



FARMERS BRANCH
TEXAS

Mulching Feasibility Study

Study Session Meeting | August 18, 2026

Requested By: Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Roger Neal

Further Options

Mulching within City Limits

- One-time Capital Costs
 - Land purchase and preparation: \$1 Million – \$3 Million
 - Equipment purchase: \$630,000 – \$1.35 Million
 - Annual Costs
 - Personnel costs (two additional employees for site operations): \$113,675.00
 - Operational costs: \$80,000 to \$130,000 per year
 - Additional considerations
 - Contracted grinding to shift expense from capital to annual.
 - Use or sale of final product
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Mulching at Camelot Landfill (Vendor Partnership)

- One-time Capital Costs
 - Site Construction: \$450,000 to \$550,000
 - Annual Costs
 - Operational costs: \$34,408
 - Commercial mulching operator – revenue guarantee: \$420,000
 - Additional considerations
 - Current site is slated for use in next cell development
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Landfill Disposal of Brush

- Annual Costs
 - Operational costs: \$34,408
- Additional considerations
 - Reduces landfill life expectancy
 - Reduces future landfill revenue opportunities
 - Contradiction of stated sustainability goals

Current Program

- Collection of brush by Public Works (Green Grabber)
- Contract with The Organic Recycler for mulching of brush collected from residents
 - \$65,000 annual disposal cost
 - ~16,500 cubic yards per year
- Proximity reduces transport costs
 - Distance to facility (round trip): 8.8 miles
 - Average fuel efficiency: 3.2 MPG
 - Total trip time: ~20 minutes
- Trip costs from city to mulching site (personnel costs excluded): \$11,132
- Total program cost (personnel costs excluded): \$76,132

Regional Examples

City of Mesquite

Individual City Model

Municipal run compost and mulching facility

- Funded through commercial tipping fees
- Processes around ~250,000 CY of brush
- Private grinding contract \$475,000 per year
- Revenues of \$75,000 per year from sale of compost and mulch

Texas Pure Products

Multi-City Model

Five member cities under interlocal agreement for regional composting program

- Brush collection by cities, tipping fees, mulching and composting operation, sale of finished product
- Enterprise model
- Significant startup costs: Land, equipment, staffing
- Multi-city approach increases tonnage and economies of scale

Factors for Consideration

Regulatory, Implementation, Funding

Permitting

- Registration/permit
- Stormwater
- Air Quality

Zoning

Requires Planning & Zoning and City Council approval

NCTCOG Solid Waste Grants

- Limited funding available (would not fully cover equipment purchases)
- Competition with private industry would lower competitiveness of grant application

Opportunities for Additional Waste Diversion

Attempt Landfill Contract Amendments

Goal: Reduce recyclable materials from filling Camelot Landfill air space

- Evaluate feasibility to alter contract with Republic Services to prohibit loads of clean brush from entering the landfill
- Brush made up 0.05% of waste landfilled (current year)

Pilot Program – Additional Green Waste Collection

Goal: Divert compostable materials collected within Farmers Branch from Camelot Landfill

- Collect leaves, grass clippings, and other green waste alongside current brush collection
- Collect green waste in paper bags
- Service options
 - Additional staff member and rear loading truck for collection
 - Request quotes for contracted collection

Questions



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