
Questions and Answers From City Council

Solid Waste Services

Question 1: *Please describe the impact of adding an additional litter collection and street sweeping crew to Solid Waste Services.*

Street Sweeping:

The City provides street sweeping services to 52,500 linear miles per year. As a general practice, street sweeper crews operate along Solid Waste Services (SWS) garbage routes, but on a one-day delay. Additionally, due to limited street sweeping resources (as compared to garbage routes), SWS is only able to cover approximately nine garbage routes per day with street sweeping. One or two street sweepers are designated daily for resident service requests related to spill clean-ups, road debris, etc. It takes about three months to cover all garbage routes with current street sweeping resources. This process allows SWS to clean all streets on a quarterly basis. During leaf season (October through February), the routes may be adjusted to cover streets with the heaviest tree canopies, which could result in streets with little to no tree canopy being swept less frequently.

The addition of one street sweeping crew will increase the annual linear miles receiving street sweeping services by 8.5%, equivalent to an additional 4,500 linear miles per year. If applied to current streets, routes could be cleaned more frequently than quarterly, or, could be applied to support North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) roads.

Litter Collection:

The City provides litter collection services to 23,700 curb miles per year. Routes are determined by trash patterns, resident service requests, and field observations from staff. The addition of one litter picking crew will increase the total number of annual curb miles serviced by 11%, equivalent to an additional 2,600 curb miles per year. If applied to current streets, routes could be cleaned more frequently than quarterly, or, could be applied to support NCDOT roads.