



CHEROKEE COUNTY

Residential Solid Waste Collection, Service, and Fee Administration Policy

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to establish uniform standards for Cherokee County residential curbside municipal solid waste collection, identify the residential properties eligible to receive that service, govern safe and consistent collection operations, and administer the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee. For the FY 2026–2027 tax year only, this Policy also establishes the voluntary opt-out authorized by Cherokee County Council.

Cherokee County provides residential curbside municipal solid waste collection to eligible residential properties. The annual Fee supports curbside collection and a broader County solid waste system that includes transfer, disposal, recycling, landfill, convenience-center, and environmental-compliance operations.

This policy is intended to ensure that the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee is administered in a manner that is consistent, equitable, transparent, and financially responsible. By establishing clear eligibility standards, Cherokee County seeks to provide fair and uniform treatment of similarly situated properties while maintaining an efficient and sustainable residential collection system.

The County recognizes that property ownership, land use, and development patterns vary throughout Cherokee County. Accordingly, this policy establishes objective criteria for determining eligibility based upon the use and function of a property, rather than solely upon parcel configuration or ownership structure, except where otherwise specifically provided herein.

This policy is further intended to:

- Establish clear eligibility standards for the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee and associated residential curbside collection service.
- Promote consistency in the administration of the residential solid waste program.
- Ensure that properties receiving residential curbside collection are those intended to be served by the residential program.
- Preserve the operational efficiency and long-term financial sustainability of Cherokee County's residential solid waste collection system.
- Provide transparency to property owners regarding eligibility determinations and the administration of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed as creating an entitlement to residential curbside collection for properties that do not meet the eligibility requirements established herein.

Guiding Principles

This policy shall be administered in accordance with the following principles:

- Residential curbside collection is a residential service.
- Eligible properties shall be treated uniformly.
- Similar properties shall receive similar treatment.
- Eligibility shall be determined by the use and function of the property rather than parcel configuration alone.
- Administrative decisions shall prioritize consistency and fairness across the County.
- The policy shall be interpreted to preserve the operational efficiency and long-term financial sustainability of the residential solid waste collection program.

2. Authority

This Policy is adopted and administered pursuant to the authority of Cherokee County, South Carolina, to provide solid waste collection and disposal services, establish fees and charges associated with those services, and adopt reasonable rules governing eligibility for and administration of County services.

The Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee is established by Cherokee County Council through the County's annual budget and other applicable ordinances, resolutions, or actions of County Council. The amount of the fee may be established or amended by County Council from time to time without requiring amendment of this Policy.

This Policy establishes the administrative standards used to determine which properties are eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection and, correspondingly, which properties are subject to the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee. Section 10.5 establishes a limited exception under which qualifying fire departments and fire stations may continue receiving their existing level of County collection service without assessment of the Fee and without being classified as eligible Residential Service Units.

2.1 County Council Authority

Cherokee County Council retains the authority to:

- Establish, modify, or discontinue the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee;
- Establish the amount of the fee through the annual budget process or other lawful action;
- Establish the general scope of County-provided solid waste collection and disposal services;
- Adopt or amend policies governing eligibility for County solid waste services; and
- Appropriate revenues generated by the fee for the operation of the County's solid waste collection and disposal system.

2.2 Administrative Authority

The Cherokee County Administrator, or designee, is authorized to administer and implement this Policy consistent with the actions and policy direction of Cherokee County Council.

Administrative authority includes the ability to:

- Establish procedures necessary to implement this Policy;
- Determine property eligibility based upon Official Governmental Records and the standards contained herein;
- Direct the addition or removal of properties from the residential solid waste collection system;
- Direct the assessment, removal, correction, or adjustment of the Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee when necessary to accurately reflect a property's eligibility;
- Establish forms and administrative procedures necessary to implement the temporary voluntary opt-out authorized for the FY 2026–2027 tax year;
- Resolve unusual property classifications or circumstances not specifically addressed by this Policy;
- Coordinate implementation among Public Works, Solid Waste Collections, the Assessor, Treasurer, Building Codes, GIS, Finance, and other County departments as necessary; and
- Make reasonable administrative interpretations necessary to consistently apply this Policy, provided such interpretations do not conflict with the intent or direction of County Council.

2.3 Solid Waste Collections Administration

The Solid Waste Collections Manager, under the direction of the County Administrator and Public Works Director, shall be responsible for the day-to-day administration of residential collection services in accordance with this Policy, including verification of service conditions, cart administration, route eligibility, service records, and other operational matters.

The Solid Waste Collections Manager shall not independently modify the eligibility standards established by this Policy.

2.4 Annual Fee Establishment

The adoption of this Policy does not establish a permanent fee amount.

The amount of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee shall be established by Cherokee County Council through the annual budget process or other lawful action. Changes to the amount of the fee shall not, by themselves, require amendment of this Policy.

3. Definitions

For purposes of this Policy, the following words and terms shall have the meanings provided below. Where a term is not specifically defined, it shall be interpreted according to its ordinary meaning and applicable Cherokee County ordinances, policies, and records.

3.1 Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee

The annual user fee established by Cherokee County Council to support County residential curbside collection and the broader solid waste disposal system, including municipal solid waste transfer and disposal, Construction and Demolition Landfill operations, required post-closure landfill monitoring, limb and brush disposal, landfill convenience services, recyclable-goods disposal, recycling convenience-center servicing, equipment, facilities, transportation, and administration.

Unless otherwise provided by this Policy, one Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee shall be assessed for each eligible Residential Service Unit. For the FY 2026–2027 tax year only, an eligible residential property taxpayer may elect to discontinue County curbside collection and have the Fee removed by completing the voluntary opt-out process in Section 21.

Accordingly, a single tax parcel may be assessed more than one Fee when more than one eligible residential service unit exists on the property.

3.2 Residential Curbside Collection

The County-provided collection of ordinary household municipal solid waste from an eligible residential property using a County-issued or County-authorized roll cart placed at an approved collection location.

Residential curbside collection does not include commercial waste, construction and demolition debris, land-clearing debris, hazardous waste, bulk waste, or other materials not specifically accepted through the County's residential collection program.

3.3 Eligible Residential Property

A property containing an eligible residential dwelling that meets the requirements of this Policy and is approved to receive County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

Eligibility shall be determined according to the standards established by this Policy and shall not be based solely upon a property's tax classification, ownership, mailing address, or the presence of a residential structure.

3.4 Residential Dwelling

A permanent dwelling unit intended and used for independent residential occupancy, including an eligible:

- Single-family detached dwelling;
- Mobile or manufactured home; or
- Other residential dwelling specifically determined eligible under this Policy.

Classification as a Residential Dwelling does not, by itself, establish eligibility for County-provided residential curbside collection.

3.5 Single-Family Residence

A detached residential dwelling designed and occupied as an independent housekeeping unit by one household and located on property otherwise eligible for County-provided residential curbside collection.

3.6 Manufactured or Mobile Home

A manufactured or mobile housing unit designed for residential occupancy, regardless of whether the home is considered real or personal property for taxation purposes.

A Manufactured or Mobile Home located outside of a recognized Mobile Home Park may be eligible for County-provided residential curbside collection when all other requirements of this Policy are satisfied.

A Manufactured or Mobile Home located within a recognized Mobile Home Park shall be subject to the Mobile Home Park provisions of this Policy regardless of ownership of the individual home.

3.7 Mobile Home Park

For purposes of this Policy, Mobile Home Park means a mobile or manufactured home park that is officially identified or recognized as such within the records of Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, or the Town of Blacksburg, including parks established or recognized prior to the adoption of current land development or mobile home park regulations.

Cherokee County shall maintain an administrative list of recognized Mobile Home Parks and associated tax map parcel numbers or other property identifiers for purposes of administering this Policy.

All residential units located within a recognized Mobile Home Park shall be considered part of the Mobile Home Park for purposes of solid waste collection eligibility regardless of whether:

- The park consists of one parcel or multiple parcels;
- Individual mobile or manufactured homes have separate tax records;
- An individual resident owns the mobile or manufactured home but leases or rents the underlying lot; or

- The home or lot otherwise carries a residential tax classification.

Properties and dwelling units located within a recognized Mobile Home Park are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection and shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The existence of multiple mobile or manufactured homes, common ownership, or multiple residential parcels alone shall not cause property to be classified as a Mobile Home Park under this Policy unless the property is included within or otherwise documented as part of a Mobile Home Park officially recognized by one of the jurisdictions identified above.

3.8 Recreational Vehicle Park / RV Park

For purposes of this Policy, Recreational Vehicle Park or RV Park means an RV park, campground, recreational vehicle development, or similar facility officially identified or recognized within the records of Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, or the Town of Blacksburg.

Cherokee County shall maintain an administrative list of recognized RV Parks and associated tax map parcel numbers or other property identifiers for purposes of administering this Policy.

Properties and individual sites or units located within a recognized RV Park are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection and shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The presence of an individual recreational vehicle, camper, travel trailer, or similar unit on otherwise eligible residential property shall not, by itself, cause the property to be classified as an RV Park.

3.9 Commercial Property

Property used primarily for business, commercial, professional, industrial, institutional, or other nonresidential purposes.

Commercial Properties are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection and shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The presence of living quarters or incidental residential occupancy on property primarily used for commercial purposes does not automatically establish eligibility for residential curbside collection.

3.10 Exempt Property

Property identified as exempt from ad valorem property taxation or otherwise classified as tax-exempt within applicable Official Governmental Records.

Tax-exempt status alone does not determine eligibility for residential curbside solid waste collection.

An Exempt Property containing and used as a bona fide residence may remain eligible for residential curbside collection when it otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Policy.

Nonresidential Exempt Properties, including churches, nonprofit organizations, governmental facilities, agencies, fire departments, and similar institutional uses, are generally not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection and shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee. Fire departments and fire stations are governed by the limited fee-exempt service exception established in Section 10.5.

3.11 Multi-Family Residential Property

Multi-Family Residential Property means a residential property, building, structure, or development containing two (2) or more independent dwelling units intended for separate residential occupancy.

A Multi-Family Residential Property may include duplexes, triplexes, apartment buildings, townhomes, condominiums, or other residential configurations containing multiple dwelling units.

Classification as a Multi-Family Residential Property shall not, by itself, determine eligibility or ineligibility for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection or assessment of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

Eligibility and Fee assessment shall be determined in accordance with the specific provisions of this Policy applicable to the property, development, and identifiable Residential Service Units.

A Multi-Family Residential Property shall not be considered a Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development solely because it contains multiple dwelling units, is under common ownership or management, or contains rental dwelling units.

3.12 Parcel

A tract or portion of real property identified by a separate Cherokee County tax map parcel number.

A Parcel is an administrative unit used for property identification and billing purposes but does not necessarily constitute the unit upon which the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee is calculated.

A parcel containing multiple eligible Residential Service Units may be assessed multiple Fees.

3.13 Recognized Property List

Recognized Property List means the administrative record maintained by Cherokee County identifying Recognized Mobile Home Parks, Recognized RV Parks, Recognized Townhome Developments, Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Developments, and other specifically classified properties or developments for purposes of administering this Policy.

The Recognized Property List may include tax map numbers, addresses, development names, jurisdictional records, and other identifying information necessary to accurately associate properties with the classifications established by this Policy.

The County Administrator or designee may administratively update the Recognized Property List to:

- Correct or update tax map numbers or addresses;
- Reflect parcel combinations, subdivisions, or other changes to property identification;
- Incorporate updated records received from Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, or the Town of Blacksburg; and
- Correct clerical or administrative errors.

Administrative maintenance of the Recognized Property List shall not be used to create or materially expand a classification beyond the eligibility standards established by this Policy.

3.14 Roll Cart

A County-issued or County-authorized wheeled container designated for use with Cherokee County's residential curbside solid waste collection program.

The previous issuance, possession, or use of a County roll cart does not independently establish current or continued eligibility for service.

3.15 Approved Collection Point/Service Location

The location designated or approved by Cherokee County at which a County-issued or County-authorized roll cart must be placed for residential curbside collection. An Approved Collection Point may be located at the edge of a public roadway, at the intersection of a private road or driveway with a public roadway, at a shared collection point, or at another location determined by the County to provide safe and efficient collection. The approved Service Location may differ from a property's physical address, driveway, or other point of access when necessary to provide safe and efficient collection.

3.16 Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)

Ordinary household solid waste generated through normal day-to-day residential activities and accepted for collection and disposal through Cherokee County's residential solid waste collection program. Municipal Solid Waste does not include commercial waste, Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, Construction and Demolition Debris, hazardous waste, land-clearing debris, yard waste, or other materials prohibited or excluded by this Policy or County operational requirements.

3.17 County

Cherokee County, South Carolina, including its authorized officials, departments, employees, and designees responsible for administering this Policy.

3.18 County Administrator

The Cherokee County Administrator or the Administrator's authorized designee.

3.19 Actual Use

The manner in which a property is presently occupied, operated, or utilized, when such use is established through Official Governmental Records or other reliable information lawfully obtained by the County in the ordinary course of governmental operations.

Nothing in this definition shall require Cherokee County to conduct physical inspections, occupancy investigations, rental inquiries, or other individualized investigations solely for purposes of discovering residential dwelling units or determining eligibility under this Policy.

3.20 Ineligible Property

A property, development, dwelling, or other location that does not qualify for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection pursuant to this Policy.

An Ineligible Property shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee and shall be responsible for obtaining solid waste collection and disposal services through another lawful means, except where a limited County collection service is expressly authorized by this Policy, including the fire department and fire station exception established in Section 10.5.

3.21 Residential Service Unit

A residential dwelling, structure, mobile or manufactured home, or other dwelling unit that is eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection under this Policy and is reasonably identifiable as a separate residential unit through official governmental records available to Cherokee County.

Unless otherwise excluded by this Policy, each identifiable eligible Residential Service Unit shall constitute one unit of service and shall be assessed one Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

A Residential Service Unit may exist independently of a tax parcel. Accordingly, a single parcel may contain multiple Residential Service Units and may be assessed multiple Fees.

3.22 Recognized Townhome Development

Recognized Townhome Development means a residential development consisting of fifty (50) or more townhome dwelling units that has been officially identified, approved, platted, permitted,

or otherwise recognized as a unified townhome development within the records of Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, or the Town of Blacksburg.

A Recognized Townhome Development may consist of individually owned and individually parceled townhome units and shall not lose its status as a unified development solely because individual dwelling units are located on separate tax parcels.

For purposes of this Policy, the County shall consider the development as a whole, including all phases that are part of the same approved or recognized development, when determining whether the fifty (50) unit threshold has been met.

Cherokee County may maintain a Recognized Property List identifying Recognized Townhome Developments and their associated development names, tax map parcel numbers, addresses, plats, phases, or other governmental property identifiers.

A collection of individually parceled townhomes shall not be classified as a Recognized Townhome Development for purposes of this Policy solely because the units are attached or located in proximity to one another. The development must satisfy both the numerical threshold and the governmental-recognition requirements established herein.

3.23 Official Governmental Records

Records maintained by or reasonably available to Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, the Town of Blacksburg, or another governmental entity in the ordinary course of governmental operations, including property tax records, Assessor records, GIS records, Building Codes and permitting records, addressing records, plats, development approvals, mobile or manufactured home tax records, and other governmental property records reasonably relied upon by the County.

3.24 Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development

Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development means a property, building, group of buildings, or unified residential development that is officially identified, permitted, approved, or otherwise documented within Official Governmental Records as an apartment complex, apartment development, multi-family development, or substantially similar unified residential development.

A Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development may consist of one or more buildings, parcels, addresses, or phases when Official Governmental Records establish that they are part of the same unified development.

The existence of multiple residential structures, dwelling units, tenants, rental arrangements, or common ownership shall not, by itself, cause a property to be classified as a Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development for purposes of this Policy.

Cherokee County shall rely upon Official Governmental Records reasonably available to the County when making this determination and shall not be required to independently investigate properties, leases, tenancy arrangements, internal dwelling configurations, or unrecorded residential units for the purpose of determining whether a property constitutes a Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development.

Cherokee County may maintain a Recognized Property List identifying Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Developments and associated tax map parcel numbers, addresses, development names, or other governmental property identifiers for purposes of administering this Policy.

3.25 Standard Residential Collection Service

The level of County-provided curbside municipal solid waste collection established for eligible Residential Service Units, including the collection frequency, number and type of authorized roll carts, accepted materials, collection method, and other service limitations established by Cherokee County.

3.26 Collection Day

The regularly scheduled day assigned by Cherokee County for collection from an eligible Residential Service Unit or collection route. Collection days may be modified because of holidays, emergencies, weather, equipment availability, route changes, operational requirements, or other circumstances determined by the County.

3.27 Missed Collection

The failure of Cherokee County to empty a properly prepared and properly placed authorized roll cart during the applicable scheduled collection period when the Residential Service Unit otherwise complied with all collection requirements.

3.28 Public Roadway

A roadway maintained by Cherokee County, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, the City of Gaffney, the Town of Blacksburg, or another governmental entity and available for public vehicular travel.

3.29 Private Road

A road, lane, drive, easement, or other vehicular access route that is not maintained as a public roadway by Cherokee County, SCDOT, the City of Gaffney, the Town of Blacksburg, or another governmental entity.

3.30 Shared Collection Point

A location designated by Cherokee County for placement of roll carts serving two or more eligible Residential Service Units when individual curbside access cannot be safely or reasonably provided.

3.31 Bulk Waste/Bulk Item

A household item that, because of its size, weight, volume, or configuration, cannot reasonably be placed entirely within an authorized residential roll cart with the lid fully closed. Bulk Waste may include furniture, mattresses, appliances, and similar large household items and is not included in standard residential curbside collection unless specifically authorized by Cherokee County.

3.32 Cleanout Waste

Waste generated in quantities substantially exceeding normal weekly household waste as a result of a move-out, eviction, foreclosure, estate cleanout, property cleanup, rental-property turnover, removal of accumulated household contents, or similar activity.

3.33 Excess Waste

Residential waste exceeding the quantity, volume, weight, container capacity, or other limits established by Cherokee County for Standard Residential Collection Service.

3.34 Prohibited Material

Any material that Cherokee County prohibits from placement in a residential roll cart or from collection through the residential curbside program because of its type, quantity, size, weight, hazardous characteristics, disposal requirements, potential to damage County equipment, or other legal, safety, environmental, or operational consideration.

3.35 Construction and Demolition Debris (C&D Debris)

Waste resulting from construction, remodeling, renovation, repair, demolition, or similar activities, including lumber, drywall, roofing materials, concrete, masonry, flooring materials, fixtures, and similar debris. C&D Debris is not ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste and shall not be collected through standard residential curbside collection.

3.36 Unsafe Condition

Any condition that, in the reasonable judgment of authorized County personnel, presents or may present a material risk of injury to County employees or the public, damage to County equipment or property, or unsafe operation of a collection vehicle. Unsafe Conditions may include roadway deterioration, flooding, ice, unstable surfaces, inadequate clearance or turnaround space, overhead obstructions, blocked access, aggressive animals, hazardous materials, construction activity, or other similar hazards.

3.37 Obstruction

A vehicle, mailbox, utility pole, vegetation, construction material, structure, object, terrain condition, or other impediment that prevents or materially interferes with safe access to or mechanical servicing of a roll cart.

3.38 Collection Noncompliance

Failure of a property owner, resident, occupant, or other person using residential collection service to comply with an applicable collection requirement established by this Policy, including requirements concerning cart placement, waste preparation, prohibited materials, obstructions, quantity limits, safety, or use of County-owned equipment.

4. General Eligibility Standards

4.1 General Eligibility

Cherokee County's residential curbside solid waste collection program is intended to provide collection and disposal services to eligible residential properties within the County's established service area.

A property shall be eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection only when it meets the requirements of this Policy and is not otherwise identified as an ineligible property or property type.

Eligibility shall be determined by Cherokee County based upon applicable Official Governmental Records, property classifications, recognized property lists, service records, and other information reasonably necessary to administer this Policy consistently.

Where a general provision of this Policy conflicts with a provision specifically addressing a particular property type, development, facility, or use, the specific provision shall control. Nothing in a general eligibility provision shall be construed to create eligibility for a property, development, facility, or use expressly classified as ineligible elsewhere in this Policy.

4.2 Relationship Between Service Eligibility and the Fee

The Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee is a direct service fee associated with eligibility for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection and disposal services.

As a general rule:

- A property determined eligible for residential curbside collection shall be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee unless the taxpayer timely completes the FY 2026–2027 voluntary opt-out process established in Section 21.
- A property determined ineligible for residential curbside collection shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

- Properties assessed the Fee shall be entitled to receive the level of residential solid waste collection service established by Cherokee County, subject to the operational requirements and limitations of the County's collection program.

The County's general intent is to maintain consistency between those properties financially supporting the residential collection service and those properties eligible to receive that service. The limited fee-exempt service expressly authorized for qualifying fire departments and fire stations under Section 10.5 is an exception established by County Council and shall not create eligibility for any other nonresidential property.

4.3 Fee Assessed Per Eligible Residential Service Unit

The Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee shall be assessed per eligible Residential Service Unit and not solely per tax parcel, subject to the temporary FY 2026–2027 voluntary opt-out established in Section 21.

Unless otherwise excluded by this Policy, each qualifying residential dwelling or dwelling unit eligible to receive County residential curbside collection shall constitute a separate Residential Service Unit and shall be assessed one Fee unless the applicable taxpayer timely opts out under Section 21.

Therefore, a property containing two or more eligible Residential Service Units may be assessed two or more Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fees on the same property tax bill or property account.

The manner in which a Fee is administratively placed upon a tax bill or other account shall not alter the underlying principle that each eligible Residential Service Unit constitutes a separate unit of service.

4.4 Eligibility Based Upon Property, Not Individual Preference

Eligibility remains determined by the property standards established in this Policy. For the FY 2026–2027 tax year only, however, an eligible residential property taxpayer may choose whether to continue County curbside collection or voluntarily opt out under Section 21.

The temporary opt-out does not change a property's underlying eligibility classification. It changes only whether that eligible property will receive County curbside collection and be assessed the Fee for the applicable tax year.

4.5 Residential Use Requirement

Except as otherwise specifically provided by this Policy, County-provided curbside collection is limited to properties used for eligible residential purposes.

Except for the limited fire department and fire station service expressly authorized under Section 10.5, commercial businesses, non-residential tax-exempt properties, recognized Mobile Home

Parks, recognized RV Parks, and other property types specifically designated as ineligible under this Policy shall be responsible for arranging their own solid waste collection and disposal services.

Except as expressly provided in Section 10.5, the historical receipt of County collection service by an otherwise ineligible property shall not create a continuing right or entitlement to County-provided residential curbside collection.

4.6 Property Classification and Official Governmental Records

Cherokee County may rely upon Official Governmental Records and the Recognized Property List when determining eligibility and administering the Fee.

No single record or tax classification shall necessarily control eligibility when other governmental records establish that the property falls within a specific eligibility or ineligibility classification established by this Policy.

For example, the existence of a residential tax record for an individually owned manufactured home located within a recognized Mobile Home Park shall not override the Mobile Home Park's classification as ineligible under this Policy.

4.7 Municipal Properties and Jurisdictional Records

Where necessary to administer this Policy for properties located within the City of Gaffney or Town of Blacksburg, Cherokee County may rely upon official records supplied or maintained by the applicable municipality, including records identifying recognized Mobile Home Parks, RV Parks, or other relevant property classifications.

4.8 One Standard Applied Consistently

Eligibility standards shall be applied uniformly to similarly situated properties.

Ownership by a governmental entity, nonprofit organization, religious organization, fire department, business, individual, corporation, or other entity shall not independently create eligibility for residential curbside collection.

Eligibility shall instead be based upon the use and classification of the property under this Policy.

This means, for example, that an actual residence owned by a tax-exempt organization may remain eligible when it otherwise satisfies this Policy, while a church, nonprofit office, governmental facility, fire station, or other nonresidential exempt property does not become eligible for residential collection merely because of its ownership or historical receipt of County collection. Qualifying fire departments and fire stations may nevertheless receive the limited fee-exempt service expressly authorized by County Council under Section 10.5.

4.9 No Grandfathered Service Based Solely Upon Historical Collection

Except for the limited continuation of fire department and fire station service expressly authorized by County Council under Section 10.5, past or historical provision of County curbside collection shall not independently establish eligibility under this Policy.

Properties that previously received County collection but are determined to be ineligible under the standards established herein may be removed from the residential collection program and shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee, except that qualifying fire departments and fire stations shall continue receiving service as provided in Section 10.5.

This Policy is intended to establish a uniform Countywide eligibility framework moving forward, regardless of historical collection practices.

4.10 Changes in Property Use or Classification

Eligibility may be reviewed whenever Cherokee County becomes aware of a change in property use, classification, ownership configuration, development status, or other circumstance that may affect eligibility.

A property that becomes eligible may be added to the residential collection program and assessed the applicable Fee in accordance with County procedures.

A property that becomes ineligible may be removed from the residential collection program and the Fee adjusted or removed in accordance with County procedures.

4.11 Administrative Determination

The County Administrator, or designee, shall have authority to make administrative eligibility determinations consistent with this Policy.

When available records are unclear or conflicting, the County may request documentation, conduct additional record review, coordinate with applicable County or municipal departments, or verify conditions necessary to determine eligibility.

Administrative determinations shall be based upon the standards contained within this Policy and shall not establish a new category of eligibility or ineligibility inconsistent with County Council's adopted policy.

4.12 No Guarantee of Service Under Unsafe or Inaccessible Conditions

Eligibility for residential curbside collection does not require Cherokee County to collect a roll cart from a location that cannot be safely or reasonably serviced by County collection equipment.

The County may establish reasonable requirements regarding cart placement, roadway access, clearance, obstructions, private roads or drives, turnaround areas, overhead utilities, roadway safety, and other operational conditions necessary for safe and efficient collection.

Where the normal collection point cannot be safely serviced, the County may designate an alternative collection location consistent with its operational policies.

4.13 Records-Based Administration

Cherokee County shall administer eligibility and Fee assessments using Official Governmental Records reasonably available to the County.

The County shall not be required to conduct physical inspections, occupancy investigations, lease reviews, rental inquiries, or other individualized investigations solely for the purpose of discovering dwelling units, rental arrangements, or residential occupancies that are not otherwise identifiable through Official Governmental Records.

Consistent administration of this Policy requires consistent application of its standards to reasonably available governmental information; it does not require the County to independently discover property conditions or occupancy arrangements that are not reflected in such records.

When reliable governmental information subsequently establishes the existence, removal, or change of a Residential Service Unit, the County may prospectively update the property's eligibility and Fee assessment in accordance with this Policy.

5. Eligible Residential Properties

5.1 General Standard

Unless otherwise excluded by this Policy, a property shall be eligible for Cherokee County residential curbside solid waste collection when the property contains a qualifying residential dwelling used for residential occupancy and can be reasonably and safely served by the County's collection system.

Eligible properties shall be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee established by Cherokee County Council.

Eligibility is based upon the standards contained in this Policy and the availability of County residential collection service and is not dependent upon whether the resident elects to utilize the service.

5.2 Single-Family Residential Properties

A single-family detached residence located on an individual parcel shall generally be eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection when:

- The property is used primarily for residential purposes;
- The residence is not located within a property or development specifically classified as ineligible under this Policy; and
- The property can be safely and reasonably served by County collection equipment.

Eligible single-family residential properties shall receive the standard level of service established by Cherokee County.

5.3 Individually Situated Mobile or Manufactured Homes

Each individual mobile or manufactured home located outside of a recognized Mobile Home Park may qualify as a separate Residential Service Unit when it otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Policy.

Each eligible mobile or manufactured home shall be assessed one Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

Where two or more eligible mobile or manufactured homes are located on the same parcel outside of a recognized Mobile Home Park, each eligible mobile or manufactured home shall constitute a separate Residential Service Unit and each shall be assessed a separate Fee.

Where a mobile or manufactured home is separately owned or separately taxed from the underlying real property, the Fee shall be assessed to the mobile or manufactured home's applicable tax account rather than to the underlying parcel solely because the home is situated upon that parcel.

The underlying parcel shall not receive an additional Fee unless the parcel contains another qualifying Residential Service Unit.

Mobile or manufactured homes located within a recognized Mobile Home Park remain ineligible pursuant to Section 7 regardless of separate ownership or taxation.

5.4 Tax-Exempt Residential Properties

Tax-exempt status shall not, by itself, make a property ineligible for residential curbside collection.

A property that is exempt from ad valorem taxation may remain eligible when the property contains a bona fide residence and is actually used for residential occupancy.

Examples may include an otherwise qualifying residence owned by a church, religious organization, nonprofit organization, governmental entity, or other tax-exempt owner.

Eligibility under this subsection applies to the residential use of the property, not the tax-exempt status or identity of the property owner. Although these types of properties remain ad valorem tax exempt, they will be assessed the Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee each fiscal year.

Nonresidential exempt properties are addressed separately under the ineligible property provisions of this Policy.

5.5 Mixed-Use Properties

A qualifying Residential Service Unit located on or within a Mixed-Use Property may remain eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection in accordance with Section 9 of this Policy. Eligibility of Mixed-Use Properties shall be determined pursuant to the specific standards contained in Section 9.

5.6 Multiple Residential Dwellings on an Individual Parcel

Each qualifying residential dwelling located on a parcel shall constitute a separate Residential Service Unit unless otherwise excluded by this Policy.

Accordingly, where two or more eligible single-family residences are located upon the same tax parcel, each residence shall be assessed a separate Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

For example, a parcel containing two qualifying single-family residences shall be assessed two Fees. A parcel containing three qualifying single-family residences shall be assessed three Fees.

The existence of only one tax map parcel or one property tax bill shall not limit the number of Fees when multiple eligible Residential Service Units exist on the property.

5.7 Newly Constructed or Newly Occupied Residences

A newly constructed, newly placed, or newly occupied qualifying residential dwelling may become eligible for County residential curbside collection upon verification that the dwelling is lawfully established for residential occupancy and otherwise satisfies this Policy.

The County may establish administrative procedures for:

- Verification of occupancy;
- Addition of the property or dwelling to the collection system;
- Assignment of a collection route and collection day;
- Delivery or assignment of a County roll cart; and
- Assessment of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

5.8 Vacant Eligible Residences

Temporary vacancy of an otherwise qualifying residential dwelling shall not, by itself, terminate the property's eligibility for residential curbside collection or remove the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

A property must satisfy the applicable requirements for removal from the collection program rather than simply being temporarily unoccupied.

5.9 Rental Residential Properties

An otherwise eligible residential property shall not become ineligible solely because it is rented or leased rather than owner-occupied.

Single-family rental residences and other qualifying rental dwellings shall be treated according to the same eligibility standards applicable to owner-occupied residential properties.

The responsibility for payment of the Fee shall follow the method established by Cherokee County for assessment and collection of the Fee.

5.10 Eligibility Does Not Expand the Scope of Service

Eligibility for residential curbside collection entitles a property only to the standard residential service established by Cherokee County.

Eligibility does not entitle a property to:

- Commercial collection;
- Collection of unlimited quantities of waste;
- Collection of prohibited materials;
- Collection from unsafe or inaccessible locations;
- Additional roll carts without authorization;
- Special collection services not offered through the residential program; or
- Any level of service beyond that established by Cherokee County for similarly situated residential properties.

5.11 Existing Eligible Residential Customers

Properties receiving County residential curbside collection at the time this Policy becomes effective may continue receiving service when they satisfy the eligibility requirements established herein.

Existing service, however, shall not constitute a vested or grandfathered right to continued County collection when the property is determined to fall within an ineligible classification established by this Policy.

5.12 Duplexes

A duplex containing two independent residential dwelling units shall constitute two Residential Service Units when the property is otherwise eligible under this Policy.

Each dwelling unit within the duplex shall be assessed one Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

Where both dwelling units are contained on a single tax parcel and reflected on a single property tax bill, two Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fees shall be assessed on that property tax bill.

The fact that the duplex is located on one parcel, has one owner, or receives one property tax bill shall not reduce the number of Residential Service Units for purposes of this Policy.

5.13 Townhomes and Townhome Developments

Individual townhomes and townhome developments containing fewer than fifty (50) dwelling units shall be eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection when the individual townhomes are located on separate tax parcels and otherwise satisfy the eligibility requirements of this Policy.

Each eligible townhome shall constitute a separate Residential Service Unit and shall be assessed one Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

Common ownership of multiple individually parceled townhomes shall not, by itself, make those residences ineligible for County residential curbside collection.

Townhomes located within a Recognized Townhome Development containing fifty (50) or more dwelling units, as defined by this Policy, shall not be eligible for County-provided individual residential curbside collection. Such developments shall be responsible for arranging centralized, private, or other appropriate solid waste collection and disposal service.

Individual townhome parcels located within an ineligible Recognized Townhome Development shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

A unified townhome development containing multiple dwelling units that are not individually parceled shall be evaluated under the provisions applicable to Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Developments and other Multi-Family Residential Properties, as applicable.

5.14 Phased Townhome Developments

A townhome development shall not avoid classification as a Recognized Townhome Development solely because it is constructed, platted, permitted, or recorded in multiple phases.

Where governmental records demonstrate that multiple phases are components of the same overall approved or recognized development, the total number of dwelling units within the development shall be considered collectively for purposes of determining eligibility.

Separate developments shall not be combined solely because they are adjacent, share a developer or owner, or contain similar housing types.

6. Ineligible Properties

6.1 General Standard

Cherokee County's curbside solid waste collection program is a residential collection service supported by the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

Properties that do not qualify for residential curbside collection under this Policy shall be considered ineligible for County-provided residential service and shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee. Section 10.5 establishes a limited exception allowing qualifying fire departments and fire stations to continue their existing level of County collection service without becoming eligible Residential Service Units.

Except where a limited County collection service is expressly authorized by this Policy, ineligible properties are responsible for arranging for the lawful collection and disposal of their solid waste through a private hauler, dumpster service, or other lawful means.

Except for the service expressly authorized for qualifying fire departments and fire stations under Section 10.5, historical receipt of County collection service does not create a continuing right to service for a property determined to be ineligible under this Policy.

6.2 Commercial and Business Properties

Properties used primarily for commercial, business, professional, industrial, or other nonresidential purposes are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Retail businesses;
- Restaurants;
- Offices and professional businesses;
- Industrial and manufacturing facilities;
- Warehouses;
- Automotive businesses;
- Hotels and motels;
- Commercial service businesses; and

- Other properties operated primarily for business or commercial purposes.

Commercial properties shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The presence of a County roll card or historical receipt of County collection does not establish continued eligibility.

6.3 Nonresidential Tax-Exempt Properties

Except for the limited fire department and fire station service authorized under Section 10.5, tax-exempt properties that are not used as bona fide residences are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Churches and other houses of worship;
- Nonprofit organizations;
- Civic and community organizations;
- Government offices and facilities;
- Public agencies;
- Fire departments and fire stations;
- Schools and educational facilities; and
- Other institutional or organizational properties.

These properties shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee. Qualifying fire departments and fire stations may continue receiving their existing level of County collection service only as expressly provided in Section 10.5.

The Fee exclusion established by this subsection applies uniformly regardless of the organization or governmental entity that owns or operates the property. The service exception established in Section 10.5 is limited exclusively to the qualifying fire departments and fire stations described in that subsection.

A tax-exempt property containing a separately identifiable bona fide Residential Service Unit that is not incidental to an otherwise nonresidential use may remain subject to the residential eligibility provisions of Sections 5 and 9, provided the property or Residential Service Unit is not otherwise specifically classified as ineligible under this Policy.

6.4 Recognized Mobile Home Parks

Properties and residential units located within a Mobile Home Park officially identified or recognized within the records of Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, or the Town of Blacksburg, as defined by this Policy, are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

This exclusion applies to the entire recognized Mobile Home Park, including circumstances where:

- The park encompasses multiple tax parcels;
- Individual lots have separate tax map numbers;
- Individual mobile or manufactured homes have separate tax accounts;
- Individual residents own their mobile or manufactured homes but lease or rent the underlying lots;
- Homes are individually occupied as residences; or
- Some or all residents historically received County curbside collection.

Neither the underlying property nor an individually owned mobile or manufactured home located within a recognized Mobile Home Park shall be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The County shall rely upon its Recognized Property List and associated tax map numbers or property identifiers when administering this exclusion.

The existence of multiple mobile or manufactured homes on property shall not, by itself, establish ineligibility under this subsection. The property must be identified or documented as part of a recognized Mobile Home Park in accordance with this Policy.

6.5 Recognized Recreational Vehicle Parks

Properties, sites, and units located within an RV Park, campground, recreational vehicle development, or similar facility officially identified or recognized within the records of Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, or the Town of Blacksburg are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

Recognized RV Parks shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

This exclusion applies regardless of whether individual sites are occupied:

- Temporarily;
- Seasonally;
- On an extended basis; or
- As an individual's primary residence.

The presence of a single recreational vehicle, camper, or travel trailer on otherwise eligible residential property shall not, by itself, cause that property to become ineligible.

6.6 Hotels, Motels, and Transient Lodging

Hotels, motels, inns, short-term lodging facilities operated as a commercial establishment, and similar transient accommodations are not eligible for County residential curbside collection.

These facilities shall be considered commercial operations for purposes of this Policy and shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

An individual residence used periodically as a short-term rental shall not automatically be classified as a hotel or commercial lodging facility solely because of such rental activity, unless otherwise determined to constitute a commercial property under applicable Official Governmental Records and policies.

6.7 Vacant Land and Uninhabitable Structures

Vacant parcels containing no qualifying residential dwelling are not eligible for residential curbside collection and shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

A property containing a structure that has been lawfully determined to be uninhabitable, demolished, destroyed, or otherwise incapable of residential occupancy may be removed from the residential collection program in accordance with County administrative procedures.

Temporary vacancy of an otherwise habitable residence does not constitute ineligibility under this subsection.

6.8 Accessory and Nonresidential Structures

Garages, storage buildings, barns, workshops, sheds, accessory structures, and similar structures that do not constitute independent residential dwellings are not separate eligible service units and shall not independently receive a Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

6.9 Duplicate or Erroneous Property Records

A separate tax record, tax map number, address, mobile home account, or other governmental record does not, by itself, establish whether a separate Residential Service Unit exists.

Likewise, the existence of only one parcel, tax account, or property tax bill does not limit a property to one Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee when multiple eligible Residential Service Units exist.

The County shall determine the number of Fees according to the number of eligible Residential Service Units identified under this Policy.

6.10 Properties Outside the County's Residential Collection Program

Properties that cannot lawfully or operationally participate in Cherokee County's residential collection program because they are outside the established service area or otherwise served through another governmental solid waste collection arrangement shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

6.11 No Individual or Organizational Exceptions

Except where expressly authorized by this Policy, an ineligible property shall not receive residential curbside collection based solely upon:

- Historical practice;
- Ownership by a particular person or organization;
- Nonprofit or governmental status;
- A request for special consideration;
- Availability of a County roll cart;
- Proximity to an existing residential collection route; or
- The fact that collection could physically be performed at the location.

Exceptions shall not be granted administratively in a manner inconsistent with the eligibility classifications established by this Policy.

6.12 Recognized Townhome Developments

Recognized Townhome Developments containing fifty (50) or more dwelling units are not eligible for County-provided individual residential curbside solid waste collection.

This exclusion applies to the development as a whole regardless of whether individual townhome units:

- Are separately owned;
- Are located on individual tax parcels;
- Receive separate property tax bills;
- Have individual street addresses; or
- Are developed or recorded in multiple phases.

Individual dwelling units located within an ineligible Recognized Townhome Development shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The owner, homeowners' association, property management entity, developer, or other responsible party shall be responsible for ensuring that appropriate solid waste collection and disposal arrangements are provided for the development.

6.13 Recognized Apartment and Multi-Family Developments

Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Developments, as defined by this Policy, shall not be eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

Individual dwelling units located within a Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development shall not constitute eligible Residential Service Units and shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The property owner, management entity, homeowners' association, or other responsible party shall be responsible for arranging appropriate centralized, commercial, dumpster, private-hauler, or other lawful solid waste collection and disposal service.

Separate addresses, individual utility accounts, multiple tax parcels, individual dwelling entrances, or historical receipt of County collection service shall not independently establish eligibility when Official Governmental Records establish that the property is part of a Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development.

6.14 Responsibility for Alternative Collection

Except where a limited County collection service is expressly authorized by this Policy, owners or occupants of properties determined ineligible under this Policy are responsible for arranging for the lawful collection and disposal of waste generated at the property.

Removal from County residential curbside collection does not prohibit an ineligible property from utilizing other County solid waste or recycling services that are separately made available to that property type, subject to the rules, fees, and limitations applicable to those services.

7. Mobile Home Parks

7.1 Purpose

Cherokee County's curbside solid waste collection program is designed and funded as a residential collection service for eligible individual residential properties.

For purposes of administering the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee consistently and efficiently, recognized Mobile Home Parks shall be treated as developments rather than as collections of individual residential curbside service locations.

Accordingly, recognized Mobile Home Parks are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection and are responsible for arranging for solid waste collection and disposal through a private hauler, dumpster service, or other lawful means.

7.2 Recognized Mobile Home Parks

For purposes of this Policy, the Mobile Home Park exclusion shall apply only to Mobile Home Parks that are officially identified or recognized within the records of Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, or the Town of Blacksburg.

Cherokee County shall maintain a Recognized Property List identifying these Mobile Home Parks and, to the extent available, their associated:

- Development or park name;
- Tax map parcel number(s);

- Property address(es); and
- Other identifying information necessary to administer the Policy.

7.3 No Independent Countywide Classification Required

Cherokee County shall not be required, solely for purposes of administering the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee, to independently inspect, research, or classify every property containing multiple mobile or manufactured homes to determine whether it could otherwise meet the characteristics of a Mobile Home Park.

The existence of:

- Multiple mobile or manufactured homes on one parcel;
- Multiple adjoining parcels under common ownership;
- Multiple homes owned by a single person or business; or
- Rental mobile or manufactured homes

shall not, by itself, cause a property to be classified as a Mobile Home Park under this Policy.

The Mobile Home Park exclusion shall apply when the property or development is documented as part of a recognized Mobile Home Park pursuant to Section 7.2.

7.4 Entire Recognized Park Ineligible

When a development is identified as a recognized Mobile Home Park, the entire recognized park shall be ineligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

The exclusion applies regardless of whether the park:

- Consists of one parcel or multiple parcels;
- Contains individually addressed lots or dwellings;
- Contains individual mobile or manufactured homes with separate tax accounts;
- Contains a combination of owner-occupied and rental homes;
- Predates current County development regulations; or
- Historically received County-provided curbside collection.

7.5 Individually Owned Homes on Leased Lots

Ownership of an individual mobile or manufactured home located within a recognized Mobile Home Park shall not create independent eligibility for County residential curbside collection.

Where a resident owns the mobile or manufactured home but leases or rents the lot upon which the home is located, the home shall remain part of the recognized Mobile Home Park for purposes of this Policy.

Accordingly, no Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee shall be assessed against the individual mobile or manufactured home's tax account solely because the home is separately owned or separately taxed.

7.6 Responsibility for Solid Waste Service

The owner, operator, management entity, or other responsible party for a recognized Mobile Home Park shall be responsible for arranging appropriate solid waste collection and disposal for the development through a private hauler, dumpster service, or other lawful collection method.

The County shall not provide individual residential roll-cart collection within a recognized Mobile Home Park.

7.7 Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee

Neither the underlying Mobile Home Park property nor individual residential units located within the recognized park shall be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee for County curbside collection.

Where an individual mobile or manufactured home located within a recognized Mobile Home Park has a separate tax account, the County shall take reasonable administrative measures to identify the account as ineligible so that the Fee is not assessed.

7.8 Existing County Roll Carts

County-owned roll carts previously issued to locations within recognized Mobile Home Parks remain the property of Cherokee County.

Upon implementation of this Policy, the County may establish a schedule for the collection and removal of County-owned roll carts from recognized Mobile Home Parks.

Residents and property owners shall cooperate with the County in making County-owned carts reasonably accessible for retrieval.

7.9 Changes to Recognized Park Records

The County Administrator or designee may update the Recognized Property List when official governmental records demonstrate:

- A change in tax map parcel number;
- Subdivision or combination of parcels;
- Correction of a property address;
- Addition or removal of property officially associated with an existing recognized Mobile Home Park;
- Closure or lawful conversion of a recognized Mobile Home Park; or
- Another documented change affecting the identification of the development.

Administrative updates to property identifiers shall not be construed as authority to independently create a new Mobile Home Park classification contrary to the standards established by this Policy.

7.10 Property No Longer Operating as a Mobile Home Park

If a property identified on the Recognized Property List permanently ceases operating as a Mobile Home Park and is lawfully converted to another use, the property may be reevaluated under the eligibility standards applicable to its new use.

Removal from the Recognized Property List shall require sufficient governmental documentation establishing that the Mobile Home Park use has ceased or that the property has otherwise been lawfully reclassified.

7.11 No Grandfathered Collection Rights

Prior County collection within a recognized Mobile Home Park does not create a vested or grandfathered right to continued residential curbside collection.

The purpose of this Policy is to establish a consistent Countywide eligibility system tied to the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee. Existing collection practices that conflict with this Policy may therefore be discontinued as part of implementation.

7.12 Other County Solid Waste Services

Ineligibility for residential curbside collection does not necessarily prohibit residents of a recognized Mobile Home Park from utilizing other solid waste or recycling services made generally available by Cherokee County to County residents.

Use of such services shall remain subject to the operating rules, accepted materials, fees, and other requirements applicable to those programs.

8. Recreational Vehicle Parks / RV Parks

8.1 Purpose

Cherokee County's curbside solid waste collection program is designed and funded as a residential collection service for eligible individual residential properties.

Recreational Vehicle Parks, campgrounds, and similar developments operate as centralized developments containing multiple individual sites or spaces and are not considered individual residential curbside service locations for purposes of this Policy.

Accordingly, recognized RV Parks are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection and are responsible for arranging for solid waste collection and disposal through a private hauler, dumpster service, or other lawful means.

8.2 Recognized RV Parks

For purposes of this Policy, the RV Park exclusion shall apply to RV Parks, campgrounds, recreational vehicle developments, or similar facilities officially identified or recognized within the records of Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, or the Town of Blacksburg.

Cherokee County shall maintain a Recognized Property List identifying these facilities and, to the extent available, their associated:

- Development or business name;
- Tax map parcel number(s);
- Property address(es); and
- Other identifying information reasonably necessary to administer this Policy.

8.3 Entire Recognized RV Park Ineligible

When a property or development is identified as a recognized RV Park, the entire recognized development shall be ineligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

This exclusion applies regardless of whether:

- The development consists of one parcel or multiple parcels;
- Individual RV sites have separate addresses or site numbers;
- Sites are rented daily, weekly, monthly, seasonally, or on an extended basis;
- An occupant considers the RV or site to be his or her primary residence;
- An RV is owned by the occupant rather than the park owner; or
- The property or individual occupants historically received County curbside collection.

8.4 Length of Occupancy Does Not Establish Residential Eligibility

Extended or long-term occupancy of an RV site shall not convert the site into an eligible residential curbside collection location.

A person residing within a recognized RV Park for an extended period, including an individual who considers the location his or her primary residence, remains an occupant of the recognized RV Park for purposes of this Policy.

Eligibility shall therefore be determined according to the classification of the development rather than the duration of an individual occupant's stay.

8.5 Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee

Recognized RV Parks shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee applicable to County residential curbside collection.

Individual RV sites, spaces, or occupants within a recognized RV Park shall likewise not be separately assessed the Fee for County curbside collection.

Where multiple parcels comprise a recognized RV Park, the County may identify those parcels through the Recognized Property List to ensure that the Fee is not assessed based solely upon an individual parcel or tax classification.

8.6 Responsibility for Solid Waste Service

The owner, operator, management entity, or other responsible party for a recognized RV Park shall be responsible for providing or arranging appropriate solid waste collection and disposal for the development.

Such service may be provided through dumpsters, commercial containers, private collection services, or another lawful method appropriate for the volume and nature of waste generated by the development.

The County shall not provide individual residential roll-cart collection to individual RV sites within a recognized RV Park.

8.7 Individual RVs Located Outside Recognized RV Parks

The presence of an individual recreational vehicle, camper, travel trailer, motorhome, or similar unit on property outside of a recognized RV Park shall not, by itself, cause the property to be classified as an RV Park or otherwise make an eligible residential property ineligible for County collection.

For example, the presence of an RV:

- Stored at a residence;
- Parked beside a residence;
- Used temporarily by a property owner or guest; or
- Otherwise located on an eligible residential property

does not independently affect the eligibility of the qualifying residence located on that property.

However, the presence or occupancy of an RV does not independently create an additional residential service unit or entitlement to an additional County roll cart.

8.8 No Independent Countywide Classification Required

Cherokee County shall not be required, solely for purposes of administering the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee, to inspect or investigate properties throughout the County to determine whether the presence of multiple recreational vehicles could constitute an unrecognized RV Park.

Administration of this exclusion shall be based upon recognized RV Parks identified through the governmental records described in this Policy.

Nothing in this subsection limits the authority of Cherokee County or another governmental jurisdiction to investigate or regulate an unpermitted or unlawfully operating RV Park under otherwise applicable laws or regulations.

8.9 Existing County Roll Carts

County-owned roll carts previously issued to recognized RV Parks or individual sites within those developments remain the property of Cherokee County.

Upon implementation of this Policy, the County may establish a schedule for retrieval of County-owned roll carts from properties no longer eligible for residential curbside collection.

Property owners, operators, and occupants shall cooperate with the County in making County-owned carts reasonably accessible for retrieval.

8.10 Changes to Recognized RV Park Records

The County Administrator or designee may update the Recognized Property List when official governmental records demonstrate:

- A change in tax map parcel number;
- Subdivision or combination of parcels;
- Correction of an address;
- Addition or removal of property officially associated with an existing recognized RV Park;
- Closure or lawful conversion of a recognized RV Park; or
- Another documented change affecting identification of the development.

Administrative updates to property identifiers shall not constitute authority to create a new RV Park classification inconsistent with the standards established by this Policy.

8.11 Property No Longer Operating as an RV Park

If a property identified on the Recognized Property List permanently ceases operation as an RV Park and is lawfully converted to another use, the property may be reevaluated under the eligibility standards applicable to its new use.

Removal from the Recognized Property List shall require sufficient governmental documentation demonstrating that the RV Park use has ceased or the property has otherwise been lawfully reclassified.

8.12 No Grandfathered Collection Rights

Historical provision of County curbside collection to an RV Park or individual RV sites does not create a vested or grandfathered right to continued residential collection.

Existing collection practices inconsistent with this Policy may be discontinued as part of implementation of the County's uniform residential collection eligibility standards.

8.13 Other County Solid Waste Services

Ineligibility for residential curbside collection does not necessarily prohibit residents or operators of recognized RV Parks from utilizing other solid waste or recycling services made available by Cherokee County.

Use of such services shall remain subject to the rules, fees, accepted materials, and other requirements applicable to those programs.

9. Mixed-Use Properties

9.1 Purpose

Cherokee County recognizes that certain properties may contain both residential and nonresidential uses. Examples may include a residence located on the same parcel as a business, office, agricultural operation, nonprofit organization, or other nonresidential activity, as well as commercial structures containing separately identified residential dwelling units.

The presence of a nonresidential use shall not automatically make an otherwise qualifying Residential Service Unit ineligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

Likewise, the presence of a residential use shall not make waste generated by a commercial or other nonresidential activity eligible for County residential collection.

Eligibility under this section shall be determined using the standards of this Policy and Official Governmental Records reasonably available to the County.

9.2 Qualifying Residential Component

A residential component of a Mixed-Use Property may qualify for County-provided residential curbside collection when the residential use:

- Is reasonably identifiable as a Residential Service Unit through Official Governmental Records;
- Otherwise satisfies the eligibility requirements of this Policy;
- Is not part of a Recognized Mobile Home Park, Recognized RV Park, Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development, Recognized Townhome Development that is ineligible under this Policy, or another specifically excluded property classification;

- Generates ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste separate from the nonresidential use; and
- Can be safely and reasonably served through the County's standard residential curbside collection system.

Each qualifying residential component shall constitute a separate Residential Service Unit and shall be assessed one Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The nonresidential component shall not independently qualify for residential collection or be assessed the Fee.

9.3 Identifiable Residential Units Within Commercial or Nonresidential Properties

Where Official Governmental Records separately identify one or more bona fide residential dwelling units within an otherwise commercial or nonresidential property, each such dwelling unit shall be evaluated as a separate Residential Service Unit under this Policy.

A separately identified residential dwelling unit shall be eligible for County-provided residential curbside collection and assessed one Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee when it otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Policy and can be safely and reasonably served through the County's standard residential collection system.

The County shall not be required to investigate the internal occupancy, tenancy, rental arrangements, leases, or configuration of a commercial or mixed-use property for the purpose of discovering residential dwelling units that are not otherwise identifiable through Official Governmental Records.

9.4 Residential Service Limited to Household Waste

County-provided residential collection at a Mixed-Use Property shall be limited to ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste generated by the eligible Residential Service Unit or Units.

County residential roll carts shall not be used for waste generated by:

- A business or commercial operation;
- An office or professional practice;
- A nonprofit, religious, governmental, or organizational activity;
- An industrial or manufacturing operation;
- A commercial agricultural activity;
- Customers, clients, employees, or patrons of a nonresidential use; or
- Any other nonresidential activity occurring on the property.

The owner or operator of the nonresidential component shall be responsible for arranging appropriate collection and disposal of waste generated by that use.

9.5 Residence Associated With a Business or Other Nonresidential Use

A separately identifiable residence located on property containing a business or other nonresidential activity may remain eligible when the residence otherwise qualifies as a Residential Service Unit under this Policy.

Examples may include:

- A residence with a separate workshop or business located on the property;
- A residence located behind or adjacent to a commercial operation;
- A qualifying residence located on agricultural property that also contains a commercial activity; or
- Another property where an identifiable residential use and nonresidential use coexist.

Eligibility applies only to the qualifying Residential Service Unit and does not extend residential collection privileges to the associated business or other nonresidential use.

9.6 Incidental Home-Based Businesses

The operation of a lawful home occupation or incidental home-based business from an otherwise eligible Residential Service Unit shall not, by itself, make the residence ineligible for County-provided residential curbside collection.

Residential collection shall remain limited to ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste.

Commercial waste generated through the business operation shall not be placed in a County residential roll cart when the type, volume, or character of the waste exceeds ordinary household waste or is otherwise prohibited by County collection requirements.

9.7 Incidental Living or Sleeping Accommodations

The presence of sleeping quarters, bunk rooms, employee housing areas, caretaker accommodations, kitchens, bathrooms, living amenities, or other facilities capable of supporting overnight occupancy within a commercial, governmental, institutional, religious, nonprofit, organizational, emergency-service, or other nonresidential property shall not independently create a Residential Service Unit or establish eligibility for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Bunk rooms or sleeping quarters within fire departments or emergency-service facilities;
- Employee or staff sleeping accommodations;
- Caretaker or security accommodations incidental to a nonresidential use;
- Living or sleeping areas within churches, nonprofit facilities, organizational facilities, or governmental buildings;

- Offices containing kitchens, bathrooms, showers, beds, or other living amenities; and
- Other accommodations incidental or subordinate to the property's primary nonresidential use.

Such accommodations shall be considered part of the primary nonresidential use and shall not be separately eligible for residential collection unless Official Governmental Records establish a legally distinct residential dwelling or Residential Service Unit and the property is not otherwise specifically excluded from eligibility under this Policy.

9.8 Specific Eligibility and Ineligibility Provisions Control

Nothing contained in this Section shall supersede, modify, or create an exception to any specific eligibility or ineligibility provision contained elsewhere in this Policy. The limited fire department and fire station service authorized under Section 10.5 is a separate exception expressly established by County Council; it does not arise from the presence of bunk rooms, sleeping quarters, kitchens, bathrooms, or other living amenities and does not create a Residential Service Unit.

Where a property, development, facility, use, or Residential Service Unit is specifically classified as ineligible under another provision of this Policy, the specific ineligibility provision shall control notwithstanding the existence of residential occupancy, sleeping accommodations, living quarters, a residential address, or other residential characteristics associated with the property.

The Mixed-Use Property provisions of this Section are intended to address properties containing otherwise eligible residential and nonresidential components and shall not be construed to create residential collection eligibility for a property or use expressly excluded elsewhere in this Policy.

9.9 Separate Parcels

Where residential and nonresidential uses are located on separate tax parcels, each parcel shall generally be evaluated independently under this Policy.

Common ownership between an eligible residential parcel and an adjoining commercial or otherwise ineligible parcel shall not, by itself, cause the residential parcel to become ineligible.

Likewise, eligibility of a residential parcel shall not extend residential collection service to an adjoining commercial or otherwise ineligible parcel.

9.10 Multiple Residential Service Units

A Mixed-Use Property may contain more than one eligible Residential Service Unit.

Where Official Governmental Records identify multiple qualifying Residential Service Units on or within a Mixed-Use Property, each eligible unit shall be assessed one Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee unless otherwise excluded by this Policy.

Accordingly, a Mixed-Use Property containing two identifiable and eligible Residential Service Units may be assessed two Fees even when both units are associated with the same tax parcel or tax bill.

The existence of a commercial or other nonresidential component shall not reduce the number of Fees applicable to otherwise eligible Residential Service Units.

9.11 Fee Assessment

The Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee shall be assessed only for the eligible Residential Service Unit or Units associated with a Mixed-Use Property.

No additional Fee shall be assessed against the commercial or nonresidential component solely because it shares a parcel, structure, address, ownership, or other property characteristic with an eligible Residential Service Unit.

The administrative placement of multiple Fees upon a single property tax bill or account shall not alter the underlying principle that one Fee is assessed for each eligible Residential Service Unit.

9.12 Records-Based Determination

Eligibility under this section shall be determined using Official Governmental Records reasonably available to Cherokee County.

The County may rely upon, as applicable:

- Property tax and Assessor records;
- GIS and addressing records;
- Building Codes, permitting, and occupancy records;
- Plats and development records;
- Municipal records;
- Mobile or manufactured home tax records; and
- Other Official Governmental Records reasonably relevant to the determination.

Cherokee County shall not be required to conduct physical inspections, occupancy investigations, lease reviews, rental inquiries, or other individualized investigations solely for the purpose of discovering residential dwelling units or occupancy arrangements that are not otherwise identifiable through Official Governmental Records.

When reliable governmental information subsequently establishes the existence, removal, or change in status of a Residential Service Unit, the County may update the property's eligibility and Fee assessment in accordance with this Policy.

9.13 Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development

Nothing in this section shall make an individual dwelling unit located within a Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development eligible for County residential curbside collection when that development is otherwise classified as ineligible under this Policy.

A property officially identified as a Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development shall be governed by the specific provisions applicable to that classification rather than the general Mixed-Use Property provisions contained herein.

9.14 Misuse of Residential Collection Service

Use of a County residential roll cart for commercial or other ineligible waste may result in notice to the property owner or occupant and appropriate corrective action under County solid waste collection requirements.

Repeated or substantial misuse may be referred to the County Administrator or designee for administrative review.

Nothing in this section shall require the County to collect waste exceeding the type, quantity, weight, size, or other operational limitations of the residential collection program.

9.15 Examples of Application

The following examples illustrate the application of this section:

Residence with a home-based business:

The qualifying residence remains eligible and is assessed one Fee. Residential collection is limited to household waste generated by the residence.

House and business on the same parcel:

If Official Governmental Records identify the house as a qualifying Residential Service Unit, the house may receive residential collection and be assessed one Fee. The business remains responsible for its own waste.

Two qualifying residences and a business on the same parcel:

If both residences are identifiable through Official Governmental Records and otherwise eligible, the property shall have two Residential Service Units and may be assessed two Fees. The business receives no residential collection.

House on one parcel and business on an adjoining parcel under common ownership:

The residential parcel may receive service and be assessed the applicable Fee. The commercial parcel remains ineligible.

Commercial building with no separately identified residential dwelling:

The property remains commercial or nonresidential for purposes of this Policy. The County is not required to investigate whether an individual may reside or sleep within the building.

Commercial building with one separately identified apartment:

The commercial component remains ineligible. The separately identified apartment may constitute one Residential Service Unit and receive one Fee if it otherwise qualifies and can be safely and reasonably served.

Commercial building with two separately identified apartments:

Each apartment may constitute a separate Residential Service Unit. If both are otherwise eligible and serviceable, two Fees may be assessed. The commercial component receives no residential service.

Unrecorded basement, accessory, or other dwelling arrangement:

The County shall not be required to independently discover or investigate a residential unit that is not identifiable through Official Governmental Records. If reliable governmental records subsequently establish the unit, its eligibility may then be evaluated under this Policy.

10. Tax-Exempt Properties

10.1 Purpose

Cherokee County recognizes that certain properties are exempt from ad valorem property taxation because of governmental, religious, charitable, nonprofit, or other qualifying ownership or use.

Tax-exempt status, standing alone, shall not determine eligibility for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

Eligibility shall instead be based upon whether the property contains and is used as a qualifying residential dwelling under this Policy.

10.2 Nonresidential Tax-Exempt Properties

Except for the limited fire department and fire station service authorized under Section 10.5, tax-exempt properties used primarily for nonresidential governmental, religious, charitable, nonprofit, institutional, educational, civic, public safety, or organizational purposes are not eligible for County-provided residential curbside solid waste collection.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Churches and other houses of worship;
- Nonprofit organizations;
- Civic and community organizations;
- Government offices and facilities;
- County-owned facilities;
- Municipal facilities;

- State or federal governmental facilities;
- Fire departments and fire stations;
- Public safety facilities;
- Schools and educational facilities;
- Organizational meeting facilities; and
- Other nonresidential tax-exempt properties.

Such properties shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee and, except for qualifying fire departments and fire stations receiving the limited service authorized under Section 10.5, shall be responsible for arranging appropriate solid waste collection and disposal through another lawful means.

10.3 Uniform Application

The Fee exclusion established by this Section shall be applied uniformly to similarly situated nonresidential tax-exempt properties. The limited continuation of existing County collection service for qualifying fire departments and fire stations under Section 10.5 is a specific exception authorized by County Council and shall not be extended to any other property type by administrative action.

No organization or governmental entity shall receive residential curbside collection solely because:

- It has historically received County collection;
- County collection equipment already travels past the property;
- The organization receives public funding;
- The organization provides a public or community service;
- The organization is a nonprofit or charitable entity; or
- Collection could otherwise be operationally accommodated.

Except for the limited fire department and fire station service authorized under Section 10.5, this Policy is intended to maintain a consistent distinction between the County's residential collection service and solid waste generated by nonresidential organizations and facilities.

10.4 County-Owned Properties

Cherokee County-owned or operated nonresidential properties shall be subject to the same eligibility principles applicable to other governmental and tax-exempt properties.

County offices, departments, facilities, operational sites, and other nonresidential County properties shall not receive residential curbside collection merely because they are owned or operated by Cherokee County.

Solid waste generated by County operations shall be managed through appropriate internal, commercial, dumpster, or other collection arrangements established by the County.

10.5 Fire Departments and Fire Stations

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Policy, each fire department or fire station physically located within Cherokee County that was receiving County-provided solid waste collection immediately before the effective date of this Policy shall remain exempt from the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee and shall continue to receive its existing level of County collection service.

For purposes of this subsection, existing level of service means the service actually provided to the fire department or fire station immediately before the effective date of this Policy, including the established service location, normal collection frequency, and number and type of County-issued roll carts or containers. Continued service remains subject to the County's operational, safety, set-out, container, prohibited-material, and collection requirements. The County may make reasonable route, day, time, equipment, or collection-method adjustments that do not materially expand the service provided.

This exception applies exclusively to qualifying fire departments and fire stations located within Cherokee County, whether governmental, nonprofit, volunteer, independently governed, or supported through public funding. It does not extend to other emergency-service facilities, public-safety facilities, governmental properties, nonprofit organizations, or institutional uses. It does not classify a fire department or fire station as an eligible Residential Service Unit, and the presence of bunk rooms, sleeping quarters, kitchens, bathrooms, or other living amenities is not the basis for the exception. No new service location, additional cart or container, increased collection frequency, or other material expansion of service is authorized without further approval by Cherokee County Council or another collection arrangement authorized by the County.

10.6 Churches and Religious Organizations

Churches, houses of worship, religious facilities, fellowship halls, and other nonresidential properties operated by religious organizations are not eligible for County residential curbside collection.

Such properties shall not be assessed the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee and shall be responsible for arranging appropriate solid waste collection through another lawful means.

10.7 Nonprofit and Community Organizations

Properties operated primarily as nonprofit, charitable, civic, community, fraternal, or similar organizational facilities are not eligible for County residential curbside collection.

Nonprofit or charitable status does not convert a nonresidential property into an eligible residential service location.

10.8 Tax-Exempt Residential Properties

A tax-exempt property containing a bona fide residential dwelling may remain eligible for County-provided residential curbside collection when the dwelling otherwise satisfies the requirements of this Policy.

Examples may include:

- A qualifying residence owned by a church or religious organization;
- A qualifying residence owned by a nonprofit organization;
- A qualifying governmental residence; or
- Another tax-exempt property actually used as a permanent residence.

Where the property contains an eligible residential dwelling, the residential component shall be treated consistently with other eligible residences under this Policy.

10.9 Residence Located on the Same Property as an Exempt Organization

Where a tax-exempt property contains both a nonresidential organizational use and a bona fide residential dwelling, eligibility shall be determined in accordance with Section 9 – Mixed-Use Properties.

County residential collection, if approved, shall be limited to ordinary household waste generated by the qualifying residence.

Except for ordinary solid waste authorized for collection from a qualifying fire department or fire station under Section 10.5, waste generated by a church, nonprofit organization, governmental facility, fire department, or other nonresidential use shall not be placed in a residential roll cart assigned to a separately eligible residence.

10.10 Fee Assessment for Eligible Tax-Exempt Residences

Because an eligible tax-exempt residence may not receive a traditional ad valorem property tax bill upon which the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee can ordinarily be placed, Cherokee County may establish an alternative billing or collection method for the applicable Fee.

Tax-exempt status shall not entitle an otherwise eligible residential service location to receive County residential curbside collection without payment of the applicable Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee, unless specifically authorized by County Council.

10.11 Historical Service

Except for the limited fire department and fire station service expressly continued under Section 10.5, historical provision of County curbside collection to a nonresidential tax-exempt property shall not create a vested or grandfathered right to continued service.

Upon implementation of this Policy, ineligible tax-exempt properties may be removed from the residential collection system in accordance with the County's implementation procedures, except that qualifying fire departments and fire stations shall continue receiving the service authorized under Section 10.5.

10.12 Existing County Roll Carts

Roll carts issued or provided by Cherokee County for use in connection with the County's solid waste collection program are presumed to remain the property of Cherokee County unless County records or other satisfactory documentation establish that ownership of the cart was expressly transferred to the recipient.

The payment of an additional-cart fee, replacement fee, delivery fee, service charge, or other amount associated with the issuance or use of a County roll cart shall not, by itself, establish private ownership of the cart.

County-owned roll carts previously issued to properties that are no longer eligible for County residential curbside collection may be retrieved by the County as part of implementation of this Policy. Property owners, organizations, and occupants shall make County-owned carts reasonably accessible for retrieval. County-issued roll carts or containers used to provide the continuing fire department and fire station service authorized under Section 10.5 shall remain in service unless replaced, exchanged, or removed by the County for operational reasons.

If a property owner or organization asserts that a roll cart was purchased from the County prior to July 1, 2026 and is privately owned, the claimant may provide a receipt, County record, or other documentation reasonably demonstrating that ownership of the cart was transferred to the claimant. The County Administrator or designee may review such documentation and determine ownership.

A determination that a roll cart is privately owned shall not establish eligibility for County residential curbside collection and shall not entitle the property to continued County collection service. Continued service for qualifying fire departments and fire stations arises solely from Section 10.5 and not from ownership or possession of a cart or container.

10.13 Other County Solid Waste Services

Ineligibility for residential curbside collection does not necessarily prohibit a tax-exempt organization from utilizing other solid waste or recycling programs that Cherokee County makes available to that property type.

Those services shall remain subject to their separately established eligibility requirements, fees, accepted materials, and operating rules.

11. Roll Cart Issuance and Administration

11.1 Purpose

Cherokee County utilizes standardized roll carts to provide efficient and consistent residential curbside solid waste collection.

County-issued roll carts are provided for use at eligible residential service locations and shall be used only in accordance with this Policy and other applicable County solid waste collection requirements.

Issuance or possession of a County roll cart does not independently establish eligibility for residential curbside collection.

11.2 County Ownership of Roll Carts

All roll carts purchased and issued by Cherokee County remain the property of Cherokee County unless expressly designated otherwise by the County.

Roll carts are assigned to an eligible residential service location rather than to an individual resident or property owner.

Accordingly, when a resident moves from an eligible property, the County-issued roll cart shall remain at the assigned service location unless otherwise directed by Cherokee County.

11.3 Standard Roll Cart Issuance

Each eligible residential service unit shall be entitled to one (1) standard County-issued roll cart as part of the residential curbside collection service at no additional cost.

Where multiple eligible Residential Service Units are located on the same parcel, each service unit shall be eligible for its own standard County-issued roll cart.

For example, two eligible residences on one parcel or two eligible dwelling units within a duplex may each be assigned a separate roll cart.

The standard roll cart shall be issued without a separate initial cart service charge when the applicable Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee has been assessed or the property has otherwise been approved for service.

The County may establish administrative procedures governing cart delivery, inventory, identification, replacement, repair, and retrieval.

11.4 New Roll Cart Requests

A property owner or occupant of an eligible residential service location may request an initial roll cart when:

- A newly constructed or newly occupied residence begins service;
- An eligible residence does not currently have a County-issued roll cart;
- A cart has been lost, stolen, damaged, or otherwise removed from service; or
- Another circumstance exists that reasonably requires issuance of a cart.

All requests shall be subject to verification of property eligibility and County cart inventory.

Submission of a request does not itself establish eligibility or guarantee immediate delivery.

11.5 Additional Roll Carts

Additional roll carts beyond the standard cart issued to an eligible residential service unit shall be subject to availability and any additional fees, limitations, or procedures established by Cherokee County.

The County has established a limit of up to two additional carts assigned to a residential service location. Each additional cart service is assessed at a one time fee of \$100.00. Cherokee County maintains ownership of said roll cart.

Payment for an additional cart does not authorize disposal of commercial waste, prohibited materials, or quantities of waste inconsistent with the residential nature of the service.

11.6 Damaged Roll Carts

Cherokee County may repair or replace a County-issued roll cart that becomes damaged through ordinary use, normal wear, mechanical collection, or other circumstances determined by the County not to be the fault of the resident.

Residents shall report damaged carts through the process established by Public Works or Solid Waste Collections.

The County may determine whether a damaged cart must be repaired or replaced.

11.7 Lost, Stolen, or Negligently Damaged Roll Carts

The County may establish a replacement charge when a roll cart is:

- Lost;
- Removed from its assigned property;
- Stolen under circumstances where reasonable care was not exercised;
- Intentionally damaged;
- Destroyed through misuse;
- Damaged by placement of prohibited materials; or
- Otherwise damaged through negligence or abuse.

The County Administrator or designee may establish reasonable procedures for determining when a replacement charge applies.

11.8 Cart Identification and Tracking

Cherokee County may identify and track County-issued roll carts through:

- Serial numbers;
- Barcodes;
- RFID or similar electronic identification;
- Route management software;
- Service addresses;
- GIS records; or
- Other inventory-management methods.

Residents shall not remove, alter, destroy, obscure, or tamper with County identification or tracking devices affixed to a roll cart.

11.9 Cart Placement

Residents shall place roll carts at the collection location designated or approved by Cherokee County.

The County may establish requirements governing:

- Distance from the roadway;
- Cart orientation;
- Clearance around the cart;
- Distance from vehicles, mailboxes, utility poles, or other obstructions;
- Overhead clearance;
- Placement on major highways or other high-speed roadways;
- Placement on private roads or drives;
- Timing for placement and removal; and
- Other conditions necessary for safe and efficient collection.

Where placement immediately adjacent to a roadway would create an unreasonable safety concern or cannot be safely serviced by collection equipment, the County may designate an alternative collection point.

11.10 Accessibility for Collection

Roll carts shall be placed so that County collection personnel and equipment can safely and reasonably access them.

The County is not required to collect a cart that is:

- Blocked by a vehicle or other obstruction;
- Located behind a fence or gate;

- Positioned beyond the approved collection location;
- Inaccessible because of roadway or property conditions;
- Overfilled in a manner preventing safe collection;
- Positioned in a manner creating an unreasonable safety hazard; or
- Otherwise not presented in accordance with County collection requirements.

11.11 Cart Capacity and Excess Waste

Residential collection service is generally limited to household Municipal Solid Waste properly contained within the County-issued roll cart or carts authorized for the service location.

Waste placed beside, on top of, or outside the roll cart is not guaranteed collection unless specifically authorized under another County program or collection procedure.

The County may establish separate procedures for excess household waste, bulky materials, or other materials not accommodated through normal roll-cart collection.

11.12 Prohibited Use

County-issued residential roll carts shall not be used for:

- Commercial or business-generated waste;
- Construction and demolition debris;
- Land-clearing debris;
- Hazardous materials;
- Hot ashes or burning materials;
- Liquids;
- Materials prohibited from municipal solid waste disposal;
- Excessively heavy materials that could damage the cart or collection equipment; or
- Other materials prohibited by Cherokee County.

11.13 Transfer of Property or Occupancy

Because the roll cart is assigned to the service location, a County-issued cart shall remain at the property when ownership or occupancy changes.

A departing resident shall not take the County-issued roll cart to another residence.

A resident moving to another eligible property shall utilize the cart assigned to the new service location or request a cart through the County's established process if one is not present.

11.14 Properties Becoming Ineligible

When a property becomes ineligible for County residential curbside collection, any County-owned roll cart assigned to that location shall be subject to retrieval by Cherokee County.

This includes properties removed from service because of:

- Commercial classification;
- Inclusion within a recognized Mobile Home Park;
- Inclusion within a recognized RV Park;
- Nonresidential tax-exempt use;
- Demolition or lawful elimination of the residential dwelling;
- Conversion to another ineligible use; or
- Any other eligibility change established under this Policy.

Removal of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee and termination of residential collection may be coordinated with retrieval of the County-owned cart.

11.15 Implementation and Recovery of Carts from Ineligible Properties

As part of implementation of this Policy, Cherokee County may retrieve County-owned roll carts previously distributed to properties that no longer qualify for residential curbside collection.

The County may conduct cart retrieval in phases and may provide advance notice to affected property owners, organizations, businesses, or residents.

Failure to immediately retrieve a cart shall not create or continue eligibility for residential collection and shall not require the County to continue collecting waste from an ineligible property.

11.16 Unauthorized Roll Carts

Only County-issued or County-authorized roll carts compatible with the County's collection equipment may be used for County residential curbside collection unless otherwise authorized.

The County shall not be responsible for damage to privately owned containers placed for automated collection without authorization.

11.17 Cart Availability

Roll cart issuance and replacement are subject to County inventory and procurement availability.

Temporary delays in cart delivery resulting from procurement, supply-chain conditions, inventory limitations, or other operational circumstances shall not alter a property's underlying eligibility or assessment of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

11.18 Administrative Procedures

The County Administrator or designee may establish additional administrative procedures governing roll cart:

- Requests;
- Delivery;
- Assignment;

- Inventory;
- Tracking;
- Repair;
- Replacement;
- Additional carts;
- Fees;
- Retrieval; and
- Proper use.

Such procedures may be modified administratively as equipment, routing technology, collection methods, or operational needs change, provided they remain consistent with this Policy.

12. Residential Collection Service Standards

12.1 Purpose

This Section establishes the general service standards applicable to Cherokee County residential curbside solid waste collection.

Residential curbside collection is a standardized County service provided to properties and Residential Service Units determined to be eligible under this Policy. Eligibility for service shall be determined in accordance with the eligibility classifications, Official Governmental Records, Recognized Property List, and administrative procedures established elsewhere in this Policy.

Nothing in this Section shall expand eligibility to a property or use otherwise classified as ineligible under this Policy.

12.2 Standard Residential Collection Service

Each eligible Residential Service Unit shall be provided Standard Residential Collection Service in accordance with this Policy and the operational procedures established by Cherokee County.

Unless otherwise authorized by the County, Standard Residential Collection Service shall consist of:

1. Collection of ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste generated through normal residential activities;
2. Collection from County-issued or otherwise County-authorized roll carts;
3. Collection on the route and schedule established by Cherokee County;
4. Collection from an approved Service Location or Collection Point;
5. Collection subject to applicable cart-placement, waste-preparation, access, safety, and other operational requirements established by this Policy; and

6. Disposal of collected Municipal Solid Waste through the solid waste disposal system utilized or designated by Cherokee County.

Standard Residential Collection Service does not constitute unlimited solid waste collection and does not include waste, materials, quantities, locations, or services specifically excluded by this Policy.

12.3 Service Provided on a Residential Service Unit Basis

Residential curbside collection shall be administered on the basis of the **Residential Service Unit**, rather than solely on the basis of parcel ownership, tax account, street address, or property owner.

Each eligible Residential Service Unit may receive the level of residential collection service established by Cherokee County and shall be subject to the corresponding Fee unless the taxpayer timely opts out under Section 21.

Multiple eligible Residential Service Units located on the same parcel or associated with the same tax account shall not be treated as a single service location solely because they share common ownership, a parcel, address, driveway, or tax bill.

Likewise, the existence of multiple addresses, tax accounts, utility accounts, structures, or roll carts shall not independently establish multiple Residential Service Units where the eligibility requirements of this Policy are not otherwise satisfied.

12.4 Collection Frequency and Scheduling

Cherokee County shall establish residential collection routes, collection days, and collection frequencies based upon operational needs, available equipment and personnel, route efficiency, public safety, disposal requirements, and other relevant considerations.

The County may modify routes, collection days, collection times, or collection frequency when reasonably necessary for efficient operation of the residential collection system.

Scheduled collection may be delayed, modified, or temporarily interrupted because of:

- Holidays;
- Severe weather or emergency conditions;
- Equipment failure or maintenance;
- Road closures or inaccessible road conditions;
- Staffing or operational limitations;
- Disposal facility closures or limitations;
- Public safety concerns; or
- Other circumstances affecting the County's ability to safely and reasonably complete collection.

A temporary delay, interruption, route modification, or change in collection schedule shall not alter the underlying eligibility of a Residential Service Unit or, by itself, create entitlement to a reduction, proration, credit, or refund of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

12.5 Authorized Roll Carts

Residential curbside collection shall generally be provided through County-issued or County-authorized roll carts compatible with the County's collection equipment.

Residents shall use only roll carts authorized by Cherokee County for automated or semi-automated collection unless otherwise approved by the County.

The issuance, ownership, replacement, retrieval, maintenance, additional-cart procedures, and other requirements applicable to roll carts shall be governed by the Roll Cart Administration provisions of this Policy and any administrative procedures adopted pursuant thereto.

Possession of a County roll cart shall not independently establish eligibility for residential collection.

12.6 Household Waste Only

Standard Residential Collection Service is intended for ordinary Municipal Solid Waste generated through normal residential household activities.

Residential collection shall not be used for:

1. Commercial, business, industrial, institutional, governmental, nonprofit, or organizational waste;
2. Construction and Demolition Debris;
3. Bulk Waste or Bulk Items unless specifically authorized by the County;
4. Cleanout Waste;
5. Waste generated through evictions, foreclosures, estate cleanouts, rental-property turnovers, or similar extraordinary activities when the quantity exceeds normal household generation;
6. Yard debris, land-clearing debris, or other materials excluded from residential collection;
7. Hazardous, dangerous, regulated, or otherwise prohibited materials; or
8. Other materials specifically excluded under this Policy or County administrative procedures.

Detailed requirements concerning acceptable and prohibited materials, Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, Excess Waste, and waste preparation shall be governed by the applicable sections of this Policy.

12.7 Residential Service Shall Not be used for Nonresidential Waste

Where an eligible Residential Service Unit exists on property that also contains a business, nonprofit organization, governmental use, agricultural operation, institutional use, or other nonresidential activity, County residential collection shall be limited to ordinary household waste generated by the eligible Residential Service Unit.

Waste generated by the nonresidential use shall not be placed in a County residential roll cart or otherwise presented for residential curbside collection.

12.8 Service Location

Collection shall occur only from a Service Location or Collection Point approved or accepted by Cherokee County.

Eligibility for residential collection does not require Cherokee County to operate a collection vehicle on every driveway, private road, easement, lane, or other access route serving an eligible Residential Service Unit.

The County may require roll carts to be placed at a public roadway, designated Collection Point, Shared Collection Point, or other location determined by the County to provide safe and reasonable access for collection equipment.

Specific requirements concerning cart placement, roadway accessibility, private roads, turnarounds, clearances, shared collection points, and unsafe conditions shall be governed by the applicable sections of this Policy.

12.9 No Guaranteed Collection Time

Cherokee County may establish an anticipated collection day for each route; however, the County does not guarantee collection at a particular time of day.

Residents shall comply with the cart-placement time requirements established by this Policy regardless of the time at which collection normally occurs.

Past collection at a particular time shall not create an entitlement to collection at that time on future collection days.

12.10 Service Subject to Compliance with Collection Requirements

Residential collection is conditioned upon compliance with the operational requirements established by this Policy.

The County may decline or defer collection when:

1. A cart is improperly placed;
2. A cart is inaccessible or obstructed;
3. Waste is not properly prepared;
4. Prohibited materials are present;

5. Waste exceeds applicable service limitations;
6. A cart or collection location presents an Unsafe Condition;
7. Roadway or property access is unsafe or inadequate;
8. The cart is not County-issued or otherwise authorized;
9. The property is being used to dispose of nonresidential or unauthorized waste; or
10. Another violation prevents safe or proper collection.

Failure to collect under these circumstances shall not constitute a Missed Collection attributable to Cherokee County.

12.11 No Individual Modification of Standard Service

No County employee shall individually expand, modify, or waive the Standard Residential Collection Service requirements for a particular property except as expressly authorized by this Policy or pursuant to administrative procedures approved by the County Administrator or designee.

Operational accommodations may be authorized when necessary to address documented accessibility needs, unusual property conditions, public safety concerns, or other circumstances expressly permitted under County procedures, provided that such accommodation does not create a new class of eligibility or materially expand the residential collection program.

12.12 No Vested Right to Particular Collection Method

Eligibility for residential collection establishes eligibility to receive the County's Standard Residential Collection Service but shall not create a vested or continuing right to:

- A particular collection day or time;
- A particular route;
- A particular collection vehicle or collection method;
- Collection from a particular location;
- County vehicle access onto a private road or driveway;
- A particular number or type of roll carts beyond that authorized by County procedures; or
- Continuation of a historical collection practice inconsistent with this Policy.

Cherokee County may modify its routes, equipment, collection methods, Service Locations, operational procedures, and other aspects of service when reasonably necessary to promote safety, efficiency, fiscal responsibility, regulatory compliance, or effective administration of the residential collection system.

12.13 Relationship Between Service and Fee

The Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee supports the availability and operation of the County's residential solid waste collection and disposal system for eligible Residential Service Units.

An eligible Residential Service Unit that remains enrolled in County collection is subject to the Fee regardless of the frequency with which the resident places a cart for collection.

Non-use, private collection, vacancy, or limited waste generation does not automatically remove the Fee. For FY 2026–2027, removal requires timely submission of the Voluntary Opt-Out Form and discontinuation of County curbside collection under Section 21.

Likewise, an isolated missed collection, temporary service interruption, weather delay, equipment failure, route delay, or temporary suspension or refusal of collection resulting from noncompliance with this Policy shall not alter the underlying eligibility of the Residential Service Unit or independently create entitlement to a reduction, proration, credit, or refund.

13. Cart Placement Requirements

13.1 General Requirement

Residents receiving Cherokee County residential curbside collection shall place authorized roll carts at the approved Service Location or Collection Point in a manner that allows County collection equipment to safely and efficiently service the cart.

Proper cart placement is the responsibility of the resident, property owner, or occupant receiving service.

Eligibility for residential collection does not guarantee collection from a location that is unsafe, inaccessible, obstructed, or incompatible with County collection equipment.

13.2 Placement for Collection

Unless otherwise directed or approved by Cherokee County, roll carts shall:

1. Be placed at or near the edge of the roadway or at another Service Location or Collection Point designated or accepted by the County;
2. Be positioned on a reasonably level and stable surface when practicable;
3. Be placed so that County collection personnel can safely and reasonably access, move, and return the cart;
4. Remain upright with the lid closed;
5. Be positioned so that employees are not required to enter the traveled portion of the roadway unnecessarily or encounter an Unsafe Condition in order to retrieve the cart;
6. Be reasonably clear of vehicles, mailboxes, utility poles, fences, vegetation, drainage features, animals, and other obstructions; and
7. Be placed in a manner that does not unnecessarily obstruct vehicular traffic, pedestrian travel, drainage facilities, mail delivery, driveways, or other lawful use of the roadway or right-of-way.

13.3 Clearance from Obstructions

Roll carts shall be placed with sufficient clearance from vehicles, mailboxes, utility poles, fences, vegetation, structures, drainage features, and other objects to allow County employees to safely access, maneuver, empty, and return the cart.

The County may decline collection when the location or surrounding conditions require employees to enter an unsafe area, maneuver a cart through or around substantial obstructions, cross hazardous terrain, or otherwise expose themselves or County equipment to an unreasonable safety risk.

Where physical conditions prevent conventional roadside placement, Cherokee County may designate or approve an alternative Service Location or Collection Point.

Where physical conditions make the standard clearance impracticable, the County may approve or designate an alternative placement location that can be safely serviced.

The County may decline collection when a cart cannot reasonably be accessed without risk of injury, property damage, equipment damage, or interference with traffic.

13.4 Placement Along Major or High-Traffic Roadways

Nothing in this Policy shall require a resident to place a roll cart in the traveled portion of a roadway or at a location that creates an unreasonable traffic or public-safety hazard.

Along highways, high-speed roadways, narrow roadways, roadways with limited shoulders, drainage ditches, steep embankments, or other locations where conventional cart placement may be unsafe or impracticable, Cherokee County may designate or approve an alternative Service Location or Collection Point.

The County may consider roadway geometry, traffic speed and volume, available shoulder width, drainage features, sight distance, collection-equipment requirements, and other safety considerations when determining an appropriate collection location.

13.5 Driveways, Ditches, and Drainage Features

Roll carts shall not be placed in a drainage ditch, drainage channel, culvert opening, or other location where the cart may:

1. Obstruct stormwater flow;
2. Become unstable or overturn;
3. Create a roadway hazard;
4. Be inaccessible to collection equipment; or

5. Damage or interfere with drainage infrastructure.

Where a ditch, steep shoulder, culvert, driveway configuration, or other physical feature prevents conventional roadside placement, the County may designate or approve an alternative Service Location.

13.6 Multiple Carts at One Service Location

Where more than one authorized roll cart is presented at the same Service Location, carts shall be arranged so that County employees can reasonably access and maneuver each cart without moving vehicles, equipment, personal property, or other significant obstructions.

Where multiple Residential Service Units utilize a Shared Collection Point, Cherokee County may establish additional placement requirements necessary for safe and orderly collection.

13.7 Timing of Cart Placement

Roll carts shall be placed at the approved Service Location no later than the time established by Cherokee County for the applicable Collection Day.

The County may establish a uniform placement deadline through administrative procedures and may modify that deadline when operationally necessary.

A cart placed for collection after the collection vehicle has already serviced the applicable location shall not constitute a Missed Collection attributable to Cherokee County.

Past collection at a particular time of day does not establish or guarantee that collection will occur at that same time on future Collection Days.

13.8 Removal of Carts Following Collection

Residents must remove roll carts from the immediate roadway collection area within a reasonable period following collection and return the cart to an appropriate location on the property unless the County has notified residents of delays.

Roll carts shall not be permanently stored within the traveled roadway or at a location that creates a traffic, drainage, pedestrian, or public-safety hazard.

Nothing in this Section shall prohibit a cart from remaining at an approved permanent or Shared Collection Point when specifically authorized by Cherokee County.

13.9 Cart Condition and Preparation

Roll carts presented for collection shall:

1. Be upright and reasonably stable;
2. Have the lid closed to the extent reasonably possible;

3. Not be overloaded or loaded to a weight that prevents the cart from being safely handled or emptied using normal collection procedures;
4. Not contain material protruding from the cart in a manner that creates a safety hazard or interferes with collection;
5. Not contain Prohibited Materials;
6. Not contain loose, sharp, leaking, hazardous, or improperly contained materials that may expose County employees to injury; and
7. Be maintained free of ropes, chains, locks, attachments, or modifications that interfere with safe handling or emptying.

Waste shall be contained within the authorized roll cart. Bags, boxes, loose waste, or other materials placed beside, behind, or on top of the cart are not included in Standard Residential Collection Service unless specifically authorized by Cherokee County.

13.10 Obstructed Carts

A roll cart may be considered inaccessible when safe collection is prevented or materially impaired by:

- Parked vehicles;
- Trailers or equipment;
- Mailboxes;
- Utility poles or utility equipment;
- Fences or gates;
- Vegetation;
- Construction materials;
- Other roll carts;
- Loose animals;
- Snow, ice, flooding, mud, or unstable ground;
- Road construction or maintenance activities; or
- Any other Obstruction or Unsafe Condition.

The County shall not be required to move vehicles, equipment, personal property, waste, or other obstructions in order to service a roll cart.

13.11 County Personnel Not Required to Reposition Carts

Except where an accommodation or alternative collection arrangement has been specifically authorized by Cherokee County, County employees shall not be required to:

1. Retrieve carts from houses, garages, porches, yards, or other areas of private property;
2. Move carts from behind vehicles or other obstructions;
3. Move improperly placed carts to make them accessible to the collection vehicle;
4. Enter buildings, garages, fenced areas, or other structures to retrieve waste or carts; or

5. Perform other activities outside Standard Residential Collection Service.

13.12 Special Accommodations

Cherokee County has established administrative procedures for reasonable collection accommodations when a resident is unable to comply with standard cart-placement requirements because of a documented disability, physical limitation, unusual property condition, or other circumstance recognized by the County.

Any accommodation shall be subject to operational feasibility, employee safety, equipment limitations, and such documentation or periodic verification as the County may reasonably require.

An accommodation authorized under this Section shall apply only to the specific circumstances approved and shall not modify the general eligibility requirements established by this Policy.

13.13 County Authority to Designate or Modify Collection Location

Cherokee County reserves the authority to designate, approve, relocate, or discontinue use of a particular Service Location or Collection Point when reasonably necessary because of:

1. Employee or public safety;
2. Changes in collection equipment or methods;
3. Roadway conditions;
4. Traffic conditions;
5. Property access;
6. Utility or overhead-clearance concerns;
7. Drainage or terrain;
8. Route efficiency;
9. Repeated obstruction;
10. Changes to the property or surrounding area; or
11. Other legitimate operational considerations.

Historical collection from a particular location shall not create a continuing right to collection from that location.

13.14 Improper Placement and Missed Collection

Failure to collect a cart because the cart was:

- Not presented by the required time;
- Improperly positioned;
- Obstructed or inaccessible;
- Overfilled;

- Improperly prepared;
- Located at an unauthorized collection point;
- Containing Prohibited Materials; or
- Otherwise presented in violation of this Policy

shall not constitute a Missed Collection attributable to Cherokee County.

The resident shall correct the condition and present the cart for collection in accordance with County procedures.

13.15 Employee Access and Safety

Residents shall present roll carts in a manner that allows collection personnel to safely walk to, access, maneuver, empty, and return the cart without unreasonable exposure to vehicular traffic, aggressive animals, unstable terrain, steep slopes, drainage ditches, standing water, mud, ice, excessive vegetation, hazardous materials, or other Unsafe Conditions.

County employees shall not be required to climb embankments, enter drainage ditches, cross unsafe terrain, move substantial obstructions, enter enclosed or gated areas, or expose themselves to unreasonable traffic or other hazards in order to retrieve a roll cart.

When the normal collection location cannot be safely serviced, Cherokee County may designate an alternative Collection Point.

13.16 Administrative Standards

The County Administrator or designee may establish additional administrative procedures, diagrams, specifications, educational materials, and operational standards concerning proper cart placement when reasonably necessary to promote safe and efficient collection.

Such standards may address cart orientation, spacing, placement times, roadway-specific requirements, Shared Collection Points, accessibility accommodations, collection-equipment requirements, and other operational matters consistent with this Policy.

14. Roadway Access, Private Roads, and Collection Points

14.1 General Standard

Eligibility for residential curbside collection does not guarantee that a County collection vehicle will travel upon every roadway, private road, driveway, easement, or other access route serving an eligible Residential Service Unit.

Cherokee County shall determine the location from which residential collection will be provided based upon employee and public safety, roadway conditions, accessibility, collection-equipment requirements, operational feasibility, and efficient delivery of service.

An eligible Residential Service Unit located on a roadway or property that cannot be safely accessed by County collection equipment shall remain eligible for residential collection but may be required to utilize an alternative Service Location, Collection Point, or Shared Collection Point designated or approved by Cherokee County.

14.2 Public Roadways

Residential collection shall generally be provided along public roadways that can be safely and reasonably traveled by County solid waste collection vehicles.

The County may determine that a particular roadway, roadway segment, shoulder, turnaround, bridge, intersection, or other location is unsuitable for collection equipment when conditions present an unreasonable risk to employees, the public, County equipment, private property, or infrastructure.

The fact that a roadway is publicly maintained shall not require the County to operate a collection vehicle upon the roadway when conditions are determined to be unsafe or operationally unsuitable.

14.3 Private Roads

Cherokee County shall not be required to operate residential solid waste collection vehicles upon a Private Road.

Eligible Residential Service Units located on a Private Road shall generally be served from an approved Collection Point located at or near the intersection of the Private Road and an accessible public roadway, or at another location designated or approved by Cherokee County.

The County may, in its discretion, authorize collection vehicles to enter a Private Road when the County determines that doing so can be accomplished safely and reasonably and is operationally appropriate.

Authorization for County entry onto a Private Road is a privilege of service administration and shall not create a permanent or vested right to continued County vehicle access.

14.4 Evaluation of Roadway Access

When determining whether a public or Private Road is suitable for County collection vehicles, Cherokee County may consider:

1. Roadway width;
2. Roadway surface and stability;
3. Weight-bearing capacity;
4. Vertical and horizontal clearance;
5. Overhead utility lines, tree limbs, structures, and other obstructions;
6. Roadway grade and slope;

7. Curves, intersections, and sight distance;
8. Bridges, culverts, drainage structures, and other infrastructure;
9. Availability and adequacy of turnaround areas;
10. Ability to enter and exit without excessive backing;
11. Traffic volume and speed;
12. Roadside shoulders, ditches, embankments, and terrain;
13. Seasonal or weather-related conditions;
14. Accessibility for employees physically handling roll carts;
15. Potential for damage to County equipment, roadways, or private property; and
16. Any other condition affecting safe and reasonable collection.

The County may consider the dimensions, weight, turning requirements, stopping distance, ground clearance, and other operating characteristics of the collection equipment actually assigned to the route.

14.5 Turnaround Requirements

County collection vehicles shall not be required to enter a road, driveway, lane, or other location from which the vehicle cannot safely exit or turn around.

Where access requires a turnaround, the turnaround must be of sufficient size, surface condition, clearance, and stability to accommodate the County's collection equipment.

The County shall not be required to routinely back a collection vehicle for an excessive distance or perform repeated backing maneuvers when Administration determines that such operation creates an unnecessary safety risk.

Where adequate turnaround space is unavailable, the County may establish a Collection Point at another accessible location.

14.6 Private Road Access Authorization

Where Cherokee County agrees to provide collection by entering a Private Road, the County may require the property owner, homeowners' association, road association, easement holder, or other responsible party to execute an access authorization, waiver, or other documentation in a form approved by the County.

Such documentation may address:

- Permission for County employees and equipment to enter the property;
- Acknowledgment of the size and weight of County collection equipment;
- Roadway maintenance responsibilities;
- Damage to inadequately constructed or maintained private roads;
- Gates and access restrictions;
- Turnaround requirements;

- Vegetation and overhead clearance;
- Indemnification or liability provisions to the extent permitted by law; and
- The County's right to discontinue entry when conditions become unsafe or unsuitable.

Authorization to enter a Private Road may be reviewed, modified, suspended, or revoked whenever roadway conditions or operational circumstances change.

14.7 Maintenance of Private Roads

Cherokee County shall not be responsible for constructing, improving, grading, repairing, resurfacing, widening, clearing, or otherwise maintaining a Private Road solely to make the road suitable for residential solid waste collection.

The owner or party responsible for a Private Road shall be responsible for maintaining the roadway, turnaround areas, vegetation, overhead clearance, drainage features, and other conditions necessary for authorized County access.

If a previously approved Private Road deteriorates or otherwise becomes unsafe or unsuitable for County collection equipment, the County may discontinue vehicle entry and establish an alternative Collection Point until acceptable conditions are restored.

14.8 Gates and Restricted Access

County collection personnel shall not be required to unlock gates, maintain private gate codes, open or close secured access points, or otherwise assume responsibility for controlling access to private property unless specifically authorized through an approved collection arrangement.

Where a gate or other access restriction prevents collection, Cherokee County may require carts to be placed at an accessible Collection Point outside the restricted area.

The County may establish administrative procedures for locations where controlled access is operationally necessary and can be safely accommodated.

14.9 Collection Points

Cherokee County may establish or approve a Collection Point when collection immediately adjacent to an eligible Residential Service Unit is unsafe, inaccessible, impracticable, or operationally unreasonable.

A Collection Point may be established:

1. At the intersection of a Private Road and public roadway;
2. At an accessible location along a public roadway;
3. At the entrance to a subdivision or development;
4. At a location serving multiple eligible Residential Service Units;
5. At a location that eliminates unsafe backing or vehicle maneuvering;
6. At a location that provides safer employee access to roll carts; or

7. At another location determined by the County to provide safe and efficient collection.

A Collection Point does not alter the eligibility of the Residential Service Units utilizing that location.

14.10 Shared Collection Points

Cherokee County may designate a Shared Collection Point for two or more eligible Residential Service Units when individual collection locations cannot be safely or reasonably serviced.

The County may establish requirements governing:

- Number and placement of carts;
- Identification of carts or Residential Service Units;
- Spacing and organization of carts;
- Timing of cart placement and removal;
- Prevention of obstruction;
- Maintenance of the collection area; and
- Other requirements necessary for safe and orderly collection.

Use of a Shared Collection Point shall not combine otherwise separate Residential Service Units for Fee purposes. Each participating eligible Residential Service Unit remains subject to the applicable Fee.

14.11 Employee Access to Carts

Because Cherokee County residential collection requires County employees to physically access and maneuver roll carts, Service Locations and Collection Points shall provide reasonably safe employee access.

Employees shall not be required to routinely:

1. Enter the traveled portion of a high-speed roadway unnecessarily;
2. Cross deep drainage ditches;
3. Climb or descend steep embankments;
4. Traverse unstable, muddy, flooded, icy, or otherwise hazardous terrain;
5. Move carts through excessive vegetation;
6. Cross unsafe bridges, walkways, or structures;
7. Enter areas containing uncontrolled or aggressive animals;
8. Move vehicles, equipment, or substantial personal property;
9. Enter enclosed structures or secured areas; or
10. Encounter another Unsafe Condition in order to retrieve a roll cart.

When such conditions exist, Cherokee County may require use of an alternative Service Location or Collection Point.

14.12 Temporary Roadway Conditions

Cherokee County may temporarily suspend, relocate, or modify collection when access is affected by:

- Road construction;
- Utility work;
- Flooding;
- Storm damage;
- Ice or other severe weather;
- Fallen trees or vegetation;
- Bridge or culvert conditions;
- Emergency response activity;
- Road closure;
- Mud or unstable surfaces;
- Construction equipment or other obstructions; or
- Other temporary Unsafe Conditions.

Residents may be directed to utilize a temporary Collection Point until normal access can be safely restored.

A temporary modification of collection because of roadway or access conditions shall not alter the underlying eligibility of a Residential Service Unit or independently create entitlement to a reduction, proration, credit, or refund of the Fee.

14.13 Authority of Collection Personnel

County collection personnel may decline to enter a roadway or location or may decline to service a cart when, based upon conditions encountered in the field, the employee reasonably determines that proceeding would create an immediate safety risk.

Employees shall report recurring or significant access concerns to the appropriate supervisor for further evaluation.

A field safety decision made by collection personnel may be reviewed by the Solid Waste Collections Manager, Public Works Director, County Administrator, or designee, as appropriate.

14.14 Modification or Discontinuation of Existing Access

Historical operation of a County collection vehicle upon a particular public road, Private Road, driveway, easement, or other location shall not create a continuing or vested right to County vehicle access.

Cherokee County may modify or discontinue vehicle access when:

1. Roadway conditions deteriorate;
2. Collection equipment changes;
3. A previously available turnaround becomes unavailable;
4. Vegetation or utilities reduce required clearance;
5. Traffic or development patterns change;
6. Safety concerns are identified;
7. Private access permission is withdrawn or modified;
8. The location no longer satisfies County operational standards; or
9. Other circumstances make continued access unsafe or operationally unreasonable.

When reasonably practicable, the County shall identify an alternative Collection Point for affected eligible Residential Service Units.

14.15 No County Acceptance or Maintenance Obligation

The provision of residential solid waste collection upon or adjacent to a Private Road shall not constitute:

- Acceptance of the road into the County road system;
- A determination that the road satisfies County road standards;
- An agreement by Cherokee County to maintain or improve the road;
- An assumption of ownership or control of the road;
- A representation concerning the road's suitability for other governmental vehicles or purposes; or
- The creation of a public right-of-way or public road.

14.16 Administrative Authority

The County Administrator or designee may establish additional administrative procedures, forms, roadway-access criteria, private-road agreements, collection-point standards, maps, diagrams, and operational requirements necessary to implement this Section.

Operational determinations may be made by the Solid Waste Collections Manager, Public Works Director, or other authorized personnel within the scope of authority delegated by the County Administrator.

15. Collection Schedules and Missed Collections

15.1 Establishment of Collection Schedules

Cherokee County shall establish collection routes and regularly scheduled Collection Days for eligible Residential Service Units.

Collection routes, days, frequencies, and operational schedules may be established or modified by the County Administrator or designee based upon route efficiency, available personnel and equipment, disposal operations, roadway conditions, service demand, safety, growth, or other legitimate operational considerations.

Assignment to a particular Collection Day, route, or collection sequence shall not create a vested or continuing right to that particular schedule or route.

15.2 Standard Collection Frequency

Cherokee County shall provide residential curbside collection at the frequency established by the County for Standard Residential Collection Service.

The County may modify collection frequency or scheduling when reasonably necessary because of holidays, emergencies, severe weather, equipment availability, staffing, route restructuring, disposal-facility operations, or other circumstances affecting the residential collection system.

Any material or long-term change in the standard level of residential collection service shall be communicated to affected residents in a manner determined appropriate by the County.

15.3 Collection Day Does Not Guarantee Collection Time

A designated Collection Day establishes the day on which a Residential Service Unit is scheduled for collection but does not guarantee collection at a particular time.

Collection times may vary because of route sequencing, waste volume, equipment assignments, staffing, traffic, roadway conditions, weather, operational delays, or other circumstances.

Historical collection at a particular time of day shall not create a right or expectation that collection will occur at the same time on subsequent Collection Days.

Residents shall therefore present carts by the placement deadline established by Cherokee County rather than relying upon the customary arrival time of the collection vehicle.

15.4 Cart Placement Deadline

Residents shall place authorized roll carts at the approved Service Location or Collection Point no later than the time established by Cherokee County for the applicable Collection Day.

The County Administrator or designee may establish and modify the required placement time through administrative procedures or public guidance without amendment of this Policy.

A cart placed for collection after the County collection vehicle has already serviced the applicable location shall not constitute a Missed Collection.

15.5 Holidays

Cherokee County may modify residential collection schedules because of County-observed holidays or closures.

When a holiday affects the normal collection schedule, the County may delay, advance, combine, or otherwise modify routes as operationally necessary.

The County shall make reasonable efforts to communicate significant holiday-related schedule changes through appropriate public-information channels.

15.6 Weather, Emergencies, and Other Operational Delays

Residential collection may be delayed, modified, relocated, or temporarily suspended because of:

1. Severe weather;
2. Flooding, ice, snow, high winds, or storm damage;
3. Declared emergencies;
4. Road closures or unsafe roadway conditions;
5. Equipment failure or maintenance;
6. Disposal or transfer facility closures or interruptions;
7. Staffing or operational limitations;
8. Utility or construction activity;
9. Emergency-response operations;
10. Unsafe Conditions; or
11. Other circumstances that reasonably interfere with safe or efficient collection.

When practical, Cherokee County shall resume affected collection as operational conditions permit.

A temporary delay, interruption, or modification of collection under this Section shall not alter the underlying eligibility of the Residential Service Unit or, by itself, create entitlement to a reduction, proration, credit, or refund of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

15.7 Definition of a Missed Collection

For purposes of this Policy, a **Missed Collection** occurs when Cherokee County fails to collect an authorized roll cart from an eligible Residential Service Unit during the applicable collection period when:

1. The cart was placed at the approved Service Location or Collection Point by the required placement time;
2. The cart was properly prepared and accessible for collection;
3. The cart contained only materials authorized for residential collection;
4. The cart complied with applicable weight, capacity, and preparation requirements;
5. No Obstruction or Unsafe Condition prevented collection;
6. Collection service had not been properly suspended or modified; and

7. The applicable route was otherwise serviced.

15.8 Circumstances that do not Constitute a Missed Collection

A cart shall not be considered a Missed Collection attributable to Cherokee County when collection did not occur because:

1. The cart was not presented by the required placement time;
2. The cart was placed at an improper or unauthorized location;
3. The cart was obstructed or inaccessible;
4. The cart was overloaded or could not be safely handled by collection personnel;
5. Waste was placed outside the authorized roll cart;
6. The cart contained Prohibited Materials or improperly prepared waste;
7. The cart or surrounding area presented an Unsafe Condition;
8. An aggressive or uncontrolled animal interfered with safe collection;
9. Roadway or property access was unsafe or unavailable;
10. The resident failed to comply with applicable cart-placement requirements;
11. Collection was temporarily suspended because of a violation of this Policy;
12. The cart was presented after the collection vehicle had already serviced the location;
13. The property was not eligible for residential collection; or
14. Another condition attributable to the property, resident, occupant, or collection location prevented collection in accordance with this Policy.

15.9 Reporting a Missed Collection

Residents must report a suspected Missed Collection to Cherokee County within the reporting period established by the County.

Reports must include sufficient information to allow staff to identify and investigate the service location, which may include the property address, resident contact information, scheduled Collection Day, location of the cart, and other information reasonably requested by the County.

Missed collections should be reported via the Cherokee County website Missed Collections Online Form within 48 hours of the missed collection.

15.10 Investigation of Reported Missed Collections

Cherokee County may review available information to determine whether a reported collection issue constitutes a Missed Collection.

The County may consider:

- Route and driver records;
- Vehicle location or routing information;

- Employee observations;
- Photographs or video, if available;
- Cart placement and condition;
- Service Location information;
- Roadway or weather conditions;
- Prior collection violations;
- Resident-provided information; and
- Other reasonably available operational records.

A resident's report of an uncollected cart shall not, by itself, establish that a Missed Collection occurred.

15.11 Recovery of Confirmed Missed Collections

When Cherokee County determines that a Missed Collection attributable to the County occurred, the County shall make reasonable efforts to provide recovery collection as operationally practicable.

Recovery collection may occur through a return trip, subsequent route, designated recovery route, next available collection opportunity, or another method determined appropriate by the County.

Cherokee County does not guarantee same-day or next-day recovery of a Missed Collection.

In determining when recovery collection can reasonably occur, the County may consider route location, personnel and equipment availability, disposal-facility hours, safety, operational efficiency, and other service demands.

15.12 Route-Wide or Area-Wide Delays

When an entire route, substantial portion of a route, roadway, or geographic area is not completed because of an operational interruption, the uncollected locations shall be considered part of a delayed or incomplete route rather than individual Missed Collections.

Cherokee County may continue or resume the affected route as personnel, equipment, roadway conditions, disposal operations, and other circumstances permit.

Residents must leave properly prepared carts at the approved Service Location when the County has communicated that delayed collection will resume from an overall county perspective or from a route-specific perspective, unless otherwise instructed.

15.13 Repeated Reports of Missed Collection

When a Residential Service Unit repeatedly reports Missed Collections, Cherokee County may review the Service Location, cart placement, route records, roadway conditions, collection procedures, or other circumstances to determine whether an underlying service issue exists.

The County may designate or modify the Service Location or Collection Point, provide placement instructions, modify operational procedures, or take other reasonable action to address recurring collection issues.

15.14 Missed Collection Does Not Authorize Improper Disposal

A delayed or Missed Collection shall not authorize a resident to place household waste beside the roadway, outside an authorized roll cart, upon another property, at an unauthorized location, or otherwise dispose of waste in violation of County ordinance, this Policy, or applicable law.

Residents shall continue to comply with applicable waste-storage and collection requirements pending recovery or the next authorized collection opportunity.

15.15 Fee Not Dependent Upon Individual Collection Events

The Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee supports the availability, administration, collection, transportation, and disposal components of the County's residential solid waste system for eligible Residential Service Units.

An isolated Missed Collection, delayed collection, incomplete route, temporary service interruption, holiday schedule modification, weather-related delay, equipment failure, or similar operational occurrence shall not alter the underlying eligibility of a Residential Service Unit and shall not independently create entitlement to a reduction, proration, credit, or refund of the annual Fee.

Nothing in this Section shall prevent Cherokee County from correcting an erroneous Fee assessment as otherwise authorized under this Policy.

15.16 Communication of Significant Service Interruptions

When reasonably practicable, Cherokee County may provide public notice of significant route delays, widespread service interruptions, holiday schedule changes, emergency modifications, or other material collection issues through the County's website, social media platforms, public notices, direct communications, or other methods determined appropriate by the County.

Failure to provide individual notice to each affected resident shall not independently create a right to a Fee adjustment or other remedy.

15.17 Administrative Authority

The County Administrator or designee may establish administrative procedures necessary to implement this Section, including:

1. Collection schedules and placement deadlines;
2. Holiday schedules;
3. Procedures for reporting Missed Collections;
4. Reporting deadlines;

5. Methods for documenting route completion;
6. Investigation procedures;
7. Recovery-collection practices;
8. Procedures for incomplete or delayed routes;
9. Resident notification procedures; and
10. Other operational requirements consistent with this Policy.

Operational decisions may be delegated to the Public Works Director, Solid Waste Collections Manager, or other authorized personnel.

16. Acceptable and Prohibited Waste

16.1 Purpose

This Section establishes the types of waste authorized for collection through Cherokee County's residential curbside solid waste collection program and identifies materials that are excluded or prohibited from Standard Residential Collection Service.

Residential curbside collection is intended for ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste generated through normal day-to-day residential activities at an eligible Residential Service Unit.

Payment of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee does not entitle a property to unlimited collection or to collection of materials outside the scope of Standard Residential Collection Service.

16.2 Acceptable Residential Waste

Unless otherwise restricted by this Policy or applicable law, Standard Residential Collection Service may include ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste such as:

1. Bagged household garbage;
2. Food waste and ordinary kitchen refuse;
3. Non-recyclable household packaging;
4. Paper and similar household waste;
5. Small disposable household items capable of being safely contained within the authorized roll cart; and
6. Other ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste approved for collection by Cherokee County.

Acceptable waste must be generated from normal residential activity associated with the eligible Residential Service Unit receiving service.

16.3 Waste Must be Contained Within the Roll Cart

All waste presented for Standard Residential Collection Service shall be placed entirely within a County-issued or County-authorized roll cart unless otherwise specifically authorized by Cherokee County.

Waste shall not be placed beside, behind, or on top of the roll cart.

The cart lid must be capable of closing substantially over the contents, and waste shall not protrude from the cart in a manner that prevents safe handling or emptying.

Bags, boxes, furniture, loose waste, or other materials placed outside the authorized roll cart are not included in Standard Residential Collection Service unless the County has expressly established another collection program for such materials.

16.4 Bagging of Household Waste

Household garbage shall be securely bagged before being placed in the roll cart when reasonably necessary to prevent loose waste, leakage, litter, odors, employee exposure, or unsanitary conditions.

Loose household garbage that creates an unsafe or unsanitary condition may be refused for collection.

Nothing in this Section prohibits clean, nonhazardous items that do not reasonably require bagging from being placed directly into the cart when otherwise acceptable under this Policy.

16.5 Prohibited Materials

The following materials shall not be placed in a residential roll cart or presented for Standard Residential Collection Service:

1. Hazardous waste or hazardous materials;
2. Flammable, explosive, reactive, corrosive, toxic, or otherwise dangerous materials;
3. Hot ashes, burning materials, or smoldering materials;
4. Construction and Demolition Debris;
5. Concrete, brick, block, stone, asphalt, dirt, soil, or similar heavy materials;
6. Roofing materials;
7. Lumber or building materials;
8. Tires;
9. Automotive parts, engines, transmissions, or similar heavy mechanical components;
10. Lead-acid batteries or other batteries requiring special handling or disposal;
11. Used motor oil, fuels, antifreeze, or other automotive fluids;
12. Paints, solvents, pesticides, chemicals, or similar regulated materials when prohibited from disposal as Municipal Solid Waste;

13. Medical waste, sharps, biohazardous waste, or other regulated medical materials, except ordinary household-generated materials lawfully permitted for disposal and properly prepared in accordance with applicable requirements;
14. Propane cylinders, compressed-gas cylinders, or similar pressurized containers;
15. Appliances or other Bulk Items;
16. Furniture, mattresses, box springs, or similar Bulk Waste;
17. Yard Waste or land-clearing debris;
18. Tree limbs, logs, stumps, brush, or similar vegetative material;
19. Dead animals or animal carcasses;
20. Commercial, industrial, institutional, governmental, nonprofit, or organizational waste;
21. Cleanout Waste or extraordinary quantities of accumulated waste;
22. Waste that is too large, heavy, sharp, unstable, leaking, or otherwise unsafe for County employees to handle through normal collection procedures;
23. Any material prohibited from disposal at the facility utilized by Cherokee County; and
24. Any other material prohibited by federal or state law, County ordinance, this Policy, disposal-facility requirements, or administrative procedures established by Cherokee County.

16.6 Construction and Demolition Debris

Construction and Demolition Debris is not included in Standard Residential Collection Service regardless of whether the work generating the material was performed by the property owner, resident, tenant, contractor, or another person.

Examples include, but are not limited to:

- Lumber;
- Drywall;
- Roofing shingles and roofing materials;
- Flooring;
- Cabinets and countertops;
- Plumbing fixtures;
- Doors and windows;
- Insulation;
- Concrete, brick, block, or masonry;
- Siding;
- Fencing materials; and
- Debris resulting from construction, remodeling, renovation, repair, or demolition.

The fact that C&D Debris was generated at an eligible residence does not convert the material into ordinary residential Municipal Solid Waste.

16.7 Yard Waste and Vegetative Debris

Yard Waste, land-clearing debris, tree limbs, brush, logs, stumps, grass clippings, leaves, and similar vegetative materials are not included in Standard Residential Collection Service and shall not be placed in residential roll carts when prohibited by County disposal or operational requirements.

Residents shall utilize lawful disposal methods or other County services made available for such materials.

Eligibility for residential curbside collection does not establish eligibility for unlimited or separate curbside collection of Yard Waste or vegetative debris.

16.8 Bulk Waste

Bulk Waste and Bulk Items are not included in Standard Residential Collection Service unless Cherokee County expressly establishes or authorizes a separate collection program.

Furniture, mattresses, box springs, appliances, large household furnishings, and similar items shall not be placed beside a residential roll cart with the expectation of collection through the regular residential route.

The availability of a County convenience center, landfill service, special collection program, or other disposal option for a Bulk Item does not mean that the item is eligible for residential curbside collection.

16.9 Commercial and Nonresidential Waste

County residential roll carts and residential curbside collection shall not be used for waste generated by a commercial, business, industrial, institutional, governmental, nonprofit, religious, agricultural, or other nonresidential activity.

Where an eligible Residential Service Unit exists on a Mixed-Use Property, only ordinary household waste generated by the eligible residential use may be presented for residential collection.

Waste generated by the nonresidential use shall be managed separately through an appropriate lawful disposal method.

16.10 Rental Properties, Move-Outs, and Evictions

Ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste generated through normal occupancy of an eligible rental residence may be collected through Standard Residential Collection Service.

However, extraordinary quantities of waste resulting from tenant move-outs, evictions, foreclosures, estate cleanouts, abandoned-property removal, rental-property turnover, or similar activities are not considered ordinary weekly household waste merely because they originate from an eligible Residential Service Unit.

Such waste shall be subject to the Bulk Waste, Cleanouts, Evictions & Excess Waste provisions of this Policy.

16.11 Weight and Safe Handling

A residential roll cart shall not be loaded in a manner that makes the cart unsafe or unreasonable for County employees to maneuver, position, or empty through normal collection procedures.

The County may refuse collection of a cart containing excessive weight or unusually dense materials when collection personnel reasonably determine that handling or emptying the cart could:

1. Injure an employee;
2. Damage the roll cart;
3. Damage the collection vehicle or lifting equipment;
4. Cause the cart to overturn or become unstable; or
5. Otherwise create an Unsafe Condition.

The County Administrator or designee may establish maximum cart weights or other operational limitations through administrative procedures.

16.12 Sharp Objects and Potential Employee Hazards

Residents shall not place exposed sharp objects, broken glass, needles, blades, metal edges, or other materials in a roll cart in a manner that creates an unreasonable risk of injury to County employees.

Household-generated sharp or breakable materials that may lawfully be disposed of as Municipal Solid Waste shall be securely contained or packaged in a manner appropriate to prevent employee exposure or injury.

Regulated sharps, medical waste, hazardous materials, and other materials requiring specialized disposal shall not be collected through the residential program except as expressly permitted by applicable law and County procedures.

16.13 Liquids and Leaking Waste

Free liquids, leaking containers, uncontained fluids, or waste that may spill, splash, or expose County employees to unknown substances shall not be presented for residential collection.

Ordinary household waste containing incidental moisture may be collected when securely bagged or otherwise contained and when it does not create an Unsafe Condition.

16.14 Hot Ashes and Combustible Materials

Hot ashes, burning materials, smoldering materials, fireworks, explosives, fuels, or other materials capable of causing fire, explosion, or injury shall not be placed in a residential roll cart.

Ashes or similar materials that may otherwise be lawfully disposed of as Municipal Solid Waste must be completely extinguished, cooled, and safely contained before disposal.

16.15 Contaminated Cart

When Prohibited Materials are observed in a roll cart before collection, County personnel may decline to empty the entire cart.

The resident shall remove the prohibited material and properly prepare the cart before the cart becomes eligible for collection.

County personnel shall not be required to sort through, remove, separate, or otherwise handle Prohibited Materials from a resident's roll cart in order to collect the remaining contents.

16.16 Discovery of Prohibited Material After Collection

If Prohibited Material is discovered after the contents of a roll cart have been loaded into County collection equipment, Cherokee County may take reasonable action necessary to protect employees, equipment, the public, disposal facilities, and the environment.

The County may investigate the source of the material and address the violation pursuant to the Collection Compliance and Non-Collection provisions of this Policy and any other applicable ordinance or law.

Nothing in this Policy shall require County employees to handle, transport, or dispose of material in a manner prohibited by law or inconsistent with applicable safety requirements.

16.17 Disposal Facility Requirements

All residential waste collected by Cherokee County remains subject to the acceptance requirements of the transfer station, landfill, disposal facility, processor, or other facility receiving the material.

Cherokee County may prohibit or restrict materials from residential collection when required by:

- Applicable federal or state law or regulation;
- Permit conditions;
- Disposal-facility requirements;
- Contractual disposal requirements;
- Equipment limitations;
- Employee or public safety; or
- Other legitimate operational considerations.

16.18 Alternative Disposal Options

The exclusion of material from Standard Residential Collection Service does not necessarily mean that the material is prohibited from all Cherokee County solid waste facilities or programs.

Certain materials may be accepted at a County landfill, convenience center, recycling location, special collection event, or other designated facility subject to applicable operating requirements and fees.

Residents are responsible for determining the appropriate lawful disposal method for materials not accepted through residential curbside collection.

16.19 No Right to Collection Based on Prior Practice

Historical collection of a particular material, occasional collection by County personnel, or collection resulting from mistake or inconsistent past practice shall not establish a continuing right to collection of material that is prohibited or excluded under this Policy.

16.20 Administrative Authority

The County Administrator or designee may establish and periodically revise administrative procedures governing acceptable and prohibited waste when reasonably necessary to address:

1. Changes in federal or state law;
2. Disposal-facility requirements;
3. Safety considerations;
4. Changes in County equipment or collection methods;
5. Changes in available disposal or recycling programs;
6. Material-specific handling requirements; or
7. Other operational considerations.

Administrative procedures may provide additional examples of acceptable or prohibited materials but shall remain consistent with the general standards established by this Policy.

17. Bulk Waste, Cleanouts, Evictions, and Excess Waste

17.1 Purpose

This Section establishes the limitations applicable to Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, eviction-related waste, move-out waste, and other quantities of waste exceeding Standard Residential Collection Service.

Cherokee County residential curbside collection is intended for ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste generated through normal day-to-day residential activities. The Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee does not provide unlimited collection and does not include

removal of extraordinary quantities of waste, Bulk Waste, or Cleanout Waste except where specifically authorized by the County.

17.2 Bulk Waste Not Included in Standard Residential Collection

Bulk Waste and Bulk Items are not included in Standard Residential Collection Service.

Bulk Waste may include, but is not limited to:

1. Furniture;
2. Mattresses and box springs;
3. Large household furnishings;
4. Appliances;
5. Large household fixtures or equipment;
6. Items too large to fit safely within an authorized roll cart; and
7. Other materials that cannot reasonably be collected through the County's normal residential collection process.

Bulk Waste shall not be placed beside, behind, or on top of a residential roll cart with the expectation of collection.

The County has established separate programs, facilities, or disposal options for certain Bulk Waste, subject to applicable requirements and fees.

17.3 Cleanout Waste

Cleanout Waste is not included in Standard Residential Collection Service when the quantity or nature of the material substantially exceeds ordinary household waste generated through normal residential occupancy.

Cleanout Waste may include waste resulting from:

1. Whole-house or substantial household cleanouts;
2. Move-outs;
3. Evictions;
4. Foreclosures;
5. Estate cleanouts;
6. Abandoned-property cleanups;
7. Rental-property turnovers;
8. Removal of accumulated or stored household contents;
9. Property rehabilitation or preparation for sale or occupancy; or
10. Similar activities resulting in extraordinary quantities of waste.

The fact that Cleanout Waste originates from an otherwise eligible Residential Service Unit does not make the waste eligible for Standard Residential Collection Service.

17.4 Evictions and Tenant Move-Outs

Property owners, landlords, property managers, tenants, occupants, and other responsible parties shall be responsible for arranging lawful disposal of extraordinary waste generated as a result of an eviction, tenant move-out, abandonment, or rental-property turnover.

Ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste generated through normal residential occupancy may continue to be presented through Standard Residential Collection Service when otherwise compliant with this Policy.

However, furniture, mattresses, accumulated household contents, large quantities of bagged waste, materials removed from the dwelling, or other extraordinary waste generated through the process of vacating or clearing the property shall not be divided, staged, or placed for County residential collection in a manner intended to circumvent the limitations of Standard Residential Collection Service.

17.5 Estate and Property Cleanouts

Waste generated through an estate cleanout, property sale, foreclosure, long-term accumulation of household contents, or similar substantial cleanup shall be the responsibility of the property owner, estate, occupant, or other responsible party when the volume or nature of the waste exceeds Standard Residential Collection Service.

The County may require such material to be transported to an appropriate disposal facility or managed through a private waste hauler or other lawful disposal method.

17.6 Excess Waste

Waste exceeding the capacity or limitations of the authorized roll cart or carts assigned to a Residential Service Unit constitutes Excess Waste and is not included in Standard Residential Collection Service unless otherwise specifically authorized by Cherokee County.

Excess Waste includes:

1. Bags or loose waste placed beside the cart;
2. Waste placed on top of the cart;
3. Waste preventing the cart from being safely handled or emptied;
4. Waste exceeding applicable cart weight or capacity limitations;
5. Waste placed in unauthorized containers;
6. Extraordinary quantities of household waste; and
7. Waste intentionally accumulated for disposal over multiple collection periods when the quantity or circumstances demonstrate that the material constitutes Cleanout Waste or otherwise falls outside Standard Residential Collection Service.

17.7 Waste Must Fit Within Authorized Cart Capacity

Residents shall manage ordinary household waste within the capacity of the roll cart or carts authorized for the Residential Service Unit.

Waste presented for collection shall be contained within the authorized cart, and the cart shall not be overloaded or loaded in a manner that prevents safe handling or emptying.

Cherokee County shall not be required to collect waste placed in personal trash cans, barrels, boxes, bags, trailers, dumpsters, or other unauthorized containers as part of Standard Residential Collection Service.

17.8 Additional Roll Carts Do Not Expand the Type of Service

Where Cherokee County permits an eligible Residential Service Unit to obtain or utilize an additional authorized roll cart, the additional cart shall be subject to the same acceptable-waste, safety, capacity, and operational requirements applicable to the primary cart.

Authorization of an additional cart does not authorize disposal of Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, commercial waste, Construction and Demolition Debris, Prohibited Materials, or other waste excluded from Standard Residential Collection Service.

17.9 No Staging of Excess Waste for Incremental Collection

Waste that constitutes Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, or another excluded category shall not become eligible for Standard Residential Collection Service merely because the material is divided into smaller quantities or placed into an authorized roll cart over multiple Collection Days.

Cherokee County may consider the source, quantity, nature, frequency, and circumstances of waste generation when determining whether material constitutes ordinary household Municipal Solid Waste or excluded Cleanout or Excess Waste.

17.10 Construction, Remodeling, and Property Rehabilitation

Waste generated from construction, demolition, remodeling, renovation, repair, rehabilitation, or similar property-improvement activity is not included in Standard Residential Collection Service and shall be managed in accordance with Section 16 – Acceptable and Prohibited Waste.

Such material shall not become eligible for residential collection because:

- The work was performed by the homeowner rather than a contractor;
- The work occurred at an eligible Residential Service Unit;
- The material can physically fit inside a roll cart; or
- The material is divided into smaller quantities for disposal over time.

17.11 Responsibility for Lawful Disposal

The property owner, resident, tenant, landlord, property manager, estate, contractor, or other person responsible for generating or managing Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, Excess Waste, or other material excluded from Standard Residential Collection Service shall be responsible for arranging lawful disposal.

Depending upon the type of material, lawful disposal options may include:

1. A Cherokee County landfill or other County facility authorized to accept the material;
2. A Cherokee County Recycling location;
3. A private solid waste hauler;
4. A permitted disposal or recycling facility;
5. A roll-off container or dumpster service; or
6. Another lawful disposal method appropriate for the material.

Acceptance requirements, operating hours, fees, quantity limitations, and other conditions applicable to these disposal options are separate from Standard Residential Collection Service.

17.12 Landlord and Property Owner Responsibility

Eligibility of a rental property for residential curbside collection does not make Cherokee County responsible for property management, tenant turnover, eviction cleanup, removal of abandoned property, or preparation of a residence for subsequent occupancy.

The property owner or other responsible party shall arrange for removal and lawful disposal of waste exceeding Standard Residential Collection Service.

The Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee shall not be interpreted as a County cleanout, property-maintenance, or bulk-removal service.

17.13 County Personnel Not Required to Handle Excluded Waste

County collection personnel shall not be required to:

1. Load Bulk Waste into a collection vehicle;
2. Remove furniture, appliances, or other items from private property;
3. Pick up bags or loose waste placed outside an authorized cart;
4. Sort or separate Cleanout Waste;
5. Move excluded material to gain access to an otherwise authorized cart;
6. Enter a dwelling, garage, storage building, fenced area, or other structure to remove waste; or
7. Perform cleanout, loading, hauling, or property-maintenance services outside Standard Residential Collection Service.

17.14 Refusal of Collection

When a roll cart contains Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, Prohibited Materials, Excess Waste, or other material not eligible for Standard Residential Collection Service, Cherokee County may decline to empty the cart.

County personnel shall not be required to remove excluded materials from a cart in order to collect otherwise acceptable waste.

The resident or responsible party shall remove the excluded material and properly prepare the cart before collection resumes.

Repeated violations may be addressed pursuant to Section 19 Collection Compliance and Non-Collection.

17.15 Illegal Dumping and Unauthorized Placement

Nothing in this Section authorizes Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, Excess Waste, or other excluded material to be placed:

1. Within a public right-of-way except as specifically authorized;
2. At or around a residential Collection Point;
3. At a Shared Collection Point serving other Residential Service Units;
4. Beside County roll carts;
5. At a convenience or recycling location outside designated containers or operating requirements;
6. Upon County property except at a facility authorized to receive the material;
7. Upon another person's property without authorization; or
8. At any other unauthorized location.

Improper placement or abandonment of waste may be addressed under applicable County ordinances and state law in addition to this Policy.

17.16 Extraordinary Circumstances

The County Administrator or designee may authorize temporary or limited collection assistance outside Standard Residential Collection Service when extraordinary circumstances warrant such assistance and when it can be provided safely, legally, and within available County resources.

Any such authorization shall be discretionary, shall not establish a continuing entitlement to expanded service, and shall not modify the general service limitations established by this Policy.

17.17 No Right Created by Prior Collection

Historical or occasional collection of Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, Excess Waste, or other excluded material shall not create a continuing right to such collection.

Collection resulting from employee discretion, mistake, emergency circumstances, prior operating practices, or inconsistent enforcement shall not modify the Standard Residential Collection Service established by this Policy.

17.18 Fee Not Affected by Excluded Waste

The exclusion of Bulk Waste, Cleanout Waste, Excess Waste, eviction-related waste, or other materials from Standard Residential Collection Service shall not alter the underlying eligibility of a Residential Service Unit or reduce, prorate, credit, or refund the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The Fee supports the Standard Residential Collection Service and solid waste disposal system established by Cherokee County and does not constitute payment for unlimited disposal or collection of all waste generated at a property.

17.19 Administrative Authority

The County Administrator or designee may establish administrative procedures necessary to implement this Section, including:

1. Guidance for determining when waste exceeds normal residential generation;
2. Procedures for handling Bulk Waste and Cleanout Waste;
3. Guidance concerning rental-property and eviction cleanouts;
4. Additional-cart procedures;
5. Alternative disposal guidance;
6. Procedures for documenting repeated violations;
7. Temporary programs or special collection events; and
8. Other operational requirements consistent with this Policy.

18. Safety And Right to Refuse Collection

18.1 General Safety Standard

Cherokee County shall provide residential solid waste collection in a manner that reasonably protects County employees, residents, motorists, pedestrians, County equipment, private property, and the general public.

No provision of this Policy shall require a County employee to perform collection, enter a roadway or property, handle a roll cart, handle waste, or operate County equipment when the employee reasonably determines that an immediate Unsafe Condition exists.

Safety shall take precedence over completion of an individual collection when the two cannot reasonably be accomplished together.

18.2 Authority to Refuse or Defer Collection

County collection personnel may refuse or defer collection at a particular Residential Service Unit, Service Location, Collection Point, roadway, or other location when conditions encountered at the time of collection create an unreasonable risk of:

1. Injury to a County employee or member of the public;
2. Collision or other traffic-related incident;
3. Damage to County vehicles or equipment;
4. Damage to public or private property;
5. Exposure to hazardous, dangerous, or unknown materials;
6. Animal attack or other animal-related injury; or
7. Another material safety hazard.

An employee shall not be required to obtain prior supervisory approval before declining collection when an immediate safety concern is encountered in the field.

18.3 Examples of Unsafe Conditions

Unsafe Conditions may include, but are not limited to:

- Aggressive, uncontrolled, or threatening animals;
- Excessive or unsafe vehicular traffic;
- Unsafe cart placement;
- Carts requiring employees to unnecessarily enter or remain within the traveled portion of a roadway;
- Blind curves, hills, or inadequate sight distance;
- Flooded, icy, muddy, unstable, washed-out, or otherwise unsafe surfaces;
- Deep drainage ditches or steep embankments;
- Unsafe bridges or culverts;
- Inadequate roadway width or clearance;
- Low-hanging utility lines, trees, limbs, structures, or other overhead obstructions;
- Inadequate turnaround areas;
- Conditions requiring unsafe or excessive backing of a collection vehicle;
- Construction zones or roadway work;
- Fallen trees or other roadway obstructions;
- Fire, smoke, downed utilities, or emergency conditions;
- Hazardous, leaking, sharp, hot, burning, explosive, or otherwise dangerous materials;
- Excessively heavy or overloaded carts;
- Damaged or unstable roll carts;
- Loose waste or other materials presenting an employee hazard;
- Threatening, abusive, violent, or physically interfering conduct by any person; or

- Any other condition that County personnel reasonably determine prevents collection from being performed safely.

The existence of a condition on this list does not automatically require refusal of collection when the condition can reasonably be addressed without creating an Unsafe Condition.

18.4 Employee Handling of Roll Carts

Because Cherokee County collection personnel physically access and maneuver residential roll carts, residents shall maintain a reasonably safe path of access between the collection vehicle and the cart.

County personnel shall not be required to:

1. Cross deep drainage ditches;
2. Climb or descend steep or unstable embankments;
3. Traverse flooded, muddy, icy, excessively overgrown, or otherwise hazardous terrain;
4. Move vehicles, trailers, equipment, or substantial personal property;
5. Enter garages, residences, storage buildings, fenced enclosures, or other structures;
6. Reach through or climb over fences, gates, or other barriers;
7. Maneuver carts through conditions that create an unreasonable risk of employee injury;
8. Handle a cart that is excessively heavy, damaged, unstable, or otherwise unsafe; or
9. Enter another location presenting an Unsafe Condition.

When practical, the resident may be directed to relocate the cart to a safer Service Location or Collection Point.

18.5 Animals

Residents shall keep dogs and other animals under reasonable control and sufficiently separated from County collection personnel during collection.

County personnel may refuse or defer collection when an animal is loose, aggressive, threatening, inadequately restrained, or otherwise creates a reasonable concern for employee safety.

County personnel shall not be required to enter a fenced area, enclosure, yard, or other location containing an animal in order to retrieve or service a roll cart.

Repeated animal-related safety issues may result in designation of an alternative Service Location or other action under this Policy.

18.6 Traffic and Roadside Safety

Roll carts shall be presented at a location that permits County employees to access and maneuver the cart without unreasonable exposure to vehicular traffic.

County personnel shall not be required to stand, walk, or maneuver carts within an unsafe portion of the traveled roadway when a safer Collection Point can reasonably be established.

Where traffic speed, traffic volume, roadway geometry, sight distance, shoulder conditions, terrain, or other circumstances make conventional roadside collection unsafe, Cherokee County may designate an alternative Service Location or Collection Point pursuant to Section 14.

18.7 Unsafe Waste or Cart Contents

County personnel may refuse to handle or empty a roll cart when the contents are reasonably believed to contain:

1. Prohibited Materials;
2. Hazardous or unknown substances;
3. Exposed sharp objects;
4. Hot, burning, or smoldering materials;
5. Flammable, explosive, corrosive, reactive, or toxic materials;
6. Leaking liquids or substances;
7. Biohazardous or regulated medical waste;
8. Excessively heavy materials;
9. Materials protruding from the cart in an unsafe manner; or
10. Other contents presenting an unreasonable risk to employees or equipment.

County employees shall not be required to open bags, sort through waste, reach into a roll cart, or remove unsafe or prohibited materials in order to collect the remaining contents.

18.8 Overloaded or Unsafe Roll Carts

A roll cart may be refused for collection when it is overloaded or otherwise prepared in a manner that prevents employees from safely maneuvering or emptying the cart through normal collection procedures.

In making this determination, County personnel may consider the apparent weight of the cart, stability, distribution of contents, condition of the cart, terrain, distance necessary to maneuver the cart, and other relevant circumstances.

Where practical, the resident shall be responsible for correcting the condition before the cart is presented for a subsequent collection.

18.9 Threatening or Interfering Conduct

County employees shall not be required to continue collection in the presence of threatening, violent, abusive, or physically interfering conduct that creates a reasonable concern for employee or public safety.

Collection personnel may leave the immediate location and report the incident to a supervisor.

When circumstances warrant, Cherokee County may contact law enforcement or take other action authorized by law.

Repeated or serious incidents may result in modification of the Service Location, refusal to enter the affected property or location while the Unsafe Condition continues, referral to law enforcement, or other action authorized by law or this Policy.

18.10 Immediate Field Safety Decisions

A decision by collection personnel to refuse or defer collection because of an immediate Unsafe Condition shall constitute an operational safety decision and shall not require advance approval.

Employees must document and report significant or recurring safety concerns to the Solid Waste Collections Manager or appropriate supervisor in accordance with County procedures.

An immediate field decision shall apply only as long as reasonably necessary to address the condition and shall not, by itself, constitute a permanent termination of an otherwise eligible Residential Service Unit.

18.11 Supervisory Review of Recurring Conditions

When an Unsafe Condition is recurring, permanent, or unlikely to be corrected before the next Collection Day, the Solid Waste Collections Manager or designee may evaluate the location and determine an appropriate corrective action.

Corrective action may include:

1. Providing instructions to the resident;
2. Requiring different cart placement;
3. Designating an alternative Service Location;
4. Establishing a Collection Point or Shared Collection Point;
5. Modifying County vehicle access;
6. Discontinuing entry onto a Private Road;
7. Requiring correction of an obstruction or other condition; or
8. Taking another reasonable action consistent with this Policy.

Significant or disputed operational determinations may be elevated to the Public Works Director or County Administrator or designee.

18.12 Continuing Unsafe Conditions

An individual refusal or deferral of collection because of an Unsafe Condition shall constitute an operational safety determination and shall not terminate the underlying eligibility of the Residential Service Unit.

When an Unsafe Condition continues or recurs, Cherokee County may continue to decline collection from the affected cart or location until the condition is corrected or may establish an alternative Service Location or Collection Point.

Once the condition preventing collection has been corrected, normal collection shall resume in accordance with this Policy.

18.13 Restoration of Collection

Collection that has been refused, modified, or suspended because of an Unsafe Condition may resume when Cherokee County determines that:

1. The Unsafe Condition has been corrected;
2. The cart has been properly prepared or relocated;
3. Roadway or access conditions have become safe;
4. An animal has been appropriately controlled;
5. Prohibited or hazardous material has been removed;
6. A safe alternative Collection Point has been established; or
7. Other necessary corrective action has been completed.

The County may inspect or otherwise verify correction of a recurring condition before restoring the prior method or location of collection.

18.14 County Not Required to Correct Private Conditions

Cherokee County shall not be responsible for correcting conditions on private property or Private Roads solely to enable residential collection.

The property owner, resident, homeowners' association, road association, or other responsible party shall be responsible, as applicable, for addressing vegetation, road conditions, obstructions, animals, gates, private bridges or culverts, turnaround areas, terrain, or other private conditions preventing safe collection.

Where correction is not reasonably practicable, the County may designate an alternative Collection Point.

18.15 Refusal of Collection Does Not Constitute a Missed Collection

Collection refused or deferred because of an Unsafe Condition, improper cart preparation, prohibited material, inaccessible location, resident-created obstruction, or other condition that prevents safe collection shall not constitute a Missed Collection attributable to Cherokee County.

When the condition is corrected, collection shall resume in accordance with County procedures and the applicable collection schedule.

18.16 Effect on Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee

Refusal or deferral of collection, or modification or relocation of a Collection Point, because of an Unsafe Condition or noncompliance with this Policy shall not alter the underlying eligibility of the Residential Service Unit.

Standard Residential Collection Service remains available upon correction of the condition preventing collection or through any alternative Service Location or Collection Point established by the County.

Such operational action shall not independently entitle the property owner or resident to a reduction, proration, credit, or refund of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

If conditions permanently change such that the underlying property itself no longer satisfies the eligibility requirements of this Policy, eligibility shall be separately determined under the applicable provisions of this Policy.

18.17 Employee Reporting of Safety Concerns

County collection personnel are encouraged and expected to report recurring, significant, or unusual safety hazards encountered during residential collection.

No employee shall be expected to disregard a reasonable safety concern solely for the purpose of completing a collection route.

Reports may be documented through photographs, route records, supervisor reports, vehicle systems, incident reports, or other methods established by the County.

18.18 Emergency Authority

Nothing in this Policy limits Cherokee County's authority to immediately suspend or modify collection operations during an emergency or when continued operations would create an unreasonable risk to employees or the public.

The County Administrator or designee may temporarily suspend, modify, relocate, or restrict residential collection in affected areas for such period as reasonably necessary to protect health and safety and maintain County operations.

18.19 No Continuing Right Created by Prior Collection

Prior collection under unsafe or noncompliant conditions shall not require Cherokee County to continue that practice.

The fact that County personnel previously entered a roadway, crossed a particular area, handled a particular cart, collected from a particular location, or otherwise provided service under

conditions later determined to be unsafe shall not create a continuing right to that collection method or location.

18.20 Administrative Authority

The County Administrator or designee may establish administrative procedures, safety standards, documentation requirements, inspection procedures, employee guidance, resident notices, and other requirements necessary to implement this Section.

The Solid Waste Collections Manager and Public Works Director may make operational safety determinations within the authority delegated to them by the County Administrator.

19. Collection Compliance & Non-Collection

19.1 General Standard

Cherokee County shall provide Standard Residential Collection Service to eligible Residential Service Units when waste is properly presented in accordance with this Policy.

A roll cart shall be eligible for collection when:

1. The cart is located at the approved Service Location or Collection Point;
2. The cart is reasonably accessible to County collection personnel;
3. The cart contains only waste authorized for Standard Residential Collection Service;
4. Waste is properly contained within the cart;
5. The cart is not overloaded or excessively heavy;
6. The cart and its contents can be safely handled by County personnel;
7. No Unsafe Condition prevents collection; and
8. The applicable requirements of this Policy have otherwise been satisfied.

19.2 Noncompliant Carts or Collection Conditions

Cherokee County may decline to collect a roll cart when the cart, its contents, its placement, or conditions surrounding collection do not comply with this Policy or prevent collection from being performed safely.

Reasons for non-collection may include:

- Prohibited Materials;
- Construction and Demolition Debris;
- Bulk Waste or Cleanout Waste;
- Excessive weight or overloading;
- Waste placed outside the authorized cart;
- Improper cart placement;

- Obstructed access;
- Unsafe roadway or terrain conditions;
- Uncontrolled or aggressive animals;
- Hazardous or sharp materials;
- Unsafe or damaged carts; or
- Other conditions inconsistent with this Policy.

Non-collection under this Section is an operational determination and is not a suspension or termination of the property's eligibility for Standard Residential Collection Service.

19.3 Correction and Subsequent Collection

A resident whose cart was not collected because of a noncompliant or unsafe condition may correct the condition and present the cart for collection on the next applicable Collection Day.

Once the condition preventing collection has been corrected, Cherokee County shall resume normal collection without requiring a separate application, reinstatement, waiting period, or other administrative action.

A prior instance of non-collection shall not prevent collection of a properly prepared cart on a subsequent Collection Day.

19.4 Continuing Noncompliance

If the condition that prevented collection has not been corrected when Cherokee County returns on a subsequent Collection Day, the County may again decline collection.

The County shall not be required to collect a noncompliant or unsafe cart merely because the same cart was declined for collection during a previous collection period.

Collection shall become available when the cart, waste, placement, access, and surrounding conditions comply with this Policy.

19.5 Notice of Reason for Non-Collection

When reasonably practicable, Cherokee County should provide the resident with notice explaining why a cart was not collected and what action is necessary for the cart to become eligible for collection.

Notice may be provided by a cart tag, door hanger, written notice, electronic communication, telephone communication, or other reasonable method.

Failure to receive or observe such notice shall not require County personnel to collect a cart that does not comply with this Policy.

19.6 No Requirement for County Personnel to Correct Violation

County collection personnel shall not be required to correct a condition created by the resident or property in order to complete collection.

County personnel shall not be required to:

- Remove Prohibited Materials from a cart;
- Sort through cart contents;
- Remove excess waste;
- Reduce the weight of an overloaded cart;
- Move improperly placed waste;
- Restrain an animal;
- Remove private property or other obstructions; or
- Otherwise correct a condition that is the responsibility of the resident or property owner.

The resident or responsible party shall correct the condition before collection can occur.

19.7 Recurring Noncompliance

When the same or similar collection problem repeatedly occurs at a Residential Service Unit, Cherokee County may provide additional written notice, contact the property owner or occupant, inspect the Service Location, or take other reasonable administrative action to assist in obtaining compliance.

Where the recurring problem relates to the physical location or manner of collection, the County may establish an alternative Service Location, Collection Point, or other reasonable collection arrangement.

Recurring noncompliance shall not, by itself, result in permanent loss of collection eligibility when the Residential Service Unit otherwise remains eligible under this Policy.

19.8 Serious or Unlawful Conduct

Nothing in this Section limits Cherokee County's authority to take appropriate action when circumstances involve illegal dumping, hazardous materials, intentional damage to County property, threats or violence against County employees, interference with County operations, or other conduct potentially violating County ordinance or state or federal law.

Such matters may be referred to law enforcement, code enforcement, the appropriate regulatory authority, or other County officials as applicable.

19.9 Effect on Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee

Non-collection of a cart because the cart, waste, placement, access, or surrounding conditions do not comply with this Policy shall not alter the underlying eligibility of the Residential Service Unit or assessment of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

Standard Residential Collection Service remains available to the Residential Service Unit upon correction of the condition preventing collection.

An instance of non-collection resulting from noncompliance with this Policy shall not constitute a Missed Collection attributable to Cherokee County.

20. County Disposal and Recycling Services

20.1 Purpose

Cherokee County operates an integrated solid waste system that extends beyond residential curbside collection. Approximately half of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee supports County disposal, recycling, landfill, transfer, convenience-center, environmental-compliance, equipment, transportation, and administrative operations.

The availability of these services provides lawful disposal options, supports recycling, protects public health and the environment, and reduces illegal dumping throughout Cherokee County.

20.2 Countywide Operations Supported

The County's broader solid waste operations include:

- Construction and Demolition Landfill operations;
- Required monitoring, methane management, maintenance, and other post-closure responsibilities for the County's former Municipal Solid Waste landfill;
- Residential limb and brush disposal operations;
- The Municipal Solid Waste convenience-center area at the County landfill;
- Transfer station operations and the consolidation, transportation, and disposal of Municipal Solid Waste;
- Processing and disposal of recyclable goods;
- Servicing 17 recycling convenience-center locations throughout Cherokee County; and
- The personnel, equipment, facilities, regulatory compliance, customer service, and administration necessary to operate these services.

20.3 Continued Resident Access

For the FY 2026–2027 tax year, Cherokee County residents may continue using available County disposal and recycling services at no general charge for ordinary residential quantities of accepted materials, including residents who voluntarily opt out of County curbside collection.

Facility rules, hours, residency requirements, accepted-material standards, quantity limitations, safety requirements, and item-specific charges remain in effect. Fees may apply to particular materials, including electronics and tires, and separate charges may apply to commercial, contractor, organizational, or unusually large loads.

20.4 Household Garbage Drop Off

Cherokee County residents may place ordinary household garbage in the designated Municipal Solid Waste containers located near the main entrance of the Cherokee County Landfill. Household garbage shall not be placed in the Construction and Demolition Landfill.

20.5 Construction Demolition Limb and Brush Disposal

The County landfill may accept residential Construction and Demolition Debris, limbs, brush, appliances, metal, concrete, asphalt, and other materials specifically authorized by County rules. Hazardous waste, asbestos, and other prohibited materials are not accepted. Residents are responsible for confirming acceptance requirements before transporting unusual materials.

20.6 Recycling Convenience Centers

Cherokee County services 17 recycling convenience-center locations. Accepted materials and available containers may vary by location. Residents shall separate recyclable materials, use the properly designated containers, and comply with posted rules. Waste, furniture, mattresses, Construction and Demolition Debris, and other unauthorized materials shall not be left outside the containers.

20.7 No Effect on Curbside Eligibility

Use of a County disposal or recycling facility does not create eligibility for residential curbside collection. Likewise, a property's ineligibility for curbside collection or a taxpayer's FY 2026–2027 voluntary opt-out does not, by itself, prohibit lawful resident use of County disposal or recycling services made available under this section.

20.8 Administrative Authority

Cherokee County may establish and revise facility locations, operating hours, accepted materials, quantity limits, user-verification procedures, safety standards, and item-specific fees without amending this Policy, provided that such changes are consistent with County Council's adopted budget and policy direction.

21. FY 2026–2027 Voluntary Opt-Out

21.1 Temporary Authorization

For the FY 2026–2027 tax year only, an eligible residential property taxpayer may choose not to participate in County residential curbside collection and may have the full \$222 Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee removed from the applicable property tax bill.

Cherokee County Council expects to review the residential collection program in January 2027 and determine the future structure of the service. This section does not create or guarantee an opt-out for any later tax year.

21.2 Voluntary Choice

An eligible residential property taxpayer may either continue County residential curbside collection and remain responsible for the Fee, or voluntarily opt out and discontinue County curbside collection at the property.

21.3 No Reason or Supporting Evidence Required

A taxpayer may opt out for any reason. The taxpayer is not required to establish hardship, vacancy, uninhabitability, use of a private hauler, non-use of County service, limited waste generation, or any other justification. Photographs, utility records, governmental findings, and similar supporting evidence are not required.

21.4 No Review Approval or Appeal

The voluntary opt-out is an election, not a waiver request. The County will not review the taxpayer's reason or issue a substantive approval, denial, or appeal decision. County staff will perform only the administrative steps necessary to confirm that the form is complete, timely, associated with the correct property, and submitted by the taxpayer or an authorized representative.

21.5 Submission Requirements

To opt out, the property taxpayer must:

- Wait until property tax bills for the FY 2026–2027 tax year have been issued;
- Complete the Cherokee County Voluntary Opt-Out Form;
- Submit the completed form in person to the Cherokee County Auditor's Office before the due date shown on the applicable property tax bill; and
- Surrender all County-issued roll carts assigned to the property in accordance with instructions provided by Cherokee County.

A telephone call, email, statement of non-use, use of a private collection company, or failure to place a cart at the roadway does not constitute an opt-out. The required form must be timely submitted in person.

21.6 Effect of Opting Out

After a timely and complete opt-out is processed:

- The full \$222 Fee will be removed from the applicable FY 2026–2027 property tax bill;
- County residential curbside collection will be discontinued at the property;
- The property will not receive weekly County curbside collection during the applicable service period;
- All County-issued roll carts must be surrendered; and
- The property owner or occupant will be responsible for arranging and paying for another lawful method of household garbage collection or disposal.

A property may not retain County curbside collection while having the Fee removed. Removal of the Fee and discontinuation of curbside service are inseparable under this temporary process.

21.7 Other County Disposal and Recycling Services

A resident who opts out may continue using County disposal and recycling services described in Section 20 at no general charge for ordinary residential quantities of accepted materials. All facility rules, operating hours, restrictions, residency requirements, and item-specific charges remain applicable.

21.8 Administration

The Auditor's Office shall receive the Voluntary Opt-Out Form and process removal of the Fee from the applicable property tax bill. The Auditor's Office shall provide opt-out information to Public Works so service records and collection routes may be updated and County-issued roll carts retrieved or returned.

The taxpayer is responsible for complete and accurate property information. The County may correct clerical or administrative errors necessary to apply the taxpayer's election to the proper tax account and service location. Such action is ordinary administration and does not create a separate review or appeal process.

22. Administrative Interpretation

22.1 Administrative Authority

The County Administrator, or designee, is authorized to interpret and administer this Policy as necessary to ensure the consistent, fair, and efficient operation of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Program.

Administrative interpretations shall be consistent with the purpose, definitions, eligibility standards, and policy direction established by Cherokee County Council.

22.2 Matters Not Specifically Addressed

It is recognized that property configurations, ownership arrangements, development patterns, governmental records, and other circumstances may arise that are not specifically addressed by this Policy.

When a circumstance is not expressly addressed, the County Administrator or designee may make a reasonable administrative determination based upon:

- The purpose and intent of this Policy;
- The definitions and eligibility standards contained herein;
- The property's use and applicable governmental records;
- Treatment of similarly situated properties;
- The residential nature of the County's collection program;
- The relationship between service eligibility and assessment of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee; and
- The need for safe, efficient, and consistent administration of the collection system.

22.3 Consistency Required

Administrative interpretations shall be applied consistently to similarly situated properties.

The County shall endeavor to avoid individual determinations that would result in substantially different treatment of properties with the same relevant characteristics.

Where an interpretation is expected to affect a significant number or category of properties, the County Administrator may establish a written administrative procedure or recommend an amendment to this Policy for consideration by County Council.

22.4 No Authority to Create Individual Exceptions

Administrative interpretation shall not include authority to waive, disregard, or create an individual exception to an eligibility requirement established by this Policy.

An administrative determination shall not be based solely upon:

- Financial hardship;

- Historical receipt of County collection;
- Historical non-assessment of the Fee;
- The identity of the property owner or occupant;
- Governmental, nonprofit, religious, charitable, or organizational status;
- Proximity to an existing collection route;
- Availability of a County roll cart;
- Convenience to the County or property owner; or
- A request for special consideration.

This section does not prohibit correction of factual, clerical, mapping, billing, or classification errors in accordance with this Policy.

22.5 Administrative Procedures

The County Administrator or designee may establish written administrative procedures, forms, guidelines, and internal processes necessary to implement this Policy.

Such procedures may address matters including:

- Eligibility verification;
- Property record review;
- Fee administration;
- Roll cart issuance and retrieval;
- Service commencement and termination;
- Documentation requirements;
- Recognized Property List maintenance;
- Fee adjustments and corrections;
- Coordination among County departments; and
- Other operational or administrative matters necessary to implement the Policy.

Administrative procedures may be modified as necessary without amendment of this Policy, provided that they do not materially change the eligibility standards adopted by County Council.

22.6 Coordination Among County Departments

Administration of this Policy may require coordination among multiple County offices and departments, including Administration, Public Works, Solid Waste Collections, Finance, the Assessor, Treasurer, Building Codes, GIS, and other applicable offices.

Each department shall retain responsibility for its respective governmental functions.

A determination made solely for purposes of this Policy shall not independently alter a property's assessed value, tax classification, legal use, permitting status, ownership, or other governmental classification outside of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Program.

22.7 Reliance on Governmental Records

The County Administrator or designee may reasonably rely upon official County and municipal records when administering this Policy.

Where records conflict, are incomplete, or appear inaccurate, Administration may seek additional documentation or verification as provided elsewhere in this Policy.

Nothing in this section requires the County to conduct an independent investigation of every property before relying upon governmental records maintained in the ordinary course of business.

22.8 Written Administrative Interpretations

The County Administrator may document significant or recurring administrative interpretations in writing to promote consistent application of this Policy.

Written interpretations may be maintained as administrative guidance for County staff but shall not supersede or amend the provisions of this Policy.

If a recurring issue demonstrates that a substantive change to the eligibility standards is necessary, the County Administrator may recommend an amendment to County Council.

22.9 Conflict with Policy

In the event of a conflict between an administrative procedure or interpretation and the express provisions of this Policy, this Policy shall control.

Any substantive change to the classes of properties eligible or ineligible for residential curbside collection shall require appropriate action by Cherokee County Council.

22.10 Questions of Law

Questions concerning the legal interpretation of this Policy, applicable County ordinances, state law, or other legal requirements may be referred to the Cherokee County Attorney for review and guidance.

Nothing contained in this section shall be construed as authorizing an administrative interpretation contrary to applicable law.

23. Annual Review

23.1 Purpose

Cherokee County shall periodically review the Residential Solid Waste Collection, Service, and Fee Administration Policy and associated administrative records to promote accurate, consistent, and efficient administration of residential curbside collection and the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

Because property uses, parcel records, development classifications, and County operations may change over time, eligibility records shall be reviewed and reconciled on a regular basis.

23.2 Annual Administrative Review

The County Administrator, or designee, shall coordinate administrative review of this Policy. Council expects to review the residential collection program in January 2027, including the legal, financial, operational, and administrative effects of the temporary FY 2026–2027 voluntary opt-out and the future structure of County collection service.

The annual review shall evaluate, as applicable:

- Accuracy of residential eligibility records;
- Properties added to or removed from the collection program;
- Changes in property use or status;
- Recognized Mobile Home Park records;
- Recognized RV Park records;
- Recognized Apartment and Multi-Family records;
- Recognized Townhome Development records;
- Commercial and nonresidential tax-exempt property classifications;
- Duplicate or erroneous Fee assessments identified during the prior year;
- Roll cart issuance and retrieval issues;
- Coordination between property records and Solid Waste Collections records;
- Administrative interpretations issued during the prior year; and
- Operational or policy issues that may warrant clarification or amendment.

23.3 Annual Reconciliation of Property Records

Prior to preparation of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee assessment for each applicable billing year, the County shall to the extent reasonably practicable, reconcile eligibility records with available governmental property records.

This process may include coordination among:

- County Administration;
- Solid Waste Collections;
- Public Works;

- Finance;
- Assessor;
- Treasurer;
- GIS;
- Building Codes; and
- Other County departments as necessary.

The purpose of the reconciliation shall be to identify material changes affecting eligibility before the annual Fee is assessed.

23.4 Review of Recognized Property Lists and Developments

As part of the annual review, Cherokee County shall review the Recognized Property List used to administer the Recognized Mobile Home Park, Recognized RV Park, Recognized Townhome Development, and Recognized Apartment or Multi-Family Development classifications and exclusions.

The County may coordinate with Cherokee County, the City of Gaffney, and the Town of Blacksburg, as appropriate, to identify documented changes to recognized developments.

The review shall identify, where applicable:

- Changes in tax map parcel numbers;
- Parcel combinations or subdivisions;
- Additions or removals of parcels officially associated with a recognized development;
- Closure of a recognized development;
- Lawful conversion of a development to another use; and
- Clerical or mapping corrections necessary to maintain accurate records.

The annual review shall not require Cherokee County to independently survey or investigate all properties throughout the County to identify developments not otherwise officially recognized under this Policy.

23.5 Review of Administrative Interpretations

The County Administrator or designee shall review significant or recurring administrative interpretations and implementation questions from the preceding year.

Where multiple cases demonstrate a recurring issue not adequately addressed by this Policy, Administration may:

- Establish consistent administrative guidance when the issue can be resolved within the existing Policy;
- Improve internal procedures or documentation;
- Recommend clarification of an existing provision; or

- Recommend an amendment to the Policy for consideration by Cherokee County Council when a substantive policy change is warranted.

23.6 Review of Fee Administration

The annual review may include coordination with the Finance Department, Treasurer, Assessor, and other appropriate offices to evaluate administration of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

This review may consider:

- Accuracy of Fee assessments;
- Billing and collection procedures;
- Adjustments, credits, and refunds;
- Newly eligible residential service units;
- Properties becoming ineligible;
- Duplicate assessments;
- Reconciliation between service and billing records; and
- Other administrative issues affecting accurate Fee collection.

23.7 Annual Fee Amount

The annual review of this Policy shall not establish the amount of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

The Fee amount shall be established by Cherokee County Council through the annual budget process or other lawful action.

A change in the amount of the Fee does not require amendment of this Policy unless County Council also changes the underlying eligibility standards or scope of the residential collection program.

23.8 Administrative Updates

The County Administrator or designee may make administrative updates that do not materially alter the eligibility standards established by this Policy.

Such updates may include:

- Corrections to tax map numbers;
- Address corrections;
- Updates to departmental names or responsibilities;
- Updates to forms or internal procedures;
- Maintenance of the Recognized Property List;

- Corrections of clerical or typographical errors; and
- Other nonsubstantive administrative changes necessary to maintain accurate implementation.

Administrative updates shall not be used to establish a new class of eligible or ineligible property.

23.9 Substantive Policy Changes

Any proposed change that would materially expand, restrict, or otherwise modify the classes of properties eligible for County-provided residential curbside collection shall be presented to Cherokee County Council for consideration.

Examples include changes affecting:

- Commercial property eligibility;
- Mobile Home Park eligibility;
- RV Park eligibility;
- Tax-exempt property eligibility;
- Multi-family residential eligibility; or
- Other substantive eligibility standards established by this Policy.

23.10 Policy Continuation

This Policy shall remain in effect from year to year unless amended, superseded, or repealed by Cherokee County Council.

Annual review shall not require annual readoption of the Policy.

Changes to the annual Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee, departmental procedures, collection routes, equipment, technology, or other operational matters shall not require readoption of this Policy unless such changes materially affect the eligibility standards contained herein.

23.11 Report to County Council

The County Administrator may provide County Council with an update regarding implementation of the Policy when significant eligibility, financial, operational, or administrative issues are identified through the annual review.

Any matter requiring a substantive change to the eligibility standards shall be presented to County Council for appropriate action.

24. Implementation, Transition, and Effective Date

24.1 Effective Date

This Residential Solid Waste Collection, Service, and Fee Administration Policy shall become effective upon adoption by Cherokee County Council, or on such other date as may be established by County Council.

The eligibility standards established herein shall govern the administration of Cherokee County's Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee and residential curbside collection program beginning with the applicable implementation period established by the County.

24.2 Administrative Implementation

The County Administrator, or designee, is authorized to take all reasonable administrative actions necessary to implement this Policy.

Implementation may include:

- Review and reconciliation of property records;
- Identification of eligible and ineligible properties;
- Preparation and maintenance of the Recognized Property List;
- Coordination with the Assessor, Treasurer, Finance, GIS, Building Codes, Public Works, Solid Waste Collections, and other applicable offices;
- Updating collection and routing records;
- Updating Fee assessment records;
- Providing notice to affected property owners, residents, businesses, organizations, or developments;
- Delivery or retrieval of County-owned roll carts;
- Establishment of the FY 2026–2027 Voluntary Opt-Out Form and related administrative procedures; and
- Other actions reasonably necessary to transition to the eligibility standards established by this Policy.

24.3 Implementation Period

Cherokee County may implement the provisions of this Policy in phases when reasonably necessary to coordinate property records, billing systems, collection routes, roll cart retrieval, public notification, or other administrative and operational requirements.

Except for the continuing fire department and fire station service expressly authorized under Section 10.5, the fact that implementation occurs in phases shall not create a continuing or

grandfathered right to County residential curbside collection for a property determined to be ineligible under this Policy.

Likewise, temporary continuation of collection during the implementation period shall not independently subject an otherwise ineligible property to the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee.

24.4 Existing Service Arrangements

Upon implementation of this Policy, existing residential curbside collection arrangements shall be reviewed for consistency with the eligibility standards established herein.

Properties determined to be ineligible may be removed from the residential collection program following reasonable administrative notice and transition procedures established by the County, except that qualifying fire departments and fire stations shall continue receiving service in accordance with Section 10.5.

Except for the limited fire department and fire station service expressly authorized by County Council under Section 10.5, historical provision of County collection service shall not create a vested or grandfathered right to continued service.

24.5 Initial Fee Assessment

The Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee shall be assessed to eligible properties beginning with the billing period established by Cherokee County Council and administered through the County's applicable billing and collection procedures.

Properties determined to be ineligible under this Policy shall not be assessed the Fee for that applicable billing period.

24.6 Initial Record Reconciliation

Prior to or as part of initial implementation, Cherokee County may reconcile available property, tax, GIS, Building Codes, municipal, and Solid Waste Collections records to establish the initial eligibility database.

The County may correct clerical, mapping, account-association, and other administrative discrepancies discovered during implementation.

24.7 Notice to Affected Properties

Cherokee County may provide reasonable notice to properties whose existing collection service will be discontinued or materially changed as a result of implementation of this Policy.

Notice may include information concerning:

- The property's eligibility classification;
- The effective date of the service change;

- Removal or non-assessment of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee;
- Retrieval of County-owned roll carts;
- Responsibility for arranging alternative solid waste collection, when applicable;
- Other County solid waste or recycling services that may remain available; and
- Information concerning the temporary FY 2026–2027 voluntary opt-out, when applicable.

24.8 Continuing Effect

Following implementation, this Policy shall remain in effect from year to year unless amended, superseded, or repealed by Cherokee County Council.

The annual establishment or modification of the Residential Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Fee through the County's budget process shall not require readoption of this Policy unless County Council also modifies the underlying eligibility standards.

24.9 Severability

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Policy is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unenforceable, such determination shall not affect the validity or enforceability of the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect to the extent permitted by law.