

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



City of Worcester

October 21, 2025

Attachment for Item #10.7 B

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

The attached communication relative to an update on Keep Worcester Clean, as received from John K. Westerling, Commissioner of the Department of Public Works, is forwarded for the information of your Honorable Body.

In August, I released my statement reaffirming my Administration's commitment to a cleaner Worcester. This led to an all-hands-on-deck interdepartmental and community collaborative approach to keep our streets clean. We'll continue to work to make Worcester the cleanest Gateway city and accomplish the objectives under the Clean Streets Initiatives priority goal in the municipality's FY25-29 Strategic Plan.

This report covers the third quarter of 2025 (July, August, and September) and details the collaborative efforts of the departments of Public Works; Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery; Inspectional Services; Sustainability & Resilience; Health & Human Services; Police; and Fire, along with the Quality-of-Life Team and community partners. In addition to quantitative data, it includes descriptions of major projects and "before and after" photos of areas that saw significant improvement.

Our internal and external partners work tirelessly to help make Worcester look its best. Together, we are building a more clean and beautiful Worcester – one block, one cleanup, and one partnership at a time.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Batista
City Manager



The City of Worcester

Department of Public Works

John K. Westerling, Commissioner
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To: Eric D. Batista, City Manager

From: John K. Westerling, Commissioner

Date: October 21, 2025

Re: Keep Worcester Clean – Quarterly Report, 3rd Quarter 2025 (July-September 2025)

This quarterly report covers the months of July, August, and September of 2025. Throughout the quarter, our crews swept the streets, trimmed brushes along key corridors, removed litter and debris from public spaces, responded to hundreds of service requests, and continued enforcement on illegal dumping. We also expanded public outreach and increased collaboration with neighborhood groups and volunteers.

Keep Worcester Clean is a collaborative, citywide effort aimed at improving the cleanliness, appearance, and overall livability of Worcester. This initiative directly supports the goals of the municipality's Strategic Plan, specifically the *Clean City Initiatives* priority goal, which outlines our commitment to maintaining clean streets, green spaces, and blue spaces to cultivate a higher quality of life and safer, healthier neighborhoods.

We take pride in our city and want it to look its best, not only for those who live and work here, but for everyone who visits or passes through. As one of Massachusetts' gateway cities, Worcester can lead by example, and our goal is to be the cleanest gateway city in the Commonwealth.

This initiative brings together the departments of Public Works (DPW); Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery; Inspectional Services (ISD); Sustainability and Resilience (DSR); Police (WPD); and Fire, the Quality of Life team, the Division of Public Health, and many community partners to tackle litter, illegal dumping, overgrowth, graffiti, and related issues. It is a team effort and we are seeing the results. Together, we are building a cleaner, more beautiful Worcester - one block, one cleanup, one partnership at a time.

The City Manager released his statement committing to a cleaner Worcester in August of this quarter. That statement was a catalyst for all municipal departments to refocus their efforts and to take an all-hands-on-deck effort towards a cleaner Worcester.

The chart in this report tells the story of the efforts made during the quarter. One of the strategies used in August was to waive all bulk waste fees at the Residential Drop-Off Center during the month. That was an incredibly successful effort to help residents dispose of their

bulk items. To show the relative success of that strategy, here are the monthly totals for items dropped off (based on the estimated revenue received, or waived in the case of August):

Month	Revenue
July	\$16,835
August	\$38,230
September	\$19,095

The following is a list of the other major contributions to the Keep Worcester Clean and Clean City Initiatives:

Street Sweeping

The DPW sweeps every mile of city streets every Spring. DPW also sweeps the downtown area nightly and main arterials throughout the week. That sweeping collects any debris that accumulates through the Winter, removes any residual winter sand, and helps to keep material out of the catch basins and our waterways.

Weed Removal and Sidewalk Clearing

DPW deploys teams throughout the year to remove weeds from sidewalks and tree pits, and it clears litter from vacant lots. That work helps to keep sidewalks free from obstructions to accommodate safe pedestrian travel and it helps to keep neighborhoods looking clean.

Parks and Recreation

The Department of Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery provides operations, programs, and maintenance relative to parks, recreation, cemetery, forestry, and more. The department is responsible for the coordination and support for special events, Hope Cemetery management, maintenance and management of the municipality's more than 60 parks, playgrounds, beaches and summer recreation programs. Parks is also in charge of the maintenance and management of the municipality's urban forests through trimming, cleanup of storm damage, condemned tree removals, contracted forestry services, and tree plantings.

Quality of Life

The Quality of Life Team is made up of members from the City Manager's Office, DPW, ISD, and WPD. It also collaborates with the Homeless Outreach Team that is run out of the Department of Health and Human Services. The team collects trash, addresses illegal dumping, removes unregistered vehicles off the streets, removes needles from public spaces, and assists the unhoused population.

Zero Waste Master Plan

The City of Worcester is developing its first Zero Waste Master Plan (ZWMP), an ambitious 18-month project led by DSR in collaboration with DPW. The ZWMP supports the Green Worcester Plan and municipal Strategic Plan and is being developed with guidance from Zero

Waste Associates. It includes technical analysis, robust public engagement, and strategies to prevent and reduce waste across the city.

A citywide Waste Characterization Study completed in April 2025 analyzed nearly 11 tons of material to inform plan recommendations and the results were published on the municipal website in September. Public workshops held in July and September drew strong participation, with final public engagement efforts planned for early winter and City Council review expected in early 2026. The ZWMP is exploring focus areas of analysis for Worcester, such as actionable solutions for litter and illegal dumping across the city, the efficacy of the Pay-As-You-Throw (yellow bag) program, opportunities to expand offerings at the Drop-Off Center and possibilities for food waste composting.

WooBins: Dual Stream Waste Bin Installation

The WooBins Project aims to reduce litter through the installation of 150 dual-stream waste and recycling bins in high-traffic areas. Following a successful pilot of 30 bins in Green Island and lower Grafton Street, the remaining 120 were installed citywide in Summer of 2025. Led by DSR with DPW and the Quality of Life Team, the project also features artwork on 50 bins created in partnership with the Cultural Development Division and Worcester Cultural Coalition.

Litter Clean Ups

The Clean Streets Collective is a program designed to empower residents and community-based organizations to take part in keeping Worcester's neighborhoods clean. Supported by DSR, the Quality of Life Team, and DPW, the program provides free green trash bags to volunteers for individual litter pickup, which can be placed out for pick-up during regular weekly trash collection. To date, five community partners have been onboarded and nearly 54 volunteers are participating in individual cleanups.

The City Manager's Clean Team hosts four clean up events annually. The September event, in the Green Island neighborhood, resulted in the collection of 81 bags of trash and 63 bulk items. The last clean-up this year will be held on Oct. 19.

Lakes and Ponds Program

Launched in 2025 by the Lakes and Ponds Program, Project Blue Worcester focuses on improving water quality in the Tatnuck Brook, Mill Brook, and Quinsigamond watersheds. The project targets key pollutants that threaten aquatic ecosystems and contribute to cyanobacteria blooms and invasive species. In Spring 2025, three public meetings were held to gather community input. Consultants are now analyzing data and developing a plan with water quality goals, pollution-reduction strategies, and public education components. The final plan is expected by Spring 2026. The Lakes and Ponds team is also working with Division of Planning & Regulatory Services, DPW, and Parks, Recreation, & Cemetery to develop a coordinated invasive species disposal procedure.

BEFORE AND AFTER PHOTOS

Union Place



Before



After

Sweeper Route 31



Before



After

Webster Street



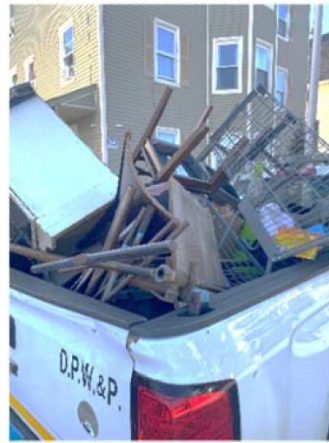
Before



After

BULK ITEM REMOVAL PHOTOS

Sweeper Route 31



Sweeper Route 21



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "John K. Westerling".

John K. Westerling
Commissioner of Public Works

Keep Worcester Clean - Quarterly Reporting - Jul, Aug, Sep

Department	Area/Street location	Tracking Tonnage	# of Items	Notes
DPW				
Streets & Street Sweeping	Sweeper Route 12-Shannon, South, Arlington, Barclay, Gambler, & Dorchester St's		20 curb miles of litter removal	20 miles of street cleaning focusing on sidewalks and gutter lines
	Sweeper Route 10	60 yds material collected	14 Curb miles of litter removal	14 miles of street cleaning, focusing on both sidewalks and gutter lines
	Sweeper Route 20	70 yds of material collected	10 Curb miles of litter removal	10 miles of street cleaning, focusing on both sidewalks and gutter lines
	Cleaned bridges on Green, Southbridge, Franklin St's	15 yds of material collected		2 Elgin Sweepers, & 6 wheel dump truck curb to curb sweeping collecting debris generated from the Sewer dept operations
	Sweeper Route 21	50 yards of material collected	14 Curb miles of litter removal & overgrowth	14 miles of street cleaning, focusing on both sidewalks and gutter lines
	Sweeper Route 31	55 yards of material collected	17 Curb miles of litter removal & overgrowth	17 miles of street cleaning, focusing on both sidewalks and gutter lines
	Sweeper Route 27		3.25 miles of streets removal & overgrowth	3.25 miles of overgrowth and trash cleared in section of Walpole St
Sidewalk Brush & Tree pits Clearing	W/O: 2186482: Shrewsbury St		Completed add'l 16 work orders	Cleaning sidewalks and tree pits (14,781 ft) completed - 4,224 ft
	W/O: 2180511: Lincoln St from Lake Ave N			Lincoln St from Lake Ave N to the rotary 2112 ft
	Various street locations		Completed 23 work orders	Collected city issued trash bags from streets due to ongoing construction
	W/O: 2178640: Chandler St			Cleaning sidewalks and tree pits from Park Ave to June St - 7,392 ft
	Crompton Park area clean-up			Cleaning sidewalks and streets around Crompton Park area
	W/O: 2181064/63: Harrison & Providence St			Harrison St (Tree pits) 990 ft. Providence St (Tree pits) 4224 ft
	W/O: 2179375: Lauf St (Overgrowth)			Overgrowth - 249 ft
	W/O: 2180596 Chandler St			Cleaned sidewalks, tree pits, trimmed tree limbs for pedestrian access -1,056 ft
	W/O: 2180848 Stafford St		Cleared tree pits	Young St to Curtis Parkway - 528 ft
	W/O: 2188146 Main St		Cleared tree pits	Curtis Parkway to Holland St - 528 ft
	W/O: 2180503 Park Ave		Cleared tree pits	Elm St to Main St - 17,952
	W/O: 2180503 Park Ave (cont.)		Cleared tree pits	Continued clearing tree pits in this area - 38% complete - 4224 ft
	W/O: 2180503 Park Ave (cont.)		Cleared tree pits	Continued clearing tree pits in this area - 70% complete - 5809 ft
	W/O: 2180503 Park Ave (cont.)		Cleared tree pits total to 17,952 ft	Continued clearing tree pits in this area - 70% complete - 5809 ft

	W/O: 2181071 Lancaster St @ Grove St		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalk 226 ft	Cleared from Islands and sidewalks - 226 ft
	W/O: 2190635 Lancaster St @ Salisbury St		Cleared from Islands	Cleared from Islands
	W/O: 2192590 Major Taylor Blvd to MLK		Cleared from Islands	Cleared 1,584 ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O: 2192588 Summer St from Prospect to 290		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 1,056 ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O: 2192593 Belmont St from Plantation to Shrews St.		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 492ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O: 2192594 Belmont St from Lake Ave to Frank St.		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 1,584 ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O: 2192596 Plantation from North Rd to Belmont St		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 2,112 ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O:2180507 Grove St @ Park Ave (Island)		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 528 Ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O:2181081 Salisbury St @ Park Ave (Island)		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 528 Ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O:2181085 Salisbury from Grove to Lincoln (Island)		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 436 Ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O:2193473 Lincoln from Salisbury to Highland (Island)		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 459 Ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O:2193478 Lincoln from Salisbury to Old Lincoln (Island)		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 236 Ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O:2193478 Belmont St from Mcrae to Shrewsbury St (Island)		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 1,056 Ft of sidewalks and islands
	W/O:2193475 Belmont St from Major Taylor to 290 onramp (Island)		Cleared from Islands & Sidewalks	Cleared 1,056 Ft of sidewalks and islands
	Various resident street locations			Completed 42 resident work orders
	W/O: 2181080 Massasoit @ Blithewood Ave (Island)		Cleared from Islands	Cleared from Islands
	W/O: 2181078 Massasoit @ Sunderland Rd (Island)			Cleared from Islands
	W/O: 2181077 Massasoit @ Heywood St (Island)			Cleared from Islands
	W/O: 2181076 Madison St @ Southbridge St (Island)			Cleared from Islands
	W/O: 2181056 Murray Ave near Chandler St (Tree pits)		Cleared tree pits	Cleared from tree pits
	W/O: 2181075 Chandler St @ Murray Ave (Island)		Cleared from Islands	Cleared from Islands
	W/O: 2192847 Webster St @ Fremont St (Sidewalks)		Cleared from Sidewalks	Cleared from sidewalks (440 ft)
	W/O: 2181073 Mill St @ Airport Dr (Islands)		Cleared from Islands	Cleared from Islands
	W/O: 2193917 Franklin St (CSX Bridge)			Cleared 1584 ft
	W/O: 2193578 61 Channing St			
	W/O: 2180495 Harvard St @ Sudbury St (Sidewalks)		Cleared from sidewalks	Cleared from sidewalks
	W/O: 2181401 803 Grafton St (Tree pits)		Cleared from Tree pits	Cleared from tree pits
	W/O: 2187933 Ingalls St (walking path)		Cleared from walking path	Cleared from walking path

Sewer Department	Route 10 area - Union Place location	20 yds yard waste collected	18,313 sq ft of two city owned properties	18,313 plus add'l 414 ft in and around Union Place, 3 pick-up truck loads of bulk items and litter removed
	Route 20 area	10 yds of yard waste collected	5,808 linear ft of 3 city owned properties	Removed 10 yards of yard waste debris and 3 pick-up truck loads of bulk items and litter
	High traffic areas - public right of way	15 yds of yard waste collected	2,640 linear feet from city owned property	Removed 15 yards of yard waste debris and 1 pick-up truck load of bulk items and litter
	High traffic areas on Green St, Southbridge St, Franklin St bridge	used jet flusher- 2,000 gal water	power washed ceiling,walls,sidewalks	Removed one pick up truckload of bulk items and litter
	Union Place property		covered 7,052 sq ft area	Added 75 yds of loam and removed 1 pick-up truck of bulk items & litter
Graffiti Removal				
Litter/Waste Cleanup	Canton St			Assisted DTM with removing waste in and around abandoned boat
	W/O: 2186610 Jefferson St/Arlington St		Also 7 furniture work orders completed	Arlington St - 390 ft of litter, & Jefferson St footpath
	Lincoln St - Litter		23 trash bags of litter collected	Before Chino Ave to Country Club Blvd - 3,165 ft
	W/O: 2181040: Millbury St (overgrowth & litter)		10 trash bags of litter collected	From Fifth St to Whitney St - 1,584 ft
	W/O: 2187169: Lincoln St		Litter removal	Cleaned up litter under 290 overpassess - 528 ft
	12 W/O's - Penn Ave Area		43 large trash bags of litter collected	
	W/O: 2187060: Stockton St		4 trash bags of litter collected	1,584 ft
	W/O: 2187826: W Boylston St		5 trash bags of litter collected	1,056 ft
	Various locations		Completed 19 work orders	Assisted Sanitation with outstanding work orders
	Various locations		Completed 9 work orders	Assisted Sanitation with outstanding work orders
	Various locations		Completed 10 work orders	Addressing resident discrepancies
	Various locations		Completed 29 work orders	Addressing/completed work orders
	Union Pl location		removed 80 yards of yard waste & debris	Removed litter and garbage, bulk items and metals- 2 pick up truck loads
	12 Various Resident Work Orders			Completed 12 resident concern work orders
	Polar Park - surrounding areas		Cleared litter from sidewalks & gutter lines	Cleared 25 yards of material/litter collected
	Various locations		13 Resident work orders	Completed 13 resident concern work orders
	Various locations		Cleared litter from sidewalks & gutter lines	Completed 23 resident concern work orders
Parks, Recreation, Cemetary				
Earth Day Clean-Up (Apr-June)				
Encampment Cleanups				
Vegetation control	Union Place		suppress the spread of Japanese knotweed	Applied Bushmaster a commerical grade vegetation control
Community Lead Cleanups	University Park			
Inspectional Services				
Abandoned/Unregistered Vehicles	Throughout city		39 orders	
Nuisance-Trash	Throughout city		152 orders	
Nuisance -Overgrowth	Throughout city		150 orders	

Nuisance -Graffiti	Throughout city		2 orders	
Nuisance-Structures (broken fences, etc.)	Throughout city		3 orders	
Nuisance-Standing water	Throughout city		2 orders	
Tickets-illegal dumping			7, (Aug)-12	
Tickets- nuisance-trash			1, (Aug) - 1	
Tickets- unregistered vehicles			2, (Aug) - 28	
Code Violations	Throughout city		154 code violations	
	Throughout city		109 Code violations	Reinforcing compliance with community standards
	Throughout city		73 Code violations	Reinforcing compliance with community standards
	Throughout city		138 Code violations	Reinforcing compliance with community standards
	Throughout city		63 Code violations	Reinforcing compliance with community standards
DSR				
Clean Street Collective	Multiple locations			Total of 5 community organizations & 54 volunteers
- Bags			Total of 1,750 bags distributed at start of program. 500 additional bags distributed from July - Sept.	
WooBins	Multiple locations - See map		120 WooBins added	All bins deployed . 50 with art on them.
City Manager Clean Team	Crompton Park Area			
- Bags of Trash	81			
- Bulk Items	63			
- Needles	23			
Community Led Clean Ups	Paine at Melville		18 bags, a bureau, and end table	
	Herman Street Area		24 bags, 2 boxes of debris, 1 car fender, 1 umbrella	
Quality of Life				
Illegal Dumping	Route 12 - South St cleanup with Streets		23 Pick-up truckloads of bulk material	Removing and disposing of 23 loads of bulk materials from right of way
	Route 10 - cleaned		7.5 Pick- up truckloads of bulk material	Removing and disposing of 7.5 loads of bulk materials from right of way
	High traffic areas - public right of way		10 Pick-up truckloads of bulk material	Removing and disposing of 10 loads of bulk materials from right of way
	Sweeper Route 21		9 Pick-up truckloads of bulk material	Removing and disposing of 9 loads of bulk materials/litter from right of way
	Sweeper Route 27		9.5 Pick-up truckloads of bulk material	Removing and disposing of 9.5 loads of bulk materials/litter from area
Nuisance Patrol	Sweeper Route 20		8 Pick-up truckloads of bulk material	Removing and disposing of 8 loads of bulk materials from right of way
Needles	Throughout city	294 Collected	94 Work Orders Created	Removal of 294 needles throughout the city during the past three months
Shopping Carts	Throughout city	45 Collected		

Total Work Orders and Reinspections	Throughout city	2604		
Total Number of Items Removed	Throughout city	2003		
Problem Properties Addressed	Throughout city	855 Work Orders Created		
		316 Orders Issued		
		447 Re- Inspections		