

# LITTER RECEPTACLES IN DOWNTOWN NORTHFIELD MINOR UPGRADE 1.1

A Proposal from the *ACTION SQUAD*  
Northfield Downtown Development Corporation  
August 22, 2003



## **Action Proposal**

We recommend to the City that it purchase enough additional litter receptacles and refurbish existing ones, if possible, to provide a cleaner, more attractive streetscape. We also propose a 4th pickup on Saturday to be added to the current MWF schedule to ensure fewer overflows during the weekend.

## **Current Situation Rationale**

Here is our assessment of what exists today:

- there is an inadequate number of receptacles for the size of the Downtown and the volume of waste that is generated
- many existing receptacles are in poor condition
- consideration of receptacle placement does not coincide with litter generation sites
- insufficient number of pickups to eliminate unsightly, overflowing receptacles
- all of the above contribute to a feeling of lack of civic pride and hospitality

Lack of an effective process for siting litter receptacles means that business owners may block placement of receptacles that are needed, may cause removal of a receptacle that is well placed or may not be able to obtain a receptacle that is needed. Some receptacles have been placed without obvious rationale in locations where nearby business owners feel the receptacle detracts from the aesthetics of their businesses. Placement only a short distance away would have been satisfactory.

Photos on the first page of this document illustrate the unsatisfactory placement of a receptacle, the poor condition of a receptacle. Also shown is an outdoor seating location for food consumption from which a litter receptacle was removed without consultation with the building or business owner.

## **Solution Rationale**

A determination should be made as to how many receptacles are needed per block, making sure that each outside eating space has an adjacent receptacle. This may require enforcement by being made part of an outside eating permit. Siting should be consultative with the business owners in the immediate vicinity wherever possible. However, for the good of the larger community the City needs, ultimately, to decide on receptacle placement. Without creating too complex a process, perhaps a small panel of building and business owners could be used as a sounding board by city staff when determining placement and could in turn receive owner input.

We also propose adding one additional pickup day—Saturday. Waste Management (WM) is contracted to pick up trash Monday-Wednesday-Friday in Downtown but will also pick up Saturdays if the business needs it. The WM cost of pick-up is \$0.60 per receptacle so, for example, 30 receptacles at \$0.60 would be \$18.00 additional for a more garbage free weekend. To minimize costs additional pick-ups may be necessary only seasonally or in conjunction with special events.

## Specific Recommendation

We recommend acquiring additional receptacles of the same model currently used. We also recommend that litter receptacles that have been damaged through normal use or vandalism be refurbished or replaced. We believe the make and model in use is Victor Stanley Ironsites Series Model S-42. We have been quoted a price of \$600.00 each for that unit. They are manufactured to order in the color required. We believe that is dark green. Delivery time is approximately 12 weeks.

As the following photographs illustrate, these receptacles are available in three sizes. S-42 is the middle size. It might be appropriate to consider the smaller size for side streets and the larger size for areas in which more litter is collected.



*S-42 - (36 gal) current size    S-32 (24 gal), S-42, S-45 (45 gal)    S-35 with 3-year old*

With regard to numbers of receptacles, we assume there are standards relevant to population size. In absence of existing guidelines or standard practice, we recommend two receptacles on each side of each single length block, provided there is an additional receptacle by each outside eating area where litter is generated.

We are sensitive to the fact that the politics of this issue are significant and need to be tactfully handled. Businesses feel the presence of litter receptacles affects their image and appeal. In fact, this is an additional reason for litter receptacles to be in good condition and frequently emptied. Anecdotal information on this subject is available from Action Squad members and we are available to assist city staff if requested.

## **Contact Information**

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