

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****December 5, 2023**

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SUBJECT: LITTER CONTROL UPDATE: FY23 YEAR-END AND FY24 OUTLOOK

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide an update on the litter control initiatives in Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) that focused on litter and illegal dumping control services and to highlight planned activities in Fiscal Year 2024 (FY24) to create and maintain a noticeably cleaner city.

FY23 Focus on Safe and Clean

A clean city promotes quality of life, economic development, and safe neighborhoods. The FY23 adopted budget focused on litter control and street sweeping efforts to advance the over-arching goal of a clean, safe city. The City's litter control efforts are concentrated across three core areas: (1) source control, (2) community reporting and (3) litter abatement. These three areas are foundations for the litter control campaign, Litter: Stop It! Report It! Pick It Up!

Stop! Report it! Pick It Up! – Litter Control Program

Litter is a pervasive and challenging problem, and litter control is everyone's responsibility. In FY23, staff developed new educational materials and resource guides. Controlling litter at its source is the most effective tool for preventing litter. Litter and litter sources can be reported by calling the Call Center at (817) 392-1234. Residents and visitors can also request services through the MyFW app. Residents can join litter cleanup efforts by contacting Keep Fort Worth Beautiful (KFWB) by emailing kfwb@fortworthtexas.gov or calling the Call Center. In FY23, KFWB facilitated community-wide cleanup events with Neighborhood Litter Stomp (October 2022), the Cowtown Great American Cleanup (March 2023), and other special cleanup events.

Park and Recreation Department Litter Control Accomplishments

In addition to regularly removing litter from public parks in Fort Worth, the Park and Recreation department (PARC) manages the contract mowing program for public property. Contract mowing utilizes multiple contractors to perform grounds maintenance duties within the public right of ways, medians, select unimproved alleys, and city facilities. Standard practice includes that prior to mowing in the City of Fort Worth, contractors are to remove litter and visually check their surroundings to ensure a safe environment for everyone. In FY2023, contracts were amended to provide litter abatement during winter months while mowing services were on hold for the winter months. Off season winter litter abatement and mow season litter abatement efforts resulted in a total of 50,652 pounds of trash and debris removed.

Street Sweeping Program

Additional street sweeping resources were provided as part of the FY23 adopted budget. Funds were identified to purchase 12 new street sweepers. Units are anticipated to be delivered in Spring 2024. To advance street sweeping goals, the City executed a contract with Sweeping Corps of America (October 2022) to provide sweeping services. This contract and staff efforts have resulted in 26,542 curb miles swept in FY23.



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FY23 Accomplishments

Table 1 and Figure 1, below, highlight FY23 litter control program accomplishments. The City exceeded its FY23 goal of 11.5 million total pounds of litter and debris collected within the community during FY23 by collecting a total of 19.9 million pounds.

Additional program accomplishments include:

1. Cleaning up 7,842 illegal dump sites and 742 illegal camp sites.
2. Increasing contracted litter abatement crews from 2 to 10 through UpSpire.
3. Implementing a weekly, quadrant-based operational plan to maximize impacts.
4. Installing a litter control device to demonstrate aquatic litter control tools in Lake Como.
5. Enacting a new Abandoned Shopping Cart Ordinance, effective July 1, 2023.

Table 1: FY23 Litter Control Program Highlights (October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023)

FY23 Litter & Illegal Dumping Control Metrics	Material Collected (lbs.)
Illegal Dump Abatement & Investigation Teams	11,484,685
Litter Abatement (contractors and city)	5,148,737
Street Sweeping (contractors and city)	3,012,000
KFWB Volunteers	248,200
Waterbody Litter Traps	12,750
TOTAL	19,906,372

Table 1. Presents data on litter control program material collected in FY23.

Figure 1: FY23 Litter Control Program Infographic (October 1, 2022- September 30, 2023)



Figure 1. Presents litter control highlights from FY23 as an infographic.



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FY24 Continued Focus on a Cleaner, Safer City

Litter control efforts will continue in FY24 supporting the budget theme of: So Safe, So Clean, So Green. Litter control efforts have been reorganized under the new Environmental Services Department which will continue to support these strategic budget priorities while delivering exceptional quality services. The City has the an FY24 goal of removing 20 million pounds of litter across all programs in FY24. Anyone can join six, planned litter cleanups in FY24, as follows:

Table 2: FY24 Planned Litter Cleanup Events

Date	Event	Meeting Location
December 9, 2023	Historic Southside	Hazel Harvey Peace Center for Neighborhoods 818 Missouri Ave., 8:00am
March 23, 2024	Great American Cowtown Cleanup	Citywide, 8:00am
April 13, 2024	Stop Six – Caville	Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Tarrant County 4651 Ramey Ave., 8:00am
June 8, 2024	South Fort Worth	Southside Service Center 4100 Columbus Trl., 8:00am
September 7, 2024	Echo Heights	Prairie Dog Park 5063 Parker Henderson Rd., 8:00am
October 5, 2024	Neighborhood Litter Stomp	Citywide, 8:00am

Table 2. Presents litter cleanup events scheduled for FY24. Events are open to the public.

Fort Worth/TxDOT Highway Litter Control Pilot Program

Throughout FY23, litter control issues along highways became a key area of concern for residents and visitors. The City and TxDOT are collaborating to overcome barriers to challenges such as contractor availability, frequency of maintenance and scheduling. Based on community feedback and a unified goal of maintaining clean, safe highways, the City and TxDOT are piloting a joint program to increase litter abatement along highway corridors. Initial efforts will focus on two segments: (1) I-35W from downtown to I-20, and (2) I-30 from downtown west to Loop 820. By increasing the frequency of litter pickup, the pilot program seeks to create a noticeable impact along our major highways. In addition, staff are exploring potential partnerships with neighboring entities such as DFW Airport, NTTA, and City of Arlington to increase levels of service.

For questions on the information in this report, please call Lauren Prieur, Transportation and Public Works Director: (817) 392-6035; Cody Whittenburg, Interim Environmental Services Director: (817) 392-5455; or Richard Zavala, Park and Recreation Director: (817) 392-5711.

David Cooke
City Manager