



COLLECTION SCHEDULE UPDATE: Thanksgiving will affect the collection schedule on **Thursday & Friday**.
Christmas and New Year's Day will affect the collection **Tuesday through Friday**.



GARBAGE



RECYCLING



YARDWASTE



SPECIAL WASTE

City Issues Request for Bids for Solid Waste Contract



GARBAGE

Carts with wheels and lids. Trucks that run on alternative fuel. A new fall cleanup program. All three will factor into how the City of Omaha manages solid waste in the future after a new, long-term solid waste contract is awarded.

Earlier this month, city officials issued a request for bids (<https://www.douglascountypurchasing.org>) to replace the current contract with Waste Management, which expires Dec. 31, 2020. That contract has been in effect since 2006. "This is a critically important decision," said Mayor Jean Stothert. "We need a modern, safe, efficient and environmentally friendly collection system that we can afford."

The bid release follows more than two years of study and public outreach. The process included a series of open houses, a six-month test of automated collection by 2,500 homeowners in six neighborhoods, follow-up telephone surveys, comparative studies of comparable cities, environmental studies, and input from citizens and city council members.

"We have considered input from thousands of citizens to develop a bid that provides a base level of service that will



meet the needs of most people," Stothert said.

Companies bidding on the contract will be required to provide a collection system that uses automated trucks and covered carts to collect garbage, recyclables and yardwaste. Costs must be provided for three potential options:

Three carts – one for garbage, one for yardwaste and one for recyclables. Garbage and yardwaste would be collected separately each week. Recyclables would be collected every other week.

Three carts – Co-mingled garbage and yardwaste would be collected weekly in two carts, and recyclables would be collected every other week in one cart.

Two carts – Co-mingled garbage and yardwaste would be collected weekly in one cart, and recyclables would be collected every other week in one cart.

"We will choose the best system possible within our current budget," Stothert said. "I will not support a tax increase to pay for this contract."

The City of Omaha currently pays about \$20 million annually for solid waste collection plus an additional \$4 million annually for yardwaste collection. The new contract, when issued, will be in effect for 10 years and will include the option of two five-year extensions.

"This contract will impact the city budget for the next 20 years," said City of Omaha Finance Director Steve Curtiss.

"We've considered best industry practices and best cost estimates to design a bid process that provides the services taxpayers want."

No matter which company wins the new contract, Stothert said, changes are coming for all Omahans. They include:

- Requiring the use of a 96-gallon cart with wheels and a lid, which will be provided by the successful bidder
- Eliminating unlimited, free curbside collection of yardwaste
- Creating a new fall cleanup program to help residents dispose of yardwaste, garbage and household items
- Expanding the existing spring cleanup program to include the disposal of yardwaste
- Requiring yardwaste to be placed in the provided cart

For residents who still want unlimited yardwaste pick-up at the curb, the successful bidder must offer a voluntary, paid sticker program. The contractor will determine the price of the stickers and where they can be purchased.

In the future, citizens also will be able to take yardwaste directly to the Oma-Gro facility at 15705 Harlan Lewis Road for free, Stothert said.

The bids are due January 30, 2019. They will be reviewed, and a recommendation will be forwarded to Mayor Stothert. The Omaha City Council will make the final determination.

Legal Notice: Placement of solid waste (garbage, recyclable materials, and yardwaste) by a resident along a private owned street or road implies permission for the City's solid waste collection contractor to drive onto that street or road to perform contract work. Accordingly, such residents and owners of private streets and roads shall assume the risk of incidental damages incurred in the course of performing work while driving on the surface of these private streets and roads. Incidental damages may include cracks in the surface of the roadway or cave-ins due to collapsed sewers or poor street surface substrate. The City's contractor is not exempt from causal damages to personal property or premises adjoining private streets and roads. Please call the Solid Waste Hotline 402-444-5238 for questions or concerns about collection on private streets and roads.



GARBAGE

Collection Missed? Call 402-444-5238
after 7pm on your collection day

Because of state and federal laws, there are limits to the types of waste you may include in your garbage. Each household is limited to 5 properly prepared trash cans or clear bags of garbage per week.

Yes!



Trash Cans

up to 32-gallon that weigh up to 45 pounds when full

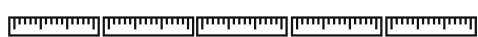
Clear Bags

that weigh up to 30 pounds when full



UP TO 5 Containers

containers of garbage per week
(example 2 trash cans and 3 bags)



UP TO 5' from Curb

containers of garbage per week
(example 2 trash cans and 3 bags)

NO!

- Mix of garbage and yardwaste
- Items sticking out above the can
- Christmas trees. Follow yardwaste collection rules
- Rocks, dirt, and concrete
- Dead animals
- Liquids of any type
- Loose pet waste or loose cat litter
- Tires, engines, or other large auto parts
- Bulky items (couches, chairs, stoves, etc.)
- Dark plastic bags that you can't see through
- Motor oil and automotive batteries
- Cardboard boxes (empty or full) when not in a can or bag
- Items outside a can or clear bag

†Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 33, Article II, Division 2.



YARDWASTE

Collection Missed? Call 402-444-5238
after 7pm on your collection day

There is no limit to the amount of properly prepared yardwaste that may be set out for collection. Place yardwaste within 5 feet of your collection location. Leave 2 feet of space between yardwaste and garbage containers.

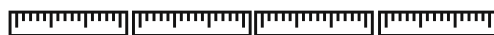
Yes!

**Yardwaste is collected all year long
when properly prepared.**

- Grass clippings and leaves
- Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables and fruit
- Trash cans up to 32-gallon that weigh up to 45 pounds, marked with a YW on both sides
- Special yardwaste paper bags that weigh up to 40 pounds
- Unlimited number of properly prepared marked cans, paper bags or brush bundles
- Bundles of branches and brush, tied with string or twine. Bundles may weigh up to 30 pounds
- Branches may be up to 2 inches in diameter and 4 feet in length



4' Long Maximum



2-Inch Diameter
Maximum



NO!

- Plastic bags used in yardwaste collection
- Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage
- Items sticking out above the can
- Sawdust, lumber or treated lumber/wood
- Litter, trash, or garbage
- Whole cans of dirt or sod
- Street sweeping sand, litter, or rocks
- Cardboard boxes of yardwaste
- Pet waste or kitty litter
- Branches over 2 inches in diameter
- Branches over 4 feet long
- Plastic twine, nylon twine, or wire
- Rope of any kind
- Brush that is not bundled



RECYCLING

Recycling Drop-off Sites

Recycling glass and the occasional extra bunch of recyclables is easy. Five full service drop-off sites accept glass and all the same materials as your green bin.

Full Service drop-off sites consist of two or more large containers. Glass bottles will go in one container and all the other recyclables go in a separate container. Keeping glass separate from the other recyclables is all the sorting you will need to do. There are three glass only drop-off sites with just one container to collect glass bottles and jars. Illegal dumping at drop-off sites is punishable by a fine of up to \$500, loss of drivers license for 6 months and all clean up costs.

[Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 34,
ARTICLE I, Section 4.]



Full Service Recycling Sites All Recyclables Accepted

West:

Western Douglas County
Chamber of Commerce
20801 Elkhorn Drive
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

Northwest:

Parking Lot North 75th
and Corby Streets
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

Southwest:

Firstar Fiber 10330 "I"
Street, east entrance.
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

Northeast:

Parking Lot
2574 Douglas Street
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

Southeast:

River City Recycling
6404 South 60th Street
(Between Harrison & "Q" Streets)

Winter Hours:

Monday – Friday:
8am – 4:30pm
Saturday: 8am – Noon
**Spring, Summer and Fall
Hours:** Monday –
Saturday: 8am – 4:30pm

Glass Only Recycling Sites

Far West Central:

HyVee
1000 S 178th Street
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

West Central:

Westwood Plaza
12071 West Center Road
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

Northwest:

Fresh Thyme
14949 Evans Plaza
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm

Downtown:

800 Douglas Street
Open: Daily, 7am – 7pm



Set out by 6am



**Trash cans and recycling bins must be removed
from the curb by 10am the day after collection.**

(Omaha Municipal Code, Chapter 18, Article X, Section 102)

UnderTheSink

Special Waste Facility



Properly dispose of unwanted household, lawn, garden, and automotive chemicals at **UnderTheSink**.

- Residential waste only.
- There is no charge.

Operating hours are:

Wednesday 9:00AM–4:45PM
Thursday 9:00AM–6:15PM
Friday 9:00AM–4:45PM

Saturday Call for an appointment
402-444-sink [7465]

www.underthesink.org

Solid Waste Contract Questions & Answers

Q: WHY DO I HAVE TO USE 96-GALLON CARTS?

A: The new contract will require everyone to use carts. The 96-gallon carts, with wheels and lids will be provided by the company. There is no direct cost to the citizens. The carts will replace the small green recycling bins and cans currently provided by citizens. An exchange program will be offered after a 90-day trial period for those who prefer a smaller cart (48-gallons). Residents can also "opt out" of a cart. During the six-month test of the carts (November 2016-April 2017), 82% of the participants surveyed said they strongly favor or moderately favor the cart system.

The carts are designed for durability and to easily move heavy loads. City code Chapter 18, Sections 101-106 will apply to the storage of the carts.

The carts will be covered by a 12-year warranty.

Q: WILL YARDWASTE BE COLLECTED SEPARATELY?

A: We don't know yet, as cost is a significant factor. Companies who submit bids are required to provide costs on three options, which include both separate collection and collection commingled with garbage. Stay tuned to Wasteline for updates.

Q: WHY IS UNLIMITED YARDWASTE COLLECTION BEING DISCONTINUED?

A: Currently, the annual cost of unlimited curbside collection is nearly \$4 million. This expense is not sustainable for the taxpayers. The majority of homeowners have minimal or no yardwaste. Survey participants indicated they typically use 1-3 yardwaste bags or containers weekly which would be comparable to a 96-gallon cart.

The next contract will require that yardwaste must be placed inside the cart provided. However, there will be new alternatives for free, unlimited disposal of yardwaste and a sticker program for a small cost that is successful in other communities and will allow for curbside collection.

The City will expand the annual Spring Cleanup to include yardwaste which is currently not offered. A new Fall Cleanup will also be held each year beginning in 2019 for residents to dispose of yardwaste, garbage and household items. These cleanup programs will coincide with the peak seasons for yardwaste.

The contractor will also offer a voluntary, paid sticker program for those who want unlimited yardwaste collection at the curb. The contractor will determine the price of the stickers



The bid documents are available at this link: <https://www.douglascountypurchasing.org/current-requests-for-bids-a-proposals>

and the retailers where stickers can be purchased. Only yardwaste bags marked with a sticker will be collected by the contractor. The contractor will also offer an extra cart service, for a fee, for those who need additional curbside collection capacity.

Q: WHY IS THE COLLECTION SYSTEM CHANGING AND WHEN WILL THE CHANGE BE EFFECTIVE?

A: The City's current contract with Waste Management expires December 31, 2020. This contract has been in effect since 2006 and was originally awarded to Deffenbaugh Industries. Waste Management purchased Deffenbaugh in 2014. The current, outdated system will be replaced with a system that meets current industry standards to provide safe, clean and efficient collections. The new system will benefit residents in many ways, including safety, convenience, and added capacity for recycling which will divert material from the landfill. The trucks will be equipped with automated arms that lift the carts off the curb and empty into the truck.

The new contract will be awarded in 2019 and the new system must be in place prior to the expiration of the current contract.

Q: MY TRASH IS COLLECTED FROM AN ALLEY. DOES THIS CHANGE APPLY TO ME?

A: Yes. In some parts of the city, including neighborhoods with alleys, narrow streets with on-street parking on both sides of the streets, and large trees that hang over the street, the contractor will use a semiautomated truck. The automated arm that lifts the carts from the curb are on the back of the truck instead of the side. The driver will push the carts to the back of the truck so they can be lifted and emptied.

Q: HOW MUCH WILL THE NEW CONTRACT COST?

A: Our estimates project the cost of the next contract will increase significantly.

The City currently pays approximately \$20 million annually

for solid waste collection; \$14 million to Waste Management, plus tipping fees at Pheasant Point Landfill which are based on the volume of material discarded. These costs are paid from the City's General Fund budget. State law requires the City of Omaha to collect solid waste without a direct charge to the taxpayer. Nebraska State Statute 13-2020(4). In all other Nebraska cities, citizens pay for waste collection with private haulers.

Q: WILL THE SPECIAL COLLECTION PROGRAM STILL BE OFFERED?

A: Yes. Households where all residents have a medical disability or are at least 70 years old qualify for special collection. Participants in the special collection program will also use carts, and can begin the new collection program with the smaller cart option. To apply for this program, call 402-444-5238.

Q: CAN I HAVE EXTRA CARTS?

A: Yes. If a citizen wants more than the carts provided by the City for basic service, additional carts will be available from the contractor for additional curbside capacity. Citizens requesting the additional cart will pay the contractor directly.

Q: WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY OLD TRASH CANS AND GREEN BINS?

A: We recommend you keep the green recycling bin for storage or to transport glass to a recycling center. The cans can be used for other purposes including backyard composting.

Q: WHO WILL CHOOSE THE NEXT CONTRACTOR?

A: The Request for Bids (RFB) was published on October 24. Bids are due January 30th. The bids will be reviewed and a recommendation will be made to Mayor Stothert. The Mayor will then forward a recommendation to the City Council. The Council will make the final decision.

Have You Seen The New wasteline.org?

The web site dedicated to information about the City of Omaha's solid waste program has a new look and feel.

The revamped site was designed to provide Omaha residents with the latest information on the city's solid waste services in a more user-friendly format. It also contains tips the public can use to reduce waste, increase recycling and halt illegal dumping, all of which have economic and environmental consequences for Omaha.

"In 2017, Omahans recycled more than 11,000 tons of material, but we can and need to do better," said Mayor Jean Stothert. "Our goal with this relaunch is to encourage everyone to do their part in making Omaha a cleaner, greener city."

The site is organized around the program's four main service areas: garbage, recycling, yardwaste and special waste. It will continue to evolve in the months ahead with fresh content, including news features and videos designed to encourage residents to adopt new practices that lead to reducing the amount of material destined for the landfill.

Residents also can use the site to sign up for free e-updates on collection schedule changes via the "Get Collection Notifications" link in the right-hand column of the home page.

As the city determines its next collection contractor in the coming months, www.wasteline.org will be the go-to resource for the latest information on this process.



Recycling Bin Distribution



Replacement and additional recycling bins are available. Households that receive City of Omaha solid waste collection service, may get a bin from one of these locations.

These locations also have the bright orange card you need to recycle your recycling bin if it is damaged. Please note that holidays will affect the schedule of each location.

Saddlebrook Branch Library (14850 Laurel Avenue)
MondayClosed
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday8:00am – 8:00pm
Friday8:00am – 5:00pm
Saturday9:00am – 4:00pm
SundayClosed

A. V. Sorensen Branch Library (4808 Cass Street)
MondayClosed
Tuesday10:00am – 8:00pm
Wednesday10:00am – 6:00pm
Thursday10:00am – 8:00pm
Friday and Saturday10:00am – 6:00pm
SundayClosed

Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch Library (2100 Reading Plaza)
Monday through Thursday9:00am – 8:00pm
Friday and Saturday9:00am – 6:00pm
SundayClosed

South Omaha Branch Library (2808 “Q” Street)
Monday through Thursday7:30am – 9:00pm
Friday and Saturday9:00am – 6:00pm
SundayClosed

Charles B. Washington Branch Library (2868 Ames Avenue)
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday9:00am – 8:00pm
Thursday, Friday and Saturday9:00am – 6:00pm
SundayClosed

Milton R. Abrahams Branch Library (5111 North 90th Street)
Monday through Thursday9:00am – 9:00pm
Friday and Saturday9:00am – 6:00pm
Sunday1:00pm – 6:00pm

UnderTheSink, Special Waste Facility
(4001 South 120th Street) Drive around building to parking lot and enter office.
Wednesday9:00am – 4:45pm
Thursday9:00am – 6:15pm
Friday9:00am – 4:45pm
Saturday9:00am – Noon



Pick up a new bin and the bright orange card to put on the curb with your old bin



Special Assistance

Special collection for garbage, yardwaste and recyclables is available. Households where all occupants of the home have a medical disability, or are at least age 70, qualify for the service.

It can take several weeks to get the service set up. To apply, call **402-444-5238** from 8am to 8pm weekdays.



A Step in the Right Direction

Global sportswear maker Adidas has committed to using only recycled plastics by 2024.

Adidas is working with New York-based ocean preservation group Parley. Parley will help supply and guide Adidas' conversion to recycled plastics. The relationship includes using Parley Ocean Plastic yarn. Parley's guiding principles are Avoid, Intercept, Redesign.

"We aim to use 100% recycled polyester in every product and on every application where a solution exists by 2024," stated Adidas spokesperson Maria Culp. In 2019 Adidas' apparel line for spring and summer will contain 41% recycled polyester. Adidas started in 1924 as the Dassler Brothers Shoe Factory, and in 1936 Dassler was the sponsor of US Olympian Jesse Owens.

A Summary of 2017 Omaha Solid Waste Stats

Yardwaste collection resumed in 2017, at least for a portion of the City. Waste Management continued to have difficulty recruiting a sufficient number of qualified drivers for complete citywide separate yardwaste collection.

Yardwaste that was co-collected with garbage went to the

Pheasant Point landfill where the decomposing yardwaste and garbage produces methane gas. The gas is collected and used to produce electricity at the Omaha Public Power District's Elk City Station.

Recycling remained flat during 2017. Recycling struggles in

part because the prevalent and heavy recyclables of the past, magazines and newspapers, have lost favor to their on-line counterparts.

Overall diversion (material that is recycled or composted instead of landfilled) in 2017 was 18.1%.

2017 MONTH BY MONTH

2017	GARBAGE		RECYCLING		YARDWASTE	
January	9,332.31	86%	1,466.46	14%	-	0%
February	8,317.54	87%	1,205.29	13%	-	0%
March	10,397.09	88%	1,415.08	12%	-	0%
April	12,274.73	87%	1,380.35	10%	437.11	3%
May	13,672.50	83%	1,571.94	10%	1,202.87	7%
June	13,248.64	84%	1,508.40	10%	988.63	6%
July	10,395.19	79%	1,315.47	10%	1,439.51	11%
August	10,950.89	75%	1,474.19	10%	2,124.47	15%
September	9,202.00	72%	1,327.34	10%	2,241.97	18%
October	11,403.36	77%	1,411.15	9%	2,086.82	14%
November	13,740.76	82%	1,562.72	9%	1,433.91	9%
December	9,955.29	85%	1,405.14	12%	330.07	3%
Total 2017	132,890.30	82%	17,043.53	11%	12,285.36	8%

HISTORICAL LOOK BY YEAR

	GARBAGE		RECYCLING		YARDWASTE	
Total 2017	132,890.30	82%	17,043.53	11%	12,285.36	8%
Total 2016	145,843	89%	17,330	11%	-	0%
Total 2015	134,957	86%	17,018	11%	5,661	4%
Total 2014	119,249	78%	16,493	11%	16,493	11%
Total 2013	108,566	74%	16,795	11%	21,109	14%
Total 2012	106,400	76%	16,129	11%	17,725	13%
Total 2011	127,102	84%	16,268	11%	7,433	5%
Total 2010	104,578	69%	16,268	11%	30,618	20%
Total 2009	101,874	68%	16,511	11%	30,770	21%
Total 2008	107,487	70%	17,586	12%	27,840	18%
Total 2007	99,164	66%	16,459	11%	34,176	23%
Total 2006	98,985	66%	15,156	10%	35,928	24%
Total 2005	98,270	65%	16,710	11%	35,391	24%

†Reported in Tons (2,000 pounds)