How do you expect me to roll out the container at my age?
- Buy smaller trucks
- Don't raise taxes, but pick up my yard waste in the alley
- How do I squeeze the rollout between cars parked in front of my house?

Existing Service

5755 have Sanitation

5006 Residential

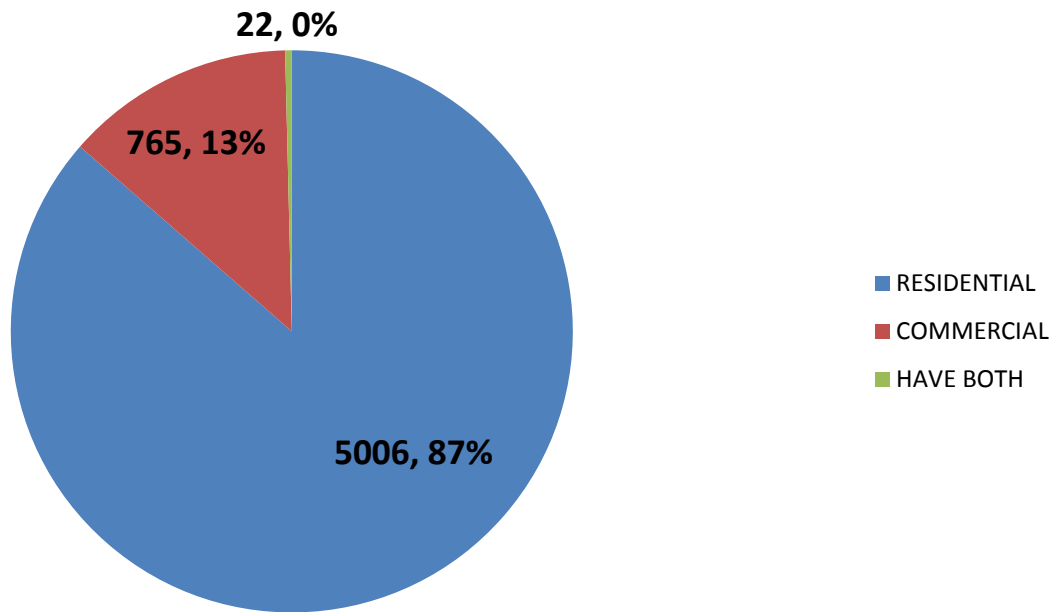
765 Commercial

22 have both Commercial & Residential

5749 Total Accounts

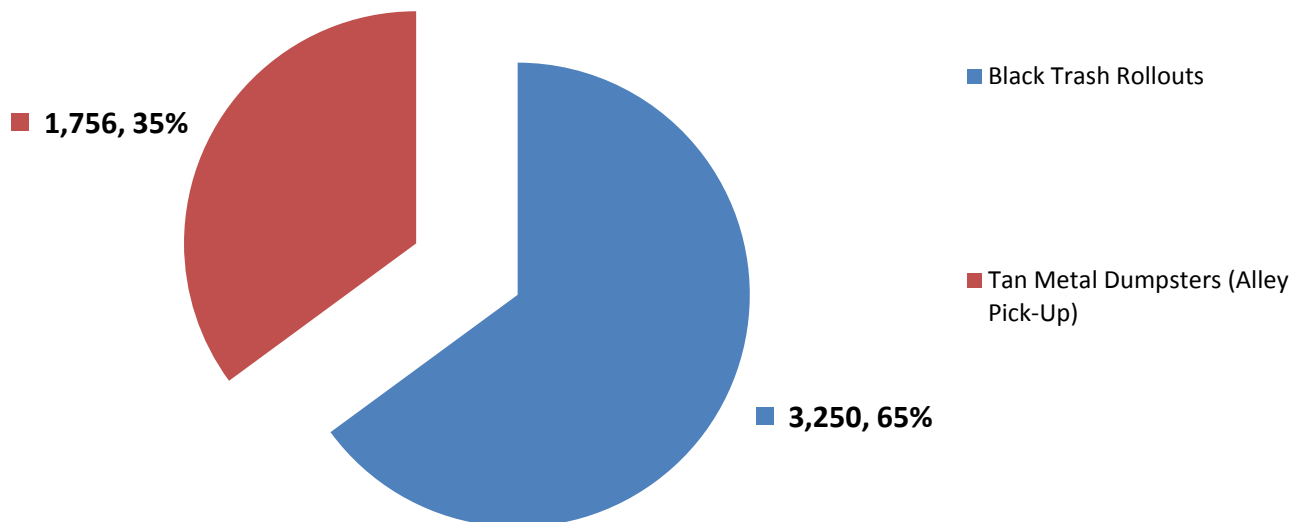
- Residential trash and yard waste routes are on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
- Commercial trash, commercial yard waste, all single stream recycling and special pick-ups (moving days, special pick-ups, etc.) are on Wednesday
- Staffing/Trucks
 - 3 rapid rail trucks (includes 1 back-up) – rollout containers
 - 4 emco trucks (includes 1 back-up) – dumpster containers
 - 2 rear loader trucks (includes 1 back-up)
 - On average, **5 total trucks are on routes daily**

Sanitation Services by Account



- 3,250 of 5,006 (residential sanitation accounts) are on black rollout trash collection (curbside pick-up) (65%)

Residential Trash Collection By Type

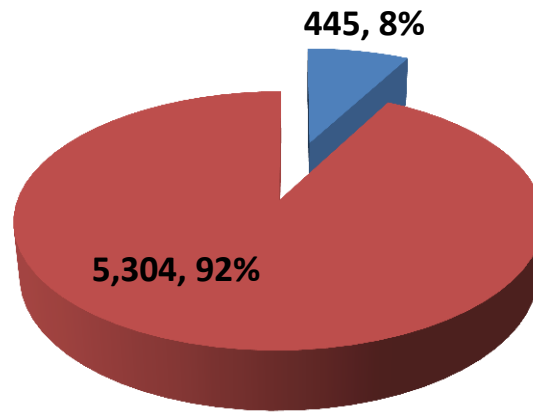


- On average, 809 black trash rollouts get picked up per day (Residential only); average 404.5 per truck per day
- On average, 213 tan metal dumpsters get picked up per day (Residential only); average 71 per truck per day

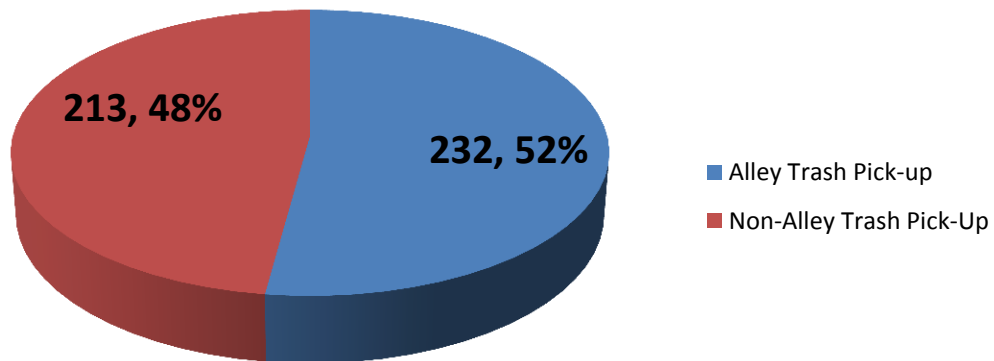
Single Stream Recycling

445 Blue Rollouts (single stream recycling)

Single Stream Recycling Users (First Year)



Percentage of Single Stream Recycling Accounts w/Alley Trash Dumpsters

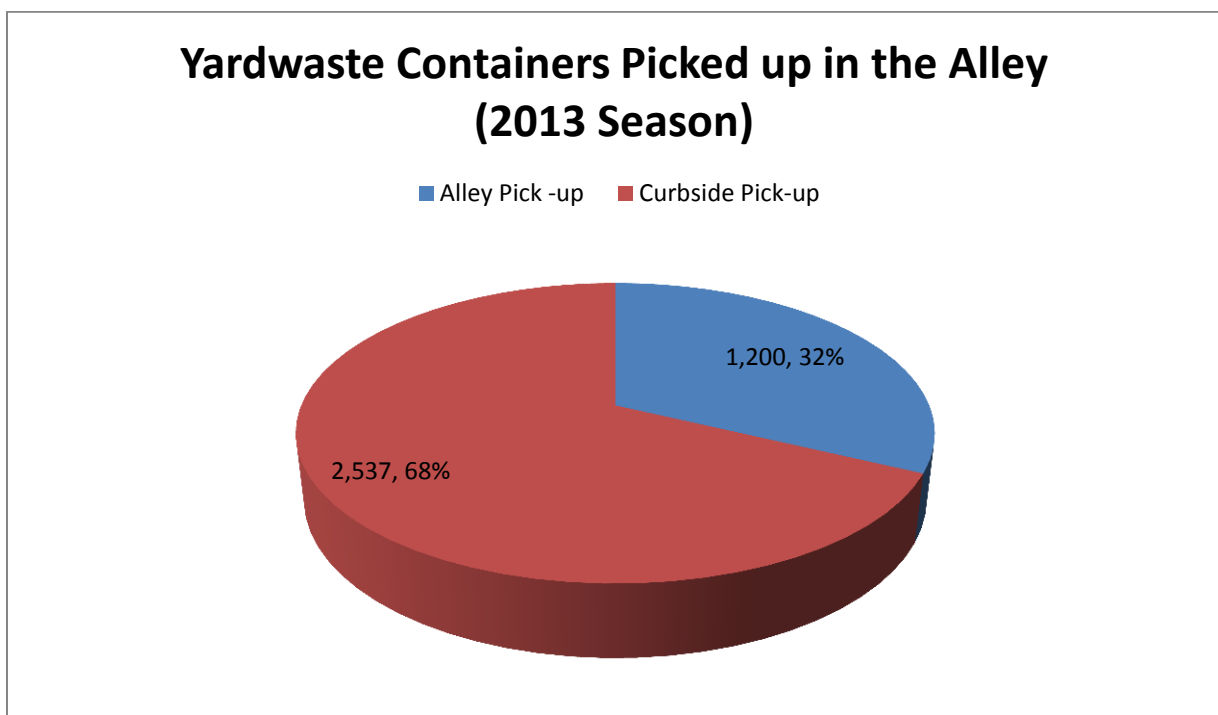


Yard Waste

**Approximately 65% participate in yard waste collection service*



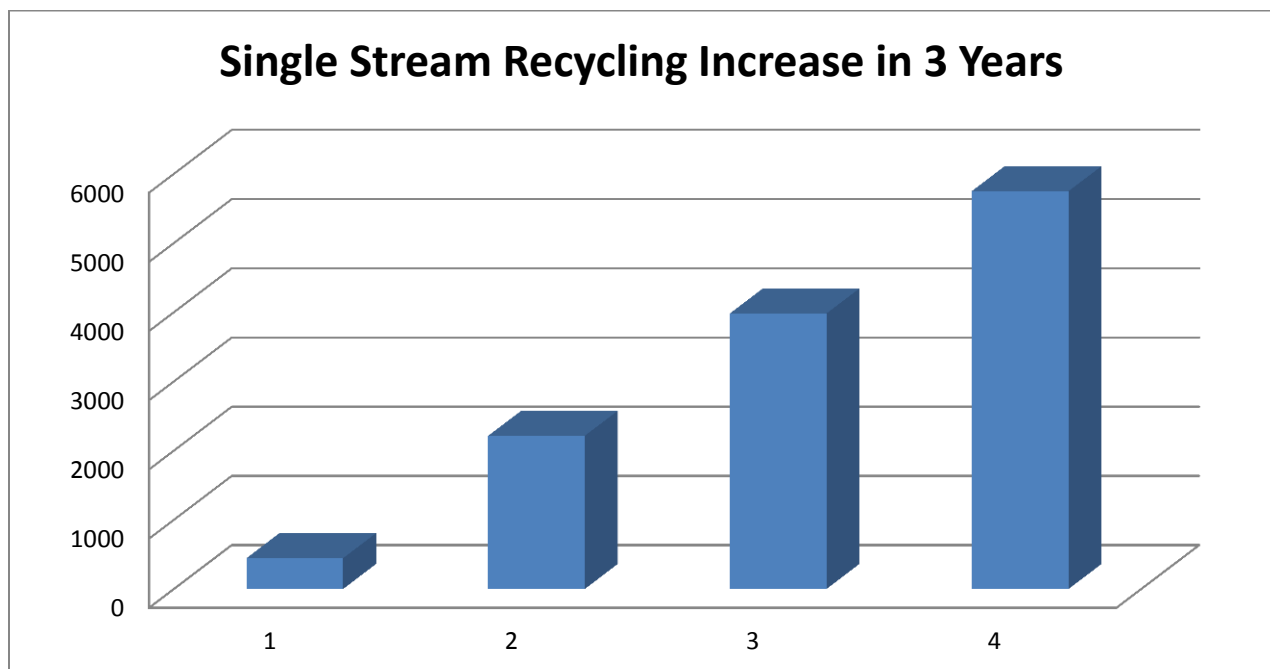
- On average, 975 yard waste rollouts get picked up per day (Residential Only)



Costs for Expanding Services

Total single-stream recycling and yard waste rollouts needed per year to expand to all sanitation accounts in three years is 2,439; **7,317 total** containers needed

- **2,439 containers must be purchased for the next three (3) years to meet anticipated demand**
- 427 rollouts per semi-load at \$69.00/per rollout = \$29,463 per semi
- 2,439 rollouts per year (100% offering at 3rd year) X \$69.00/per rollout = \$168,291 per year
- \$168,291 per year X Three (3) years to offer yard waste and single stream recycling containers to all sanitation accounts = \$504,873 Total
- Purchase one (1) rapid rail collection truck = \$225,000 (approximate)
 - Depending upon participation, purchase one (1) additional rapid rail collection truck = \$225,000 (approximate)
- Hire three (3) additional employees
 - \$15/hr; 40 hours/week = \$600; 52 weeks/year = \$31,200; \$31,200 X three (3) employees = \$93,600
 - One (1) employee for the tree dump to help with yard waste and compost operations.
 - One (1) employee to assume half of the yard waste route each day plus any additional workload.
 - One (1) employee to assume back-up duties for the single stream recycling, yard waste and black trash rollout routes.
 - 4 days of residential pick-up
 - Average 809 black rollouts per day
 - Average 975 yard waste rollouts per day
 - 1,784 black rollouts and yard waste containers get picked up per day; average 892 per truck
 - 1,784 per day X 4 day residential pick-up = 7,136 average rollouts per week; 3,568 per truck per week
 - 7,136 average rollouts per week + 7,317 estimated new rollouts = 14,453
- Total after three (3) years = \$504,873 + \$225,000 + (\$225,000 depending on participation) + \$93,600 = **\$823,473.00 - \$1,048,473.00**



****Need to increase by 1,768 per year to have service available to all sanitation accounts in three years***



****Need to increase by 671 per year to have service available to all sanitation accounts in three years***

In addition to the costs associated with expanding services above, staff is looking into the feasibility of all of the associated fees for refuse (trash, yard waste and recycling) and rolling those into a single rate. A more in-depth rate structure will be presented at budget workshop.

Reasons for curb-side yard waste rollouts:

- Efficiency- when going down the alley all rollouts will be dumped regardless of whether they are full or empty because no one pulls their rollouts in after pickup. This is extra wear and tear on the trucks.
 - Currently, we have one (1) dedicated driver for the yard waste routes, approximately six (6) hours per day. When needed another driver helps for two (2) hours per day or ten (10) hours per week.
 - 10 hours a week X \$15/hr = \$150/wk; \$600/month; **\$2,400/season**
 - 10 hours a week X \$20/hr = \$200/wk; \$800/month; **\$3,200/season**
- Alleys are too narrow for the new, wider trucks. We have hit and damaged gas meters, garages, fences, roof lines, landscaping and other personal property just to name a few.
 - Truck width (wheel to wheel) = 8 feet
 - Truck width (mirror to mirror) = 10 feet
 - Truck width (wheel to end of arms) = 11 feet
 - Truck width (wheel to back of can) = 14 feet 2 inches
- When it rains the alleys get muddy and soft. The big trucks leave big ruts that the street department has to go fix when the ground dries out.
 - Hours spent on blading the alleys = 222.5 hours (April 2013 – March 2014)
 - Hours would double if it is a wet year

- Cost per man hour = \$18.34
- Total cost for blading = **\$4,080.65**
- Hours spent on dispersing new gravel= 60 hours
- Cost per man hour = \$15.09
- Total cost for graveling = **\$905.40**
- Yards of gravel added to alley ways = 479.75
- Cost per yard of gravel = \$6.50
- Amount spent on gravel for the alleys = **\$3,118.38**
- Total spent on grading & new gravel = \$4,080.65 + \$905.40 + \$3,118.38 = **\$8,104.43**
- There are people that have gardens, store personal property, stack firewood, or things they want to keep but don't want in their yard, in the alley. It's hard to get past some of it without running it over.
- Trees are not pruned correctly and the trucks are being scratched by the branches. There are some trees that hang so low that the drivers can't see in front of them. We have hit animals because the driver did not see them.
- Some alleys have utility poles that the truck mirrors miss by inches
- People have pushed fences out into the City's 20 foot utility easement.
- Businesses in residential areas. People going to these businesses park in alley and City crews can't get to the rollouts.
- Power lines in the alley (Allo, Century Link, Etc.) hang so low that when we pick up the rollouts we are hitting the lines and have pulled them down.
- As we expand our services making rollouts free and adding recycling to the mix we will be spending more to provide the service in alleys rather than curbside. Driving through alleys is much more difficult (slower), and we again will be picking up even more empty rollouts. I suspect we will have to hire additional people and add to the fleet.
- There is an issue of equity. We should if possible treat ALL customers the same regardless of the size of their home, location in the city.

Options for Yard Waste Pick-Up

- All yard waste roll-outs get picked up curbside
- Block option out alternative
 - 51% Majority vote needed on a block by block basis
 - Garbage must be picked up in the alley
 - Parcels own yard waste containers, not the City
 - The block must clear the 20 foot utility easement/alley way
 - All yard waste containers have to be flagged to show they are full
 - Applicable service charge