



# WASTELINE

October 2016  
City of Omaha  
Jean Stothert, Mayor

Recycling, Garbage and Yardwaste Information for the Citizens of Omaha, Nebraska  
Public Works Department Robert G. Stubbe, P.E., Director Environmental Quality Division

**Thanksgiving will affect the collection schedule.**

**Christmas and New Years Day are on the weekend this year and will not affect the collection schedule.**

## Measure the Past, Plan the Future

**T**HE CITY OF OMAHA is looking to the future in how garbage, recyclables, and yardwaste are collected and managed. Omaha's current waste collection contract with Deffenbaugh Industries, now a Waste Management, Inc. company, continues until December 31, 2020, but the wheels are in motion to make changes in the future—possibly before the current contract expires.

For several years, and most significantly in 2015, Deffenbaugh has had difficulty recruiting enough qualified drivers to be fully staffed. A shortage of drivers with the necessary Commercial Drivers License (CDL) endorsements has been a national problem and especially acute here in the Midwest and Omaha. After on-going collection delays of yardwaste in 2015 and preventatively in 2016, Mayor Stothert endorsed the collection

of yardwaste with garbage. Collected together, the material goes to the Pheasant Point Landfill where the methane gas generated from waste decomposition is the fuel for the Omaha Public Power District's Elk City Station.

Knowing that changes and difficult decisions lie ahead, in June the Omaha City Council approved a contract with SCS Engineers (SCS) to evaluate sustainable materials management for yardwaste collection and management. The report that SCS is working on will help the City Council, Administration, and the Public Works Department understand the economic and environmental aspects associated with current yardwaste management practices and potential

yardwaste collection and management alternatives. SCS will not be making recommendations of what Omaha should do, but just provide the facts for public leaders to use in decision making.

### SCS ENGINEERS Environmental Consultants and Contractors

For this study, SCS will: 1) collect and assess data related to waste collection, disposal and power generation, 2) determine future operation impacts and ability for continued operation and growth, 3) develop and analyze disposal alternatives, and 4) model the impacts from the different alternatives.

In August, the contract with SCS was expanded by the City Council to look at issues mostly related to waste

collection. The additional study areas are: 1) comparison of Omaha to peer and nearby communities, 2) a survey of the residents' attitudes and opinions about waste collection, 3) engage persons who expressed interest previously related to waste collection and disposal, and 4) contact potential new locations for yardwaste disposal.

All components of the SCS study are to be finished by the end of 2016. Using the study, the Administration and City Council will refine what collection and disposal processes should be included in Omaha's next solid waste contract. The Public Works Department will seek bids using those recommendations with a start up date as soon as reasonable considering the amount of equipment and personnel needed to fulfill the contract.

Favor de llamar al 402-444-5238 si tiene alguna duda sobre el sistema de colección de basura en Omaha.

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## Taking Waste for a Test Drive

**B**EGINNING IN NOVEMBER and lasting for six months, five Omaha neighborhoods will test drive, if you will, a fully automated waste collection system that may be Omaha's solid waste collection future.

For many decades Omaha and communities across the nation have used common trash cans and recycling bins along with manual labor to collect waste and recyclables. This manual collection system adapts easily to all types of conditions such as alleys, narrow streets, on street parking, and busy streets, all with a lower up front cost for equipment. However, where residents have been responsible to pay for their own waste collection services, they were quick to adopt new ways of trash and recyclables collection.

Omaha's large contract with roughly 140,000 service locations is fast approaching a decision point where we too will adopt new ways of collecting trash and recyclables. Many residents have requested the convenience and standardization that newer collection systems provide. Increasing labor costs and worker injury claims make the higher equipment cost a justified expense.

This pilot program, proposed by Waste Management Inc., is another



▲ Automated Side Load truck emptying a 96-gallon cart.

step in reviewing our current system and planning for the next solid waste contract which must take effect on January 1, 2021, if not before. The primary test of this pilot is to assess the public's acceptance of using two heavy duty 96-gallon carts with wheels and attached lids for collection. One cart will be for combined garbage and yardwaste and the second cart is for recyclables. Also being reviewed is recycling collection that occurs every other week instead of weekly as it is

done now. Resident feedback is an integral part of this pilot program.

In this pilot, fully automated collection, also called automated side load or ASL, will be used. With ASL, each truck will only have a driver who drives from the right hand side of the truck and uses in cab controls to manipulate a mechanical arm that picks up and empties the 96-gallon cart into the truck.

*Pilot — continued inside*

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-gallons that weigh up to 45 pounds when full.

➤ Clear plastic bags that weigh up to 30 pounds when full.



➤ Up to 5 containers of garbage per week (example 2 trash cans and 3 bags).

➤ Place within 5 feet of curb, approved alley or other approved location.

**Note: 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) **O!**

## No!

- A mixture of garbage and yardwaste.
- Items sticking out above the can.
- Christmas trees. Follow yardwaste collection rules.
- Rocks, dirt, and concrete.
- Dead animals.
- Any liquids.
- 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.

# Yardwaste

**Set out before 6AM**

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 and leave 2 feet of space between yardwaste and garbage containers.

**Yardwaste is now collected year-round when properly prepared.**

## Yes! ‡



➤ Grass clippings and leaves.

➤ Garden waste such as fallen apples, rotted or excess vegetables and fruit.

➤ Trash cans up to 32-gallons 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.



## No!

- Plastic bags used in yardwaste collection.
- Mixtures of yardwaste and garbage.
- Saw dust, 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 used to bundle brush or branches.
- Rope of any kind.
- Brush that is not bundled.

**Yardwaste is now collected year-round when properly prepared.**

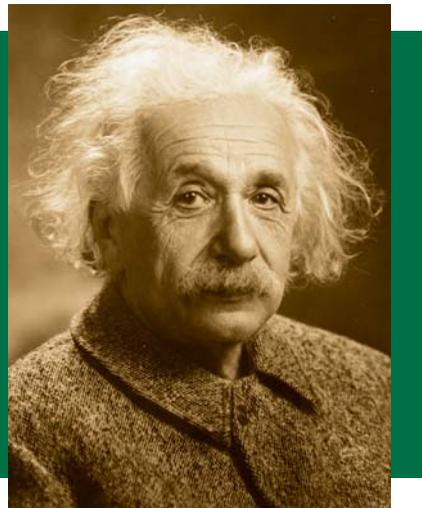
**Seasonally, yardwaste will be collected in conjunction with garbage.**

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

## Quotes Requested

*The environment is everything that isn't me.*

Albert Einstein, 1879–1955  
Physicist and Philosopher



## Pilot

The extra costs of equipment, training, and promotion for this pilot are being funded by Waste Management.

Not tested in this pilot is semi-automated collection. In semi-automated collection, the same 96-gallon carts are used but a worker will manually maneuver the cart into position for a cart tipping device to empty the cart into the truck. The vast majority of Omaha households would receive ASL service.

Providing waste collection in Omaha's diverse neighborhoods is a challenge. Similar service must be provided to neighborhoods whether they be the neighborhoods of Florence that are well over 100 years old or the newest housing developments on Omaha's western edge.

Being one of the largest waste collection contracts in the nation, Omaha must make plans well in



*continued from front*

advance with a great deal of planning for any changes. By Nebraska law (NRS 13-2020), Omaha is required to provide waste collection to households but not charge households directly for the service. The City's General Revenue Fund, derived from all property and sales taxes, pays for Omaha's solid waste services. **O!**



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].

Residential waste only.  
There is no charge.

**www.underthesink.org**

## UnderTheSink fun facts:

In 2015 **UnderTheSink** marked it's 10 year anniversary. During these 10 years, **UnderTheSink** has:

- ▶ Collected over **10 million** pounds of household chemicals.
- ▶ Recycled over **875,000 pounds** of steel paint cans.
- ▶ Recycled over **133,000 pounds** of automobile batteries.
- ▶ Re-used **10,000 gallons** of antifreeze in City of Omaha vehicles.
- ▶ Recycled over **62,000** fluorescent bulbs.
- ▶ Recycled **22,000 gallons** of used motor oil into asphalt and re-used **25,000 gallons** of used motor oil to heat the facility.





# Recycling

## Place Materials Out in Green Bin, Before 6AM.

All Clean Paper—To prevent litter, place in a Paper Sack or Small Cardboard Box  
*(Do not use plastic bags)*

- Includes: Most all clean paper. Things like:
 

Magazines	Greeting Cards
Newspaper	School Paper
Detergent Boxes	Phonebooks
Junkmail	Paperback Books
Catalogues	Wrapping Paper
Cereal Boxes	Paper Egg Cartons



Lay sack or box either inside bin, on top of bin, or next to your bin with the opening facing away from wind.

Corrugated cardboard. Break down flat and place under bin. For lots of boxes, fold and stuff multiple boxes into one box. Set out next to recycling bin.

- NO!** Do not include: Any soiled paper or these non-recyclable items:
- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Styrofoam    | Hardbound Books |
| Tissue Paper | Rubber Bands    |
| Plastic Bags | Paper Plates    |
| Diapers      |                 |



Containers—Loose in the bin  
*(Not in plastic bags)*

Gable top and Aseptic cartons including—juice boxes, milk cartons, juice cartons, and soup or broth boxes.



Aluminum cans and Steel (tin) cans including—empty aerosol cans, empty and dry paint cans with lid removed. Tip: Place the top of food cans inside can and crimp closed.

Plastic containers and packaging marked PETE 1, HDPE 2, V 3, or PP 5.

- Flattening bottles helps prevent litter.
- Caps and lids are OK.

- Includes:
- Bottles
  - Cups
  - Snap top container
  - Clamshell deli containers
  - Cookie trays
  - DVD cases
  - Clear plastic packaging
  - Microwave meal trays



Use a paper bag or a small box to hold extra recyclables.

**NO!** Don't recycle these plastic items, no matter what: Toys, plastic bags, motor oil bottles, lawn chemical bottles, or hazardous chemical bottles

**NO!** Glass bottles or jars.  
(visit [www.OmahaRecycles.com](http://www.OmahaRecycles.com) to find a drop-off site)

Plastic Bottles, Cups, Caps, Lids, Food Containers and Packaging with numbers:



**Do not place bags of garbage on top of the recycling bin!**

## Collection Pointers

- Place all materials at your collection point before 6AM.
- If your collection is missed, call 402-444-5238 after 7PM on your collection day.
- Leave a couple feet of space between your yardwaste, recyclables, and garbage containers.
- Keep your garbage dry—use plastic bags or trash cans with lids.
- One cap full of household ammonia poured in to each garbage container will deter animals from investigating and searching for food in your garbage.
- Use clear trash bags.



### Within 5 feet of curb or alley.

### Collection problems: 402-444-5238

**Garbage:**  
Up to 5 containers

Metal or plastic can with handles. 32 gallon, 45 pound max.



Clear plastic. 30 pounds max. Tie shut.



**Recycling:**  
Must use bin

No plastic bags. No glass. Paper in paper bag or box. Flatten cardboard boxes.



Leave space between

**Yardwaste:**  
No container limit

Metal or plastic can with handles. 32 gallon, 45 pound max. Marked YW.



Paper bags only 40 pounds max.



Bundle with string. 4 feet long max. 2 inch diameter branches max. 30 pounds max.



### Set out before 6AM

The United States will mark the 30th anniversary of the modern "garbage crisis" in 2017.

On March 22, 1987, the Mobro 4000 barge set sail from Long Island, New York, with a load of garbage destined for a landfill in North Carolina. Rumors began and the barge was turned away

from multiple landfills along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.

In the end, the Mobro 4000 traveled over 6,000 miles and the garbage remained on board for seven months before being incinerated and landfilled where it came from in New York.

The Mobro's journey redefined how the United States looked at garbage. **o!**

## Solid Waste Assistance



Special collection assistance for garbage, yardwaste and recyclables is available to households where all residents in the home have a medical disability, or are age 70 or older.



It takes several weeks to get the service set up.

To apply, call 402-444-5238 from 8AM to 8PM weekdays.

## 2015 Omaha Solid Waste Stats

The shortage of qualified drivers has affected the collection of yardwaste the last several years. The shortage was so severe, and the delays in collection so chronic, that in June 2015 the decision was made to stop the separate collection of yardwaste. Instead yardwaste was collected with garbage and taken to the landfill where the methane gas of decomposition is used to produce energy in the Omaha Public Power District's Elk City Station.

Some yardwaste was collected in the fall of 2015 so brown material needed for Oma-Gro could be collected.

While there was a slight up tick in the amount of recyclables collected, the economy continued to affect the amount of recyclables available and the value of those recyclables. The limited amount of recyclables is from both manufacturers making design changes that use less material in their packaging or products and also consumers consuming less.

The tons of recyclables collected helped the City avoid paying more than \$424,000 in landfill tipping fees. **o!**

2015†	Garbage		Recycling		Yardwaste	
January	8,454.12	86%	1,392.09	14%	-	-
February	6,697.10	85%	1,139.28	15%	-	-
March	9,995.97	88%	1,386.75	12%	-	-
April	12,120.83	89%	1,451.54	11%	-	-
May	12,285.72	80%	1,465.13	9%	1,697.69	11%
June	10,067.19	69%	1,468.83	10%	3,072.82	21%
July	12,970.34	90%	1,453.85	10%	-	-
August	12,780.76	90%	1,468.49	10%	-	-
September	12,386.37	89%	1,485.48	11%	-	-
October	12,194.88	90%	1,318.65	10%	20.26	0.1%
November	13,689.60	86%	1,424.43	9%	865.12	5%
December	11,315.05	88%	1,563.84	12%	5.93	<0.1%
<b>Total 2015</b>	<b>134,957.93</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>17,018.36</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>5,661.82</b>	<b>4%</b>
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)

## Recycling Bin Distribution

REPLACEMENT and additional recycling bins are available to addresses with City of Omaha solid waste collection service, from the locations listed here.

Please note that holidays will affect the schedule of each location. **o!**

### A. V. Sorensen Branch Library

4808 Cass Street  
 Monday CLOSED  
 Tuesday 10:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Wednesday 10:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Thursday 10:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Friday and Saturday 10:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday CLOSED

### South Omaha Branch Library

2808 "Q" Street  
 Monday through Thursday 7:30AM – 9:00PM  
 Friday and Saturday 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday CLOSED

### Charles B. Washington Branch Library

2868 Ames Avenue  
 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 9:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Thursday, Friday and Saturday 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday CLOSED

### Milton R. Abrahams Branch Library

5111 North 90th Street  
 Monday through Thursday 9:00AM – 9:00PM  
 Friday and Saturday 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday 1:00PM – 6:00PM

### Bess Johnson Elkhorn Branch Library

2100 Reading Plaza  
 Monday through Thursday 9:00AM – 8:00PM  
 Friday and Saturday 9:00AM – 6:00PM  
 Sunday CLOSED

### UnderTheSink, Special Waste Facility

4001 South 120th Street  
 Drive around building to parking lot and enter office.  
 Wednesday 9:00AM – 4:45PM  
 Thursday 9:00AM – 6:15PM  
 Friday 9:00AM – 4:45PM  
 Saturday 9:00AM – NOON

Clip and Save

From this to this!



## Tire Collection Productive and More Frequent

DURING THE SIX SATURDAYS of Spring Clean-Up in 2016, a total of 70 tons of tires were collected and recycled. The City is able to do this collection because of the support from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality's, Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive fund grant program. The grant fund comes from the one dollar per new tire sold fee collected by retailers. The grant pays for the collection and processing of the tires, while the City provides the promotion, administration and staff assistance at the collection events.

This year the grant had funds available for Omaha to conduct two, one-day collection events in the fall in addition to the Spring Clean-Up collections. The collection event held at Omaha South High School in August collected 63 tons of used

tires. The second fall collection was held in October at Levi Carter Park but the tons collected were not available at the time **WASTELINE** went to press.

All tires collected are recycled into tire derived aggregate that is used in the absorption trenches of residential septic systems. The tires collected were only from residents or from neighborhood clean ups. Tires disposed of by retailers are not allowed or accepted at any of Omaha's tire collection events.

The City intends to continue having used tire collections in both the spring and fall provided grant funds are available to pay the processing cost which can vary from \$100 to \$150 per ton.

The dates for Spring Clean-Up in 2017 are April 22, 29 and May 6, 13 and 20. **o!**

