



**Town Council**  
**December 2023 Work Session**  
**December 14, 2023 | 3:30 PM**  
**Apex Town Hall | 73 Hunter Street, Apex, NC**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Training Rooms A and B**

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- 1. Call to Order | Pledge of Allegiance**  
*Mayor, Jacques K. Gilbert*
- 2. Temporary Sign Ordinance Discussion**  
*Dianne Khin, Director, Planning Department*
- 3. Solid Waste Division Updates**  
*John Mullis, Director, Public Works Department*
- 4. Q & A**
- 5. Adjournment**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members of the public can access and view the meeting on the Town's YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/c/TownofApexGov> or attend in-person.

**Accommodation Statement:** Anyone needing special accommodations to attend this meeting and/or if this information is needed in an alternative format, please contact the Town Clerk's Office. The Town Clerk is located at 73 Hunter Street in Apex Town Hall on the 2nd Floor, (email) [allen.coleman@apexnc.org](mailto:allen.coleman@apexnc.org) or (phone) 919-249-1260.



# Apex Town Council Meeting

December 14, 2023

# Work Session Item #1

## Temporary Signs

# Duplicative Signs

- Planning committee considered a provision to limit duplicative signs at an intersection
- A court may view this as a regulation of who is speaking, and apply a higher level of scrutiny if challenged
- Even in a public forum, the government may impose reasonable restrictions on the time, place, or manner of protected speech, provided that the restrictions are justified without reference to the content of the regulated speech, they are narrowly tailored to serve a significant governmental interest, and they leave open ample alternative channels for communication of the information.
  - *Ward v. Rock Against Racism* (SCOTUS 1989).
- Time, place, and manner restrictions are acceptable when they are narrowly tailored to the purposes of the sign ordinance – aesthetics, public safety, effective communication, and economic development

# Sign Ordinance – Purpose Statement

The purpose of this Chapter is intended to accomplish the following objectives:

- A. To ensure that signs are designed, constructed, installed, and maintained so that public safety and traffic safety are not compromised.
- B. To minimize distractions and view obstructions that contribute to traffic hazards and endanger public safety.
- C. To allow for adequate and effective signs while preventing visual clutter.
- D. To ensure a high standard for the design and size of signs so that they enhance the aesthetic appearance and attractiveness of the community, and create an aesthetic environment that has a positive impact on economic development.

***From Charlotte Zoning Ordinance 13.1 Purpose***

# Temporary Sign – Definition

- **Sign, Temporary** means a sign intended for a use not permanent in nature. For the purposes of this Chapter, a sign which is intended for use of one (1) year or less shall be deemed a temporary sign.

***From Cary LDO 9.1.3 Definitions***

# Obsolete Signs

- A sign relating to or identifying a business or activity that has not been conducted on the premises for six months or to a transpired election or event, or to a political party or non-profit organization that no longer exists.
- The structure for a sign that is not allowed under this Ordinance if such structure cannot be used for a legal use or does not comply with the height, size, or other physical requirements of the Ordinance.
- Including this provision makes enforcement more efficient.

***From Durham UDO Sec. 11.3 Prohibited Signs***

# Governmental Signs – Exempt

- Any official or public notice or warning sign required by a valid and applicable federal, state, or local law, regulation or chapter; by a public utility company; or by order of a court of competent jurisdiction.
- Any sign located within the right-of-way or on private property that is used as a traffic control device. This includes, but is not limited to, any sign that is described and identified in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and approved by the Federal Highway Administrator as the National Standard, regulatory signs (that give notice of traffic laws or regulations), warning signs (that give notice of a situation that might not readily be apparent), and guide signs (that show route designations, directions, distances, services, points of interest, and other geographical, recreational, or cultural information).

# Governmental Signs – Exempt (continued)

- Signs erected by or on behalf of a governmental or quasi-governmental agency including, but not limited to, noncommercial signs identifying a government building or service, traffic control signs, street name signs, street address signs, warning signs, safety signs, informational signs, traffic or other directional signs, public notices of events, public notice of government actions, proposed changes of land use, any proposed rezoning, or any other government speech.

***From Cary LDO Sec. 9.1.4.B Signs Exempt from Regulations***

# Temporary Signs on Private Property

- Commercial temporary signs that are on-premise of the business advertised or doing on-premise work (e.g. construction, real estate sales, etc.) are allowed on private property provided they meet size/height requirements, are limited to a certain number per property, and are limited in time posted. Non-commercial temporary signs on non-residential property will be subject to the same rules. This is a land use/zoning regulation.
- Commercial temporary signs are not allowed off-premise of the business advertised/doing on-premise work on private or public properties. This is a land use/zoning regulation.
- Non-commercial temporary signs on residential properties are exempt from regulation.

# Non-commercial Message Substitution

- Any sign permitted by these regulations may display or publish a non-commercial message. This includes signs that both require and do not require a permit.

***From Charlotte UDO 22.2.B Noncommercial Messages.***

# Temporary Signs in State Rights-of-Way

- Commercial signs are not allowed in State rights-of-way.
- NCGS 136-32 allows some other types of signage in State rights-of-way:
  - Farm/agricultural
  - Political
- Enforcement would continue to be in compliance with State law.

# Temporary Signs in Town Rights-of-Way

- Commercial signs are not allowed in Town rights-of-way.
- Non-commercial signs are currently allowed in Town rights-of-way provided they are not adjacent to Town property (e.g. parks, Town Hall Campus, etc.)
- Proposal is to continue to prohibit commercial signs, but also no longer allow non-commercial signs in **Town** rights-of-way. Farm/agricultural and political signs are still allowed by State law in **State** rights-of-way and Governmental Signs are still exempt under this proposal.

*This proposal is consistent with Town of Cary's provisions.*

# Temporary Signs in Town Rights-of-Way (continued)

- Prohibiting all signs in Town rights-of-way would be the most efficient enforcement option.
- Prohibiting non-commercial signs in Town rights-of-way would primarily affect non-profit entities (religious organizations, civic clubs, etc.)
- If the desire is to not prohibit non-commercial signs in Town rights-of-way, an alternative proposal would be to prohibit non-commercial signs unless they are associated with a valid Temporary Use Permit.
  - Temporary Use Permits are already required for outdoor non-profit events and there is no fee for non-profit event TUPs.



# Downtown Signs

Common exceptions to the prohibition of signs in Town rights-of-way include signs typically seen in Downtowns:

- Sandwich Board (A-frame) signs
- Projecting signs
- Suspended signs
- Awnings

Town Council Workshop – December 14, 2023

Overview: Apex's current yard waste program and challenges.



# Public Works – Solid Waste

John Mullis – Public Works Director

# Purpose:

Provide an overview of the town's current yard waste program and solicit input from the Town Council on potential ordinance and operational adjustments that minimize impacts to our watershed, improve cost recovery, and enhance service delivery for residents.

# Requested Action:

- Receive Council feedback on current ordinances and willingness to consider ordinance revisions.
- Receive Council feedback on state of current yard waste curbside collection model. Seek guidance as to potential modifications.
- Receive Council feedback and direction on exploring potential for a transfer facility to support current and future operations.

# Discussion Areas

- Public Works at a Glance
  - Solid Waste Budget (FY23-24) & Fee Structure
  - Households Served and Tonnage by Type
  - Organizational Structure and Equipment Overview
  - Operations Resource Plan – Yard Waste & Bulk
- Apex Yard Waste Program
- Peer Community Information
- Local Trends – Raleigh and Holly Springs
- Why Conversation on Yard Waste?
- Strategic Plan Framework
- Stakeholder Relationships and Considerations
- Impacts and Concerns
  - Operational
- Growth in Population and Households
- Operational Challenges and Concerns
  - Community Appearance
  - Excess Yard Waste
  - Non-compliance with pre-collection requirements
  - Worker Safety
- Ordinances
- Disposal
- Challenges – Recap
- Conclusion
- Questions
- Requested Action
- Addendum

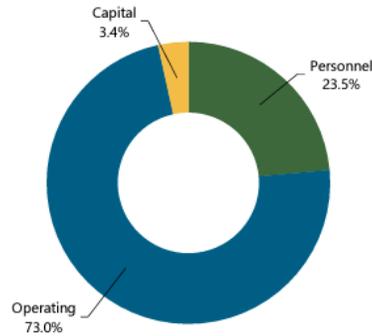
# Public Works at a Glance

## FY 2023-2024 Budget – Solid Waste

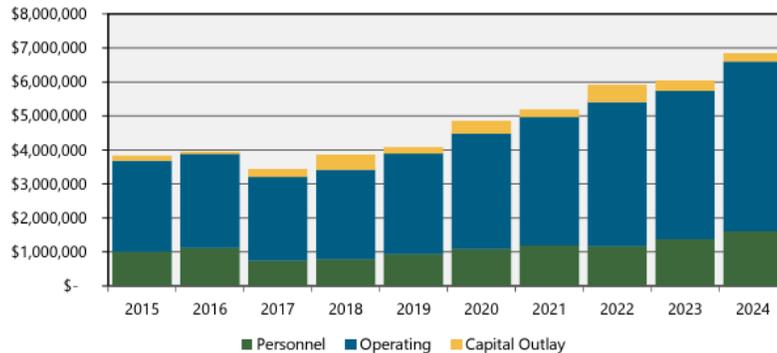
### Budget Summary

Solid Waste Expenditures by Type					
Type	FY21-22 Actual	FY22-23 Budget	FY22-23 Estimate	FY23-24 Budget	Percent Change
Personnel	1,169,916	1,477,400	1,381,400	1,611,000	9.04%
Operating	4,234,613	4,564,395	4,358,900	4,995,800	9.45%
Capital	515,008	300,287	301,900	235,000	-21.74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,919,537</b>	<b>\$6,342,082</b>	<b>\$6,042,200</b>	<b>\$6,841,800</b>	<b>7.88%</b>

Solid Waste Expenditures by Type



Solid Waste Expenditure History



### Line Item Expenditures

Solid Waste Expenditures					
Line Item	FY21-22 Actual	FY22-23 Budget	FY22-23 Estimate	FY23-24 Budget	Percent Change
Salaries	805,622	995,000	920,000	1,030,300	3.55%
Part-Time Salaries	-	9,000	7,500	46,800	420.00%
FICA	60,683	69,900	69,000	82,300	17.74%
Group Insurance	147,041	200,100	173,000	218,000	8.95%
General Retirement	91,641	108,200	112,000	138,800	28.28%
401K General	40,650	44,600	46,600	53,900	20.85%
Workers Comp	24,280	50,600	53,200	40,900	-19.17%
Postage	-	500	100	500	0.00%
Telephone & Communication	11,340	10,800	10,700	11,400	5.56%
Printing	474	500	-	2,600	420.00%
Travel and Training	2,339	7,700	4,000	10,200	32.47%
Maintenance & Repair - Building	150	3,000	500	500	-83.33%
Maintenance & Repair - Equipment	63,504	77,528	70,000	82,400	6.28%
Maintenance & Repair - Vehicle	54,448	40,000	40,000	40,000	0.00%
Rental - Equipment	2,722	1,500	-	1,500	0.00%
Automotive Supplies	21,873	15,430	18,200	16,000	3.69%
Motor Fuel	126,699	124,143	155,000	133,500	7.54%
Office Supplies	945	800	200	500	-37.50%
Janitorial Supplies	96	500	200	500	0.00%
Departmental Supplies	9,454	9,100	6,500	7,200	-20.88%
Technology Hardware & Accessories	-	3,800	3,100	7,000	84.21%
Safety Supplies	-	1,100	-	1,100	0.00%
Meeting & Event Provisions	3,019	3,200	3,200	3,200	0.00%
Community Outreach Materials	608	1,000	500	3,000	200.00%
Uniforms	9,595	9,000	6,000	17,300	92.22%
Contracted Services	12,053	11,200	7,200	25,200	125.00%
Personal Protective Equipment	6,171	9,400	6,500	10,000	6.38%
Software License & Maintenance	13,537	18,094	18,000	60,800	236.02%
Sanitation Services	3,812,123	4,051,900	3,850,000	4,389,500	8.33%
Electronics Recycling	380	-	-	-	-
Landfill Tipping Fees	57,202	130,000	125,000	135,000	3.85%
Dues and Subscriptions	634	800	500	3,800	375.00%
Operating Licenses & Permits	-	400	400	600	50.00%
Insurance - General Liability	25,248	33,000	33,200	32,500	-1.52%
Capital Outlay - Equipment	515,008	300,287	301,900	235,000	-21.74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,919,537</b>	<b>\$6,342,082</b>	<b>\$6,042,200</b>	<b>\$6,841,800</b>	<b>7.88%</b>

# Public Works at a Glance



## Fee Structure FY 2023-2024 Budget – Solid Waste

SOLID WASTE FEES			
Yard Waste Collection	\$7.83/month	Dumpster Service	
Residential Roll-Out Cart	\$9.85/month	- 4 CY Dumpster	\$145.86/month
Commercial Roll-Out Cart	\$20.62/month	- 6 CY Dumpster	\$173.32/month
Recycling (Per Bin or Cart)	\$5.24/month	- 8 CY Dumpster	\$198.85/month
Bulk items	\$11/each	Bulk Items - Half Load	\$22
White Goods	\$18/each	Bulk Items - Full Load	\$40

### Revenue – Yard Waste Program Portion

(Estimated): Sept 2023

Based on 23,231 households @ \$7.83/month per household

Monthly: \$ 182,000  
 Annually: \$ 2,184,000

#### Description

The Solid Waste division of Public Works is responsible for all duties related to solid waste management in the Town. Its responsibilities include conducting contractor oversight, managing leaf, limb, and bulk waste collection, handling and disposing of special materials, conducting public trash collection for the Central Business District, and coordinating and completing special clean-up projects. Additionally, the division handles the regular cleaning and maintenance of Town lots and property, manages and executes inclement weather response and recovery efforts, and provides support to other operations.

#### Recent Accomplishments

- Partnered with Public Works administration to provide GFL access to CityWorks for service requests.
- Obtained yard waste transfer and disposal agreement extension with Holly Springs.
- Worked with other Town departments on Customer Service Standards project.

#### Strategic Goal Activities

##### High Performing Government

- Utilize data analytics to increase operational efficiency and sustainability of the Town Solid Waste Program.
- Analyze long-term solutions for yard waste programming.

#### FY 2023-2024 Budget Highlights

- The Solid Waste department budget increased 7.88 percent in FY23-24.
- The Solid Waste budget accounts for 6.70 percent of the General Fund budget and is equivalent to \$0.055 on the tax rate.
- The Town plans to spend \$90.67 per capita for Solid Waste services in FY23-24.
- Major budget changes include an increase in software licensing and a transition in uniform services.
- The budget includes \$4.39 million for contracted sanitation and recycling services.

# Public Works at a Glance

## Garbage, Recycling, Yard Waste (Curbside weekly Sept 2023)

23,231 – Residential Yard Waste Accounts

23,568 – Residential Recycling Accounts

23,325 – Residential Garbage Accounts

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70,124 – Possible collection points each week



## Tonnage Collected - Residential (annually FY 22/23)

5,120\* – Yard Waste tons collected (Avg#/stop = 8.5 lbs)

4,818 – Recycling tons collected (Avg#/stop = 7.8 lbs)

18,834 – Garbage tons collected (Avg#/stop = 31 lbs)

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28,772 - Residential tons collected

\* Yard waste collected curbside exceeds recycling in tonnage.

# Organizational Structure and Equipment Overview

Public Works  
Operations Manager  
(35)

Yard Waste & Bulky  
Operations Supervisor (18)

Yard Waste & Bulky Crew Leader

Chipper Driver	Chipper Collector	Vac Trk Operator
Chipper Driver	Chipper Collector	Vac Trk Operator
Chipper Driver	Chipper Collector	Vac Trk Operator
Chipper Driver	Chipper Collector	Vac Trk Operator
Grapple Truck Operator - Bulky	Grapple Operator - YW	Vac Trk Operator
Route Collection Float		Seasonal- Vac Trk Operator

## Collection Equipment

Typically (4) types of collection vehicles are used to collect curbside yard waste & bulk household

Leaf-Vac (2 engines)



Grapple Truck



Chip Truck & Chipper (2 units)

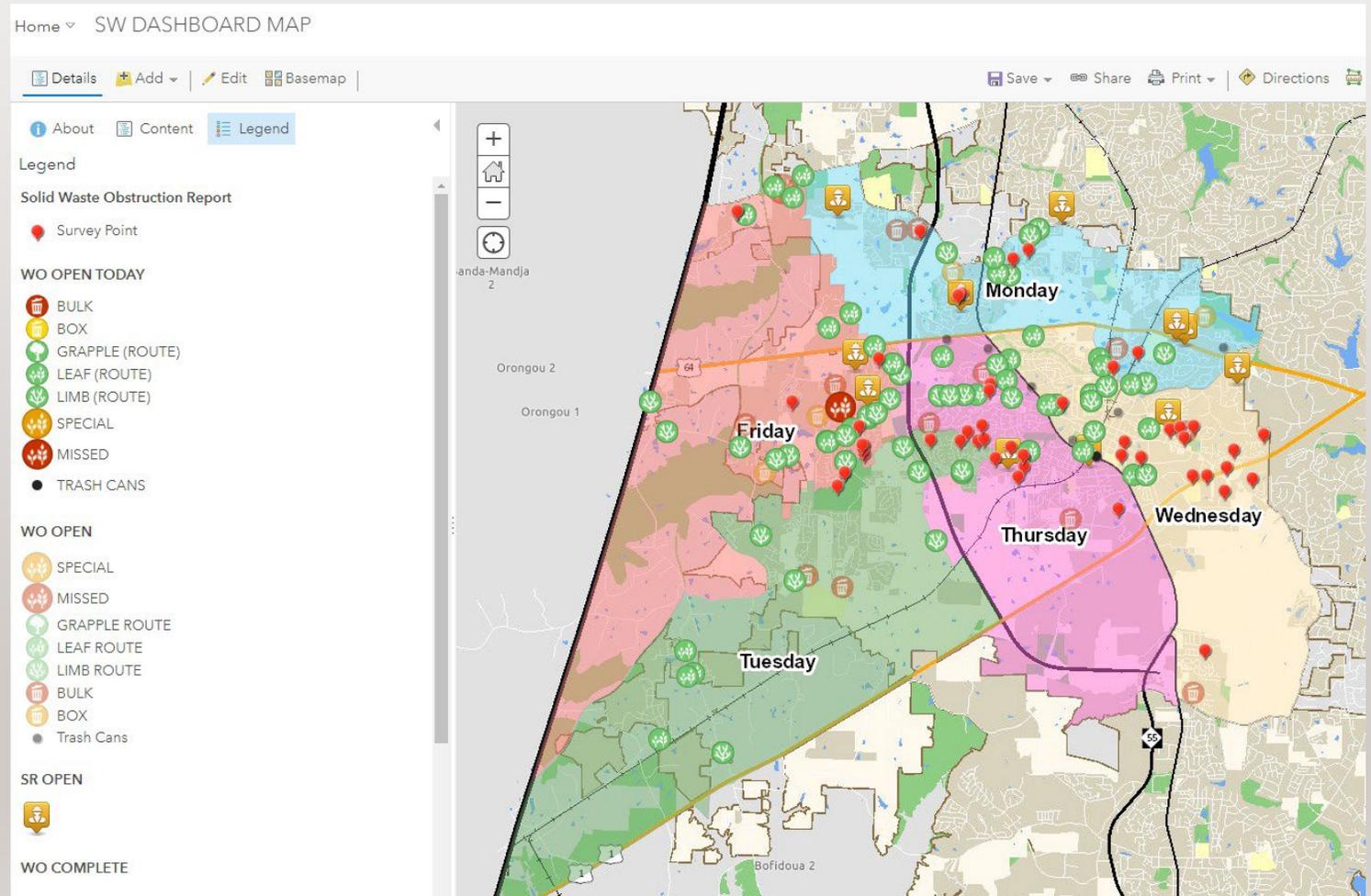


Small Dump Truck

# Operations Resource Plan

## Yard Waste and Bulk Item Collection - Routes

Zones (M-F):	5
Resource Plan (Daily)	
Leaf Vac Trucks	— 5
Chipper Combo	— 3
Grapple Truck	— 2
Small Dump truck	— 1
Routes per day	11
Routes per week	55
Households served	23,231
Solid Waste vehicles:	16
<i>* Includes support vehicles</i>	
Total Miles (FY22):	147,118
Total Gallons:	38,261
Fuel Cost:	\$121,336
Avg MPG:	3.18



# Apex Yard Waste Program

(Weekly: non-containerized, manual collection)

## Curbside Collection Ordinances

Home › Government › Town Departments › Public Works › Garbage, Recycling & Yard Waste › Yard Waste Collection

▼ A A ▲

### Yard Waste Collection

Yard waste collection is performed by the Town of Apex Public Works Department personnel for residential customers. To learn about ordinances that regulate Yard Waste collection in Apex, click [here](#).

[https://library.municode.com/nc/apex/codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances?nodetd=COOR\\_CH12MUUTSE\\_ARTVYAWACO\\_S12-126DE](https://library.municode.com/nc/apex/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodetd=COOR_CH12MUUTSE_ARTVYAWACO_S12-126DE)

Collection occurs weekly on the business day following garbage and recycling collection. On occasion, weekly collection is not possible, due to these reasons:

- **Inclement weather** (this includes periods of heavy rain, ice, or snow)
- **Holidays** (Yard waste collection observes the published Town of Apex [Holiday calendar](#))
- **High Demand** (increases following a big weather event and during the loose-leaf collection season, November-February)

#### Pre-Collection Key Reminders

- Yard waste is required to be separated by type and not combined with other yard waste types
- Yard waste is to be placed at least ten (10) feet away from any storm drain
- Yard waste should not be blocked by vehicles on collection day
- Yard waste should not to be placed at curbside for collection more than 48 hours in advance of the scheduled collection date



#### Missed Collection

Report missed collection to our customer service team one of two ways:

- Complete an [online service request form](#).
- Call Customer Service at (919) 362-8676

# Apex Yard Waste Program

(Weekly: non-containerized, manual collection)

## Curbside Collection Ordinances

### 3 Types of Trucks

that may visit your street on yard waste collection day

#### Vacuum Truck

- Leaves
  - Grass Clippings
  - Pine cones
  - Pine Straw
  - Weeds (no dirt)
  - Small Shrubbery Clippings less than 4 inches in length and less than 1/4 inches in diameter
- Do not bag yard waste. Please make sure that leaves are placed curbside and separated from other yard waste types. Leaves mixed with other debris will not be collected due to the possibility of damaging equipment.
  - Place yard waste 10 feet away from storm drains. Please separate yard waste by type.
  - Dirt, sod, mulch, and rocks are **not** accepted items for yard waste collection
  - Separate any sticks / limbs, as those items can damage the vacuum equipment

#### Chipper Truck

- Sticks and Limbs
  - Christmas Trees (remove all lights and decorations)
- Limbs must be no more than 8 feet long, and a maximum diameter of 8 inches. Please separate sticks from limbs and other yard waste types. Place limbs with the cut ends facing the same direction. ← **Extremely Rare**
  - Place Christmas trees curbside, but not in the roadway. Christmas trees are collected throughout the month of January.

#### Grapple Truck

- Limbs
- Supports both chipping and bulk collection operations



**Check your schedule** using our [address lookup tool](#). Please note that there may be slight delays in programming this tool with newly constructed home addresses.



# Apex Yard Waste Program

(Weekly: non-containerized, manual collection)

## Curbside Collection Ordinances

### Grass

#### Recycling

The Town of Apex encourages the use of mulching blades on mowing equipment. Lawn clippings usually do not need to be bagged. Recycling grass clippings can reduce your fertilizer needs, improve your soil, and does not contribute to thatch.

### Composting

In an effort to divert inappropriate materials from Wake County landfills, the Town of Apex encourages the use of compost bins to help residents dispose of yard waste.

### More Information

If you have a question regarding your collection day, or to report missed collection, contact Customer Service at (919) 362-8676.

## Yard Waste Disposal Locations

Chipped and Brush: McGill Environmental (New Hill, NC)

Vacuumed material: Town of Holly Springs (transfer & transportation)

\*material transported to Earthtec in Sanford for re-use. Material mixed with contaminated soil (operational hours impacted by weather).

Greenway Waste – 50 Loads per month (no fee)

# Peer Community Fee Structure

FY 2023 - 2024 Fee Structure - Peer Community Comparison (Excludes Bulk)	Funding / Services (X) Monthly billing utility invoice (PP) – Annual Property taxes	Solid Waste	Recycling	Yard Waste	Total
Note: SW rates typically do not represent full cost recovery. Rates are often supplemented by General Fund.					
APEX	X – YW in-house	\$9.85	\$5.24	\$7.83	\$22.92
CARY	X – YW-T-R in-house				\$22.00
FUQUAY-VARINA	X – YW-T-R in-house				\$21.00
GARNER	PP Tax –contracted	\$10.69	\$2.42	\$5.88	\$18.99
HOLLY SPRINGS	X – YW in-house	\$10.95	\$4.93	\$7.50	\$23.38
KNIGHTDALE	X – YW in-house	\$12.50	\$5.00		\$17.50
MORRISVILLE	PP Tax –contracted	\$11.30	\$6.10	\$1.34	\$18.74
RALEIGH	X – YW-T-R in-house	\$14.45	\$4.60		\$19.05
ROLESVILLE*	PP Tax –contracted	\$10.71	\$5.62	\$3.10	\$25.00
WAKE FOREST	X – YW in-house	\$13.77	\$5.47	\$2.76	\$22.00
WENDELL**	X – contracted	\$11.37	\$3.90	\$3.72	\$25.00
ZEBULON	X – YW in-house	\$11.97	\$4.46	\$8.32	\$24.75

\* Rolesville - \$5.57 Town processing fee

\*\* Wendell - \$6.01 Town processing fee

# Peer Communities: Collection Methods & Frequency – Yard Waste

Collection Method	Raleigh	Cary	HS Knight	Apex	Morris	FV	WF	Zebulon	Roles	Wendell
Weekly Collection		X	X	X		X	X			X
Bi-Weekly Collection	X		X		X			X	X	
Modified Schedule for Fall	X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
Vacuum Truck Year Round				X						
Local Convenience Center	X	X	X							
Allows Compostable Paper Bags	X	X		X	X		X	X		
Allows Small Bins	X	X		X	X	X	X		X	
96 Gallon Carts	X		X							X

Peer communities are most similar in the following areas:

Containerized Yard Waste

Non-Containerized Yard Waste

Apex and Zebulon allows loose yard waste

Yard Waste fees are compulsory in that every household pays them.

Containerization is the most common form of collection used curbside.

Set out limits and weight restrictions per stop. Excess yard waste can be collected in Cary and Holly Springs for an additional fee based on per visit or volume.

- \* Cary offers chipping service for \$ 350 per visit.

- \* Holly Springs offers fee based collection based on volume levels ( Example- minimum rate (Level 1): \$80 per 2.5 cubic yards ).

Contractors (Lawncare/Tree Service firms) hired to perform residential service work is responsible for removal of yard waste debris.

Yard waste to be placed behind the curb (not in the street or gutter ) so that debris does not interfere with traffic or drainage.

# Local Trends: Automation and Containerization

June 2021: Raleigh City Council approved Yard Waste Cart project and service improvements.

July 5, 2022 : City of Raleigh suspends collection of customer owned containers and provided Town issued 95 gallon yard waste carts to approximately 110,000 residents.

## Cart Details

The City of Raleigh added adding 95-gallon yard waste carts to our residential curbside pickup service during the summer of 2022.



The bright green 95-gallon carts with wheels mean:

- greater convenience and safety for you and our crews;
- much more room - carts offer three times the capacity as a standard container;
- more reliable bi-weekly pickup schedule;
- reduced carbon emissions with fewer truck runs;
- protecting the environment – reduces material sent to the landfill; and,
- more products from the City's Yard Waste Center (your yard waste is processed into mulch and compost).

The new roll cart is just like your City-issued olive-green garbage cart and blue recycling cart, only it's bright green.

March 8, 2022: Holly Springs Town Council authorized Yard Waste model changes to include transition to 95 gallon yard waste carts and explore opening a yard waste citizens convenience center.

June 7, 2022: Holly Springs Town Council authorized sole source purchase of (3) New Way Rotopac 14 ASL refuse collection bodies and approved purchase of (3) CCC LET2-26 low entry truck chassis.

March 2022: Supply Chain issues delayed the Yard Waste cart launch by 9 months.

September 13, 2023: Holly Springs opens up Yard Waste Convenience Center. Hours are Wen through Sunday, 7am-3 pm

A flyer titled "KEEPING IT GREEN in Holly Springs" with a decorative leaf logo in the top right. The text reads: "We're Keeping it Green in Holly Springs with a new way of collecting yard waste. **Early next year, your home will receive a new yard waste cart.** Beginning in March, fill the cart with lawn clippings, leaves, and other types of yard waste, and place the cart behind the curb on the same day as recycling collection." Below this, it lists benefits: "Carts help keep debris out of storm drains that empty into local creeks, streams, and waterways. Benefits of yard waste carts also include:" followed by three bullet points: "✓ More efficient collection", "✓ Less pollen & dust in the spring", and "✓ Cleaner waterways = healthier habitats for wildlife". A fourth bullet point says "✓ Prevents flooding". At the bottom, there is a QR code with the text "Scan for more information" and a call to action: "Want to order additional carts or decline a cart? Visit [hollyspringsnc.gov/yardwastecart](https://hollyspringsnc.gov/yardwastecart) to complete the form by Dec. 15. Or, call 311 or (919) 577-3111 if outside Town limits." The flyer also features an illustration of a brown yard waste cart with a leafy branch being placed inside.

March 2024: Town of Holly Springs to suspend weekly loose yard waste collection and will provide a Town issued 95 gallon yard waste cart. The Town will continue its Fee based excess collection as an enhanced service; however, residents will now have a free option to dispose of any amount of yard waste at the Holly Springs Yard Waste Convenience Center off of Rex Rd.



# Why Conversation on Yard Waste?

- Alignment to Strategic Plan Framework
- Environmental & Safety Considerations
- Service Demand Model and Cost Recovery
- Aesthetics of our Communities
- Operational Challenges (related to current ordinances)
- Material Transfer and Disposal Challenges

# Strategic Plan Framework

## Relationship to Yard Waste Programming



### Mission

Provide exceptional public service that fosters opportunity for the individual and community to live, thrive, and reach their peak.

### Vision

A community unified in the stewardship of our small-town character and natural environment, for a future where all succeed.

### Values

Performance  
Empowerment  
Accountability  
Knowledge



### Goal: A Welcoming Community

Create a safe and welcoming environment fostering community connections and high-quality recreational and cultural experiences supporting a sense of belonging

#### Objectives

- Ensure safe places and spaces
- Foster community connections
- Create a sense of belonging
- Encourage a healthy and active lifestyle
- Enhance communications for a more informed community



### Goal: High Performing Government

Deliver exceptional service valuing an engaged workforce with an emphasis on efficiency, collaboration, innovation, and inclusion

#### Objectives

- Use resources efficiently and effectively
- Provide customer-focused service
- Attract, retain, and develop our workforce
- Promote a culture of innovation and creativity
- Maintain transparency in stewardship of public resources
- Enhance communications for a more informed workforce



### Goal: Environmental Leadership

Commit to sustaining natural resources and environmental well-being

#### Objectives

- Adopt clean energy and efficiency measures
- Preserve natural resources and habitats
- Reduce environmental waste
- Proactively address climate vulnerability



### Goal: Responsible Development

Encourage equitable and sustainable development that provides accessibility and connectivity throughout the community

#### Objectives

- Plan for and invest in infrastructure
- Provide and promote mobility
- Support diverse housing options
- Balance impacts of growth and development



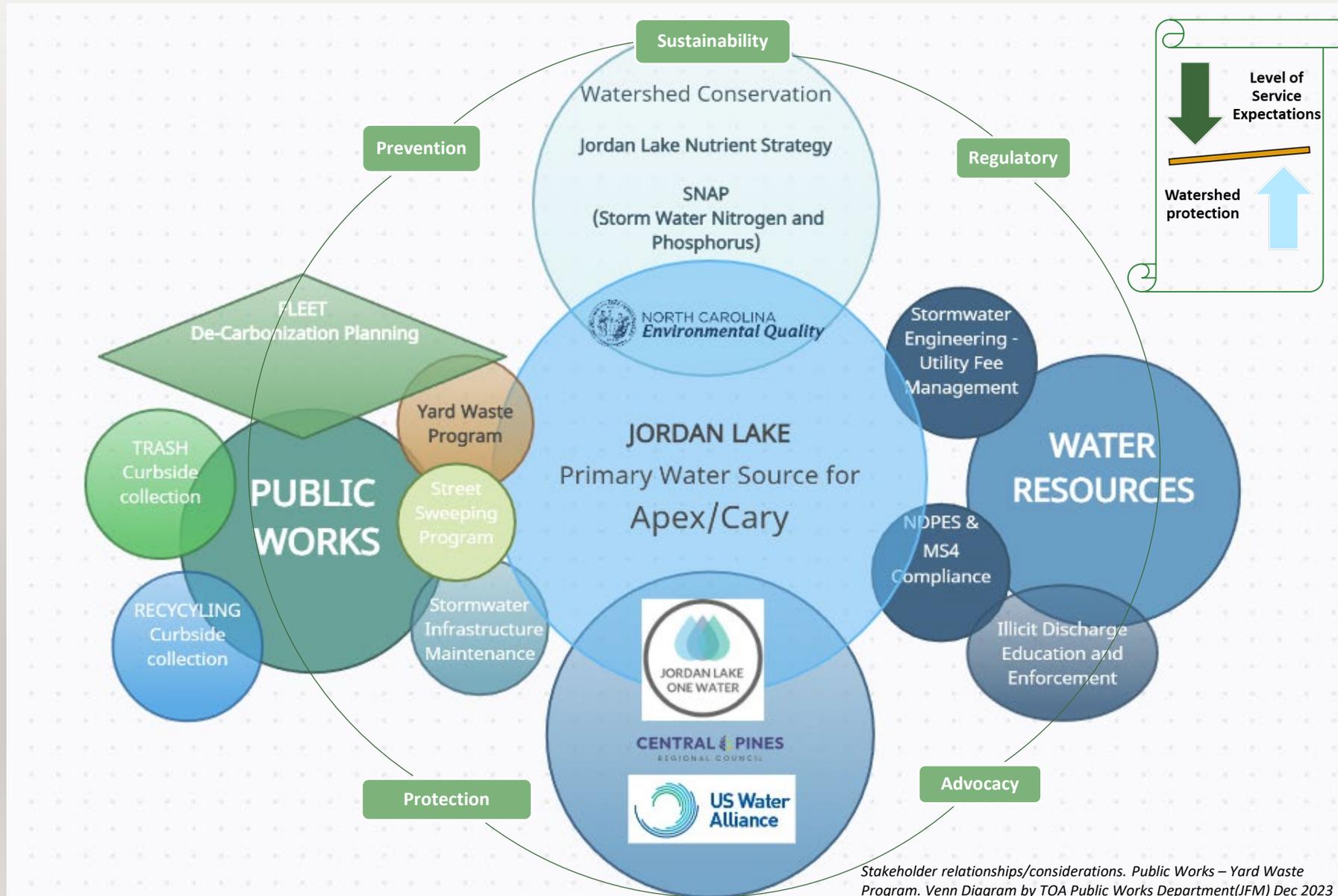
### Goal: Economic Vitality

Improve and sustain an environment that invites and retains a diversity of residents, employment opportunities, and businesses

#### Objectives

- Recruit, retain, and develop businesses
- Leverage community assets to benefit businesses and residents
- Engage in placemaking
- Identify key opportunities to strengthen economic environment

# • Stakeholder Relationships and Considerations



Stakeholder relationships/considerations. Public Works – Yard Waste Program. Venn Diagram by TOA Public Works Department(JFM) Dec 2023

# Impacts and Concerns

## Environmental

- Jordan Lake, located in the Cape Fear River Basin, was impounded in February of 1982 and was placed on the EPA's list of impaired waters in 2002 due to nutrient over-enrichment (eutrophication).
- Jordan Lake Watershed supports 10 counties, 27 municipalities, and provides drinking water to approximately 700,000 customers.
- In 2017, conversations led to the formation of what is now called Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW) in support of watershed management while ensuring water quality of the regional resource. This has now become guidance from the U.S. EPA.
- Current yard waste program of allowing loose material curbside is not in alignment with watershed nutrient reduction best management practices.
- According to the U.S. EPA, phosphorous is one of the most troublesome pollutants in stormwater runoff and is considered the primary cause of water quality problems in our lakes, ponds, and streams.
- Municipalities located within the Jordan Lake watershed should anticipate continued efforts to reduce nutrient loading in support of Jordan Lake Rules.

# Impacts and Concerns

## Clogging – Impacts Stormwater Conveyance



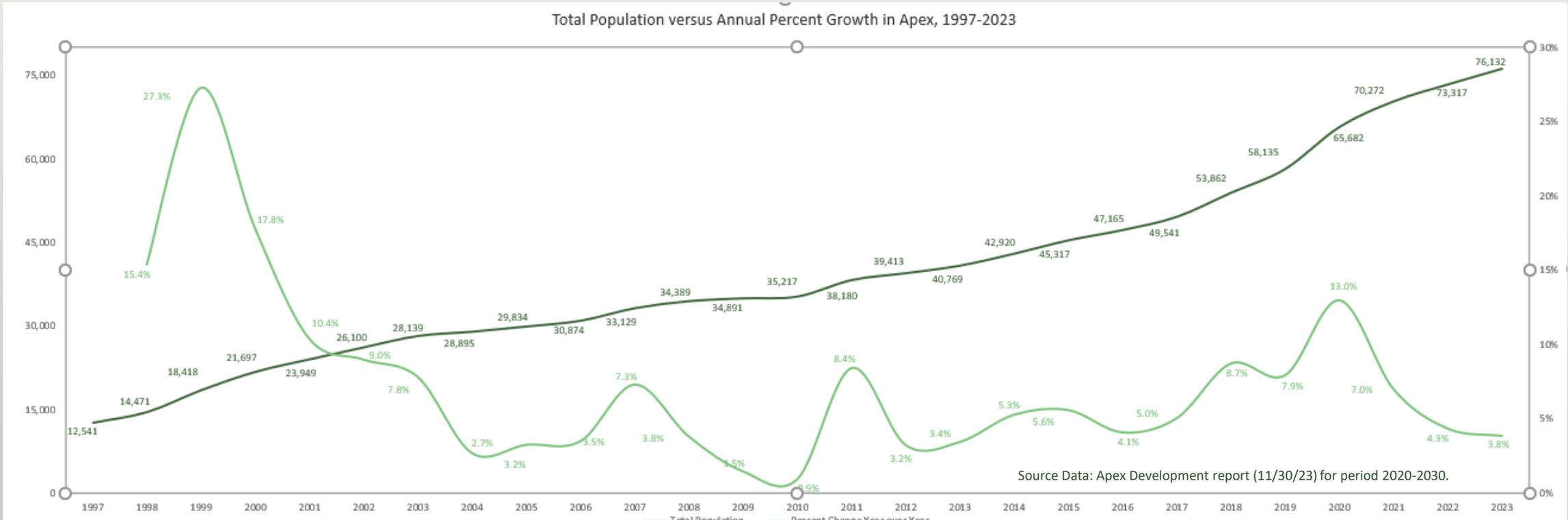
# Impacts and Concerns

## Operational

- Stormwater conveyance - town infrastructure is increasingly being compromised, potentially leading to environmental concerns such as localized flooding and compliance with stormwater permits.
- Community appearance – Bulk yard waste randomly strewn about and placed on the street regardless of collection schedule. Residual staining nullifies street sweeping.
- Continual escalating costs and widening gap in cost recovery.
- Difficulty in communicating acceptable collection compliance and enforcement of ordinances.
- Difficulty in monitoring landscapers who bring in yard waste debris from other contracted jobs.
- Difficulty in meeting ongoing resident service delivery expectations due to excess volume per stop.
- Excess volume equates to additional costs for labor and equipment.
- Rapid residential growth requires a more sustainable yard waste collection model.

# Growth - Population and Historical Household Growth

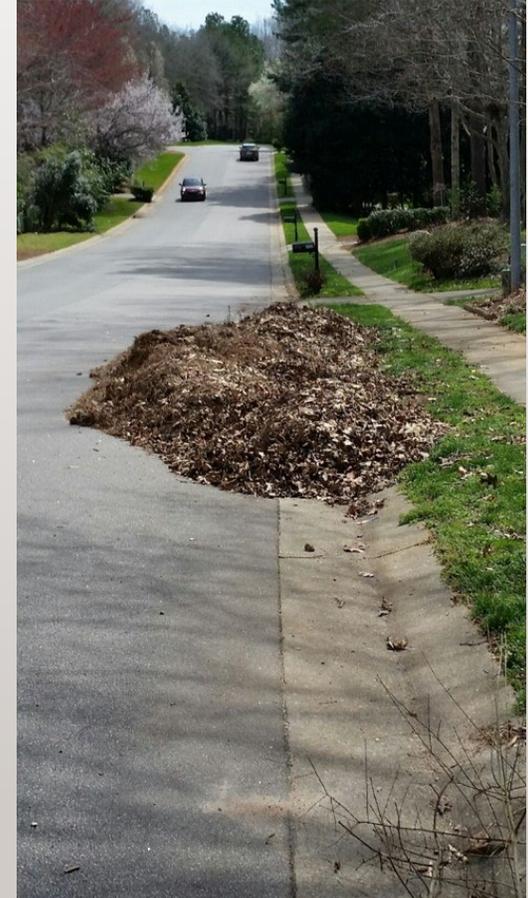
**As of June 30 per year	1970	1980	1990	1992	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Population	2234	2,847	4,968		12,541	14,471	18,418	21,697	23,949	26,100	28,139	28,895	29,834	30,874	33,129	34,389	34,891	35,217	38,180	39,413	40,769	42,920	45,317	47,165	49,541	53,862	58,135	65,682	70,272	73,317	76,132
Percent Change Year over Year						15%	27%	18%	10%	9%	8%	3%	3%	3%	7%	4%	1%	1%	8%	3%	3%	5%	6%	4%	5%	9%	8%	13%	7%	4%	4%
Household Size (census or ACS)					2.8	2.8	2.8	2.71	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.92	2.92	2.96	2.91	2.93	2.92	2.89	2.83	2.81	2.81	2.86	2.83	2.83	2.83
Households (estimated)								7,386	8,773	9,560	10,307	10,584	10,928	11,309	12,135	12,597	12,781	12,061	13,075	13,315	14,010	14,648	15,520	16,320	17,506	19,168	20,689	22,966	24,831	25,907	26,902



Future Growth trends are expected to continue. In six years(2030), the number of households is likely to surpass 37,500 and population is expected to exceed 100,000 by 2030.

# Operational Challenges and Concerns

- Inconsistent yard waste volume.
- Excessive amounts of yard waste with no weight or volume set out limit.
- Comingled / mixed type yard waste.
- Non-Compliant yard waste.
- Improper placement of yard waste.
- Utilizing equipment other than what it was designed for.
- Resident understanding of how to properly prepare for yard waste collection.
- Intrusion of yard waste in the roadway (motorist safety).
- Intrusion of yard waste on the sidewalk (pedestrian safety).
- Grass is not commercially desirable (due to persistent herbicides) and is becoming more difficult to dispose of.
- Uncertainty related to long-term disposal of curbside generated of yard waste.



# Operational Concerns

## Community Appearance



# Operational Challenges

Excess Yard Waste – Contractor

This is not allowed anywhere in Wake County per ordinance



# Operational Challenges

Excess Yard Waste – Contractor performed work

Called in for collection



# Operational Challenges

Non-Compliant – Street used as a dumping area



# Operational Challenges

Manual Collection – worker safety concerns



# Ordinances – 1992 framework - updated 2009 with limited revision to date

- CODE OF ORDINANCES  
Chapter 12 - MUNICIPAL UTILITIES AND SERVICES  
ARTICLE V. YARD WASTE COLLECTION

## ARTICLE V. YARD WASTE COLLECTION<sup>1</sup>

### Sec. 12-125. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to establish a program for the mandatory separation of compostable yard waste from garbage, rubbish and other trash generated by town residents and for residential curbside collection of yard waste by town employees.

(Ord. No. 09-0804-06, § 1, 8-4-09)

### Sec. 12-126. Definitions.

For the purposes of this article, the following definitions apply:

*Curbside* means along the concrete curb or edge of pavement located within the town right-of-way.

*Director of public works and utilities* means the director of public works and utilities of the town or his designee.

*Environmental programs manager* means the town employee who manages the environmental programs division or his designee.

*Land clearing debris* means solid waste which is generated solely from land clearing activities including, but not limited to, stumps, trees, brush and other vegetative waste incidental to tree, brush and stump removal.

*Ordinance* means the ordinances of the Town of Apex, North Carolina.

*Small limbs* means tree limbs that are less than eight feet in length and a maximum diameter of eight inches.

*Town* means the Town of Apex, a North Carolina Municipal Corporation.

*Yard waste* means solid waste consisting of vegetative matter resulting from residential landscaping maintenance including, but not limited to, leaves, grass clippings, twigs, small limbs, hedge trimmings, plant trimmings, hay straw, pine straw, pine cones and small shrubs.

(Ord. No. 09-0804-06, § 1, 8-4-09)

Cross reference(s)—Definitions and rules of construction generally, § 1-3.

### Sec. 12-127. Administration and enforcement.

The collection of yard waste in the town shall be under the jurisdiction of the environmental [programs manager](#) and enforcement of the provisions of this article shall be under the jurisdiction of the director of public works and utilities.

<sup>1</sup>Editor's note(s)—Ord. No. 09-0804-06, § 1, adopted Aug. 4, 2009, amended Art. V in its entirety to read as herein set out. Former Art. V, §§ 12-125—12-133, pertained to yard and leaf waste collection and derived from Ord. of Feb. 4, 1992.

(Ord. No. 09-0804-06, § 1, 8-4-09)

### Sec. 12-128. Pre-collection practices.

- (a) Yard waste shall be placed loose (not bagged or containerized) at curbside for collection by the town. Leaves and grass clippings must be separated from other qualifying yard waste materials.
- (b) Yard waste to be collected by the town shall not be contaminated by materials that are not included in the definition of yard waste provided above.
- (c) Yard waste shall not be placed at curbside more than 48 hours in advance of the collection date.
- (d) Yard waste shall not be placed at curbside within ten feet of any storm drain catch basin.
- (e) Town residents desiring Christmas tree collection by the town shall place their Christmas tree curbside. All tinsel, nails, screws, wires, ribbon and other nonvegetative materials shall be removed from the Christmas tree by the resident prior to collection. Wreaths may be set out by residents for collection provided that the wreaths are free from wire, screws, metal frames, and all other nonvegetative material.

(Ord. No. 09-0804-06, § 1, 8-4-09)

### Sec. 12-129. Limitations on service.

- (a) Yard waste collection will be provided by the town on a weekly basis [year round](#).
- (b) Curbside yard waste collection service shall be provided only to residents who are annexed into the town corporate limits. This service will not be provided to institutional, business, commercial or industrial properties.
- (c) Yard waste collection service does not include the collection of land clearing debris.
- (d) Residential yard waste generated from commercial landscaping or other businesses shall be left at the original project site to be collected by the town, or properly disposed of by the contractor in accordance with all applicable local ordinances, state and federal rules and regulations. Town employees will not collect yard waste generated from one property and disposed at another.
- (e) Yard waste not prepared and handled in accordance with the provisions of this article shall not be collected by the town.

(Ord. No. 09-0804-06, § 1, 8-4-09)

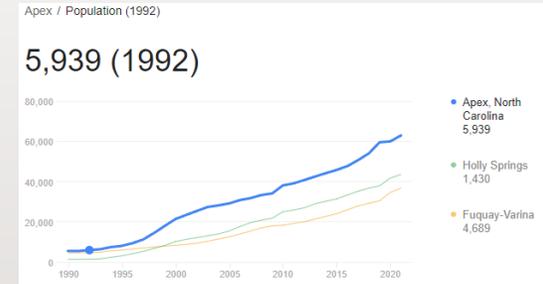
### Sec. 12-130. Disposal of yard waste.

- (a) All yard waste shall be disposed of in accordance with all applicable local ordinances and state and federal rules and regulations.
- (b) Open burning of yard waste is prohibited.

(Ord. No. 09-0804-06, § 1, 8-4-09)

# Ordinances – 1992 framework - updated 2009 with limited revision to date

- Population in 1992 was approximately 6000.
- Household estimate in 1992 at time of ordinance adoption – 2000.
- By 2030 (6yrs), population is expected to exceed 100,000 with an estimated 37,500 households.
- Current ordinances and yard waste collection practices are difficult to manage in a growing community.
- Recent development and higher density PUD's such as Depot 499 are allowed under the APEX 2045 Land Use Plan. Minimum lot sizes of 2550 sq. ft. (.058 acres) (36 min (w)' x 85' min (l) for single-family residential.
- Townhomes have a minimum lot width of 16 ft and depth of 65 ft. (1040 sq. ft).
- Current average residential parcel lot size within the Apex Corporate Limits is 10,469 sqft (0.24 acres). ETJ parcels are 122,517 sqft (2.8 acres). *Source- TOA GIS 12/6/23*



- Modern home design in Apex has less vegetative area, resulting in a less harvestable yield of yard waste debris.



**Residential Design Controls**

**Single-Family**

- Minimum Lot Size: 2,550 square feet
- Minimum Lot Width: 36 feet
- Minimum Lot Depth: 85 feet
- Maximum Building Height: 45 feet (In Pod G, the first row of lots immediately adjacent to the Woodall subdivision shall not exceed 2 stories unless buffer is increased to a 50' Type A buffer)

**Building Setbacks**

- » Front: 20 feet to garage; 8 feet to building façade
- » Side: 5 feet
- » Rear: 15 feet
- » Alley: 5 feet
- » Corner: 8 feet

**Townhomes**

- Minimum Lot Width: 16 feet (alley loaded); 18 feet (front loaded)
- Minimum Lot Depth: 65 feet
- Maximum Building Height: 45 feet (In Pod G, the first row of lots immediately adjacent to the Woodall subdivision shall not exceed 2 stories, unless buffer is increased to a 50' Type A buffer)

**Minimum Building Setbacks - Front Loaded**

- » Front: 5 feet from building façade, 20 feet from garage
- » Rear: 10 feet
- » Corner: 8 feet
- » Building separation: 10 feet

**Minimum Building Setbacks - Alley Loaded**

- » Front: 5 feet
- » Rear: 5 feet
- » Corner: 8 feet
- » Alley: 5 feet
- » Building separation: 10 feet

**DEPOT 499**  
**PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT**  
 South Salem Street and Apex Barbecue Road  
 Apex, North Carolina | PD PLAN  
 Case # 20CZ01

# Disposal

## Short-term operational agreement

- May 26, 2021, Town of Apex received notice of termination without renewal from the sole receiver of yard waste collected from the Town of Apex. The agreement had been in place since November of 2002. Ultimately, the town was able to negotiate acceptance of 50 loads of vacuumed material per month.
- January 4, 2022, Town of Apex entered into a 6-month yard waste interlocal agreement (ILA) with the Town of Holly Springs for the use of their transfer facility and transportation of yard waste to a disposal facility.
- April 28, 2022, the ILA was extended an additional 6 months to January 3, 2023.
- February 28, 2023, the ILA was extended an additional 12 months (Feb 2024).
- Right to limit Volume
- Termination: 90 day notice

### **6. Right to Limit Volume of Material Disposal.**

- a. Holly Springs reserves the right to limit the volume of Material that it will accept from Apex on a daily, weekly, or monthly basis. Holly Springs shall provide reasonable notification to Apex of its intent to limit the volume it accepts.
- b. In the event that Contractor becomes unable or unwilling to accept additional truckloads of Material, Holly Springs reserves the right to suspend or terminate this Agreement.

# Challenges – Recap

## Yard Waste Collection and Disposal

- Sustainability of the yard waste program
- Last large town in Wake County to have “mow it and throw it” yard waste model
- Landscapers hired can dispose yard waste on site in current program
- High non-compliant comingled yard waste piles
- Smaller piles collected manually by hand creating opportunity for injuries
- No containerization of yard waste
- Weekly service with no limits on weight or volume per household
- 8 " diameter / 8 ' length limb limits ( hard to enforce)
- No excess yard waste fees
- Current program is labor and capital intensive
- Yard Waste is allowed in the street
- Yard waste can be placed on the street not more than 48 hours prior to weekly scheduled service (difficult to enforce)
- Loss of free disposal of all yard waste at Greenway Waste (5/6/21)
- Grass clippings are not desirable (Town encourages use of mulching blades)
- No permanent transfer center to support disaster events and daily yard waste collection
- No yard waste convenience center for residents to dispose of excess waste

# Conclusion

- Current yard waste collection model will be difficult to sustain from a cost perspective while meeting the needs of a growing community.
- Continued exploration and development of a transfer facility is needed to protect the long term interests of the town. Development of a transfer facility will serve the needs of residents as well as provide the town the ability to receive town generated disaster debris.
- Existing ordinances should be updated to keep pace with current sustainable solid waste best management practices similar to what other peer communities have done.
- Consideration and exploration of alternative yard waste collection models is recommended.
- Disposal of yard waste, particularly grass clippings, is becoming more difficult.
- Partnerships and cost sharing opportunities with neighboring municipalities related to sustainable yard waste processing should continue being explored.
- Yard waste disposal is getting more expensive.

# Requested Action

- Receive Council feedback on current ordinances and willingness to consider ordinance revisions.
- Receive Council feedback on state of current yard waste curbside collection model. Seek guidance as to potential modifications to level of service.
- Receive Council feedback and direction on exploring potential for a transfer facility to support current and future operations.
- Receive Council feedback on regional partnerships.

# Questions

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# Addendum

Addendum to Apex Town Council Workshop  
Yard Waste Presentation 12-14-23

## Peer Communities

### Curbside Collection Model

- Cary..... 1
- Morrisville ..... 2
- Fuquay – Varina ..... 3
- Raleigh ..... 4-5
- Holly Springs..... 6-7

### Yard Waste Processing Center

- Raleigh ..... 5

### Yard Waste Convenience Center

- Holly Springs ..... 7

## Operational Challenges

### Curbside

- Small pile volume - loose collection..... 8
- Small volumes - comingled loose yard waste..... 9
- Mow and Throw - Non-Compliant / comingled mixed pile with dirt..... 10
- Excess Yard Waste (Town has no limits on volume) ..... 11
- Community Appearance - Staining from yard waste and residual debris cannot be easily removed. Unsightly. .... 12
- Non-Compliant..... 13
- Non-Compliant..... 14
- Non-Compliant..... 15
- Non-Compliant..... 16
- Illegal Dumping (Placed along common areas or vacant parcel) ..... 17
- Damaging materials to collection equipment (rocks, knife, nylon twine)..... 18
- Collection equipment used in ways other than originally designed impacts air quality at collection source ..... 19
- Warm season grass vaporizes when collected with leaf vacuum equipment. .... 20

# Addendum

*Addendum to Apex Town Council Workshop  
Yard Waste Presentation 12-14-23*

## Disposal

### Holly Springs

- Interlocal Agreement ..... 21
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# Cary – Curbside Model (Weekly – Containerized, manual collection)

You can also dispose of yard waste at the [Citizen's Convenience Center](#), 313 N. Dixon Ave. at no charge. Yard waste for disposal at the Center must be within the [Center's size limitations](#).

Please help protect the safety of our collectors and ensure your yard waste is collected as scheduled by following these guidelines:

- Place yard waste at the curb by 7 a.m. on your regular collection day.
- Place yard waste in either/or
  1. **reusable containers** with handles (*maximum 32 gallon container, 25 pounds each*)
  2. **paper bags** (*25 pounds max*)
  3. **securely tied bundles** that are small enough for one person to handle, not more than four (4) feet in length, not more than twenty-four (24) inches in diameter and with no individual pieces more than four (4) inches in diameter.
- Limbs must be less than four feet in length and less than four inches in diameter.
- The maximum volume of curbside yard waste consisting of reusable containers, paper bags, or securely tied bundles (*see guidelines above*) for regular collection at each home on one day cannot exceed 240 cubic feet (8 feet long by 5 feet wide by 6 feet tall).

Yard waste contained in plastic bags or mixed with soil, rocks and trash will not be collected. Contractors are not permitted to use the Citizen's Convenience Center for disposal but can take it to a [commercial yard waste disposal facility](#).

### Chipper Service

The Town offers a chipper service by request to grind tree limbs longer than 4 feet. Limbs must be less than 14 inches in diameter and fees apply. [Submit a request](#) or call 311 for details.

Cary residents can drop off yard waste without volume restrictions or fees at the Citizens Convenience Center. Per Ordinance: Contractors are required to remove yard waste following landscaping or tree removal activities. Yard waste can be co-mingled with other yard waste types as long as it fits within the 32 gallon container. Compulsory – all residents pay monthly Solid Waste fees which includes curbside collected yard waste and unlimited use of the Citizen's Convenience Center.

Yard Waste disposal option – no volume restrictions or fees



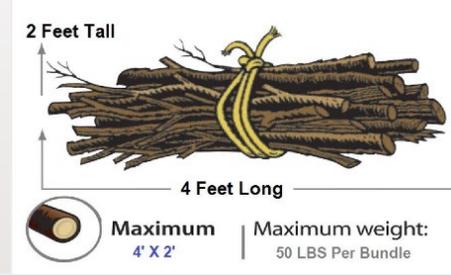
Volume and Weight Restrictions per curbside collection



# Morrisville – Curbside Model

(Bi-weekly / Containerized, manual collection)

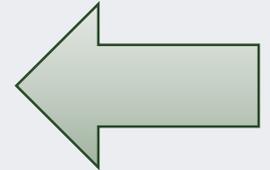
ITEM TYPE	COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS
Leaves	Bagged. Yard-waste specific paper bags or your reusable container (no clear or solid-colored plastic bags)**
Grass Clippings	Bagged. Yard-waste specific paper bags or your reusable container (no clear or solid-colored plastic bags)**
Dead Plants*	Bagged. Yard-waste specific paper bags or your reusable container (no clear or solid-colored plastic bags)** *Excess dirt must be removed.
Small Brush / Shrub Trimmings	Bagged. Yard-waste specific paper bags or your reusable container (no clear or solid-colored plastic bags)**
Large Brush / Shrub Trimmings	Cut down to less than four feet in length, 10 inches in diameter, and tied with string into bundles that are less than four feet in length, two feet in width, and 50 pounds each.
Tree Limbs	Cut down to less than four feet in length, 10 inches in diameter, and tied with string into bundles that are less than four feet in length, two feet in width, and 50 pounds each.
Cut Trees	Cut down to less than four feet in length, 10 inches in diameter, and tied with string into bundles that are less than four feet in length, two feet in width, and 50 pounds each.
Dirt, lumber or wood, chipped trees, bricks or blocks, containers, planters, or any inorganic materials	Not collected
Christmas Tree Collection	Waste Industries will collect your Christmas trees on your normal yard waste collection days in the month of January.  Please be advised: * Christmas trees over six feet in length must be cut in half for collection. * Remember to remove your tinsel and ornaments from the trees before collection.



## Reusable Yard Waste Containers

### Guidelines:

- Containers must be 35 gallons or smaller.
- Containers must not exceed 50 pounds in weight.
- Containers must be labelled "Yard Waste"
- A maximum of 5 containers will be serviced during each visit.
- Uncapped containers must have the ability to drain water.
- If there is any trash, rocks, dirt, wood chips, or garden debris in the container, it will not be collected.



## Yard Waste Preparation

All yard waste items must be bagged or bundled to be picked up by GFL.

A Maximum of 20 Yard Waste Items will be picked up by GFL on each service visit:

Any combination of the the following:

- Yard waste paper bags containing grass clippings, leaves, trimmings and/or twigs.
- Bundles of sticks and limbs
- Up to 5 reusable 35 gallon containers
- Loose leaf vacuum pickup is not a service provided by the town or GFL- all leaves must be bagged or put in reusable 35 gallon containers.
- Please do not place any yard waste in your trash or recycling carts.
- Please have your yard waste items at the curb no later than 7 a.m. on your designated yard waste days.

No collection assets. Does not offer loose leaf collection, grapple truck or chipping service. Containerized program. Yard waste must be in 35 gallon plastic totes or compostable paper bags and can be co-mingled. Weight limit of 50 pounds per item imposed for worker safety reasons. Limit per stop of 20 items including no more than 5 reusable 35 gallon containers. Size and weight limits imposed. Compulsory – all residents pay monthly YW fee.

# Fuquay- Varina Curbside Model (Weekly collection / Containerized, manual collection)

## Yard debris and loose leaf...what's the difference?

	Loose leaf	Yard debris
Description	Leaves and pine straw.  No limbs, rocks, trash, etc.	Vegetative material (grass clippings, branches, and other debris).  No dirt, mulch, sod, or rocks.
Collection schedule	Automatically collected mid-October through January. No request needed.  Collected the same week as recycling. Leaves should be prepared by Sunday of recycling week.	Collected year-round, by request (complete the <a href="#">yard debris form</a> ).  All requests for pick-up received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday will be scheduled for pickup that week.
Preparation	Place loose leaf and/or pine straw piles at the curb in one large pile.  Do not place leaves in the street where they may interfere with traffic or drainage. Do not block sidewalks or fire hydrants.  Leaves cannot be in containers or on tarps.	Place all loose residential yard debris (grass clippings, pulled weeds, and small pruning branches) in one or more plastic totes (less than 20 gallons and 40 pounds).  Larger debris, such as limbs, must be stacked in one large pile. Limbs should not be longer than 5 feet in length and 5 inches in diameter.  Do not place on a tarp.

## Yard Debris and Loose Leaf Collection

The Town collects yard debris year-round by request.

Requires scheduling

The loose leaf collection service is provided from October 16, 2023 through February 2, 2024 and does not need to be requested.

### Yard debris

Please complete the [Yard Debris Form](#) to request service. All requests for pick-up received by 5:00 p.m. on Monday will be scheduled for pickup that week. To ensure service, debris should be placed curbside by Monday evening to be picked up before the end of the week.

### Requirement for collection

Place all loose residential yard debris (grass clippings, pulled weeds, and small pruning branches) in one or more plastic totes (less than 20 gallons). Lids are not required but are helpful when there is a lot of rain. Keep containers to 40 pounds or less.

Larger debris, such as limbs, must be stacked in one large pile. Limbs should not be longer than 5 feet in length and 5 inches in diameter.

Yard waste includes any vegetative material. No dirt, mulch, sod, or rocks will be collected. Do not place yard debris or limbs on a tarp.

Yard debris removal is a residential service. Yard debris left by landscape contractors, tree surgeons, or other paid technicians will not be collected.

Requires contractor to remove harvest

### Loose leaf

Loose leaves are vacuumed curbside from October 16, 2023 through February 2, 2024. Loose leaves are picked up Monday through Friday the same week as your [recycling](#).

### Requirements for collection

Place loose leaf and/or pine straw piles at the curb in one large pile by Sunday evening of your regularly scheduled recycling week. Piles must be free of limbs, sticks, rocks, and other debris, and must not be in containers.

Please do not place leaves in the street where they may interfere with traffic or drainage. Do not block sidewalks or fire hydrants.

\*YW Supervisor (12/5/23): Per Ordinance- Landscaping/Tree contractors responsible for removal of harvested material. Containerized program. Yard waste must be in 20 gallon plastic totes and can be co-mingled. Weight limits imposed for worker safety reasons. Proposing limit on number of totes per visit next FY. Compostable paper bags are not accepted due to previous experience with non-compliant comingled material. Leaf vac used seasonally only. Grapple truck used for limb removal with size limits imposed. Compulsory – all residents pay monthly YW fee.

# Raleigh – Curbside Model (Bi-weekly collection / Containerized, hybrid collection (95 gal))



## Collection frequency

- Garbage is collected weekly.
- Recycling and yard waste are picked up every other week.
- **Change Effective July 5:** Recycling and yard waste pickup will alternate weeks. Example: Tuesday is my collection day. One Tuesday is garbage and recycling day; the next Tuesday is garbage and yard waste day. This is to limit the number of carts at the curb to no more than two at a time.

Step	Description
Prep	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limbs and brush must be securely tied into bundles of no more than five feet in length, 18 inches in diameter, and weighing no more than 50 pounds. Limit the number of bundles set out for collection to 5.</li> <li>• Limit the number of biodegradable paper bags set out for collection to 15.</li> </ul>
Timing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yard waste cannot be placed on the curb until noon on the day before your assigned collection day. This includes yard waste produced from weekend work.</li> <li>• Improperly prepared yard waste that was not collected and yard waste containers must be removed from the curb by 7 p.m. on the day after your collection.</li> </ul>
Items Never Accepted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Logs and limbs more than six inches in diameter or over five feet in length, stumps, rocks, old mulch, and dirt will not be collected.</li> </ul>
Contractors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yard waste produced from contracted jobs or land clearing will not be collected.</li> </ul>

Residents living within the Raleigh city limits may also take yard waste to the City's [Yard Waste Recycling Center](#) for recycling. The Center is located at 900 N. New Hope Road. **There is a cost for this service.** The Yard Waste Center is open Monday through Saturday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Yard Waste Prep

Yard waste can be placed [curbside for collection](#) (see specific instructions below).



To set out yard waste, use any of these options:

1. 95-gallon City-issued cart.
2. Biodegradable paper bags. Limit of 15 bags per collection, with a weight limit of 25 pounds per bag.
3. Bundles of sticks tied with rope or twine. Limit of 5 bundles per collection, with a weight limit of 50 pounds per bundle.

Please note: black or clear plastic bags containing yard waste will not be collected.

Biodegradable paper bags are sold at many local hardware, home improvement, and discount stores.

### Noteworthy:

Raleigh owns their yard waste processing center that serves a majority of Northern and Eastern Wake County.

Raleigh is in transitioning away from customer provided containers in favor of 95 gallon carts.

Raleigh collects a majority of their 95 gallon carts with Single Operator Vehicles(SOV's) using Automated Side Loaders (ASL's).

Rear Loader collection vehicles are utilized to collect compostable paper bags.



# Raleigh – Yard Waste Processing Center (Fee based disposal)



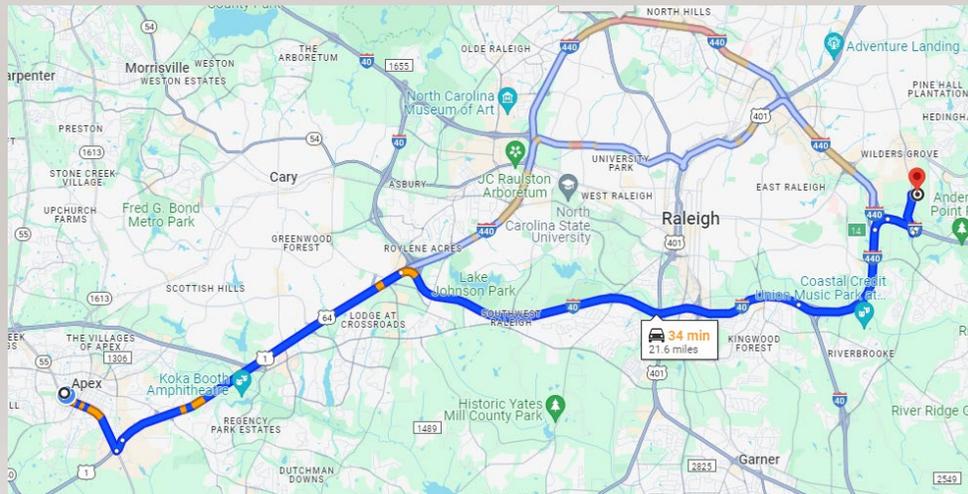
## Yard Waste Drop Off Fees

If you live in Wake County, you can drop off your yard waste, like leaves at our center for a fee.

- **Commercial Vehicles:** \$35 per ton with a minimum fee of \$17.50
- **Non-commercial Vehicles:** \$35 per ton with a minimum fee of \$6.25

You can buy mulch and compost from the City of Raleigh's Yard Waste Center at 900 N. New Hope Road in Raleigh.

 **via US-1 N and I-40 E** **34 min**  
 Fastest route now due to traffic conditions 21.6 miles



Product Volumes	Organic Compost	Organic Mulch	Leaf Mulch	Dyed Mulch	Wood Chips
1 to 11 CY (retail)	\$30	\$24	\$20	\$30	\$10
12 to 15 CY, minimum (smaller trucks)	\$15	\$12	\$10	\$15	\$10
16 to 99 CY (larger trucks)	\$10	\$8	\$7	\$10	\$7
100 CY & over	Account Holders Only				

# Holly Springs – Curbside Model (Bi-weekly collection / Containerized, Automated collection(95 gal)

## YARD WASTE CART COLLECTION

### Beginning in March 2024

We're Keeping it Green in Holly Springs with a new way of collecting yard waste. New brown yard waste carts will be delivered to residents. Beginning in March, fill the cart with lawn clippings, leaves, and other types of yard waste, and place the cart behind the curb on the same day as recycling collection. [Click here for yard waste cart collection FAQs.](#)



No Changes to Seasonal Loose Leaf Collection



The benefits of using carts for yard waste collection include:

- More efficient collection.
- Cleaner waterways for a better environment. Cart collection keeps debris out of storm drains that empty into local creeks, streams, and waterways.
- Prevents flooding that can occur when yard waste clogs stormwater drains.
- Less pollen and dust in the spring. The fine particles can't be contained in vacuum trucks.

The biweekly cart collection will continue to run throughout the year – even next fall. In addition to a guaranteed biweekly collection of yard waste from carts, any leaves that don't fit in your cart can be left behind the curb for [collection on a zone schedule](#), just like this year.

[Residents who want to order additional yard waste carts, or decline a cart, can complete an online form before Dec. 15.](#) Yard waste is part of the monthly Town utility bill. The charge will not be waived, even if a cart is declined. Additional fees will be incurred for each additional cart as requested by the resident and added to their monthly utility bill. After Dec. 15, requests to order an additional yard waste cart or to decline a cart should be made by calling 311 or (919) 577-3111 if outside Town limits.

### Excess Collection Fees:

#### What is considered a large load?

The fee only applies to loads exceeding 2½ cubic yards, about the size of load a pickup truck can carry, or exceeding 50 lbs.

No additional fee is charged for lesser amounts of yard waste.

The Town's fall/winter leaf collection and Christmas tree collection is free of charge.

#### How much will it cost?

There are three levels of charges based on the size of the load.

For yard waste loads that are 2½ to less than 4 cubic yards in size, or heavier than 50 lbs., a \$80 fee will be charged for pickup.

For debris at 4 to 8 cubic yards, a \$160 fee will be charged

For yard waste greater than 8 cubic yards but less than 12 cubic yards, a \$240 fee will be charged.

During peak leaf season (November through February), Town leaf vacuum trucks will still collect leaves left behind the curb, just as before. Biweekly collection of yard waste from carts also continues during this time. Leaves that don't fit in carts can be placed at the edge of your front yard for collection. Compulsory – all residents pay monthly Yard Waste fee including those who opt out of receiving a Yard Waste Cart.

# Holly Springs – Yard Waste Convenience Center (\*)

Provides residents additional options and supports the transition away from curbside collection of loose yard waste in favor of containerized 95 gallon yard waste carts. Provides a fee free disposal option for residents who prefer not waiting until their collection day or for those who might have excess yard waste following large pruning events. Avoids excess volume curbside fees.

## YARD WASTE CONVENIENCE CENTER

**6412 Rex Road in southwest Holly Springs**

**Wednesday-Sunday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Residents can drop off any amount of yard waste at no additional cost at the Holly Springs yard waste convenience center, open every Wednesday through Sunday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. at 6412 Rex Rd.

Bring proof of Holly Springs residence, such as a driver's license or utility bill.

The yard waste convenience center is another option for residents who want to dispose of yard waste in advance of their collection date or who want to dispose of a large quantity of yard waste without paying the Town for curbside collection of an excessive amount.

### What types of yard waste are accepted at the convenience center?

- Tree limbs, shrubbery, lawn clippings, leaves, pine needles – all types of yard waste that can be left at the curb for collection by the Town, also will be accepted at the convenience center.
- Loose yard waste must be deposited at the convenience center as it would be at the curb – without bags or containers. If residents bring yard waste to the site in a bag or bin, they can empty the container at the center.
- Items that cannot be left at the curb also cannot be left at the convenience center. This includes dirt, root balls, mulch, rocks, concrete, construction debris, pallets, and all sizes of lumber, including mailbox posts.

### Who can use the convenience center, and how much does it cost?

- The center is for residential customers only at no additional cost. Bring proof of Holly Springs residence, such as a driver's license or utility bill.
- Landscaping companies must dispose of waste at another location.

### When can I drop off yard waste at the convenience center?

- Beginning Sept. 13, hours will be Wednesday through Sunday, 7 a.m.-3 p.m.



\* Location is Temporary. Future location of Fire Station. Holly Springs Operations Center includes a permanent yard waste Citizens Convenience Center.

# Operational Challenges

Small Pile Volume – loose collection



# Operational Challenges

Small Volumes – Comingled Loose Yard Waste



# Operational Challenges

Mow and Throw



Non-Compliant/ Mixed Pile(dirt)



# Operational Challenges

Excess Yard Waste – No limits on volume

This was called in for collection-comingled



# Operational Challenges

## Community Appearance



# Operational Challenges

## Non-Compliant



# Operational Challenges

## Non-Compliant



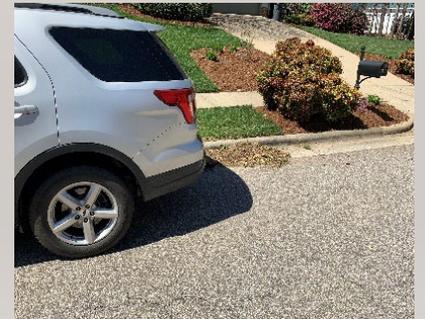
# Operational Challenges

Non-Compliant – Street used as a dumping area



# Operational Challenges

## Non-Compliant



# Operational Challenges

## Illegal Dumping



# Operational Challenges

## Damaging Materials



# Operational Challenges

Collection Equipment – operational design impacts air quality at collection point



# Operational Challenges

## Warm Season Grass Impact



# Disposal

## Interlocal agreement with Holly Springs



### Holly Springs Town Council

Town Council Meeting Agenda Cover Sheet

Agenda Item#: 17.

**Consent Agenda**

**Title:** Yard Waste Interlocal Agreement (ILA) Amendment with the Town of Apex

**Strategic Priority Area:** Responsible & Balanced Growth

**Staff Resource:** John Schifano, Town Attorney

**Action(s):**

Approve Yard Waste Interlocal Agreement Amendment with Town of Apex

**Explanation:**

- This amendment extends an existing Interlocal Agreement (ILA) between Holly Springs and Apex for yard waste disposal.
- Under the agreement, Apex pays Holly Springs for transportation of Apex's yard waste material to a disposal site in Sanford.
- This Amendment extends that agreement for one year and allows the Town of Apex to store additional construction equipment at the site.
- The Town of Apex is evaluating a variety of long-term yard waste disposal options, including potential cost-sharing opportunities in a regional yard waste / compost facility.

**Background:**

- Holly Springs operates a yard waste site at 3420 New Hill Holleman Road for unloading collection trucks and loading into the town's transfer truck for hauling to an offsite location.
- Since January 2021, Holly Springs has been handling and transferring Apex's yard waste for a fee of \$185 per load.

**Funding Source(s):**

N/A

**Attachment(s):**

1. Amendment on ILA with Apex for yard waste

# Disposal

## Holly Springs Transfer & Loading Facility

