



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Fiscal Year 2020 Period

Dear Fairfax County Resident:

**The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) is contacting you because residents in your neighborhood have shown interest in obtaining solid waste management services from the County.**

Fairfax County has provided refuse/recycling and/or curbside vacuum leaf collection service to certain legally designated areas in the County since 1955. The legal designation for these collection areas is known as a small or local Sanitary District, a term which is defined in Virginia State Code.

A small or local Sanitary District is defined as an area that is located within identifiable boundaries where services are provided to residents by the local jurisdiction. These services are traditional municipal services such as potable water, sewers, sidewalks, lighting and refuse and recyclables collection. Sanitary Districts are created when property owners within a community petition the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to enlarge the Sanitary District. If the Board approves the enlargement of a Sanitary District, then **all** property owners in the specified geographic area will receive refuse and recyclables collection service from the Division.

The petition process is a legal proceeding where property owners who want weekly **solid waste management** services from the County petition the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to be included within a Sanitary District. Sanitary Districts are created when the Board of Supervisors receives a request from residential property owners in a specified geographic area of more than 50 homes. These property owners are asked to sign a petition to request that the Sanitary District be approved. If more than 55% of the property owners in the geographically designated area approve of the petition, the Board of Supervisors hold a public hearing and will approve or disapprove the petition after hearing from citizens. If the Sanitary District is approved through the Public Hearing, all property owners in the specified area will receive service from the County **even if they did not approve of or support the sanitary district petition.**

A resident in your neighborhood has requested the required paperwork from our office which is necessary to establish a Sanitary District for weekly solid waste management. Most likely, you will soon be contacted by a petition coordinator (someone from your neighborhood) who will be responsible for contacting the owner of each home in the proposed area and obtaining signatures on the petition. Only the signature of the legal property owner (one per household) is acceptable on the petition. Renters do not have the authority to sign the petition. By signing the petition, the legal property owner acknowledges that he/she agrees to request the creation of this Sanitary District.

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services  
Solid Waste Management Program

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Fairfax, Virginia 22035

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[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes)



Fairfax County Resident Letter  
Page 2 of 2

The annual cost of Fairfax County collection service currently is \$385 for the fiscal year 2020 that started in July 2019. The annual fee covers personnel, capital equipment, fuel and other associated costs. The annual fee for vacuum leaf collection is \$.012 per \$100 of the assessed property value beginning July 1, 2019.

Our office wants to inform you of several issues associated with the refuse/recycling and vacuum leaf petition process:

- You are under no obligation to sign the petition when contacted.
- Renters cannot sign in lieu of a property owner.
- The petition coordinator in your neighborhood must be forthcoming with information about the process so that you can make the right decision about the service that you would prefer to have.
- If you have questions, please feel free to contact our office at the numbers listed below.

We are pleased to provide you with this information and if you have any questions, please contact me, Lainie Cooke Shifflett, Sanitary District Administrator, directly at (703)324-5697 or email me at [Lainie.Shifflett@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lainie.Shifflett@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Sincerely,



Lainie Cooke Shifflett  
Sanitary District Administrator  
703.324.5697  
[Lainie.Shifflett@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lainie.Shifflett@fairfaxcounty.gov)