

Oversight Hearing

February 8, 2023



BALTIMORE CITY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

Overview

- HR & Recruitment
- Recycling - Community & School Engagement
- 10-year Solid Waste Management Plan
- Solid Waste Service Request Data & Information
- Eastern Sanitation Yard CIP Update
- Wastewater Treatment Plants



Administration



Hiring Efforts

To continue to be an Employer of Choice, ensure retention and engagement of our employees and attract, recruit and onboard a highly skilled diverse workforce:

- DPW has partnered with DHR and other City agencies and is in the process of implementing a bonus program for our CDL Drivers.
- DPW has partnered with DHR and Evergreen Solutions, LLC., an external vendor to conduct job classification and compensation study in response to pay concerns and retention issues in the Water and Wastewater Bureau.

Hiring Efforts



To increase awareness of DPW's brand, meet the candidates face to face and enhance our recruitment efforts DPW-HR has or will be participating in the following job fairs:

- **January 28, 2023-** DPW-HR conducted a job fair with on-the-spot interviews in partnership with MOED and DHR for mission critical position (i.e., CDL Driver, Engineer, etc.).
- **March 29, 2023-** DPW-HR will participate in the Baltimore Job fair conducted by Radio One.
- **April 2023-** DPW will conduct a job fair with on-the-spot interviews for several apprenticeship positions in our Water and Wastewater Bureau at the Chick Webb Recreation Center.

Training Efforts



To expand professional development opportunities and tools to enhance employee skills maximize their performance and 'grow our own':

- B'More Water Infrastructure Strategic Education Program (B'More WISE)
- Youth Water Mentoring Program (YH2O)
- Morgan State University - initial stages of creating a robust internship program
- Public Works CDL Academy Training Program
- Consultant Training at Treatment Plants
- 360Water



Bureau of Solid Waste

Recycling Community Engagement



Our education strategy aims to present clear, concise messaging to the public about what materials are accepted in curbside recycling.

The Office of Waste Diversion distributes a monthly newsletter and posts Trash Talk Tuesdays on Facebook, as well as information about recycling events. DPW liaisons go to community meetings, GROW centers and Shred Events to answer questions about recycling directly.

Metrics: DPW tracks attendance at workshops and events, schools participating in recycling, and engagement in social media posts on Facebook and Instagram. Community liaisons also record the number of community association meetings they attend.



2022

In CY 2022, DPW supported 7 compost workshops and 12 GROW center events at locations across the city. There were 4 shred events, each with more than 100 participants and totaling 20 tons of paper recycling.

2023

DPW will continue to host compost workshops, shred events, and GROW centers in 2023. DPW will also continue to attend school presentations.

School Recycling

DPW restarted the school recycling program in September of 2022, as an opt-in program. There are currently 106 schools in the program. Schools are grouped by location and pickups are done weekly.

The Office of Waste Diversion provides recycling presentations to community organizations and schools to improve recycling habits and answer questions about disposal services.

10-year Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP)

- **Purpose:** provide an accurate description of the City's solid waste management activities to the public and to comply with Maryland regulations which require the plan to address waste management and recycling for a period of at least 10 years.
- The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) requires each county to prepare and adopt a SWMP that covers a 10-year planning period.
- The SWMP must be approved by MDE and adopted by City Council.
- Baltimore City's current SWMP was adopted by City Council in December 2013 and approved by MDE in March 2014. Since then, the City has updated the SWMP in accordance with new state waste management requirements.

SWMP Update



- The Bureau of Solid Waste is updating the SWMP for 2023-2033.
- Approval Schedule:
 - May 2023 - Final Draft
 - August 2023 - MDE Approval
 - December 2023 - Formal Adoption by City Council
- Updates to the plan are informed by:
 - Changes in demographics, technology, laws and resources
 - Input from stakeholders across Baltimore City Government
 - Comments and feedback from community stakeholders

Public Meetings

- The Bureau of Solid Waste will hold a series of five Public Draft Review Meetings to present the SWMP Drafts at different stages and collect attendees' comments.

Drafts & Public Comment

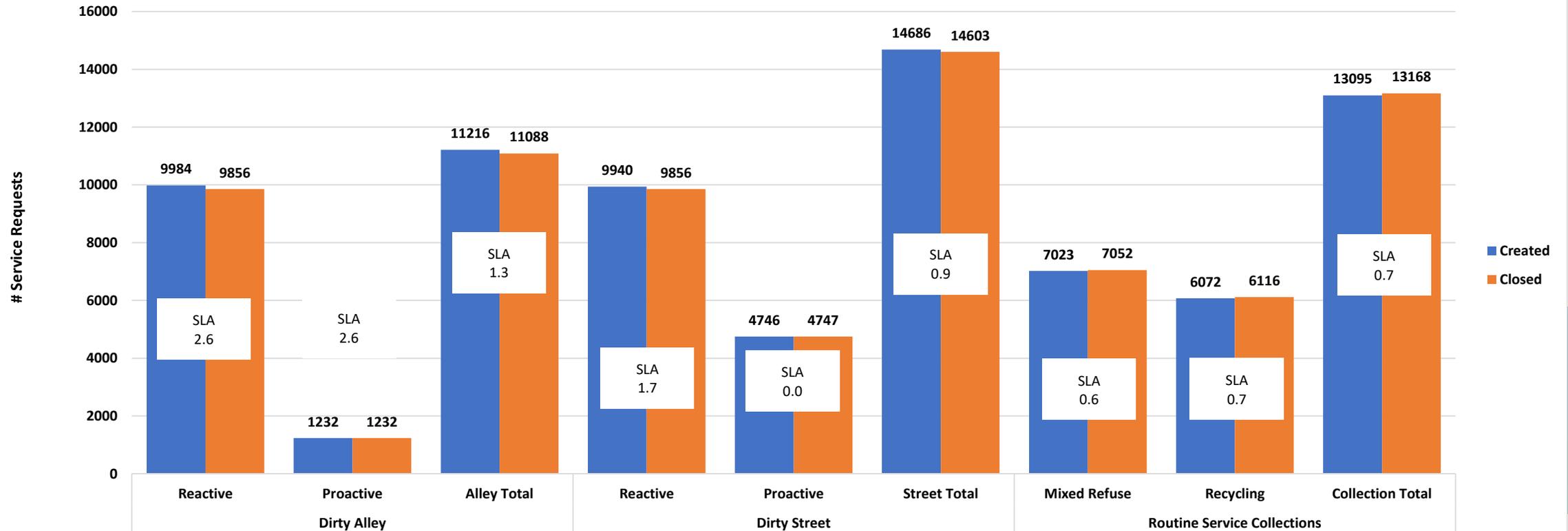
- Community stakeholders have a two-week comment period before each Draft Review Meeting to provide feedback on the plan.
- Comments will be compiled and analyzed and used to inform the Plan.

Draft Public Review Meetings		
Date	Time	Description
2/22/2023	6:00-7:00 pm	60% Draft Review- Virtual
3/13/2023	2:00-3:30 pm	90% Draft Review- Virtual
3/27/2023	6:00-7:30 pm	99% Draft Review -Virtual
4/10/2023	TBD	Final Draft Review #1 In-person & virtual
4/24/2023	TBD	Final Draft Review #2 In-person & virtual

The SWMP is currently in the 60% Draft Stage

Solid Waste Closed Service Requests

Solid Waste Service Requests
Created vs Closed
July 2022 thru December 2022



Solid Waste Service Requests July 2022 thru December 2022

160k

Solid Waste service requests have been completed between July 2022 thru December 2022

2%

Solid Waste closed more service requests between July and December of 2022 compared to the same timeframe from 2021

-5%

Less solid waste service requests were created July 2022 thru December 2022 when compared to July 2021 thru December 2021

Capital Improvement Project: Eastside Transfer Station (Bowley's Lane)

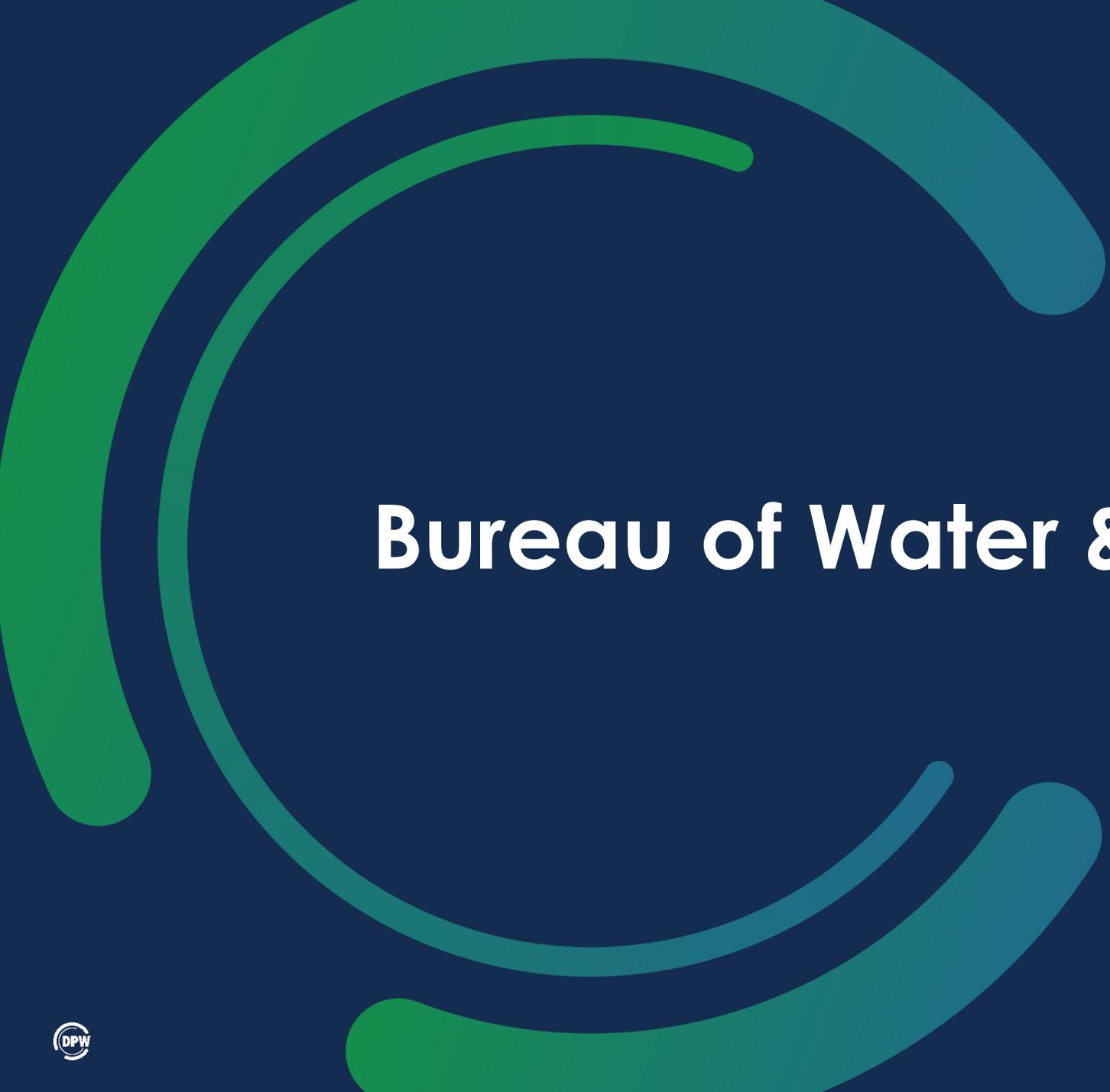


- **Purpose of this project**

- Design, bid, and construct a second transfer station at the Bowley's Lane yard.
- Construction provides an additional location for small haulers to off-load materials and increases capacity for City trash and recycling disposals.
- Project involves the design and construction of various structures and facilities on an existing landfill, closed in 1984.

- **DPW has contracted with the environmental engineering firm ARM Group**

- Initial assessment found approximately 9 acres are available for development of a transfer station.
- Plans for transfer station:
 - Small hauler drop-off area
 - Disposal are for City load packers
 - Citizen Convenience Center
 - Small scale composting service (under consideration)
 - Parking
 - Employee facilities



Bureau of Water & Wastewater

Short-term Regulatory Compliance Achievements

- Utilized emergency authorization to provide staff augmentation
- Aligned staff compensation scale with regional utilities (ongoing)
- Implemented innovative workforce development programs
- Created and Staffed the Environmental Regulatory Compliance and Safety Division
- Increased focus on training (ongoing)
- Implemented public outreach program
- Expanded preventative maintenance program

Infrastructure Improvements at Both WWTP's

BACK RIVER

- Rehabilitating existing digesters
- Cleaning and repair of Denitrification Filters (DNF) building
- Returning 4 Primary Settling Tanks (PST) to operation, with 8 being operational by the end of the year

PATAPSCO

- Repairing reactor mixers
- Repair and replacement of 8 screens
- Cleaning and operation of the grit tanks within the Headworks



Investments
by the City since September 2021
through Emergency Procurement

Back River and Patapsco WWTP
Over \$38.5 Mil



Major Capital Improvements

This table describes the capital improvements to be made at our Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTP) over the next 3 – 5 years

Back River WWTP

- Digester Rehabilitation (\$88 M)
- Primary Settling Tanks (\$37 M)
- Activated Sludge Plant #3 (\$17 M)
- Dissolved Air Floatation (\$17 M)

Total Investment: \$159 M

Patapsco WWTP

- Headworks (\$70 M)
- Liquid Oxygen Plant (\$48 M)
- Clarifiers and Gravity Sludge Thickeners (\$48 M)
- Sludge Pump Station (\$11 M)

Total Investment \$177 M

Long-term Improvements to Deliver Best-in-Class Service

- City has initiated an extensive program to return to best-in-class service:
 - Put in place a Program Management Team supported by engineers and contractors to oversee plant improvements
 - Establish continuing education and training programs
 - Build a robust asset management system
 - Enhance operational safety
- Partner with a third-party operations team at the Back River WWTP
- Strengthen long-term operational resiliency (Preventive and Predictive Maintenance)



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