

The voluntary once a week trash collection request for feedback resulted in 27 responses; 19 responded that once a week worked without any adjustments to their routine, 4 responded that once a week worked after some minor adjustments and 4 responded that once a week collection did not work even if they tried to adjust their routine.

One concern was excessive waste from spring and fall yard cleaning because the CCR's do not allow trash bags to be visible from neighboring property or the street except on trash days. Once per week collection would require residents to keep their yard waste, likely in their back yard, up to four days longer so reducing the frequency of collections would have a negative impact and needs a solution if we pursue once a week collection. Republic allows yard waste bags outside of their containers (they would appreciate the resident calling customer service, so they can enter additional pickup notes for the drivers) without an additional charge, but the pickup would still only be scheduled on the normal service day. Bringing the waste to the landfill incurs a drop-off charge.

Another concern that was raised involved an unusually large amount of non-odorous waste, for example packaging material. I assume that the concern regards the volume of trash rather than the size of the individual pieces because the size of the pieces cannot be resolved by the frequency of collections. If the size of the piece does not fit into the trash container with the lid closed Republics policy is the resident should request a special pick-up from Republic for an additional charge or bring it to the landfill where they will incur a drop-off charge. An option that residents frequently use to deal with a large volume of non-odor generating trash is to distribute the waste over several collections so reducing the frequency of collections will have a negative impact and needs a solution if we pursue once a week collection.

A concern was raised about street wear due to the weight of the collection trucks carrying twice the trash amount they currently do.

Recurring concerns were regarding the odor from food and pet waste as expected. I think this can be broken down into three issues; 1) pet waste, 2) normal food waste and, 3) an unusually high amount of food waste (due to visitors or parties for example) because the solution may not be the same for all three issues.

A concern about home space to hold the larger amount of waste was only expressed by one respondent. I expected this to be more prevalent.

Other concerns were about the implementation rather than the frequency of collections;

A concern that if homeowners could decide which day they wanted their trash collected, the wear on the streets would not decrease. This is true, but the intention is to have trash service only available on a set day for any house.

A concern that the street wear would not be significantly reduced if the once a week program was only in the summer months. This is true. Wear during the summer months comes from

collection trucks turning at the intersections on soft asphalt due to heat. Wear during the “winter” months is caused by the collection trucks braking and accelerating at each house with typically heavier loads. Both sources need to be minimized and the intention is to have once a week collection year around. The current focus is on summer collections because the summer residents have, with good reason, been the most vocal due to the odor issue. The other issues will likely be the same for summer and winter residents.

Some responses included proposed solutions to the odor issue;

One respondent doubles their trash bags.

Another respondent has a cat and is in the process of changing their trash bag quality and closure to see if that addresses the problem but won't have any feedback for quite some time.

One respondent said if they had food scraps that they feared would smell, they either: 1) put them in the freezer until garbage day; 2) put some vinegar in with them to deodorize; and/or 3) stored them in a large non-recyclable container.

To address the volume of yard waste and the weight of the collection trucks while still reducing the wear on the streets we could consider having the trash from one side of the complex collected on Monday and the other side on Thursday. On approximately weeks 13, 14, 47 and 48 both sides would be collected to address the yard waste concern. Collecting twice as much trash from half as many houses should result in the same amount of waste we have collected currently.

To address the issue of unusual non-odorous waste we could consider having a “bin” at a central location of the complex which gets collected on both Mondays and Thursdays. It is less likely that we could find a similar location for food and pet waste. One respondent suggested large individual bins for everybody. I think some residents do not have space for a larger footprint but may be able to use taller containers.

In response to a survey asking how many times per week their HOA's trash was collected, 28 out of 49 replied once per week. A follow-up survey asking the 28 how they dealt with the problems stated above needs to be sent.

Thanks for your participation during the summer. It was beneficial in determining the different concerns people have. I may be asking for your participation again (the price for volunteering the first time) to determine if potential solutions are viable.

Thanks Again!  
Rick Fillion