

Valdez Bear Working Group

Work Session [4.16.19]



Valdez Bear Working Group

Police Chief

City Manager / designee

Animal Control Officer(s)

Alaska State Trooper [Valdez]

Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Services Director

At-Large Community Member

Public Works Director

Council Representative (vacant)

Baler Foreman

Mission Statement

The Valdez Bear Working Group will develop a Bear Management Plan that strives to create and maintain a sustainable relationship between humans and bears.

Valdez Bear Working Group Priority

- Implement & Enforce Bear-Proof Solid Waste Management throughout Valdez

Status Quo

- City of Valdez currently owns/maintains ~300 dumpsters
- ~229 of them are bear proof
- Cost per dumpster is \$6,000 with a lifespan of ~10 years
- 220 dumpsters deployed Oct - May
- 280 dumpsters deployed June - Sept.
- Frequency of collection depends on location and necessity, varying from once a day to twice a week
- Approximately 1500 households eligible for curbside garbage collection
- Approximately 550 currently utilize the service
- Service offered year-round, once a week per “zone”
- Got to “status quo” after some recommendations from Bear Working Group (~2013): bear proof dumpsters, reduction in curbside collection

Status Quo

VMC 8.08.030 (A) Garbage and refuse containers required - Use of Containers:

It shall be the duty of every person in possession, charge or control of any premises, business establishment or industrial establishment where garbage and refuse is created or accumulates, at all times, to keep or cause to be kept dumpsters or portable metal or plastic containers for the deposit therein of garbage and refuse; and to deposit or cause to be deposited the same therein. **Non Dumpster containers shall be water-tight and of not more than 32-gallons capacity and shall have two handles at the sides thereof and tight-fitting lids.** Such lids shall remain on the containers at all times, except when necessary to place garbage and refuse in the containers. Such containers shall be kept in a sanitary condition, free from accumulating grease and decomposing material. Such containers shall be kept in a place accessible to the collector of garbage and refuse. The weight of any one such container shall not exceed seventy-five pounds.

Status Quo

VMC 6.08.040 (A) Feeding of wild animals and birds of prey prohibited:

Except as provided in this section or under terms of a permit issued by the COV, the SOA, or the US Gov't, a person may not:

1. Negligently feed a moose, bear, coyote, wolverines, for or birds of prey (including eagles, hawks, owls, falcons) or deleterious exotic wildlife, or negligently leave human food, animal food, or garbage in a manner that attracts these animals; or
2. Intentionally feed a moose, bear, coyote, wolverines, for or birds of prey (including eagles, hawks, owls, falcons) or deleterious exotic wildlife, or intentionally leave human food, animal food, or garbage in a manner that attracts these animals.



Example of what Bear Working Group recommendation would eliminate



Example of what Bear Working Group recommendation would eliminate



An Example of Dumpster Mess in a Residential Neighborhood

Alternate Options for Trash Collection During Bear Season

- Increased Curbside, Approved Container, Public Use Dumpster Pods (Seasonal)
- Same Curbside and Pickup Schedule, with Administrative Changes
- Voluntary (or Zoned) Discontinuation of Curbside Pickup (Seasonal)
- Seasonal Discontinuation (Citywide)
- Seasonal Discontinuation (Citywide), Dumpster increase
- Seasonal Discontinuation (Citywide), Public Use Dumpster Pods
- Status Quo Dumpster and Curbside, with Approved Container
- Increased Curbside, Approved Container, Dumpster reduction

Increased Curbside, Approved Container, Public Use Dumpster Pods (Seasonal)*

- Enhances curbside service and reduces the availability of non-natural food sources by using mandated, approved, bear resistant containers
- Expected to reduce misuse of dumpsters (greater accountability)
- More efficient way to empty dumpster
- Easily enforceable (would require Valdez Municipal Code revision)
- Defined, escalating fine schedule for violations of code
- More efficient way to empty dumpsters
- More efficient way to conduct curbside pickup
- Financial burden mitigated by reduction in dumpster inventory

Increased Curbside, Approved Container, Public Use Dumpster Pods *

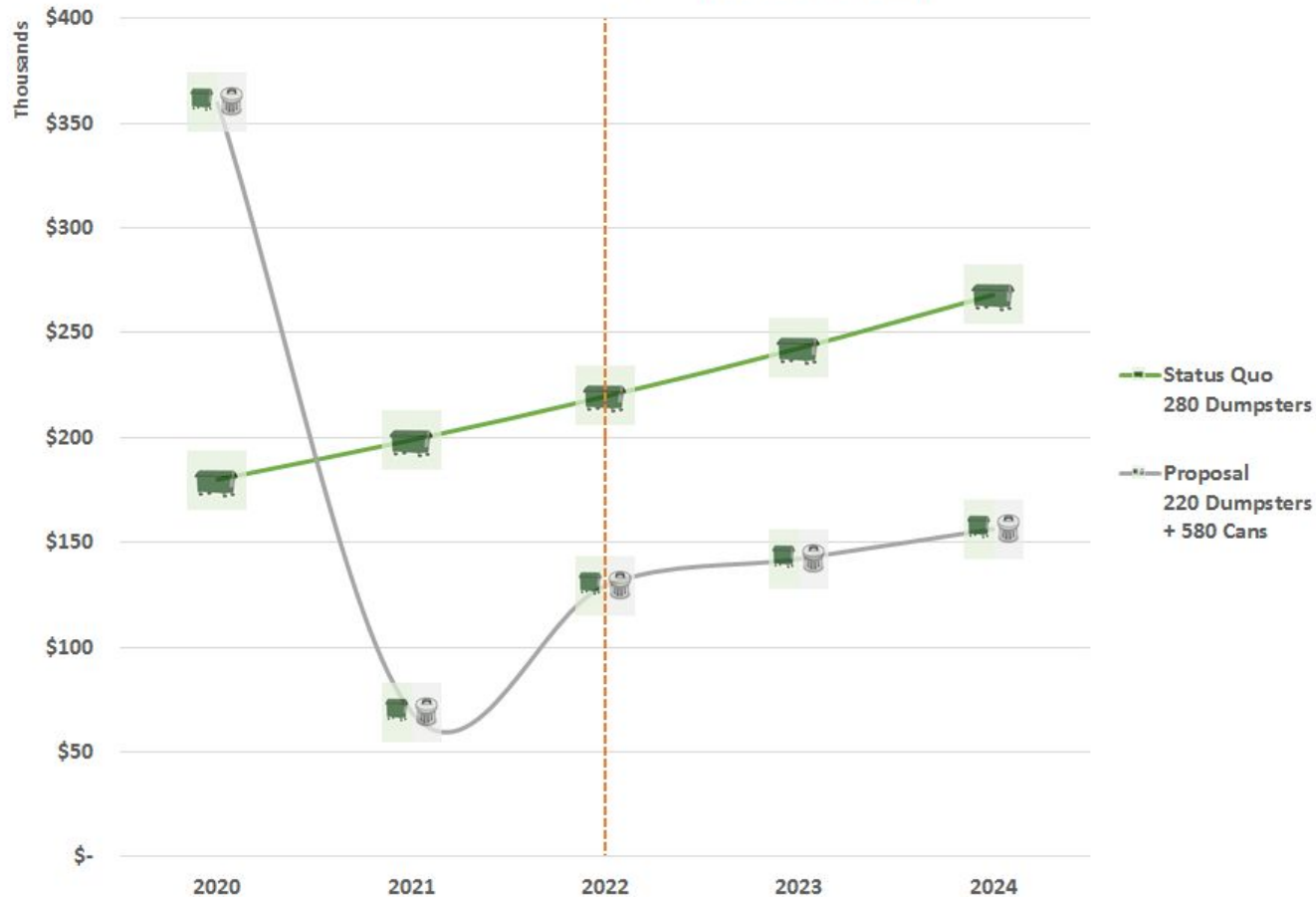
Initial Costs:

- 95 Gallon bear proof can: \$ 319
- Quantity: 580 cans
- Freight: \$10,000
- Initial cost (cans): \$195 K
- Truck Attachment: \$38,000 (x2)
- Truck Retrofit: \$24,000
- Total: \$305,020

Cost Offsets:

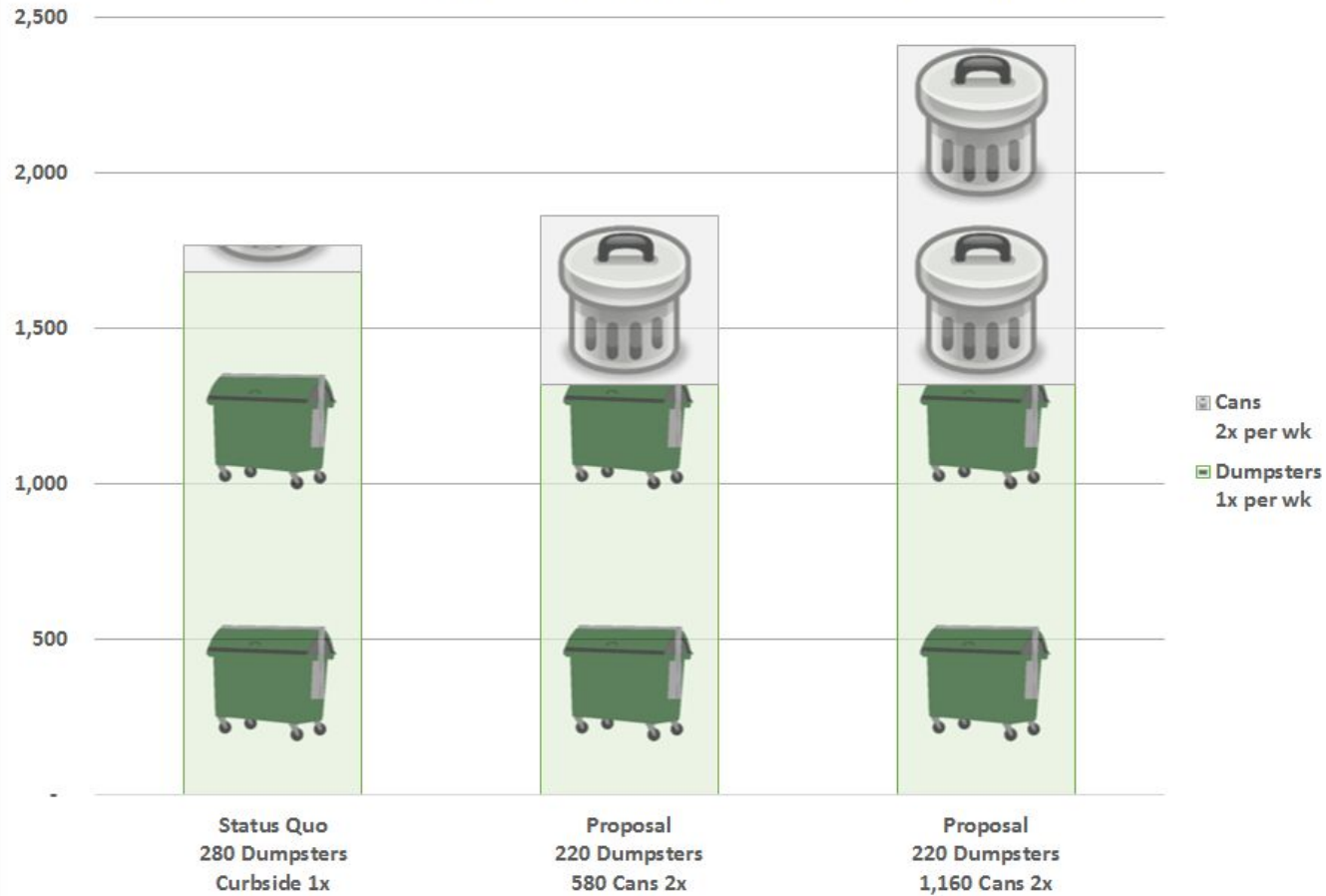
- Annual dumpster budget: \$165 - \$180 K
- Annual dumpster purchases ~25
- Reduction in dumpsters= first year cost savings \$90,000
- Increased curbside pickup with status quo staffing level

5-Year Cost Forecast (w/Break-Even)



Increased Curbside, Approved Container, Public Use Dumpster Pods *

Trash Capacity per Week (cu. yd.) at Current Staffing Level



Increased Curbside, Approved Container, Public Use Dumpster Pods *

Bearicuda Stealth 2:

- Bear Resistant
- Waterproof
- 65 gallon and 95 gallon models
- 12" rubber wheels
- All poly (no metal to bend or rust)
- Removable latch for easy maintenance
- Fully automated - Requires no manual manipulation of garbage cans
- Readily available
- Easily enforceable (with VMC re-write)



Stealth-Like
Clean Simple Design

Proposed Implementation Timeline

2019:

- Establish dumpster pods
- Maintain current curbside methods
- Reduce # of newly purchased dumpsters
- Re-write applicable VMC
- Engage in public information campaign
- Establish approved container program
- Develop “recycle” program for existing containers
- Budget for purchases to implement approved container program (\$360 K)

2020:

- Purchase necessary items for approved container program -including garbage truck retrofit and attachments
- Implement approved container program
- Execute “recycle” program for existing containers
- Continue with public information campaign
- Reduce # of newly purchased dumpsters
- Utilize dumpster pods

Public Use Dumpster Pods

- Strategically located throughout Valdez
- Pods of 4+ dumpsters (depending on location)
- Reduces overall number of dumpsters in COV inventory
- Allows for easier monitoring and enforcement of correct usage
- More efficient way to monitor and improve collection schedule
- Operationally efficient

Public Use Dumpster Pods - Proposed Locations

The Valdez Bear Working Group is actively working to identify locations throughout Valdez to establish public use dumpster pods

Conclusion

Break Even (580): 2022

Break Even (1160): 2024

580 cans 2x week + 220 dumpsters increases trash collection capacity. The more cans in use, the more it increases.

Reduced cost of maintenance and storage

Labor saving and more efficient

Mitigates risk associated with manual lifting

Mitigates nuisance bears in neighborhoods as related to human-produced garbage issues

Increases curbside services for Valdez residents

Questions?