

# Residential Collection in ACC



Athens-Clarke County Solid Waste Department  
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# Presentation Outline

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- History
- Current Solid Waste Collection in ACC
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- Cost Estimate
- Franchising Concerns Heard from Residents
- Summary

# Purpose

Share an overview of existing solid waste collection in ACC and opportunities to improve service through franchised collection.

# Why Franchise?

# Why Consider Franchising for Residential Collection?

- Solid Waste Service Equity
  - Consistency between Urban Service District Residents (required to have trash service) and General Service District Residents (not required to have trash service) – *Same level of service and consistent rates for the entire community*
- Enhanced Level of Service at a Reduced or Similar Cost
- Reduced Frequency of Trucks from Multiple Haulers in Neighborhoods
  - Environmental Benefits- reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, leakage, road wear, traffic
- Expanded Capacity of the Landfill
  - Waste Reduction Goals (higher landfill diversion rates); potential for expanded waste reduction services
- Reduction in Illegal Dumping & Litter
  - Illegal dumping high in communities that allow self-hauling; service theft high too
- Ensuring a Standard Level of Customer Service from Private Haulers
  - Accountability measures dictated through RFP/Contracts
- Public Health & Safety
  - Concerns with self-haulers stockpiling trash attracting vectors

## Illegal Dumping /Service Theft Challenges

- Approximately \$900,000 is spent annually in Athens to clean up illegal dump sites/litter. This estimate is from ACCGov Departments only, and taken prior to 2020.
- In 2021, the Illegal Dumping Prevention and Surveillance Program started to combat the rise in illegal dumping in Athens. Program cost approximately \$28,000 annually.
- Since March 2023, over 225 violations have been forwarded to Code Enforcement for a citation. \$300 fine (average).
- Over 100 warning letters sent to individuals that need redirection; less egregious issue; opportunity for education.
- Service theft happens when an individual places their trash in a commercial customer's dumpster or around the dumpster. Service theft is common in Athens. Staff has used the cameras to assist with this issue at private dumpsters.

# Solid Waste Collection/Franchise History

DATE	HISTORY ITEM
June 7, 1994	Commission approved Volume-Based SW Fee System (Pay-As-You-Throw - PAYT)
September 11, 1995	Commission approved PAYT for the customers in the GSD
September 26, 2000	Review of SW Operations – Countywide (Staff recommended enhancing Non-Exclusive Franchises.)
October 4, 2011	Volume-Based Solid Waste Fee System Change for GSD (added 20/25 gallon container and rate differentials)
October 4, 2011	Commission approved Waste Minimization Fee (WMF)
November 7, 2012	Commission approved Franchised Solid Waste Hauler Cap Ordinance
August 2019	Solid Waste Collection Zones Work Session Presentation (request by M&C)
August 2019	Community Input Meetings (three external and one internal)
Aug – Sept 2019	Community Input Survey
September 2022	M&C Assigned Franchising to Solid Waste Advisory Commission
November 2023	Solid Waste Advisory Commission Recommended Franchising
May 2024	Mayor Assigned Franchising to LRC
June – October 2024	LRC Residential Franchising Discussion

How is trash & recycling  
currently handled in ACC?

# Current Solid Waste Residential Collection Services

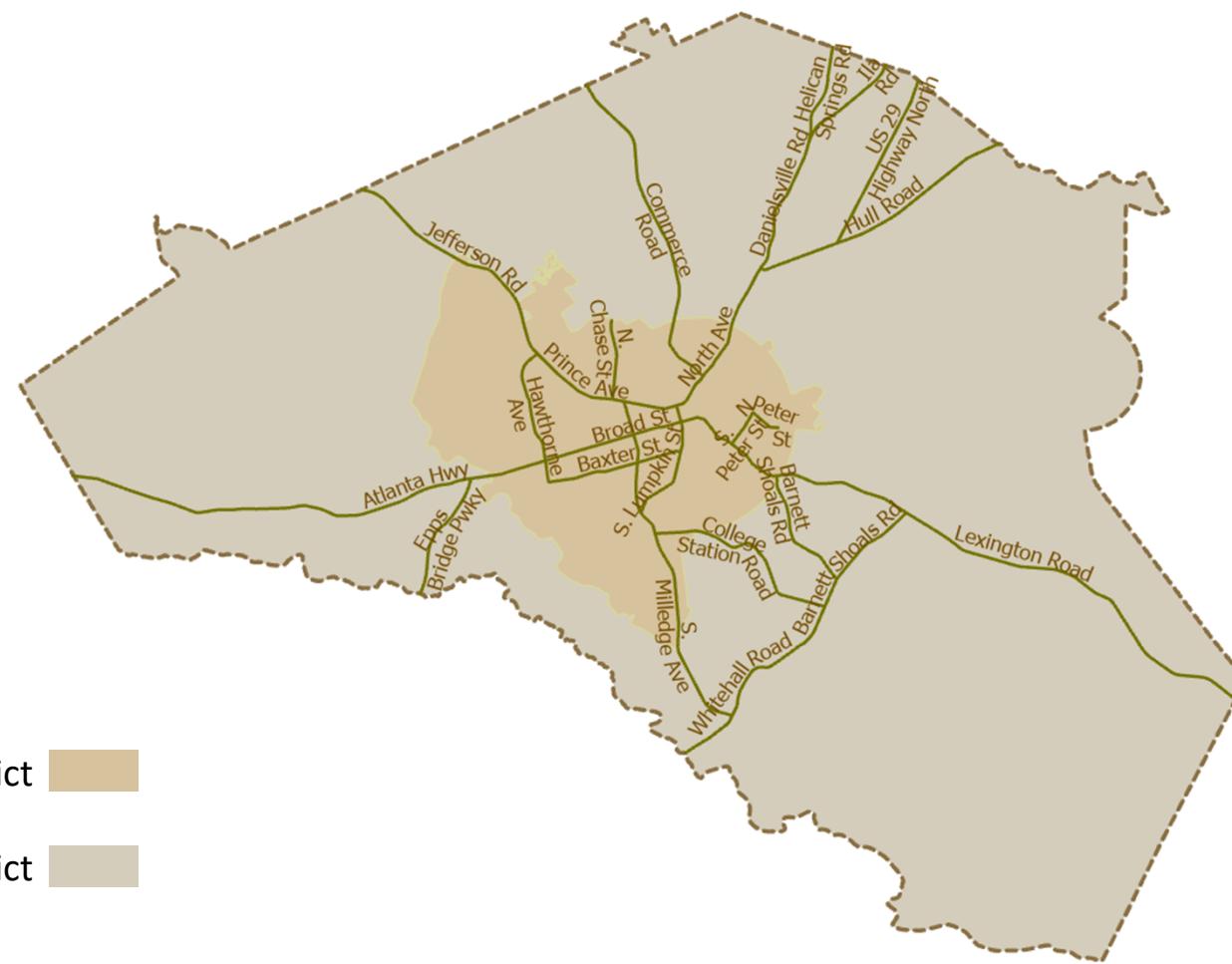
## *Urban Service District (USD)*

- ACC Solid Waste Department only residential service provider allowed in district since unification
- Residents must have trash service in USD (recycling is optional)
- Approximately, 10,000 residential customers are in the USD (curbside and backyard customers)

- *General Service District (GSD)*
  - Residential haulers currently operating in the GSD as follows: AAA Sanitation, Curbside Services, Johnson and Son, Republic Services, and Waste Pro
  - Residents do not have to have trash or recycling service in the GSD (self-hauling is an option)
  - Approximately, 25,000 residential customers are available for service in GSD

# Current Solid Waste Residential Collection Services



# Current Solid Waste Collection Rates In The USD

Roll Cart(s) Number & Size	Average Number of Trash Bags	Average Number of People per household	Monthly Fee for Curbside and /or ADA Service	Monthly Fee for Backyard Service
1—20 gallon	1	1	\$22.00	\$52.00
1 – 32 gallon	3	2	\$25.00	\$55.00
1—64 gallon	5	3	\$30.75	\$60.75
1—96 gallon	7	4	\$40.00	\$70.00
2—64 gallons	10	5-7	\$52.75	\$82.75
1—64 + 1—96 gallon	12	8-10	\$71.50	\$101.50
2—96 gallons	14	11+	\$75.00	\$105.00
Downtown Apartments	Eco-Stations	4	\$42.90	
Vacant Household	If the home is vacant and the water is turned on, the monthly service fee is \$19.00 per month. To qualify for this level, there is no water consumption.			



# Current Customers and Rates in GSD

HAULER	ACCOUNTS	MONTHLY RATES	COMMENTS
AAA Sanitation	5,412	\$15, \$16.66 , \$20.83 , \$34.50	Recycling: 18 gal. bin - add \$3.00/month 96 gal. bin - add \$6.00/month
Curbside Services	3,254	\$22, \$25, \$30, \$39	Recycling: 20 gal. bin included w/ trash 2nd 20 gal bin +\$5.00/month - 2nd 64 gal bin +\$15.00/month - 2nd 96 gal bin +\$20.00/month
Johnson & Son	170	\$10, \$15, \$20, \$26	Recycling: add \$6.00 per month
Republic	2,392	\$13.33, \$14.67, \$17.60, \$22.88	Recycling: 95 gal bin add \$1.00 per month (every other week PU)
Waste Pro	7,249	\$18.10, \$19.91, \$23.90, \$31.06	Recycling: 18 gal. bin - add \$3.00/month 64 gal. bin - add \$5.00/month

How is trash & recycling currently  
handled in similar areas?

# Comparative Analysis Highlights

- Surveyed similar cities in Georgia and added Greenville, SC (since Athens is frequently compared to Greenville)
- All jurisdictions surveyed had curbside and limited backyard service (no self hauling except for overages/clean-outs)
- Rates up to 45% cheaper with enhanced/additional services provided
- All jurisdictions offered weekly trash service and most weekly or bi-weekly recycling collection; enhanced/additional services:
  - Columbus, Greenville, Augusta, Savannah and Rome provide weekly bulky and yard waste service
  - Macon provides bulky and yard waste bi-weekly
  - Greenville provides street sweeping as part of their service package/cost

# Comparative Analysis Highlights Continued

- Mixture of general and enterprise fund sources
- Four jurisdictions serviced by public sector and two with private sector haulers
- All jurisdictions have larger residential customer base than ACC except Greenville
- Columbus, Augusta, Macon, Rome, Savannah, and ACC own their own landfill
- Greenville and Macon do not own their own landfill
- Columbus and Athens own their own recycling center
- Greenville and Savannah transfer recyclables to Pratt (private company)
- Macon transports “clean” loads of recyclables to Synergy (waste to energy facility)
- Augusta does not recycle
- All tip/processing fees are in the chart (shared comparative analysis)

# Cost Estimate

# Basic Cost Analysis

- Estimated potential customer base – approximately 38,000
- Estimated franchise cost per month \$25-\$30 for trash and recycling (96 gallon containers)
- Estimated franchise cost to add containerized leaf and limb weekly an additional \$5 - \$8 per month
- Estimated total for weekly trash, recycling and leaf and limb in 96 gallon containers would be approximately \$30 - \$38 per month
- Estimated by Atlantic Coast Consulting

# Concerns Heard in Past Discussions from Residents

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- Residents have relationships with their current private haulers

**Private haulers will be able to competitively respond to the Request for Proposals; therefore, depending on the awards, some residents may be able to maintain their existing relationship. Other residents have experienced challenges with customer service for private haulers, and franchising would allow for private haulers to be held accountable for the service provided.**

- Public perception/rejection of eliminating resident/customer choice

**Private haulers will be able to competitively respond to the Request for Proposals.**

- Self-hauling is eliminated.

**Eliminating self-hauling will likely reduce illegal dumping and service theft (dumping trash in dumpsters at apartment complexes or businesses)**

- Mandatory trash and recycling service from single-family houses required.

**This would provide consistency for the entire community, as Urban Service District residents are currently mandated to have trash and recycling service.**

# Summary

# LRC Franchising Summary

- Hire Consultant (construct RFP, resolve HOA legal issues, create contracts for haulers and general administration for franchising; cost approximately \$100,000)
- Franchise zones: 5 total zones
  - RFP to solicit for franchisees for 4 zones
  - One zone to be served by Solid Waste Department
- Mandatory residential collection service – no self-hauling
  - Exceptions for clean up or bulky items
- Incorporation of a low-income fee reduction (similar to Columbus)
- Consideration of incorporation of other services into franchises:
  - Containerized leaf & limb
  - Food scraps
  - Bulky Waste

# Timeline & Next Steps If Franchising Approved

- **November 6, 2024 – M&C vote on Resolution for Residential Collection Franchising**
- **February 2025**- Procure consultant to assist in developing Request for Proposals (RFP) for franchisees and to provide expertise for ordinance and contract development
- **May/June 2025**- Budget & Strategic Analysis staff to assist in mapping potential zones to ensure proportional zones
- **July 2025 – M&C vote on adoption of residential collection ordinances**
- **July/August 2025** – RFP released
- **December/January 2026 – M&C vote to award franchisees for each zone**
- **January – March 2026** – Contracting for Selected Franchisee Haulers (insurance verification, contracts executed)
- **January-May 2026**- Resident education on franchising / requirements, roll-cart arranging, consistent stickering
- **August-September 2026** – Launch of franchising

*NOTE: Industry estimate to roll-out franchising 2-3 years.*

# Questions?

