

# Nuisance Abatement Program *2022 Action Plan*



*Presented to License and Health Committee on March 15, 2022*



## 2022-2026 City of West Allis Strategic Plan



**Community**



**Destination**



**Financial**



**Infrastructure**



**Organizational  
Excellence**

### *Vision*

*West Allis is the preferred City  
for visitors, residents, and  
businesses.*

### *Mission*

The City of West Allis exists to provide:

- Cost effective municipal services consistent with the needs and desires of West Allis community stakeholders.
- For the health, safety, and welfare of the community.
- A quality living and working environment, and
- A positive, progressive, and creative approach to the budget, management, and operations of the City.



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## BACKGROUND

In the 2022 Adopted Budget, six quality of life initiatives were approved. They include:

- Reckless Driving Deterrence Campaign
- Enforcement and Nuisance Control Activities
- Neighborhood Lighting Program
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Activities
- Pilot Program for Garbage/Recycling Program

The first four initiatives are underway, and the Pilot Program for Garbage/Recycling has been completed. (It did not bear the desired results.) The Enforcement and Nuisance Control Activities initiative is a complicated issue and necessitates a comprehensive plan with involvement from citizens, elected officials, and several city departments.

In his budget letter, Mayor Devine outlined five categories of activities to focus on when taking action to assist in abating neighborhood nuisances.

*Garbage Cart Standardization:* Currently there are about 900 residential properties that do not use the City approved garbage carts. I am recommending an ordinance change to require those properties to purchase a cart at a reduced rate (50% of the current rate) through April 30, 2022 (date has been updated to May 31, 2022.) If a cart is not purchased by that date, the property owner will be assessed the full cost of the cart and delivery on their property tax bill. The benefits of this change include collection standardization, reduction of injuries resulting in worker's compensation and long-term disability costs, additional capacity of City approved carts, decreased visibility of garbage at the curbs and alleys, and mitigation of providing animals an easily accessible food source.

*Code Enforcement Reorganization:* The City has multiple departments engaged in code enforcement that help to mitigate environmental nuisances. There are opportunities for increased collaboration, streamlining, and efficiencies because of recent vacancies. In 2022, I will be working with the departments to determine what is the most effective structure to effectuate improved quality of life through code enforcement for the community.

*Resident Engagement and Partnership:* Engage with neighborhood residents to increase awareness of causes for a rise in the presence of nuisance animals and organize neighborhood clean-ups to eliminate locations for nuisance animals to inhabit and access food sources.

*Nuisance Animal Abatement:* Provide increased funding for nuisance animal abatement and control, explore options to disrupt the reproductive cycle and possible involvement of a pest control company, and advanced trapping tools.

*Ordinance Changes:* Work with the Common Council to adopt summary abatement laws to allow for immediate removal of items that cause nuisance animal harborages.

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# GARBAGE CART STANDARDIZATION

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Summary:	Require all residential properties to have a city issued garbage cart. If they do not currently have one, they can purchase a cart at 50% off the total cost. (At the start of the initiative, 1,017 residential properties did not use the city garbage carts)
Benefits:	Collection Standardization Reduction of Worker's Compensation Injuries/Long-Term Disability Increased capacity of receptacles Improved City Image through decreased visibility of garbage at the curbs and alleys Reducing accessible food source for rodents
Actions taken:	Common Council passed <u>O-2021-0092</u> requiring use of City issued containers for one, two, and three family residential garbage collection. (Sponsor: Alderperson Grisham) Common Council adopted <u>R-2022-0021</u> to purchase carts and provide them to residents at a reduced rate of 50% off until 5/31/22; after that they will be full price and those who do not actively purchase will have the cost added to their tax bills. (Sponsor: Public Works Committee) Common Council considering <u>R-2022-0191</u> to facilitate the purchase of 500 96-gallon and 90 64-gallon garbage carts in the amount of \$33,275.80.
Communications:	12/15/2021 Direct mail sent to 1,017 properties (Addendum #1) 12/15/2021 webpage/FAQ live (Addendum #2) 1/01/2022 Payment portal update (Addendum #2) 2/6/2022 Facebook and Instagram (Addendum #2) 2/16/2022, 2/23/2022, 3/2/2022 Weekly Community update (website, alert center, FB, Next-door) (Addendum #2) 2/21/2022 Monthly e-Newsletter (Addendum #2) 4/1/2022 Direct mail to remaining non-compliant properties 5/1/2022 Print newsletter article
Status:	96 Gallon Carts were delivered to PW on 2/4/2022 and 2/11/2022; additional carts expected delivery on 3/10/2022 As of 2/28/2022, 464 of the 1,017 properties had purchased carts 53% still need to purchase the approved carts. Since 1/22/2022 926 total carts have been sold.

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# CODE ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

## CONSOLIDATED/REORGANIZATION

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Summary:	Improve quality of life through code enforcement. The City has multiple departments engaged in various aspects of code enforcement and nuisance abatement. Restructuring of how code enforcement is accomplished through increased collaboration, streamlining and efficiencies. All code enforcement processes and complaints completed through OpenGov.
Benefits:	Increased effectiveness of code enforcement program and reduction of staff time needed for current level of enforcement, resulting in more resources to force on targeted areas and hot spots. Having processes housed in one place allows all involved staff and elected officials ability to track current status and actions.
Actions Taken:	Let us help record requests taken through OpenGov. Property Maintenance process added to OpenGov and currently in test.
Actions in Progress:	Review of all departments' activities related to code enforcement and nuisances. Add rodent complaint and nuisance property processes to OpenGov.
Planned Actions:	Rename Building Inspection and Neighborhood Services to Code Enforcement or another name that highlights the efforts of nuisance abatement. Rewrite job description for Director position. Update salary schedule with new titles for Director and code enforcement officers. Recruit for the Director of the Department. Training for <u>all City field staff</u> on the evidence of rat infestation or conditions which may lead to rat infestation and how to report observations. While investigating complaints code enforcement officers will assess properties for conditions supporting rat infestations and refer to the Health Department for follow-up. During their daily activities, other departments such as Public Works will report infestations or evidence of infestations. Environmental Health annual inspections will include review for evidence of infestations.

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# RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP

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Summary: Engage with neighborhood residents to increase awareness of causes for a rise in the presence of nuisance animals and organize neighborhood clean-ups to eliminate locations for nuisance animals to inhabit and eliminate access to food sources.

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Benefits: Increased number of people who are assisting with mitigation efforts will contribute to the eventual leveling out of rodent complaints.

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Actions Taken: Social media posts, newsletter articles, webpages, handouts and brochures on education, myths, prevention tips, FAQs, and reasons for rodents.

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Actions in Progress: Creation of two additional neighborhood associations. Including Health Department Rat Brochure with violation letters for properties that have violations relating to rat infestation.

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Planned Actions: Increase resident awareness (through in person presentations, correspondence, and videos on the City's YouTube and social media channels) of:

- the need for their involvement in solving the issues and how they can help
- the current actions taken for nuisance animal abatement
- the resources available to them and how to obtain them (traps, etc.)
- how to report nuisance animals
- lifecycle of a complaint and violation process
- information they can share with their neighbors
- future actions planned

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Police Department - Community Service Division Resident Clean Up scheduled for May 14, 2022.

Schedule other neighborhood clean ups in coordination with neighborhood associations.

Review requirements to create a neighborhood association.

Work to generate interest in additional neighborhood associations.

Hold meetings with neighborhood associations.

Work with residents to take advantage of the programs we have which provide resources to remedy code violations (grant programs).

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# NUISANCE ANIMAL ABATEMENT

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Summary:	In conjunction with the previous three initiatives and the previous and current programs focused on nuisance animal abatement, implement a plan to mitigate the issue. Provide increased funding for nuisance animal abatement and control, explore options to disrupt the reproductive cycle and possible involvement of a pest control company, and advanced trapping tools.
Benefits:	Focused mitigation efforts will contribute to the eventual leveling out of rodent complaints.
Actions Taken:	<p>Current process response to nuisance animals. (Addendum #4)</p> <p>Creation of workgroup focused on development and implementation of rodent control program. (Addendum #3)</p> <p>Additional funding for pest control services.</p> <p>Issued violations and citations for non-contained refuse and containers and decreased collection time for bulk collections with policy changes.</p> <p>Removed brush and overgrowth from various locations, tuckpointing at Liberty Heights, transfer station.</p> <p>Routine inspection and education of residents/businesses in response to claims to include as needed neighborhood-wide placement of door hangers.</p> <p>Worked with Rec Department to keep all food served at their programs in one area and completely bag up the refuse and place in proper receptacles, increased frequency at bait stations.</p> <p>Bait stations installed at buildings and transfer station and in sewers.</p> <p>Pests, Rodents and Animals <a href="#">webpage</a> with Rat Prevention as a <a href="#">subpage</a>.</p> <p>Rodent Control <a href="#">Brochure</a>. (Addendum #7)</p> <p>Rodent Harboring Prevention Requirements on the Shed of Other Accessory Structure <a href="#">Informational Bulletin</a>.</p> <p>Pest Control Guidelines included on the <a href="#">Plan Review Guidelines Document</a>.</p> <p>Purchased rodent proof trash receptacles for the Farmer's Market.</p> <p>Resident Resource Fair held in 2018 and 2019 with information regarding rodent prevention.</p> <p>2017 Winter Newsletter – <a href="#">Rodent Control Starts in Your Own Backyard</a></p> <p>Other newsletters providing information on how to prevent rodents – Spring 2014; Spring and Summer 2016; Spring, Summer, and Winter 2017</p> <p>Landlord Training sponsored by the Police Department includes information on rodent and inspect control.</p> <p>Resident Letter (Addendum #8); Property Owner Violation Letter (Addendum #9)</p>

Actions in Progress:	<p>Continuance of actions taken and actions in the aforementioned initiatives.</p> <p>Develop public education and awareness campaign.</p> <p>Identification of hotspots.</p> <p>Weekly meetings of rodent control work group to create desired for identification of rat infestations and response.</p> <p>Review of current processes and educational materials.</p> <p>Installation of rodent proof trash receptacles for the Farmers Market.</p> <p>Creation of Inspection checklist.</p>
Planned Actions:	<p>Complete all actions in process from this report as well as the planned actions, accountability through meetings with the workgroup and bimonthly reports to the License and Health Committee.</p> <p>Hire pest control vendor to address a hot spot, subject to CDBG regulations.</p> <p>Conduct walk-throughs in neighborhoods identified as hot spots to proactively identify areas where code compliance would assist in the reduction of nuisance animals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 96<sup>th</sup> street between Manitoba and Montana.</li> <li>• Orchard between 60 - 63<sup>rd</sup> St.</li> <li>• 61<sup>st</sup> between National and Madison</li> </ul> <p>Place door hangers (Addendum #6) and direct mail residents in hotspots.</p> <p>Produce Public Service Announcements (PSA) relating to how residents can and must help to reduce nuisance animal activities in their neighborhood.</p> <p>Short videos showing the baiting currently done by City staff, what happens after a complaint is made, etc.</p> <p>Acquire additional funding.</p> <p>Ongoing education and information campaign to change the sentiment is the city should be doing something vs taking responsibility themselves.</p> <p>Add an Insect and Rodent Control Food Safety Fact Sheet to this food safety for businesses <a href="#">webpage</a>.</p> <p>Include information on how to prevent rat harborages at taverns in the <a href="#">Basics of Tavern Sanitation Brochure</a>; include information on the consequences of not doing so.</p> <p>Create brochures for all licensed food establishments providing information on what they need to do to prevent rat harborages and the consequences of not doing so.</p> <p>Expand Rat FAQs (Addendum #10) to include more information on how rats operate.</p> <p>Create subcommittees from the work group to focus on specific actions, i.e. – pest control, walk throughs, communication collateral, nuisance abatement properties process, etc.</p>

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## ORDINANCE CHANGES

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Summary:	Work with the Common Council to adopt summary abatement laws to allow for immediate removal of items that cause nuisance animal harborages.
Benefits:	Ability to accelerate enforcement activities.
Actions Taken:	Discussion with City Attorney, Health Department, and Administration regarding options for Ordinance changes.
Actions in Progress:	Legality of options under review
Planned Actions:	Recommended ordinance changes introduced for Common Council consideration.

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# Addendum #1

Dear Property Owner/Tenant for property at:  
XXX

RE: City Issued Garbage Cart Requirement

Your property has been identified as one that does not have a City-issued garbage cart. Please know that starting June 1, 2022, you will be required to have a City-issued garbage cart. The City is standardizing all carts to provide streamlined and more efficient garbage collection in West Allis.

You may order a garbage cart on the City's website at 50% off the regular purchase price beginning January 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022. More details regarding this change are below.

On November 16, 2021, the Common Council approved the City's 2022 proposed budget which included an initiative on garbage and recycling for the City. Mayor Dan Devine's Budget Message identified these five (5) Quality of Life Initiatives for 2022:

1. Reckless Driving Deterrence Campaign
2. Enforcement and Nuisance Control Activities
3. Neighborhood Lighting Program
4. Diversity, **Equity**, and Inclusion Activities
5. Pilot Program for Garbage/Recycling Collection

Under the second initiative, Enforcement and Nuisance Control Activities, one of the goals is to standardize the variety of garbage carts used by households for garbage collection services. An ordinance change was passed on November 16, 2021, to standardize the garbage carts to be used by households. The ordinance will be in effect as of June 1, 2022.

Under this ordinance change, residential properties would be required to have an approved garbage cart purchased from the Department of Public Works. The Department of Public Works shall offer to all customers eligible for garbage collection by the Department an official 96-gallon or 64-gallon garbage cart for purchase starting January 1, 2022.

The purchase price for these carts between January 1, 2022, and May 31, 2022, will be 50% of the actual cost per cart. Regular pricing for these carts, as identified, will be full price on or after June 1, 2022.

Garbage cart pricing with the 50% discount applied will be the following: 64-gallon cart \$24.00 and the 96-gallon cart \$29.00. The receipt of the shipment of these carts will be expected in mid-January or early February 2022. (Pricing subject to change.)

Your property, as identified above, does not have an approved garbage cart issued by the Department of Public Works. We are providing notice for you of this ordinance change that will come into effect as of June 1, 2022.

For more information on this initiative and to place an order for a garbage cart for potential delivery in mid-January or early February 2022, please go to the City's website at [www.westalliswi.gov/garbagecart](http://www.westalliswi.gov/garbagecart) for your order placement. If you have any questions, please contact the Department of Public Works at [sanitation-div@westalliswi.gov](mailto:sanitation-div@westalliswi.gov).

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(FAQ ON REVERSE SIDE)

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Why is the City doing this? The City is standardizing all carts to provide a streamlined and more efficient garbage collection much like what was done when standardized recycling carts were issued in 2017. The carts will help deter wildlife and boost curb appeal.

2. What if I recently bought a garbage cart at full price? The City has offered garbage cart sales in previous years. This sale is being offered now as Mayor Devine is seeking quick compliance of this initiative. The City does not make revenue from these purchases and residential taxes are not being used or increased to fund this initiative.

3. Why does my current cart or container need to be replaced? A standardized cart will make collection faster and more efficient and reduce bodily stress and injury to our Public Works crews.

4. Where will the new cart be delivered? New carts will be delivered in front of residents' homes. Even if your garbage is normally collected in the alley, you can expect to receive your new cart curbside.

5. What do I do with my old cart? Residents are encouraged to repurpose their old garbage carts whenever possible. Possible uses include storage for yard and garden equipment, compost, rainwater collection, storage for pet supplies, storage for sports equipment, and storage for firewood. Residents can also have their garbage carts recycled at the City drop-off site located at 6300 W. McGeoch Ave.

6. Do I need to use garbage bags? Yes. This helps prevent litter, helps to not attract wildlife, and helps keep our neighborhoods clean. This also helps the cart have a long service life.

7. Will Public Works take any garbage not in the container? Public Works crews may take up to 1 cubic yard of garbage that is bagged outside of the cart.

Learn more at [www.westalliswi.gov/garbagecart](http://www.westalliswi.gov/garbagecart).

Sincerely,

Dave Wepking  
Public Works Director

Dan Devine  
Mayor

## Addendum #2

(content resized to save space)

### FACEBOOK



## WEEKLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

### **DON'T WAIT - GET YOUR CITY-ISSUED GARBAGE CART AT A DISCOUNT**

Did you know our City-issued garbage carts are on sale? Order now until May 31 to get 50% off the regular purchase price! Any home in West Allis that does not have a City-issued garbage cart must have one by June 1; and don't worry, if you are one of these households, you were notified with a mailer on this change earlier this year.

You can choose either the 96-gallon, and you may have up to 2 garbage carts per household (you can have up to 2 recycling carts too, in case you were wondering). You can learn more, and purchase here: [www.westalliswi.gov/garbagecart](http://www.westalliswi.gov/garbagecart). For the 96-gallon garbage cart, the sale price will be \$29. (As of March 3, the 64-gallon garbage carts are out-of-stock until further notice.)

Residents are encouraged to repurpose their old garbage carts whenever possible. Residents can also have their garbage carts recycled at the City Dump located at 6300 W. McGeoch Ave. If you purchase the cart online, there is an option on the form to have Public Works remove your old cart(s) for free when they deliver the new cart.

## WEBSITE NEWS AND ALERTS; CIVICREADY AND NEXTDOOR.

### GET YOUR GARBAGE CART AT A DISCOUNT FOR A LIMITED TIME

Did you know our City-issued garbage carts are on sale? Order now until May 31 to get 50% off the regular purchase price! Any home in West Allis that does not have a City-issued garbage cart must have one by June 1; and don't worry, if you are one of these households, you were notified with a mailer on this change earlier this year.

You can choose either the 96-gallon or 64-gallon cart, and you may have up to 2 garbage carts per household (you can have up to 2 recycling carts too, in case you were wondering). You can learn more, and purchase here: [www.westalliswi.gov/garbagecart](http://www.westalliswi.gov/garbagecart). For the 96-gallon or 64-gallon garbage cart respectively, find these at sale price for \$29 and \$26.

Residents are encouraged to repurpose their old garbage carts whenever possible. Residents can also have their garbage carts recycled at the City Dump located at 6300 W. McGeoch Ave. If you purchase the cart online, there is an option on the form to have Public Works remove your old cart(s) for free when they deliver the new cart.



# WEBSITE PAGE - <https://www.westalliswi.gov/garbagecart>

## GARBAGE CART INFORMATION

### PURCHASE A CITY-ISSUED GARBAGE CART

Visit the [Purchasing Portal](#) to buy a garbage cart. If you are ordering between January 1, 2022 and May 31, 2022, you will receive 50% off the regular purchase price. We offer the official 96-gallon garbage cart, and you may have up to two garbage carts per household. (You may also have up to two City recycling carts per household, as well).

As of March 3, the 64-gallon garbage carts are out-of-stock until further notice.

Due to a delay in shipment, these carts are expected to be shipped to the City after March 10, 2022.



### ORDINANCE CHANGE - WHY WE'RE STANDARDIZING ALL CARTS

An [ordinance change](#) was passed on November 16, 2021, to standardize the garbage carts to be used by households for garbage collection services provided by the City. The ordinance will be in effect as of June 1, 2022. Under this ordinance change, residential properties will be required to have an approved garbage container cart purchased from the Department of Public Works.

On November 16, 2021, the Common Council approved the City's 2022 proposed budget which included an initiative on garbage and recycling for the City. Mayor Dan Devine's Budget Message identified these five (5) Quality of Life Initiatives for 2022:

1. Reckless Driving Deterrence Campaign
2. Enforcement and Nuisance Control Activities
3. Neighborhood Lighting Program
4. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Activities
5. Pilot Program for Garbage/Recycling Collection

#### 1. Why is the City doing this?

The City is standardizing all carts to provide a streamlined and more efficient garbage collection much like what was done when standardized recycling carts were issued in 2017. The carts will help deter wildlife and boost curb appeal.

#### 2. What if I recently bought a garbage cart at full price?

The City has offered garbage cart sales in previous years. This sale is being offered now as Mayor Devine is seeking quick compliance of this initiative. The City does not make revenue from these purchases and no residential taxes are being increased to fund this initiative.

#### 3. Why does my current cart need to be replaced?

A standardized cart will make collection faster and more efficient and reduce bodily stress and injury to our Public Works crews.

#### 4. Where will the new cart be delivered?

New carts will be delivered in front of residents' homes. Even if your garbage is normally collected in the alley, you can expect to receive your new cart curbside.

#### 5. What do I do with my old cart?

Residents are encouraged to repurpose their old garbage carts whenever possible. Possible uses include storage for yard and garden equipment, compost, rainwater collection, storage for pet supplies, storage for sports equipment, and storage for firewood. Residents can also have their garbage carts recycled at the City Dump located at 6300 W. McGeoch Ave. If you purchase the cart online, there is an option on the form to have Public Works remove your old cart(s) for free when they deliver the new cart.

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## Addendum #3

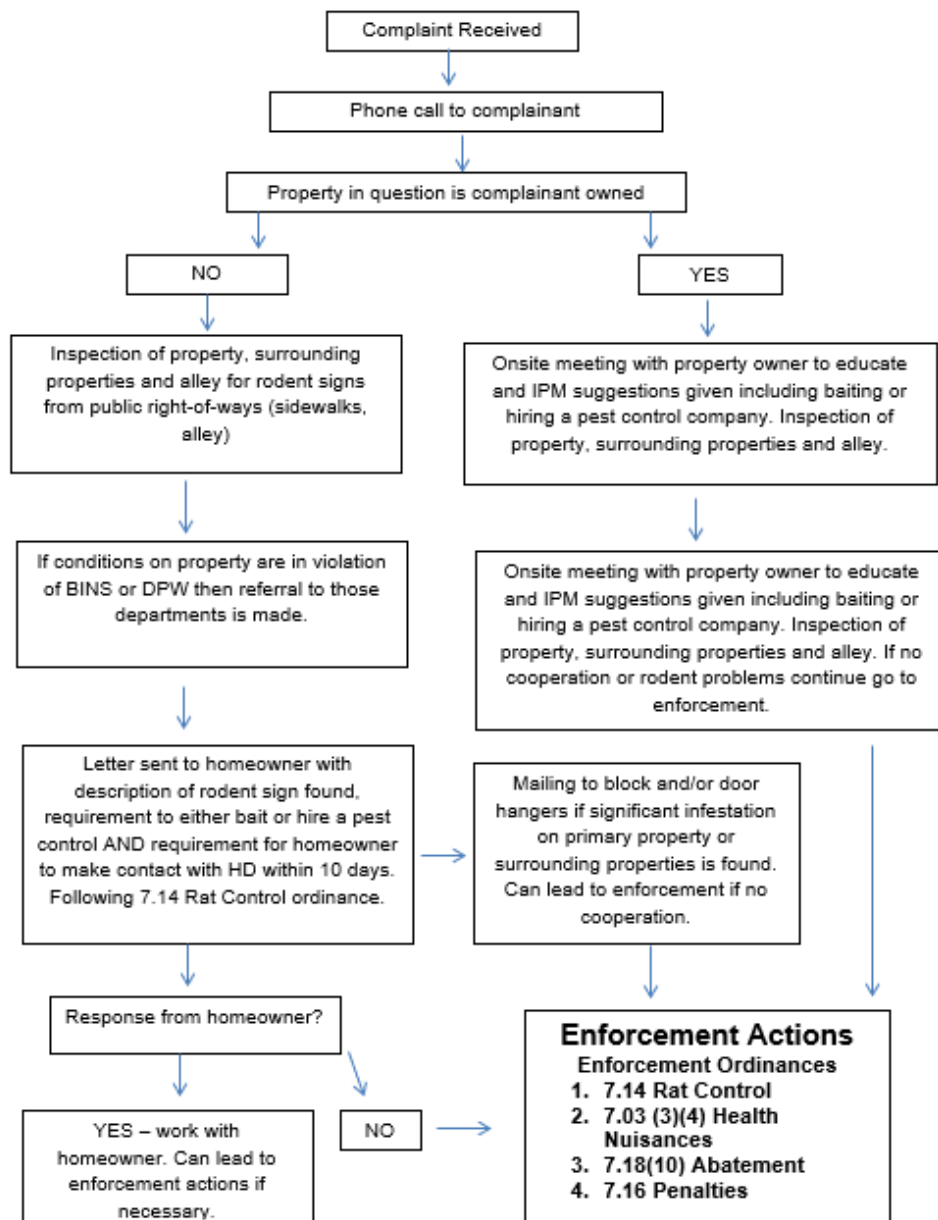
### Rodent Control Program Work Group Members

Health Department	Bob Leischow Ashley Palen Kevin Smith Peter Feldhusen Amy Lewis Frances Thomas ( <i>optional attendee</i> ) Nick Maniaci ( <i>optional attendee</i> )
Building Inspection and Neighborhood Services	Dan Adamczyk Ron Bailey Mike Weisnicht Lisa Franzen
Public Works	Dave Wepking Cindy Rausch Tim Last Sara Diebitz Brian Hill ( <i>optional attendee</i> )
Communications	Jon Matte Rachel Gintner ( <i>optional attendee</i> )
Economic Development	Patrick Schloss
Planning	Steve Schaer
Mayor/Admin	Mayor Devine ( <i>optional attendee</i> ) Rebecca Grill

## Addendum #4 – Rodent Response

### Current State – Provided by Health Department

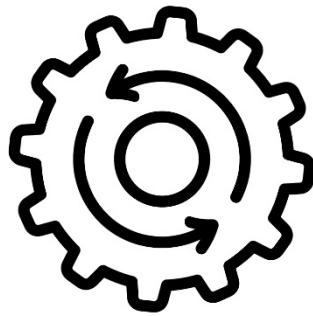
#### Current Rodent Response



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## Addendum #5 – Nuisance Abatement Response

### Future State - *In Progress*



**Update...**

## Addendum #6 – Door hanger





# Addendum #7 – Rodent Control Brochure

## BUSTING MYTHS



96-gallon garbage containers and 96-gallon recycling containers are available to buy on the city website at [www.westallswi.gov/mycityhall](http://www.westallswi.gov/mycityhall). If you have questions about approved trash containers contact the Sanitation and Streets Division at 414-302-8800.

If you have questions regarding trash, debris or high grass, contact Building Inspection and Neighborhood Services at 414-302-8400.

Please contact the Health Department 414-302-8600 if you notice problem properties or rodent activity in your neighborhood. Please leave your name, phone number, and address when filing a complaint in case an inspector needs more detailed information.

**Let Us Help!**  
[www.westallswi.gov/letushelp](http://www.westallswi.gov/letushelp)  
 Have a concern, suggestion, question, or need to request a service?

Let Us Help is a non-emergency online tool West Allis residents may use to share an idea, report a concern, or ask a question. Your submission will be automatically routed to the appropriate department. Requests will be resolved as quickly and effectively as possible.

West Allis Health Department  
 7120 W. National Ave.  
 West Allis, WI 53214

[www.westallswi.gov/ratprevention](http://www.westallswi.gov/ratprevention)


## RODENT CONTROL

### PREVENT RAT AND MICE INFESTATIONS



Public Health  
 Prevent. Protect. Promote.



Citizens can feed the birds in West Allis. In order to not provide a food source for rats citizens should not broadcast bird seed or bread. Bird seed should be fed out of feeders that decrease or eliminate the amount of bird seed that falls onto the ground.



Rodents do not live in sanitary or storm sewers but use them for traveling purposes. Rodents choose to burrow in many areas near food sources including retaining walls, under concrete slabs and walkways, into and under garage, shed and home walls and foundations.

West Allis Health Department  
 7120 W. National Ave.  
 West Allis, WI 53214


West Allis City Logo   Public Health  
 Prevent. Protect. Promote.

PREVENTING RODENTS


Keep trash in approved containers and off the ground. If you have holes in your trash or recycling containers, order new ones.



We promote gardens; however they serve as a source of food for rats. We suggest trimming back produce plants, and keeping them off the ground. Also, pick produce before it is ripe.




Monitor your yard for the presence of rodents, i.e. burrows or rodent trails or sightings.



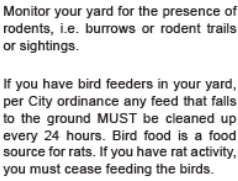
Keep your yard free of trash, debris, high grass or accumulations of building supplies and other materials. Keep your property in good repair so rodents cannot get in cracks and holes. Keep all bushes and plants trimmed. Ground cover provides shelter for rats.









If you have pets, pick up waste every day. Per City ordinance, animal waste must be picked up at least once every 24 hours. Pet waste should be double bagged and placed in an approved trash receptacle.



If you have bird feeders in your yard, per City ordinance any feed that falls to the ground **MUST** be cleaned up every 24 hours. Bird food is a food source for rats. If you have rat activity, you must cease feeding the birds.



## REASONS FOR RODENT ISSUES

 <p>Insufficient garbage containers/dumpster capacity resulting in overflowed containers that do not close and cause garbage to fall on the ground.</p>	 <p>Uncontained garbage/recycling being placed outside before designated date and time (i.e. too many hours and/or days in advance).</p>	 <p>Overgrown shrubs, plants, tall grass, brush piles, and tall weeds providing shelter.</p>	 <p>Composting of kitchen scraps.</p>	 <p>Brush, junk or other debris in the yard.</p>	 <p>Dog feces accumulating in yards and lawns.</p>	 <p>Bird feeders and bird food on the ground. Feeding of wild animals.</p>
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# Addendum #8 – Resident Letter Complaints in Area

Re:

Dear:

The City of West Allis Health Department has received complaints and reports of rat activity around the area of your neighborhood. Please take a look around your yard and your home for conditions that can attract rats.

The following conditions attract rats:

Allowing accumulation of bird feed on the ground.

Unapproved composting methods.

Accumulation of brush and debris piled in yards.

Firewood that isn't raised 12 inches off the ground.

Improperly maintained retaining walls, loose, or disturbed soil at walls or slabs.

Trash containers that do not meet City requirements (broken, no lid, unapproved containers, etc.).

Leaving dog poop overnight in the yard.

Trash and garbage that has accumulated around your property.

Garages that are cluttered and allow rats to breed and live undisturbed.

**Please read the enclosed fact sheet for further information about rodents and rodent infestations.**

You may visit <http://www.westalliswi.gov/> to locate the municipal code. It is found on the main page, left hand side (labeled municipal code). Ordinances pertaining to feeding wild animals and birds, trash, trash containers, and rodents can be found in Chapter 7.

The City also has a webpage dedicated to rat information which can be found here:

<https://www.westalliswi.gov/index.aspx?NID=1399>

City departments are working together to correct problem areas, however without the cooperation of residents it will be impossible to eliminate the problem.

Please contact our office if any questions 414-302-8600.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

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# Addendum #9 – Property Owner Violation Letter

OWNER

RE: ADDRESS

Dear Property Owner,

The West Allis Health Department has received numerous complaints regarding your property located at ADDRESS. Complainants have stated that they observe rats going into and out of your PROPERTY/BUILDING, and into the STRUCTURE/LOCATION. Pursuant to West Allis Revised Municipal Code Section 7.14, it is a violation of city ordinances to allow rodent infestations and/or rodents to burrow on your property.

Pursuant to Section 7.03(1) of the Revised Municipal Code, the Health Department is hereby requesting access to your PROPERTY/BUILDING, and into the STRUCTURE/LOCATION for an inspection to determine if you are in compliance with the Municipal Code. **Please contact us at 414-302-8600 to schedule this inspection within 5 days of service of this letter.** If you fail to contact me to schedule an inspection during that time frame, the Health Department will seek an inspection warrant pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 66.0119.

Sincerely,



## Addendum #10 – Rodent FAQ

### Why are there rodent issues?



- Insufficient garbage containers/dumpster and capacity resulting in overflowed containers that do not close and cause garbage to fall on the ground.
- Uncontained garbage/recycling being placed outside before designated date and time (i.e. too many hours and/or days in advance).
- Overgrown shrubs and plants, tall grass, brush piles, tall weeds, etc. providing shelter; Composting.
- Brush, junk or other debris in the yard.
- Dog feces accumulating in yards and tree lawns.
- Bird feeders and bird food on the ground; Feeding wild animals.

### Tips for preventing rodents

- Keep trash in approved containers and off the ground. If you have holes in your trash or recycling containers, order new ones. 96-gallon garbage containers are available for purchase at the Sanitation Dept. If you have questions regarding approved trash containers contact the Sanitation and Streets Division at 414-302-8800.
- Keep your yard free of trash, debris, high grass or accumulations of building supplies and other materials. Keep your property in good repair so rodents cannot get in cracks and holes. Keep all bushes and plants trimmed. Ground cover provides shelter for rats. If you have questions regarding trash, debris or high grass, contact Building Inspection and Neighborhood Services at 414-302-8400.
- If you have pets, pick up waste every day. Per City ordinance, animal waste must be picked up at least once every 24 hours. Pet waste should be double bagged and placed in an approved trash receptacle.
- If you have bird feeders in your yard, per City ordinance any feed that falls to the ground **MUST** be cleaned up every 24 hours. Bird food is a food source for rats. If you have rat activity, you must cease feeding the birds.
- Monitor your yard for the presence of rodents, i.e. burrows (see photo to the right) or rodent trails or sightings.
- Do not feed wild animals.
- We promote gardens; however they serve as a source of food for rats. We suggest trimming back produce plants, and keeping them off the ground. Also, pick produce before it is ripe.



Please contact the **Health Department (302-8600)** if you notice problem properties or rodent activity in your neighborhood. Please leave your name, phone number, and address when filing a complaint in case an inspector needs more detailed information.

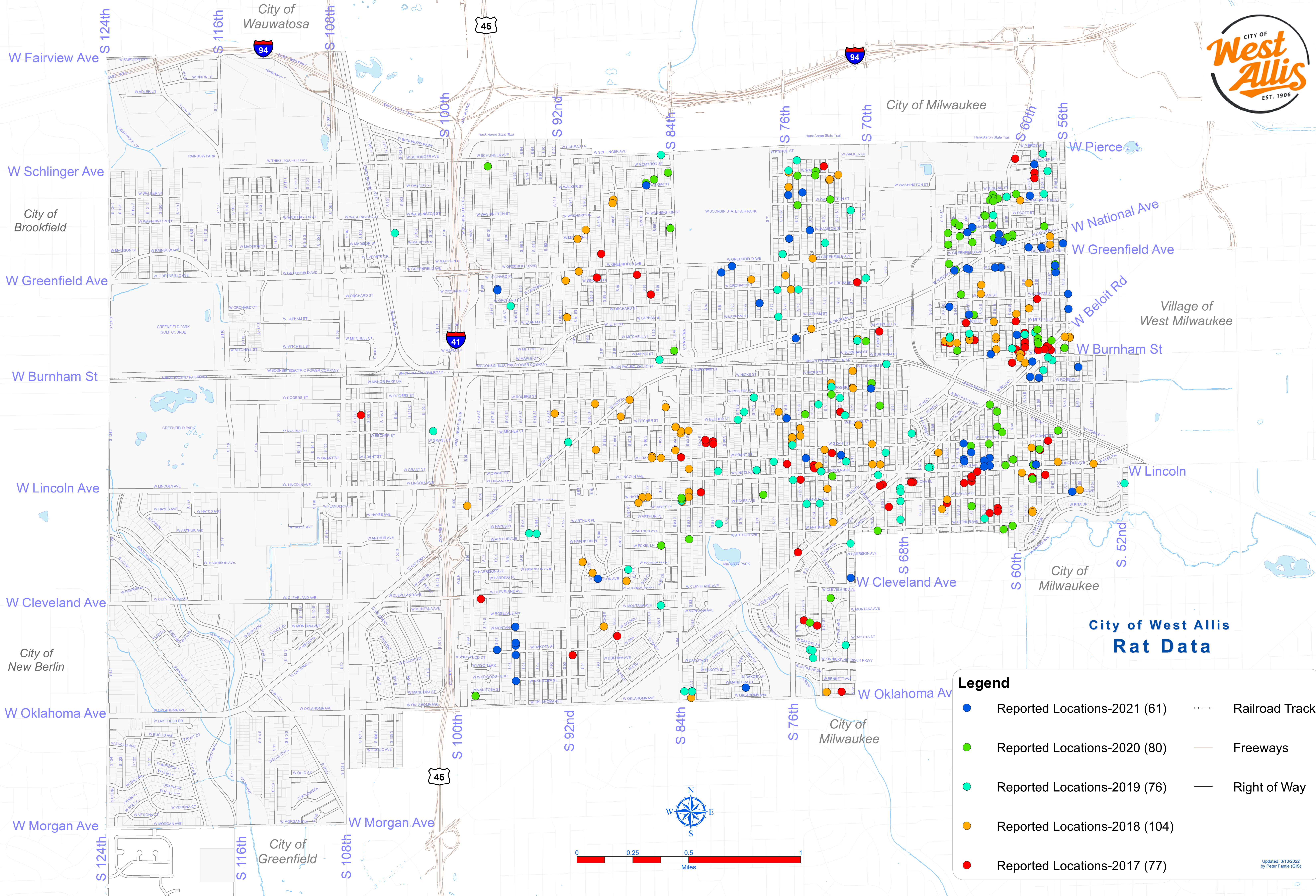
Updated 3/2019











### City of West Allis Rat Data

**Legend**

●

Reported Locations-2021 (61)

●

Reported Locations-2020 (80)

●

Reported Locations-2019 (76)

●

Reported Locations-2018 (104)

●

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Railroad Track

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Freeways

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Right of Way