

Department of Public Works

Response

Case # 24-0784-C



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Bureau of Solid Waste Facilities Update

Friday, August 9, 2024

Background:

On Tuesday, July 23, 2024, the Office of the Inspector General (OIG) released a detailed report citing poor work conditions at nine (9) Department of Public Works (DPW) facilities. The findings of the OIG report are deeply concerning, and we at DPW do not take the work conditions of our teams lightly. While the report identifies several minor repairs, it is important to note that many of our facilities require a complete overhaul. Our facilities have been neglected for multiple years, and we have set aside separate funding – over \$20 million – to address major renovations.

In addition to addressing our aging infrastructure, we cannot dismiss the responsibility of our leadership to maintain a positive and safe work environment. We understand the importance of the findings and are dedicated to improving the work conditions and infrastructure of our facilities for every DPW employee.

Currently, DPW is working closely with the Department of General Services (DGS) and other support agencies to prioritize and complete work orders for the minor repairs at these facilities. The two facilities that house and support the City's mixed refuse and recycling collection crews (Western Sanitation Yard and Eastern Sanitation Yard) are the top priorities given the demanding conditions these staff face during their workdays.

This report is intended to serve as a status update for repairs and improvements that have been made at DPW facilities the week of August 5, 2024.

Western Sanitation Yard (701 Reedbird Avenue)

New paper towel dispensers were installed in the men's and women's locker rooms.



New portable AC units were installed in the men's and women's locker rooms.



The door handle to the men's locker room was replaced.

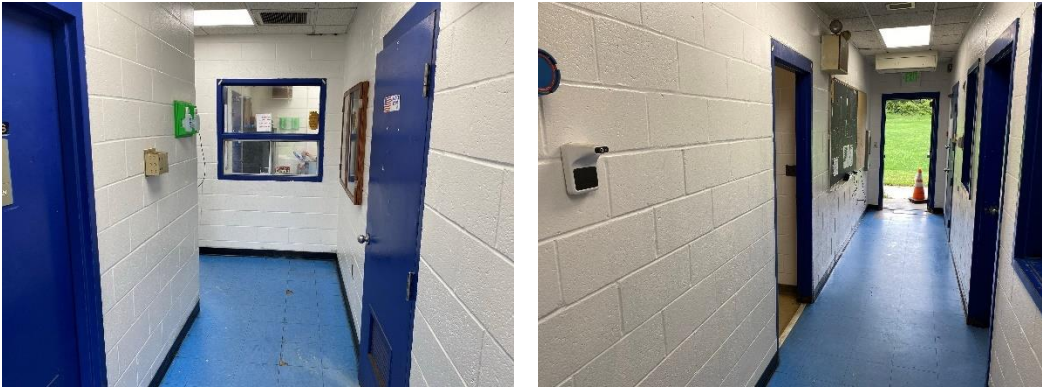


Two new portable AC units were installed in the administrative trailer building.



Eastern Sanitation Yard (6101 Bowleys Lane)

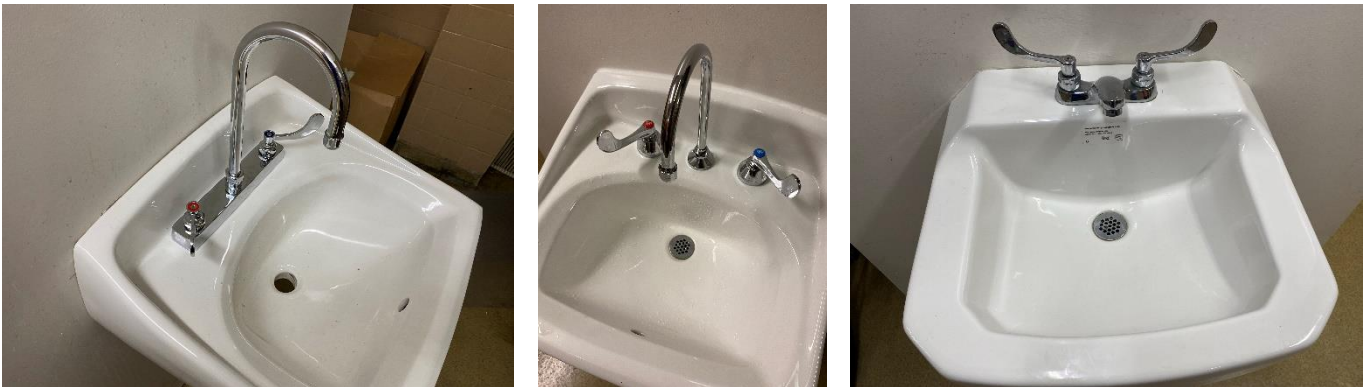
Painting of the hallway (*Figure 43*) was completed for the building.



New toilet paper holders were installed in the men's locker room stalls (*Figures 35-36*).



New sinks and faucets were installed in the men's locker room.



New paper towel dispensers were installed in the men's locker room.



Quarantine Road Landfill (6100 Quarantine Road)

A new tent was setup for employee use at the landfill.



General Updates

On August 6, 2024, DPW cancelled trash and recycling collections and held a dedicated heat and wellness training for employees working at the Western and Eastern Sanitation Yards. The training was held at Middle Branch Recreation Center and buses were offered to employees that needed transportation to and from the venue. In addition to heat illness training, grief counselors and the City's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) attended and aided employees.

Long-term plans:

Long-term plans to address infrastructure improvements at our Solid Waste facilities are underway and are an integral part of the City's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The CIP includes over \$20 million in facility renovations/improvements and over \$42 million for building brand new facilities. DPW also designated \$1.42 million in ARPA funding for facility improvements. Long-term improvements are needed at all facilities, and the following dates are projections and subject to change.

- Western Sanitation Yard (Reedbird/Cherryhill) - \$8.1M
 - Design completion Q1 2025
 - Construction to begin Q2 2026
- Eastern Sanitation Yard (Bowleys) - \$2.1M
 - Design completion Q2 2025

- Construction to begin Q3 2026
- Southeast Sanitation Yard (Kane Street) - \$7.8M
 - Design completion Q1 2025
 - Construction to begin Q1 2026
- Health & Safety Improvements at Solid Waste Facilities - \$3.2M
- Locker room and bathroom upgrades - \$1.42M (ARPA)

The CIP also includes funding for new facilities such as the Eastside Transfer Station, expansion of the Quarantine Road Landfill, and a new composting facility. All dates are projections and subject to change.

- Eastside Transfer Station - \$16.5M
 - Design Completion Q2 2025 (to be located at the Eastern Sanitation Yard)
 - Construction to begin Q3 2026
- Quarantine Road Landfill - \$20.7M
 - Project underway
- Aerated Static Composting Facility - \$5M
 - (to be located at the Eastern Sanitation Yard)