



Great Falls Solid Waste Study



High Plains Landfill

TODAY

Residents and businesses within the City of Great Falls currently have two options for solid waste (garbage) collection.

Option 1

The City operates and maintains a solid waste collection service to residential and commercial users within the City of Great Falls, including cardboard recycling to commercial customers. Solid waste that is collected by the City is taken to the High Plains landfill for disposal and recycling is taken to Pacific Steel & Recycling.

Option 2

Republic Services operates and maintains a private solid waste collection service in the Great Falls and surrounding area. Solid waste is taken to High Plains Landfill and recycling is taken to Pacific Steel & Recycling.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

The City will utilize this study to inform the best long-term solid waste management and disposal options for the City of Great Falls.

Why is the City Considering Future Changes in Solid Waste Management & Disposal?

- The High Plains Landfill, owned and operated by Republic Services, is the only current feasible disposal option for the region.
- Republic Services took over ownership of the landfill in 2018.
- Since taking over ownership, inflation has increased and disposal rates have increased. The City decided it was prudent to explore if more cost-effective options are available while maintaining an acceptable level of customer service for options for long-term solid waste management.

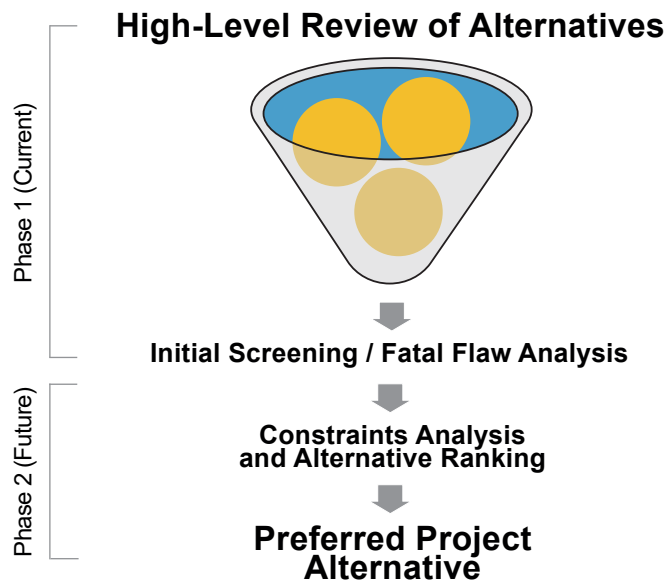


QUESTIONS

Email Solidwastestudy@greatfallsmt.net

The Study Process

The City hired an outside consultant to assist in the completion of this study. The consultant began working on the project in March 2022. The range of options have been identified and an initial screening was performed to identify the 5 alternatives that will be evaluated further.



Phased screening approach weeds out unfeasible options prior to a more detailed analysis; reserving the City's money for more in-depth analysis of the final alternative.

FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVES

Alternative	Description
Status Quo	Continue with a mix of City and Republic collection with solid waste going to High Plains Landfill and recycling to Pacific Steel & Recycling.
Privatization – contract or franchise	The City ceases collections operations and negotiates directly with Republic for collection, disposal, and recycling services on behalf of all the City of Great Falls residents and businesses.
City Developed Landfill (optional self-haul transfer station)	Continue with the current mix of City and Republic collection; collection outside the City limits decided by other jurisdictions. City develops a new optional City-Owned transfer station for City residents and small businesses only (no collection vehicles) and a new City-Owned landfill.
Develop regional waste management authority/solution	Continue with the current mix of City and Republic collection; collection outside the City limits decided by other jurisdictions. New City-Owned Transfer Station; size dependent on landfill used and what other jurisdictions are interested. Disposal would be at a publicly-owned landfill serving multiple cities and counties. Recycling to Pacific Steel & Recycling.
Lewis & Clark Landfill & New City Transfer Station	Continue with the current mix of City and Republic collection. New City-Owned Transfer Station (self-haul and collection vehicles). Municipal solid waste hauled to Lewis & Clark Landfill and recycling to Pacific Steel & Recycling.



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