



Re: Results of the Transfer & Compost Station Seasonal Hours Survey
September 24, 2026

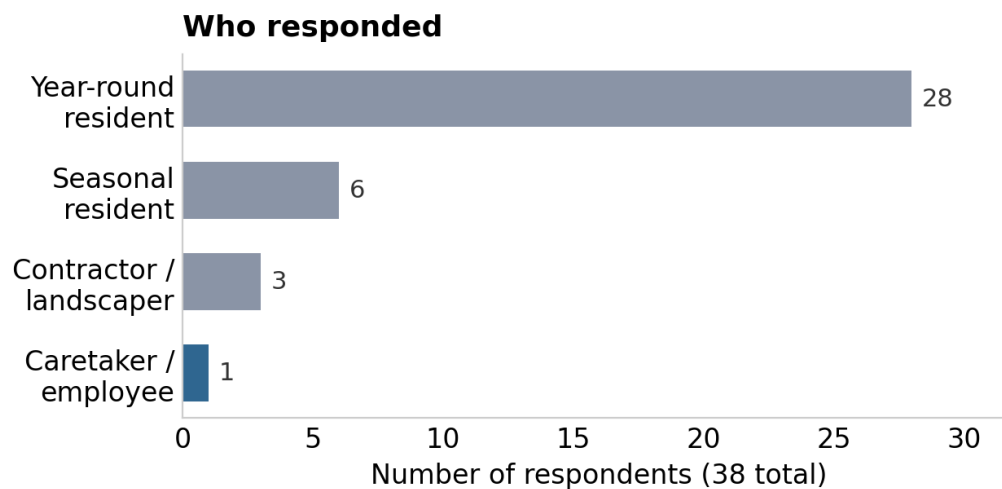
Dear Fishers Islanders,

Thank you. More than 40 of you took the time to share how you use the Transfer and Compost Stations and what matters most to you — 38 responses online plus several paper submissions dropped off at the stations. For a quiet-season survey on our small island, that is a great turnout, and it gave us real, usable direction.

We paired what you told us with our own station traffic records from the past year. Reading the two together — your stated preferences alongside the actual counts of vehicles and volume by day and season — gave us a clear and consistent picture of where service is essential and where it can be adjusted during the slower months.

What you told us

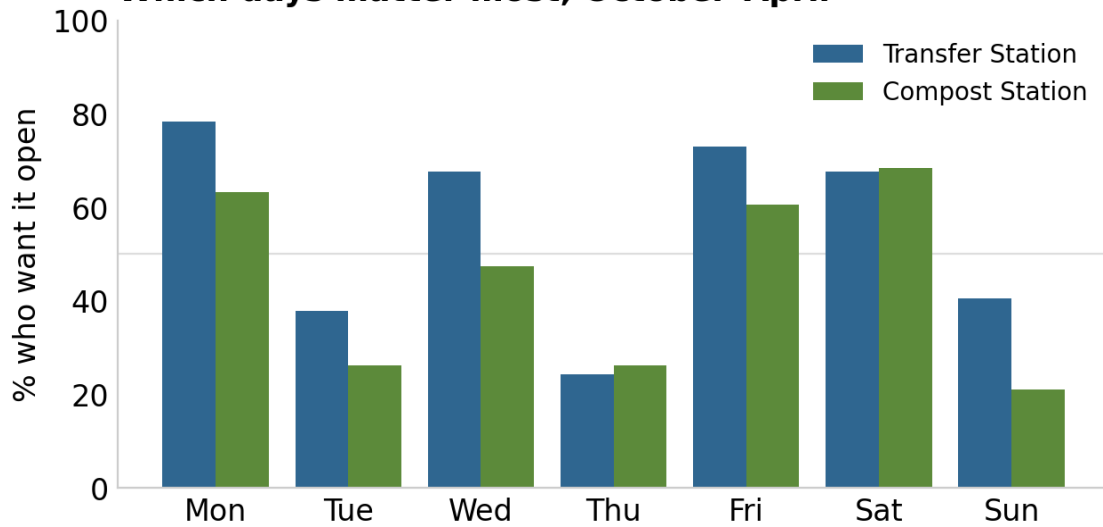
The people who answered are, overwhelmingly, our core year-round users. Nearly three-quarters were year-round residents, and most visit often — about 6 in 10 come several times a week, and more than 9 in 10 use the stations all year rather than seasonally. This is exactly the group most affected by winter hours.



Q1 — Who responded (38 total responses)

When we asked which days matter most from October through April, a clear pattern emerged. **Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday are the days people rely on**, while Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday drew noticeably less demand at both sites.

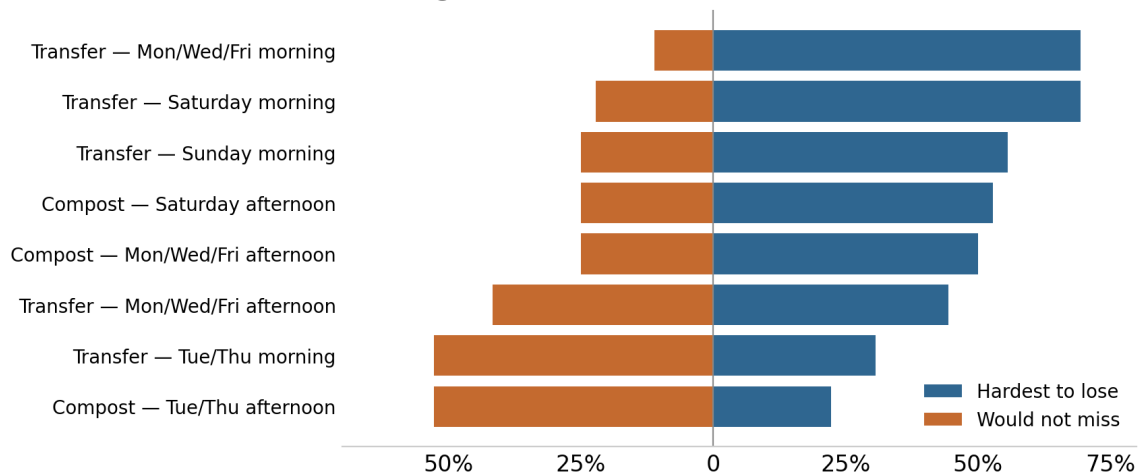
Which days matter most, October-April



Q7 & Q8 — Preferred open days, October through April

We also asked, hour by hour, which existing time slots would be **hardest to lose** and which you **would not miss**. The **weekday morning blocks and Saturday hours are clearly the ones to protect**. The Tuesday and Thursday slots stood out as the most expendable — a majority said they would not miss them — which supports concentrating winter service on fewer, busier days.

Existing hours: hardest to lose vs. would not miss



Q9 — Existing hours: hardest to lose vs. would not miss

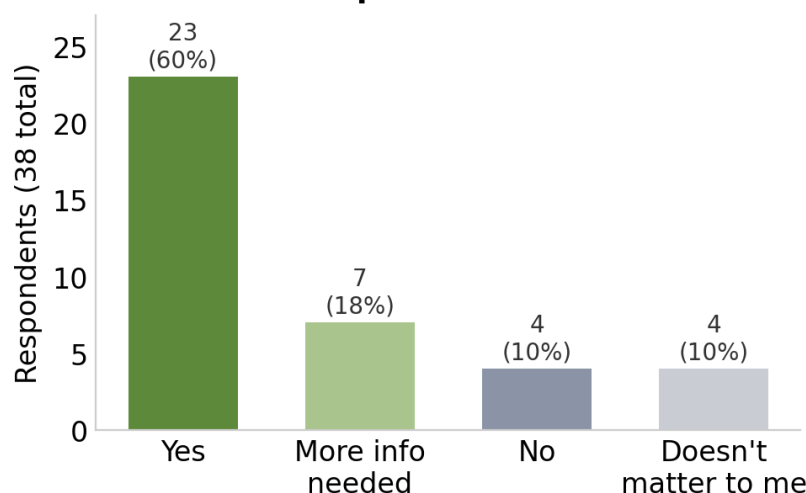
On the overall trade-off, opinion was genuinely split: when asked whether reduced winter hours should mean *fewer full days or more half-days*, no single format won a majority — a modest plurality leaned toward keeping more days at shorter hours, and about a fifth had no strong preference. We read this as a community that is **comfortable with a leaner winter schedule** as long as the days you depend on are preserved.

A common thread: getting everything done in one trip

Across the day rankings and the written comments, one theme came up again and again: you value being able to visit both the Compost Station and the Transfer Station on the same day. Many of you described making a single trip for household garbage, recycling, and compost, and found it frustrating when the two sites are open on different days or hours.

That preference lines up with strong interest in consolidating the two stations. About 60% said yes to pursuing consolidation, and another 18% asked to learn more — so nearly four in five respondents are open to the idea. Only about 1 in 10 were opposed.

Should FIWMD pursue station consolidation?



Q11 — Should FIWMD pursue station consolidation?

What the comments told us

Forty-four written comments came in across the two open-response questions. A few clear themes stood out:

- **Strong, often impatient support for consolidation.** The most common sentiment was simply “let’s get it done.” Many noted it would save money, give staff more scheduling flexibility, and let people sort and drop everything in one stop. Several observed it has been discussed for years and hoped to finally see progress.
- **Do it right.** Supporters raised thoughtful conditions: pursue it only if the savings outweigh the cost; plan for the traffic a combined site would draw (paving, clear flow, and a billing system for bulky and construction waste); keep the compost/mulch area generously sized; and likely keep an attendant at each function.
- **An interim idea.** Before full consolidation, several suggested collecting food scraps at the Transfer Station (for example, via a trailer), so it can be dropped off at the same time and place as household trash and recycling.



- **Weekend access is important.** Repeated requests to keep Saturday — and ideally Sunday — available at both stations, so people who work all week can handle yard waste and cleanouts on weekends.
- **Keep a reliable disposal option.** Several stressed the importance of always having a way to drop trash before leaving the island for a stretch, to discourage improvised or illegal dumping.
- **Warm praise for the staff.** A striking number of comments volunteered how friendly, helpful, and upbeat our FIWMD team is — including appreciation for the free “set-aside” items at the Compost Station.
- **Operational ideas.** Recurring suggestions included dedicated contractor drop-off times or lanes (trucks can block access), aligning hours with ferry freight pickup, a scale at the Compost Station for consistent billing, an on-island grinder for year-round mulch, and a bucket-rinse/dump station.

What we’re doing with your input

Guided by both the survey and our traffic records, here is how we are responding:

- **A leaner winter schedule that protects the busy days.** From October 1 through April 30, we are concentrating service on the days you told us matter most and trimming the quietest ones. The detailed seasonal schedule will be available for digital download on FIWMD.net, Fishnet, and for pickup at the stations.
- **New: fall and spring cleanup weekends.** During the reduced-hours season we plan to add a few dedicated cleanup weekends with expanded hours — timed for spring yard work and fall cleanouts — so the leaner weekly schedule doesn’t leave you stuck at the busiest times of year. Dates will be announced in advance. •
- **A dedicated FIWMD household trash dumpster** for Fishers Island residents will be available at the New London ferry terminal for your convenience when leaving the island on Sundays and Mondays when the Transfer Station is closed October through April.
- **Continuing to explore consolidation.** Given the clear interest, we will keep studying a single combined station and, importantly, share more information as we go so the many of you who asked to “learn more” can weigh in with the full picture.

Thank you again for the thoughtful, specific feedback. It helped shape these decisions will keep guiding us as we plan for the seasons ahead.

With appreciation,

Josh Theodore,

FIWMD Manager

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