Wake County Solid Waste Management Division

WASTE & RECYCLING INFORMATION GUIDE

» Waste and Recycling Options
» Convenience Centers
» Household Hazardous Waste Facilities
» Multi-Material Recycling Facilities
» Waste Disposal Facilities
» Outreach and Education Programs
» and more...

Solid Waste Management Division • PO Box 550 • Raleigh, NC 27602 • 919-856-7400 • www.wakegov.com/recycling
Wake County’s Solid Waste Management Division provides waste disposal and recycling services. The division manages 17 waste facilities, including a landfill, a waste transfer station, eleven residential waste and recycling convenience centers, two household hazardous waste drop-off facilities and two multi-material recycling drop-off facilities. The Solid Waste Management Division also provides an array of outreach and education programs, including the Feed the Bin school recycling program and 86it Anti-Litter Campaign.

In 2014, the Solid Waste Management Division landfilled over 400,000 tons of garbage, recycled 30,000 tons of materials collected at Convenience Centers, generated enough energy using landfill gas to power as many as 8,000 homes, and won two national environmental protection and energy awards.

This Waste & Recycling Information Guide is a thorough introduction to the programs and services provided by the Solid Waste Management Division, in addition to other useful waste and recycling resources.
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### WAKE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

**RECYCLING & DISPOSAL OPTIONS**

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<th>GLASS</th>
<th>HOUSEHOLD</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Auto Fluids</td>
<td>Car Batteries</td>
<td>Tires</td>
<td>Used Motor Oil &amp; Filters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>R = recycled</td>
<td>R = reused</td>
<td>D = disposed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### CONVENIENCE CENTERS • Open to Wake County Residents Only • Hours: Daily, 7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

| Site 1: 10505 Old Stage Road | Raleigh 27603 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 2: 6025 Old Smithfield Road | Apex 27539 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 3: 266 Aviation Parkway | Morrisville 27560 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 4: 3600 Yates Mill Pond Road | Raleigh 27606 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 5: 8401 Battle Bridge Road | Raleigh 27610 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 6: 3913 Lillie Liles Road | Wake Forest 27587 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 7: 9024 Deponie Drive | Raleigh 27614 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 8: 2001 Durham Road (Hwy.98) | Wake Forest 27587 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 9: 3337 New Hill-Hollemman Road | New Hill 27562 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 10: 5216 Knightsdale-Eagle Rock Road | Knightsdale 27545 | R | R | R | R |
| Site 11: 5051 Wendell Boulevard (Bus. 64) | Wendell 27591 | R | R | R | R |

#### HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES • Open to Wake County Residents Only • Hours: Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

| North Wake: 9037 Deponie Drive | Raleigh 27614 | R | R | R |
| South Wake: 6130 Old Smithfield Road | Apex 27502 | R | R | R |

#### MULTI-MATERIAL RECYCLING FACILITIES • Open to Wake County Residents & Businesses • Hours: Monday - Saturday, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

| North Wake: 9029 Deponie Drive | Raleigh 27614 | R | R | R | R | Re | Re |
| South Wake: 6130 Old Smithfield Road | Apex 27502 | R | R | R | R | Re | Re |

#### MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITIES • Open to Wake County Businesses • Hours: Monday - Saturday, 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

| South Wake Landfill: 6500 Old Smithfield Road, Apex 27502 | D |
| East Wake Transfer Station: 840 Corporation Parkway, Raleigh, NC 27610 | D |
The following table displays the primary materials that are currently accepted at Wake County’s solid waste facilities. Please call ahead (919-856-7400) or visit www.wakegov.com/recycling to confirm that the information provided is the most recent. Residents may utilize Convenience Centers, Multi-Material Recycling Facilities and Household Hazardous Waste Facilities free of charge. Commercial businesses may utilize the Multi-Material Recycling Facilities free of charge. Commercial businesses will be charged disposal fees at both the South Wake Landfill and East Wake Transfer Station.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEMS</th>
<th>HAZARDOUS WASTE</th>
<th>METAL</th>
<th>PAPER</th>
<th>PLASTIC</th>
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<td>Remodeling, Construction Debris</td>
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<tr>
<td>Toys</td>
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<td>Paints, Stains, Lacquers</td>
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<td>Pesticides &amp; Containers</td>
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<td>Aluminum Cans &amp; Foil</td>
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<td>Scrap Metal</td>
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<td>Tin &amp; Steel Cans</td>
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<td>Books</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cards &amp; Wrapping Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Juice, Milk &amp; Soup Cartons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Magazines &amp; Newspapers</td>
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<td>Mixed Paper</td>
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<td>Paperboard &amp; Chipboard</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shredded Paper</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plastic Caps &amp; Lids</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plastic Jugs &amp; Bottles</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plastic Cartons &amp; Containers</td>
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<td>R R R R R R R R</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 | WASTE & RECYCLING OPTIONS
CONVENIENCE CENTERS

Convenience Centers are waste and recycling drop-off facilities that are open to all Wake County residents only. Residents may recycle or dispose of waste, free of charge at any of the 11 locations located throughout Wake County.

LOCATIONS
1. 10505 Old Stage Road, Raleigh
2. 6025 Old Smithfield Road, Apex
3. 266 Aviation Parkway, Morrisville
4. 3600 Yates Mill Pond Road, Raleigh
5. 8401 Battle Bridge Road, Raleigh
6. 3913 Lillie Liles Road, Wake Forest
7. 9024 Deponie Drive, Raleigh
8. 2001 Durham Road/Hwy. 98, Wake Forest
9. 3337 New Hill-Holleman Road, New Hill
10. 5216 Knightdale-Eagle Rock Road, Knightdale
11. 5051 Wendell Blvd./Business 64, Wendell

OPERATIONAL HOURS
Open Daily: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Open to Wake County residents only
Closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve (at noon) and Christmas Day.
CONVENIENCE CENTERS

CARDBOARD
Corrugated Cardboard

CLOTHING & SHOES
Books
Clothing
Shoes

ELECTRONICS
(SITES 1, 4, 11 ON WEEKENDS ONLY)
Any Corded Electronic Device
Computer Equipment
Game Consoles
Printers & Copiers
Small Appliances
Stereo, Audio, Video Players
Televisions
VCRs, DVDs, Tape Players

MIXED RECYCLING
Aluminum Cans & Foil
Cartons (Aseptic Containers)
Glass Bottles & Jars
Magazines & Newspapers
Metal, Steel & Tin Cans
Mixed Paper
Phone Books & Catalogs
Paperboard & Chipboard
Plastic Bottles, Jugs & Containers (caps ok)

CONSTRUCTION WASTE
(SITES 1, 2, 4, 7, 11 ONLY)
Wood
Drywall
Shingles
Carpet

GARBAGE
Bulky Garbage (under 8 feet long/width)
Furniture (under 8 feet long)
Garbage
Mattresses (up to 2)

OYSTER SHELLS
Oyster Shells

SCRAP METAL
Bicycles
Buckets
Frames
Lawn Mowers (all oil & gas removed)
Mixed Metals
Pipes
Sinks (not ceramic)

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS
Business or commercial waste
Drums or tanks
Liquid waste
Bricks, concrete and/or stone
Household hazardous waste
Radioactive waste
Burning or smoldering material
Medical waste
Sewage plant sludge
Dead animals
Items larger than 8 feet
Yard waste, stumps or logs

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES

Common household items may contain hazardous materials that should not be disposed of in household garbage due to their harmful properties. Wake County residents only may drop off such materials at a Household Hazardous Waste Facilities free of charge.

LOCATIONS

North Wake Household Hazardous Waste Facility
9037 Deponie Drive, Raleigh

South Wake Household Hazardous Waste Facility
6130 Old Smithfield Road, Apex

OPERATIONAL HOURS

Open Monday - Saturday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Open to Wake County residents only
Closed Sundays, New Years Day, 4th of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve (at noon) and Christmas Day

Paints are collected at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Staff sort materials delivered to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Mercury containing elements are sorted at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility.
ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

BATTERIES
- Alkaline
- Cell Phone
- Computer
- Lead Acid/Vehicle
- Lithium
- Power Tool
- Rechargeable

CHEMICALS
- Acids & Bases
- Herbicides
- Household Cleaners
- Photographic Chemicals
- Pesticides
- Poisons
- Solvents

FINISHES
- Lacquers
- Paints
- Polishes
- Stains
- Thinners
- Wood Preservatives

FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS

FLAMMABLES
- Gas
- Fuel Oil
- Lighter Fluid
- Kerosene

PROPANE TANKS

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Business or commercial waste
- Hypodermic needles/syringes
- Medical waste
- Radioactive materials
- Smoke detectors
- Garbage
- Unknown materials

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE FACILITIES
Multi-Material Recycling Facilities are designed to accept recyclable materials that may not be accepted curbside or at Convenience Centers. Businesses and residents may utilize either of the Multi-Material Recycling Facilities free of charge.

LOCATIONS

NW
North Wake Multi-Material Recycling Facility
9029 Deponie Drive, Raleigh

SW
South Wake Multi-Material Recycling Facility
6130 Old Smithfield Road, Apex

OPERATIONAL HOURS

Open Monday - Saturday: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Open to Wake County residents & businesses
Closed Sundays, New Years Day, 4th of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve (at noon) and Christmas Day.
MULTI-MATERIAL RECYCLING FACILITIES

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS

ANTIFREEZE

CARDBOARD

CELL PHONES

CHILD ITEMS
  Car Seats
  Strollers
  Toys

COOKING OIL

DISKS & TAPES

ELECTRONICS
  Any Corded Electronic Device
  Computer Equipment
  Game Consoles
  Printers & Copiers
  Small Appliances
  Stereo, Audio, Video Players
  Televisions
  VCR, DVD & Tape Players

MIXED RECYCLING
  Aluminum Cans & Foil
  Cartons & Aseptics
  Glass Bottles & Jars
  Magazines & Newspaper
  Metal, Steel & Tin Cans
  Mixed Paper
  Phone Books & Catalogs
  Paperboard & Chipboard
  Plastic Bottles, Jugs & Containers (caps ok)

MOTOR OIL

OIL FILTERS

LARGE APPLIANCES
  Air Conditioners
  Dish Washers
  Dryers
  Fridges & Freezers
  Stoves & Ovens
  Washing Machines
  Water Heaters

RIGID PLASTIC
  Plastic Baskets
  Plastic Buckets
  Plastic Crates
  Plastic Garbage Cans
  Plastic Furniture
  Plastic Recycling Bins

SCRAP METAL
  Bicycles
  Buckets
  Frames
  Lawn Mowers (all oil & gas removed)
  Mixed Metals
  Pipes
  Sinks

TIRES

WOOD PALLETS
SOUTH WAKE LANDFILL

The South Wake Landfill, located between Apex and Holly Springs is the only active municipal solid waste (MSW) landfill in Wake County. South Wake Landfill provides waste disposal for Wake County residents and businesses. The landfill opened in 2008 and is expected to have a disposal capacity of 30 plus years.

LOCATION
South Wake Municipal Solid Waste Landfill
6300 Old Smithfield Road, Apex

OPERATIONAL HOURS
Open Monday - Saturday: 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Closed: Sundays, New Years Day, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve (at 1 p.m.) and Christmas Day

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS
South Wake Landfill is permitted to take municipal solid waste from Wake County sources only. MSW consists of general household and business garbage and other non-hazardous wastes. South Wake Landfill receives about 150 garbage trucks a day, which amounts to over 400,000 tons of garbage each year.

LANDFILL DESIGN
The South Wake Landfill is designed and engineered to protect public health and the environment. The South Wake Landfill is built with a thick liner system designed to separate trash from the surrounding environment. The landfill gas collection system extracts landfill gas and sends it to the Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility located adjacent to the landfill. Leachate, rainwater that percolates through the landfill, is collected through a series of pipes and is treated at Holly Springs Water Reclamation Facility. At the end of each day, waste is covered to reduce odors, control litter and deter scavengers.
ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING

South Wake Landfill is carefully monitored to safeguard the environment and public health. The groundwater around the landfill is routinely monitored through an extensive system of wells to insure that the liner system is performing as expected. The landfill also has an air permit issued by the State that requires routine sampling of methane emissions. Environmental monitoring of municipal solid waste landfills continues long after the landfill closes. MSW landfills are required by law to be monitored for an additional 30 years post closure.

EAST WAKE TRANSFER STATION

LOCATION
East Wake Transfer Station
840 Corporation Parkway, Raleigh

OPERATIONAL HOURS
Open Monday - Saturday: 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Closed: Sundays, New Years Day, 4th of July, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve (at noon) and Christmas Day

ABOUT
East Wake Transfer Station is a waste consolidation station. Municipal solid waste collected from routes in the eastern and northern parts of Wake County is unloaded and transferred into larger tractor trailer vehicles for transport to the South Wake Landfill. By combining the loads of several smaller garbage trucks into a single tractor trailer, garbage haulers can save time and costs associated with hauling garbage to the South Wake Landfill. Once garbage trucks unload waste at the transfer station, loaders push waste into tractor trailers. Once the tractor trailer is full, it is transported to the South Wake Landfill. In addition to saving time and money, the transfer station also reduces the number of garbage trucks traveling to and from the landfill, which reduces their impact such as, carbon footprint, and the amount of congestion near the landfill.
Landfill Gas is a natural byproduct of the decomposition of organic material in municipal solid waste landfills. It contains approximately 50% methane and 50% carbon dioxide. Both gases occur naturally in the environment in smaller quantities, but landfills are the second largest man-made source of methane in the United States. Methane is a volatile and harmful greenhouse gas, over 20 times more potent than carbon dioxide. In greater concentrations, such as those produced from municipal solid waste landfills, landfill gas must be captured to prevent emission into the environment.

At South Wake Landfill, gas collection wells have been inserted into the landfill cells. The wells are then connected to a network of collection pipes that are connected to an industrial blower. The gas blower creates a vacuum that slowly pulls the gas out of the landfill. From here the landfill gas is piped to a landfill gas-to-energy facility or it is burned off at a flare station (if the gas-to-energy facility is experiencing lower demand).

The landfill Gas-to-Energy facility is owned and operated by Ingenco. Once the gas enters the gas-to-energy facility there are currently 18 refurbished diesel engines that have been converted to run off landfill gas. Diesel engines are used because they do not ignite the fuel, rather they compress it, which makes the whole process much safer. The combined power produced by the diesel engines generates about 4 megawatts of energy - enough to power 4,000 homes at peak demand or 8,000 plus homes at low demand. As the landfill fills with waste it will produce more gas. The facility has the ability to produce up to 12 megawatts, or enough energy to power up to 24,000 homes.
**LANDFILL GAS-TO-ENERGY FACILITY**

**BENEFITS**

- Prevents harmful greenhouse gases produced by landfill sites from entering the atmosphere
- Provides a local, renewable source to generate electrical power
- Reduces dependence on nuclear and fossil fuels to produce power
- Generates revenue for the County through the sale of electricity
- Creates jobs, and encourages economic development

Refurbished diesel engines from tractor trailers convert landfill gas into electricity.

Landfill gas is extracted from landfills using a series of wells and a blower/flare (or vacuum) system.

This system directs the collected gas to the Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility adjacent to the South Wake Landfill.

Landfill gas is converted to electrical power using refurbished diesel engines.

Electrical power is sold to Duke Energy and is used to power homes and businesses in the area.
OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

SOLID WASTE OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Wake County Solid Waste provides various outreach and educational programs to the public, including the 86it Anti-Litter Program, Feed the Bin School Recycling Program and more. Outreach staff also provide presentations to community and school groups as well as participate in various events to promote waste reduction and recycling. Connect with us on Facebook www.facebook.com/wakecountywasteandrecycling for more information.

Visit our web page to request a presentation

www.wakegov.com/recycling/outreach

or waste reduction booth at your event.

To learn more about Wake County’s outreach and education programs visit www.wakegov.com/recycling or like us on Facebook Wake County Waste & Recycling.
86IT ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGN

In 2008, the Wake County Board of Commissioners adopted a goal to address the increasing roadside litter problem. The 86it Anti-litter Campaign was launched in 2010 with strategies to emphasize the importance of citizen participation by focusing on the positive action of throwing trash away instead of shaming those who litter. Since then, 86it has been thriving by participating in community events, organizing clean-ups, and providing litter kit supplies to groups for the purpose of conducting cleanup events in their respective communities.

The 86it Anti-Litter Campaign stands apart by engaging citizens to be part of the solution, while emphasizing the importance of personal responsibility in the reduction of litter in our community. Stopping old litter habits is about starting new positive behaviors, so 86it focuses on celebrating positive behavior and the act of “86ing” litter.

“86ables” (a litter bag, car magnet and sticker) are available by request via 86it.com

86it Litter Kits are customized for individuals conducting litter cleanups.

Local high school group that conducted a cleanup utilizing 86it litter kits.

VISIT WWW.86IT.COM TO

🏠 Take the litter pledge

🗑️ Check out a litter cleanup kit to organize your own cleanup event

✉️ Request free litter bags

♂️ Volunteer at cleanup events

Screen shot from 86it commercial, featuring Carolina Hurricane defenseman Justin Faulk. (visit https://www.youtube.com/user/Channel86it to view)
OUTREACH & EDUCATION PROGRAMS

FEED THE BIN SCHOOL RECYCLING PROGRAM

FEED THE BIN is a county-sponsored paper recycling program at Wake County Public Schools and public charter schools. It also provides complimentary educational resources for students and teachers. The program is offered to public school students and is intended to reach the majority of the Wake County population as students share information regarding waste reduction and recycling with their families. Since FEED THE BIN began in 2004, the program has proven very successful in promoting recycling and reducing waste at school sites and in educating students about solid waste issues. Presently, 179 schools participate in the program with the addition of new schools each year. Each school is recycling mixed paper that consists of: white and colored paper, brochures, pamphlets, envelopes, file folders, junk mail, letterhead, magazines and catalogs, newspaper, notebook paper, posters, and sticky notes.

SERVICE LEARNING

The success of the FEED THE BIN program is attributed to the service learning component for students to be actively engaged in the program. This creates a sense of teamwork and responsibility when students are given charge to move recyclables through the school. Many schools have formed clubs and teams to collect the bins and hold contests and make announcements during the school day. Most importantly, this component is essential to teach leadership, teamwork and problem-solving skills among students.

Since it began more than 12 million pounds of paper have been recycled through the FEED THE BIN program. The program has won several awards including a national award from the American Forest and Paper Association as the “Best School Recycling Program in the U.S.” Additionally, FEED THE BIN is a nationally recognized school recycling program, and is frequently used as best practice for system-wide school recycling programs.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

A large component that has made the program so successful is the education of students and school staff. Each new school is required to have an interactive assembly-style presentation for the first 3 years to firmly set expectations and develop good recycling habits among both students, teachers, and staff. After the three year guideline schools have the option to request a solid waste educator visit the school. Many request education every year as a reminder for students and staff. Other education activities that are provided at no-cost to the schools are:

- Teacher activity kits for classroom use
- Recycling and solid waste teacher workshops
- Free hands-on lesson plans on recycling, landfills, composting, and plastics
- Curriculum alignment document that connects all presentations and activities to the state standards
- Free landfill and recycling center field trips
- Free promotional incentive items for students and staff

Visit www.wakegov.com/recycling/recycle/ftb or contact the Feed the Bin Program Coordinator at feedthebin@wakegov.com for more information.
Wake County’s solid waste outreach staff provide public landfill tours for residents to learn what happens to their waste. The tour also provides participants with the opportunity to learn where they can recycle additional household items too large to collect at the curb, what common household items are harmful to the environment if placed in the garbage, where residents can dispose of hazardous household items safely, and how Wake County is leading the State in modern waste management practices by recycling hazardous household items and turning household garbage into a renewable energy source.

In addition to touring the South Wake Landfill, participants will get to ride through a Multi-Material Recycling Drop-off Facility, a Convenience Center, a Household Hazardous Waste Drop-off Facility, and a Landfill Gas-to-Energy Facility. The tours take place at the South Wake Solid Waste Management Facilities, 6000 Old Smithfield Road, Apex.

Tours last approximately one hour and participants are required to ride in a multi-passenger vehicle around the 700+ acre facility. Space on the tours is limited and registration is required. To learn about the tours including upcoming dates, visit www.wakegov.com/recycling/outreach.

South Wake Solid Waste Management Facility Tour Map
Have you ever wondered what happens after you leave your recycling at the curb or drop it off at a Convenience Center?

**COLLECTION**
Recyclable materials collected curbside or at drop-off locations are transported to a materials recovery facility, (or a MRF - pronounced “murf”). A MRF is a specialized plant that receives, separates and prepares recyclable materials to be sold to manufacturers.

**RE-MANUFACTURING**
Once the processed materials arrive at the manufacturer what happens next depends on the material. Aluminum can be used over and over again because it never breaks down or loses quality. Aluminum can be used to make soda cans, airplanes or bicycles. In fact, 75 per cent of all the aluminum produced since 1888 is still in use today. Likewise, there is no limit to the amount of times glass is recycled. Recycled glass is primarily used to make new containers. Plastics can be recycled into new containers, fabrics, plastic lumber or carpeting. In fact, recycling just five 2-liter bottles can produce a square yard of carpet. Paper and cardboard can be made into paper, packaging or tissue.
MYTH: A RECYCLE SYMBOL ON THE BOTTOM OF A PLASTIC CONTAINER MEANS IT’S RECYCLABLE
No. The recycling symbol represents the type of plastic the material is made from, not that it is recyclable. There are thousands of types of plastic products, made from a different recipe of chemical resins. Refer to your local municipality on whether certain plastic containers can be recycled.

MYTH: PLASTIC BOTTLE CAPS SHOULD BE REMOVED FROM THE BOTTLE BEFORE THEY ARE RECYCLED
No. Plastic bottle caps should be put back on the empty bottle to ensure they get recycled. Removing them will cause them to get lost in the material sorting machinery, and eventually disposed of.

MYTH: IF I THINK AN ITEM SHOULD BE RECYCLED IT’S OK TO PUT IT IN MY RECYCLING CART WITHOUT CHECKING FIRST
No. People may think they are helping by recycling more, but in reality the presence of a significant amount of non-recyclable items in a load may be rejected by the MRF and ultimately thrown away. The right thing to do is to follow instructions from your local municipality.

MYTH: ITEMS RECYCLED IN WAKE COUNTY ARE SENT OVERSEAS
Maybe. The recyclables that Wake County collects are sent to local vendors, the majority of whom operate within NC. However, the recycling industry is a global market. Recyclables are a commodity driven by economics. Whether materials are reprocessed domestically or abroad is a function of market demand for specific materials.

MYTH: PIZZA BOXES CANNOT BE RECYCLED
No. Unsoiled pizza boxes without food or grease can be recycled as cardboard. Heavily soiled pizza boxes with grease and food debris cannot be recycled. Alternatively, heavily soiled pizza boxes can be composted in your backyard compost bin (just remember to cut them up first).
Trash is a part of our daily life, we all make it. In Wake County, it begins with 1,000,000 people and ends with 410,000 tons of household garbage each year.

1. When we roll our trash cart to the curb on collection day that’s just the first step in a long journey for our trash.

2. Modern garbage trucks pick up the trash and transport it to either the East Wake Transfer Station or the South Wake Landfill, depending on where you live.

Bulldozers spread the trash out evenly and a large compactor rolls over the waste several times to minimize air and space between the trash in order to achieve a high compaction rate. At the end of each day, the compacted trash is covered to minimize odors, control litter and deter scavengers.

6. Landfills are filled in sections. Once a section is full, it is capped with a thick plastic liner that totally encapsulates the trash. Another layer of soil is added and then special grasses are planted to control erosion. Because of the anaerobic conditions (no oxygen) waste decomposes very slowly. Trash will remain in the landfill indefinitely.
At the East Wake Transfer Station trash is unloaded from garbage trucks and reloaded into large tractor trailers for transfer to the South Wake Landfill. By combining the loads of several garbage trucks into a tractor trailer, it reduces the number of trips to and from the landfill, saving time, operating costs, and reducing our carbon footprint.

Tractor trailers from the East Wake Transfer Station, as well as local garbage trucks bring trash to the South Wake Landfill. Upon entering the landfill, all trucks are weighed at the scale house.

The trucks then drive up to the working face of the landfill and unload their waste. As the trucks exit the landfill they are weighed once again at the scale house and issued a weigh ticket for the tons of trash disposed.

Once the landfill reaches capacity, it is capped and monitored for a minimum of 30 years. Landfills can have a second life, like the North Wake Landfill in North Raleigh that is now a park.

Landfill gases are produced as the organic matter in the landfill slowly decomposes. This process releases methane and carbon dioxide gases that are captured throughout the landfill by a vacuum system that transports it to the landfill gas-to-energy facility located adjacent to the South Wake Landfill. At this facility the landfill gas is converted to electrical power that is used to power homes and businesses.
The North Wake Landfill disposed of most of Wake County’s household waste for more than 20 years until the site reached capacity and closed in 2008. As disposal operations ceased, it was apparent there was a good opportunity to turn the site into a community asset, beneficial to all the area’s inhabitants.

In 2004, a group of residents and Wake County staff formed the North Wake Landfill Citizens Committee as part of the post-closure planning process to seek ideas from local residents as to how the site would ultimately be used after the active landfill closed. The committee met monthly for more than a year to assist the County in the development of a post-closure land use plan.

When the landfill closed in 2008, the first phase of the multi-phase master plan started construction and in 2010, the North Wake Landfill District Park opened. Another phase of the land use plan also includes the development of an elementary school, and an athletic and community recreation complex. The Abbott’s Creek Elementary School is currently under construction and is expected to open in 2015, as well as a City of Raleigh’s Abbott’s Creek Park and Community Center.

The North Wake Landfill District Park is home to a variety of local wildlife including a number of frog and toad species, over 60 species of birds including, herons, hawks, kestrels, woodpeckers, blue jays, chickadees, nuthatches, wrens, robins, mockingbirds, starlings, warblers, sparrows, cardinals, and finches to name but a few, as well as species of possums, woodchucks, rabbits, squirrels, coyotes, raccoons, and deer! To search the Wake County’s Natural Resource Inventory Database for a full list of critters that call the North Wake Landfill District Park home visit wcnrid.wakegov.com/public.php

Photos courtesy of the Wake County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Natural Resources Inventory Database.
TOP OF THE HILL TRAIL (.07 MILE)
You can climb to the top of the hill (469 feet above sea level) and you will be rewarded with a nice view of the surrounding area including downtown Raleigh.

SYCAMORE PICNIC SHELTER AND OTHER PICNIC AREAS
The shelter has 10 regular tables and 2 wheelchair accessible tables for seating up to 100 people.

PAVED TRAILS (1.8 MILES)
The paved walking trails connect all of the park amenities and also include the popular Nance Spring Loop Trail, which is 0.4 miles. The park’s paved trails also connect to the City of Raleigh’s Falls River Greenway.

HIKING AND MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS (2 MILES)
There are 2 miles of hiking and mountain bike trails.

MOUNTAIN BIKE SKILLS AREA
There is an area for those wishing to build their mountain biking skills.

PLAYGROUND AND OPEN PLAY AREA
The playground is unsupervised and includes a kid’s lot (ages 5-12) and a tot lot (ages 2-5) features a climbing wall and big climbing web.

PARK AMENITIES:

Northward view from the Top of the Hill Trail.

Playground at the North Wake Landfill District Park.

Schematic of the North Wake Landfill District Park.
ORGANIC WASTE

Organic waste is anything that comes from plants or animals that is biodegradable. The most common organic material in the waste stream is food waste and yard waste. According to a 2011 waste characterization study, over 37% of Wake County’s waste stream consisted of organic materials. Food waste accounted for 15% of the organic waste.

FOOD WASTE

At 15% of the waste stream, food waste is one of the largest single items going into Wake County’s landfill. Food waste can be separated and processed into a rich compost material for gardening, landscaping and farming.

Wake County Solid Waste is piloting the first food waste recycling drop-off program in Wake County. Residents can bring their food waste to two designated drop-off locations:

- Convenience Center #4: 3600 Yates Mill Pond Rd, Raleigh
- Convenience Center #10: 5216 Knightdale-Eagle Rock Rd, Knightdale

Both sites are open 7 days a week, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Visit www.wakegov.com/recycling/recycle/Pages/food.aspx for more information.

Residents can also manage their own food waste at home through composting. For more information about food waste management, visit www.wakegov.com/recycling/recycle/Pages/organics.aspx

YARD WASTE

Yard waste is vegetative material such as grass clippings, plant trimmings, leaves, pine straw, hay, pine cones, twigs, weeds, brush, small logs, small tree branches and limbs, shrubbery clippings, small stumps, and roots.

North Carolina state law prohibits yard waste from being disposed of in municipal solid waste landfills. Therefore, yard waste must be managed separately from household garbage.

Many of the municipalities in Wake County offer curbside collection of some types of yard waste. If you live within the city or town limits, contact your municipality to get more information about the collection schedule.

Another option is to haul yard waste to a privately owned land clearing and inert debris (LCID) facility. For a list of facilities visit www.wakegov.com/recycling/recycle/Pages/yardwaste.aspx
If you live within the city or town limits, your garbage, recycling and yard waste collection is coordinated by the municipality. For more information about these services, please contact your town/city.

Town of Apex Public Works  
www.apexnc.org  
919.362.8676

Town of Cary Public Works  
www.townofcary.org  
919.469.4090

Town of Fuquay-Varina Public Works  
www.fuquay-varina.org  
919.753.1027

Town of Garner Public Works  
www.garnernc.gov  
919.772.7600

Town of Holly Springs Public Works  
www.hollyspringsnc.us  
919.552.5920

Town of Knightdale Public Works  
www.knightdalenc.gov  
919.217.2290

Town of Morrisville Public Works  
www.townofmorrisville.org  
919.463.7070

City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services  
www.raleighnc.gov  
919.996.6890

Residents that live in the unincorporated areas of Wake County can contract with a private hauling company to provide curbside trash and recycling services. To locate a service provider search “trash service” in a web browser.
We hope you will use this guide as a reference. If not, please share it with another or recycle it.