

19th District Court
Alternative Work Program
101-1125

FISCAL YEAR 2014
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Alternative Work Program continues to be one of the best programs in operation for the City of Dearborn and its citizens. Work Program crews fan out through the city virtually every day of the week picking up refuse, clearing debris from city parks and public lands, responding to requests for assistance from City departments and local non-profit organizations, and assisting senior citizens in the community with our snow removal program.

The 19th District Court Work Program is one of the most aggressive and effective programs in Michigan. Each year, judges assign over 1000 defendants to perform an average of 3,500 days of public service work in lieu of doing those days in jail. The benefits are enormous. The City avoids the incarceration costs for these individuals, which would exceed \$155,000 per year. The work performed is mainly that which the City might otherwise have to pay contract laborers to perform. Factored at minimum wage, which is a conservative figure, the savings again exceed \$200,000 per year. Defendants are assessed a fee of \$20 for each day of Work Program they have to complete. Defendants who fail to complete scheduled days due to their fault are assessed a \$35 rescheduling cost. Hard dollar revenues from these two sources exceed \$100,000 per year and soft dollar cost avoidance exceeds \$300,000 per year.

The hard dollar revenues coupled with soft dollar savings to the City far exceed the cost of the program. Work Program more than pays for itself when you consider benefits accrued to the City and the dollars collected.