To the Mayor and Members of the City Council

January 27, 2026

SUBJECT: SOLID WASTE LONG-RANGE STRATEGY

The purpose of this Informal Report is to provide an overview of the City of Fort Worth's approach to long-term solid waste planning. The City is developing strategies to address future collection and disposal of solid waste, ensuring that the City's waste management systems remain efficient, resilient, and responsive to the community's needs in the future.

Solid Waste Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles shape the City's solid waste strategy and decision-making:

1. Deliver exceptional customer service.
2. Provide the best service at the best value for residents.
3. Maintain a clean, safe, and attractive city.
4. Preserve landfill life and increase waste diversion.

Current Landfill Footprint and Volume

Fort Worth's Southeast Landfill, the City's municipally-owned landfill in southeast Fort Worth, is anticipated to reach capacity by 2036. The landfill is permitted for 300 acres and receives approximately 940,000 tons of waste annually as of 2025, serving residential, commercial, and other third-party waste streams. Preserving landfill life through efficient operations and diversion programs is a key focus of strategy development.

Long Range Planning Strategy

The City's approach to long-term solid waste disposal planning includes:

1. Interdepartmental Coordination – alignment across departments through an interdepartmental City work group to evaluate operational needs, funding, and opportunities
2. Community Engagement – input from residents, businesses and the community through online feedback or by contacting staff at: environmental@fortworthtexas.gov.
3. Vendors – feedback from solid waste vendors to help provide context on the regional disposal landscape, future collections and solid waste industry outlook across the region.
4. Regional Partners – collaboration with regional organizations through the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and any surrounding municipalities to support alignment with broader regional solid waste planning efforts.

Through long-range planning and strategy development, staff are working to:

- Continue evaluating disposal options to meet long-term capacity needs.
- Explore opportunities to reduce landfill pressure through diversion programs, recycling, and other innovative solutions.
- Engage City departments, the community, solid waste vendors, and regional partners to inform City strategy.
- Ensure any future changes to collection or disposal services are informed by comprehensive planning and market analysis.

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Community Engagement

Environmental Services is committed to actively fostering community engagement to ensure that residents, businesses, and other users of the City's solid waste management system can help shape Fort Worth's solid waste programs. A key avenue for participation is the community feedback form, available at: www.fortworthtexas.gov/solidwasteplan, where residents, businesses and community partners can share thoughts and ideas regarding long-term disposal and collection strategies.

Additionally, a solid waste focus group is being developed and modeled after those used by the Water Department and others to gather input on solid waste rate structures. This focus group will provide feedback on FY27 budget development with respect to solid waste policies and long-term planning efforts.

FY25 Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant

City of Fort Worth was awarded $4.8M in grant funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) SWIFR grant program. This funding will support efforts to improve recycling and diversion to promote landfill life in Fort Worth by increasing resident services and Drop-Off Station recycling efforts. The grant performance period is planned for 3 years (2026 – 2029). Planned grant project outcomes are as follows:

- Expanded Public Education & Pilot Reuse Program
- New Recycling Equipment
- New Electronic Signs
- Metal Recycling Area Improvements at Old Hemphill Drop-Off Station

For questions about this report, please contact Cody Whittenburg, Environmental Services Director at: (817) 392-5455.

Jesus "Jay" Chapa
City Manager

Attachment

Solid Waste Long-Range Planning Overview

The City of Fort Worth provides solid waste collection and disposal options to customers. All garbage and bulk waste go to landfills. Recycling and yard waste are processed into new products. Our community is developing a long-range solid waste strategy. The City is planning ahead to help shape our future and to keep Fort Worth's waste management systems efficient and resilient.

Southeast Landfill

Recycling Facilities

Yard Waste

Bulk Waste

Drop-Off Stations & Environmental Collection Center

Why are we planning now?

With over 1 million residents and growing, Fort Worth generates a lot of solid waste. The City's Southeast Landfill is expected to reach capacity by 2036, and planning ahead secures residential and business disposal options.

How is the City planning?

The City is reviewing local and regional solid waste collection and disposal trends and engaging with stakeholders to identify the most cost-effective, efficient solid waste options to set a course for the future.

Solid Waste Guiding Principles

1. Offer exceptional customer service.
2. Provide quality service & best value for customers.
3. Support a clean and attractive City.
4. Promote landfill life and diversion.

Future Options & Considerations

- Increased waste diversion & recycling
- Regional partnerships & collaboration
- Infrastructure needs, like landfills, transfer stations, and recycling facilities

Solid Waste Fund Priorities

Priority #1
Fund Solvency

FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | FY29 | FY30

Priority #2
Plan for Future Disposal Needs

With the Southeast Landfill closing by 2036, the City is planning ahead for long-range options:

- Consider Developing a New Landfill
- Consider a Transfer Station Model
- Consider Direct Haul Options to Other Landfills
- Consider Other Disposal Solutions

Priority #3
Manage City Fleet & Facilities*

- 1 Heavy Duty Equipment
- 3 Trucks
- Renovations at Old Hemphill DOS

* Specific fleet replacement and facility projects will vary each year.

Get Involved

Share your feedback on our solid waste future at **https://bit.ly/SolidWasteStrategyFeedback**.

Contact us at **environmental@fortworthtexas.gov** or call **(817) 392-6088**.

Descripción General de la Planificación a Largo Plazo de los Residuos Sólidos.

La ciudad de Fort Worth ofrece opciones de recolección y eliminación de residuos sólidos a sus residentes. Toda la basura y los residuos voluminosos se depositan en rellenos sanitarios (Landfills). Los materiales reciclables y los residuos de jardinería se procesan para convertirlos en nuevos productos. Nuestra comunidad está desarrollando una estrategia a largo plazo para la gestión de residuos sólidos. La ciudad está planificando con anticipación para contribuir a dar forma a nuestro futuro y mantener los sistemas de gestión de residuos de Fort Worth eficientes y sostenibles.

Southeast Landfill (Relleno Sanitario del Sureste)

Instalaciones de Reciclaje

Residuos de Jardinería

Residuos de Gran Tamaño

Centros de recolección (Drop-Off Stations) y Centro de Recolección Ambiental (ECC)

¿Por qué planificamos ahora?

Con más de un millón de habitantes y una población en constante crecimiento, Fort Worth genera una gran cantidad de residuos sólidos. Se prevé que el relleno sanitario del sureste de la ciudad alcance su capacidad máxima para el año 2036, por lo que planificar con anticipación garantiza opciones de eliminación de residuos tanto para los residentes como para las empresas.

¿Cómo está planificando la ciudad?

La ciudad está revisando las tendencias locales y regionales de recolección y eliminación de residuos sólidos y colaborando con las partes interesadas para identificar las opciones más rentables y eficientes en materia de gestión de residuos sólidos, con el fin de trazar un rumbo para el futuro.

Principios Rectores de la Gestión de Residuos Sólidos

1. Ofrecer un servicio al cliente excepcional.
2. Proporcionar un servicio de mejor calidad para los clientes.
3. Contribuir a una ciudad limpia y atractiva.
4. Promover la prolongación de la vida útil de los rellenos sanitarios y la reducción de residuos.

Opciones y Consideraciones Futuras

- Mayor desvío de residuos y reciclaje del relleno sanitario
- Alianzas y colaboración a nivel regional
- Necesidades de infraestructura, como rellenos sanitarios, estaciones de transferencia y plantas de reciclaje

Prioridades del Fondo de Residuos Sólidos

Prioridad #1
Solvencia de los fondos

FY26 | FY27 | FY28 | FY29 | FY30

Prioridad #2
Planificación de las necesidades futuras de eliminación de residuos

Dado que el relleno sanitario del sureste cerrará en 2036, la ciudad está planificando opciones a largo plazo:

- Considerar el desarrollo de un nuevo relleno sanitario
- Considerar un modelo de transferencia
- Considerar opciones de transporte directo a otros rellenos sanitarios
- Considerar otras soluciones de eliminación de residuos

Prioridad #3
Gestación de flota de vehículos e instalaciones municipales*

- **1** Equipo pesado de trabajo
- **3** Camiones
- Remodelaciones en la instalación de Old Hemphill, centro de recolección

* Los proyectos específicos de reemplazo de vehículos y mejoras de instalaciones variarán cada año.

Participe

Comparta sus comentarios sobre el futuro de la planificación de residuos sólidos en **https://bit.ly/SolidWasteStrategyFeedback**.

Contáctenos en **environmental@fortworthtexas.gov** o llame al **(817) 392-6088**.