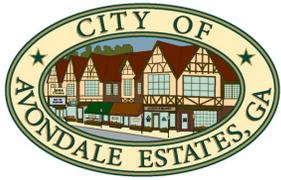


City of Avondale Estates Public Works Department

Solid Waste Collection: Overview & Evaluation of Practices



Back Door Collection: The Human Cost

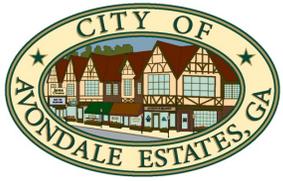
**In 2022,
420 days of
unplanned sick
leave logged**

2x weekly back door pickup creates:

- Physical injury
- Mental exhaustion

Sanitation staff report:

- Attacks by unleashed pets/dogs
- Exposure to vermin & roaches from unbagged waste
- Chronic pain
- Antagonistic and demeaning interactions with residents



Full Time Equivalent Shortage

**420 days lost
to sick leave =
3,360 man-hours**

**1 full-time equivalent staffer (FTE) =
2,080 man-hours (260 workdays)**

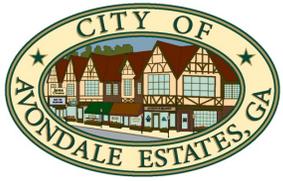
**1.6 FTE Lost
Annually to
Sick Leave**



**2.4 FTE Lost
Annually to
Weather,
Vehicle &
Equipment
Failure**

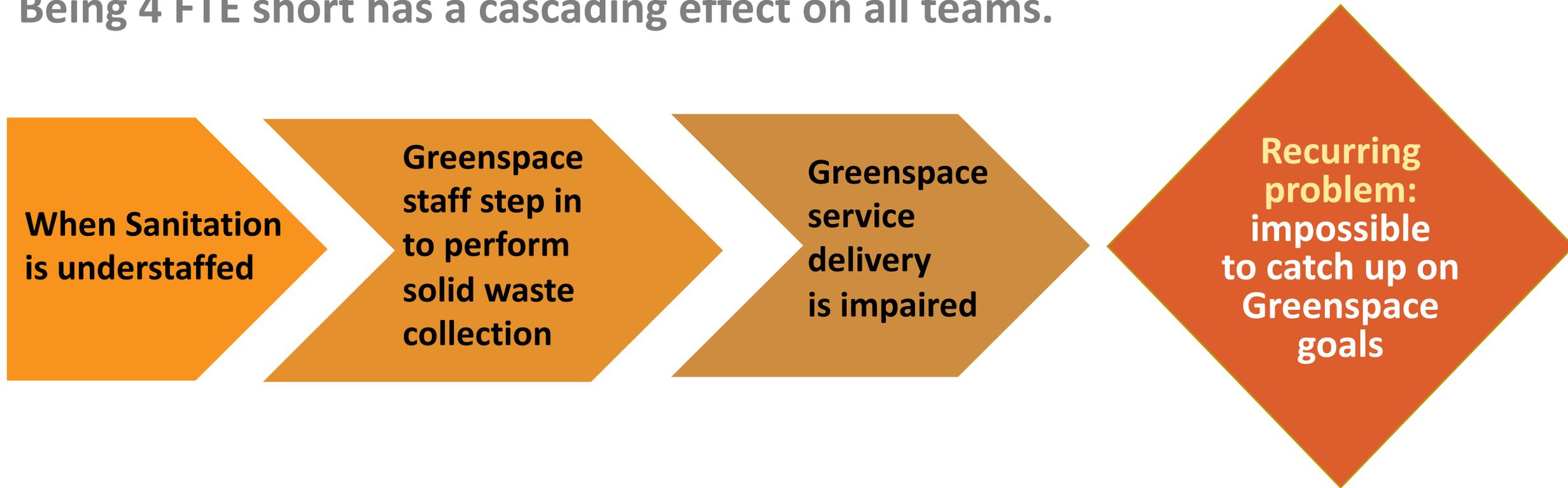


**Public
Works is
4 FTE
Short**



The Effect of Man-hour Depletion

Solid waste is the top priority of the Public Works team. Being 4 FTE short has a cascading effect on all teams.



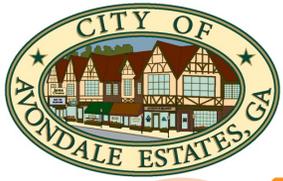


Fleet & Equipment Burden



Useful lifespan of vehicles in fleet = 7 years

- Newest of 3 garbage trucks = 7 years old
- 2nd leaf vacuum truck = almost 25 years old
 - *out for 8 consecutive months of service*
- Newest leaf truck = 20 years old
- **Hundreds of OT hours** used to catch up on leaf collection in 2022
- Efficiency and morale are both severely impaired
- Sanitation vehicle repairs & maintenance in 2022 = **\$96,896**



Fees and Funding

DeKalb County proposing a \$62 per ton increase in tipping fees

Sanitation fee insufficient if tipping fees increase

Sanitation fee insufficient for current staffing needs

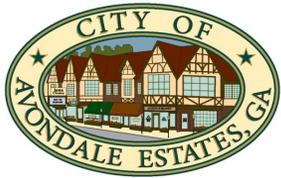
Sanitation fee insufficient to replace aging fleet

What is a tipping fee?

A fee assessed to organizations that are dumping solid waste into the county wasteland

Current county tipping fee for the city = \$33/ton

Proposed county tipping fee = \$95/per ton



Solutions: Scenario 1

- **Retain All Practices:** including 2x/week back door collection
- **Phased truck replacement plan:** modernize sanitation fleet
- **4 new floating staff**

Fleet Schedule:

- 2 new garbage trucks
 - \$200k each = \$400k
- 1 new F-550 dump truck = \$100k
- 4 new leaf vehicles
 - \$100k/leaf truck x2 = \$200k
 - \$110k/leaf vacuum x2 = \$220k
 - Subtotal = \$420K

TOTAL = \$920K

= \$184k annually over 5 years

Personnel changes:

- 4 new non-managerial floating workers
 - Funded 50/50 by Sanitation & Greenspace
 - Work wherever most needed

TOTAL = \$86.8K

Sanitation Fee:

- \$714/year (\$59.50/month)
- Property tax increase +.25 mil

** If the tipping fee increases, cost increases to \$829/year*



Solutions: Scenario 2

- Switch to **1x/week curbside solid waste collection**
- **Phased truck replacement plan:** modernize sanitation fleet
- Households given **one standardized 96-gallon trash can**
- **Staff:** Greenspace adds staff. Greenspace utilizes sanitation staff 2 days a week

Fleet Schedule:

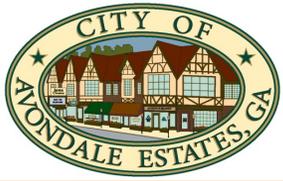
- 2 new garbage trucks
 - \$200k each = \$400k
 - 1 new F-550 dump truck = \$100k
 - 4 new leaf vehicles
 - \$100k/leaf truck x2 = \$200k
 - \$110k/leaf vacuum x2 = \$220k
 - Subtotal = \$420k
 - 96-gallon cans for residents = \$175k
- TOTAL = \$1.095M**
= \$219k annually over 5 years

Personnel changes:

- 6 Sanitation crew become 60/40 floaters & spend 2 days/week with Greenspace
- \$100k shifts from Sanitation to General Fund
- 1 additional FTE hired by Greenspace = \$43.4k

Sanitation Fee:

- \$680/year (\$56.70/month)
- *If tipping fee increases, fee increases to \$795/year*
- **General Fund increases \$143.4k or roughly .5 mills*



Solutions: Scenario 3

- **Outsource solid waste collection:** Sanitation staff have the option to work for the sanitation contractor – **nobody loses their job**
- **Retain the yard waste & leaf collection program**
- **Sell unneeded equipment and trucks**
- **Retain some sanitation staff & equipment**
- **Fully-scoped Greenspace Department** with additional staff

Fleet Schedule:

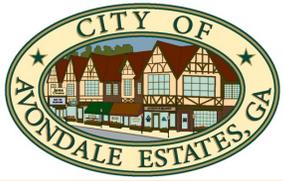
- 1 new F-550 dump truck = \$100k
 - 4 new leaf vehicles
 - \$100k/leaf truck x2 = \$200k
 - \$110k/leaf vacuum x2 = \$220k
 - Subtotal = \$420k
 - TOTAL = \$520K**
- = \$108k annually over 5 years

Personnel changes:

- Sanitation reduces to 4 to 6 full-time non-managerial staff responsible for yard waste, leaf collection, events, facilities, etc.
- Greenspace hires 2 positions fully funded from the General Fund

Sanitation Fee:

- \$425/year (\$34/month)
- Property tax increase +.25 mil



Sanitation Fee Comparison

Scenario 1:

- \$714/year (\$59.50/month)
- Property tax increase
+.25 mil

** If the tipping fee increases,
cost increases to \$829/year*

Scenario 2:

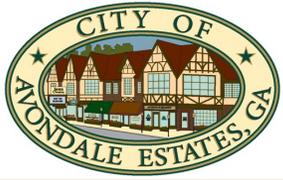
- \$680/year (\$56.70/month)

**If tipping fee increases,
fee increases to \$795/year*

***General Fund increases
\$143.4k or roughly .5 mills*

Scenario 3:

- \$425/year (\$34/month)
- Property tax increase
+.25 mil



Additional Resources

Recordings of discussions at the Board of Mayor and Commissioners Meetings:

- [April 26, 2023, Work Session Agenda Item 3](#)
- [May 24, 2023, Work Session Agenda Item 4](#)