

Waste Disposal Study

Conducted by Decision Resources, Ltd.
2002

Highlights and Implications

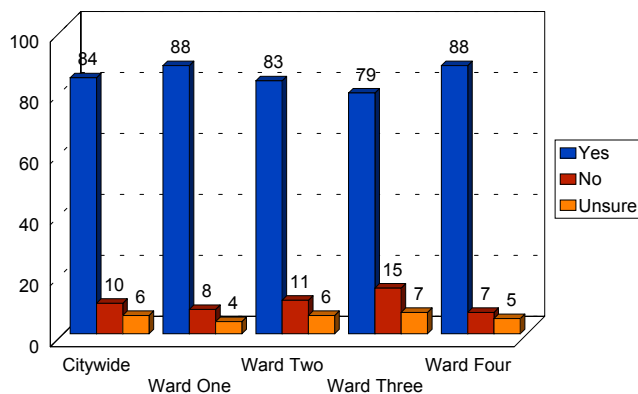
Methodology –

The City of St. Louis Park mailed surveys for completion to 1,000 randomly selected households. The sample was stratified equally into the four Wards. Fifty-seven percent responded with complete and codeable surveys; this response rate is unusually high: in fact, it is almost four times higher than the mail-out response norm. Survey responses are projectable within $\pm 4.2\%$ in 95 out of 100 cases to residents in all St. Louis Park single family homes.

Key Findings and Implications –

Support of City Purchase of Carts

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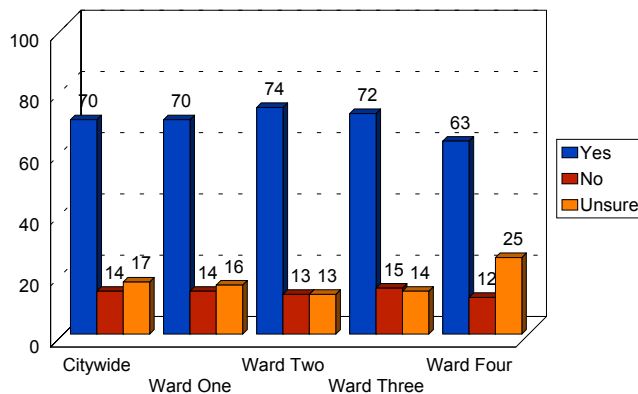


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There was broad and deep support for the City purchasing, at no direct cost to residents, wheeled carts for the disposal of litter and trash. By an 85%-10% split, residents favored this proposal. Even in the ward evidencing the least support, 79% were supportive and 14% were opposed. The City should proceed with this plan, in light of the overwhelming support.

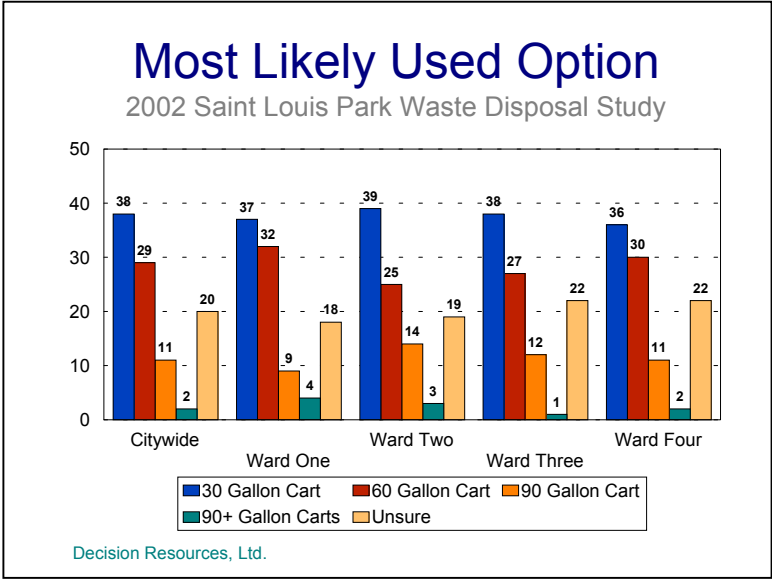
Support of Pay-As-You-Throw Program

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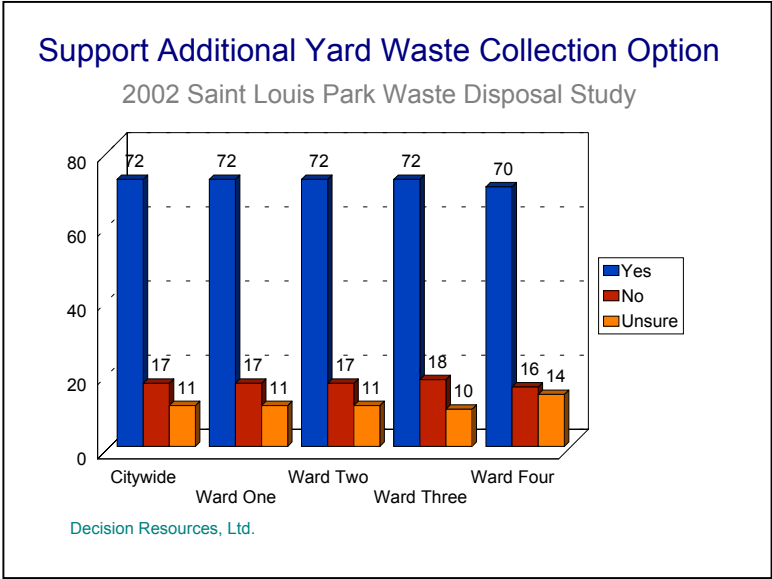


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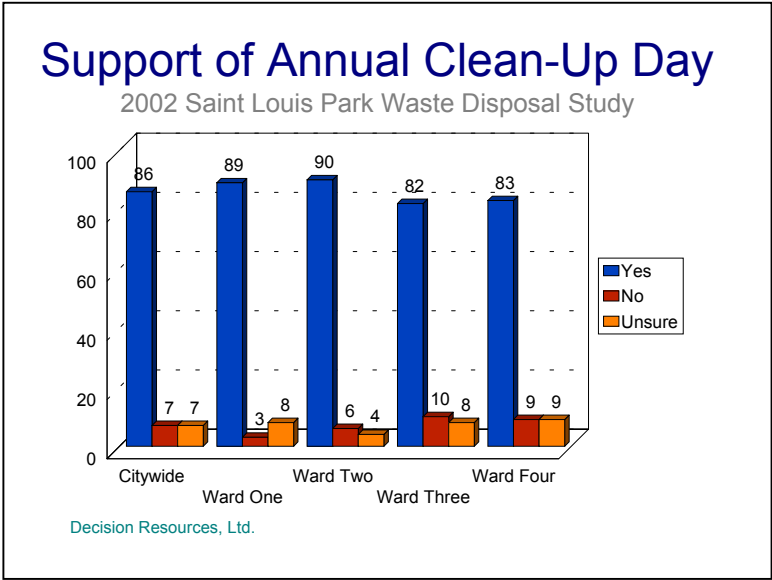
Similarly, there was solid support for a Pay-As-You-Throw program. Across the City, 70% supported this proposal, while 14% opposed it and 17% were unsure. Support levels varied between 63% and 74% within each Ward, while opposition levels were between 12% and 15%. Across the community, 38% chose a 30-gallon cart, while 29% opted for 60-gallon carts, 11% selected 90-gallon carts, and 2% picked the 90-gallon plus plan. Twenty percent were uncertain about their choices at this time. The City should consider the adoption of a Pay-As-You-Throw program in light of its solid level of support.



There was strong support for offering an additional option of a limited level of service at a reduced rate in the yard waste collection program. Overall, residents endorsed the plan by a 72%-17% margin, with 11% undecided. This result was almost identical within each Ward. In addition, 60% indicated they would use this limited level yard collection service, while 21% would not and 19% were unsure. Usage rates varied between 57% in Ward Four and 65% in Ward One. The City should proceed with this program in light of the support level and potential usage.



There was very strong support, and high potential usage levels, for an Annual Clean-Up Day. Eighty-six percent citywide reported they favored the program, while 7% opposed it and 7% were undecided. Support levels varied between 90% in Ward One and 82% in Ward Three. Potential usage across the community was 77%, varying between 69% in Ward Four and 83% in Ward One. The City should proceed with the adoption of an Annual Clean-Up Day.



In conclusion, all of the proposals were highly regarded by good-to-excellent majorities. Rather than having to choose among programs, the key question facing the City is the sequence of the actions it wishes to take.