



City of Niles Michigan

Proposed to Start November, 2017

“Let’s Talk Trash” Fact Sheet

Facts About the City of Niles’ Proposed Solid Waste, Recycling and Yard Waste Collection and Disposal Services for the City Proper

1. Lower Costs for City Residents

- If the City of Niles adopts the responsibility for the solid waste and yard waste collection and disposal services for city residents, the cost for each household could drop as much as 50 percent.
- The average commercial service is costing residents as much as \$51.00 per quarter for trash removal per household—that’s \$204 per year or \$1,020,000 for the estimated 5,000 households within the city limits. That means if the city can take over this service for about half the cost of the private haulers, we could save the residents of Niles Michigan almost \$510,000 per year.

2. A Cleaner, Healthier City

- City residents who can’t afford or refuse to pay for private trash removal often stockpile trash and refuse in garages, back alleys, vacant lots and backyards. These residents would be provided with proper trash containers for weekly collection. By eliminating these piles of refuse throughout the city proper, Niles residents will benefit from reduced vermin and insect pests. This could reduce the amount of animal-borne diseases, parasites and animal bites within the city limits.

3. Ease of Billing for the City and Its Residents

- Since the City of Niles residents, businesses and landlords with four units or less would be billed for trash and yard waste removal as a monthly line item in their electric bill - the costs of billing, administration and collection would be minimal for the city and easy to understand for the residents. The billing and administration functions are already in place and this drastically reduces the City’s costs to administer this program.

4. A Greener Alternative to Current Trash Collection

- Some of the private waste collection firms that will be bidding on the formal request for proposal (RFP) for the City of Niles' trash removal already include sort and recycle services as part of their waste processing. This means that even though Niles residents may not have to sort their trash, once collected it will be sorted into glass, plastic, paper and organic material at a local processing facility. In addition, other respondents to the RFP may have more affordable and unique solutions to separating and recycling at the curb.

5. Supporting the Resources and Future of our Local Landfill

- By assuming the trash and yard waste collection removal, the City of Niles will support the future of our landfill by consolidating all of the city's waste into one landfill instead of privately held landfills. This financial support will assure that when the time comes to close and cover the landfill, the funds will be there to support that activity. The landfill was built to support five municipalities—currently Niles only participates with a fraction of its waste it accumulates.