



LAKE COUNTY  
Investing in People  
and Our Communities

# Clean Air Discussion

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Energy & Environment Committee  
July 29, 2020

# Agenda

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- Background
- Temporary Burn Ban
  - Enforcement of Temporary Ban
- Spatial Analysis for Potential Clear Air Standards
- Waste Hauling Options
- Franchised Township Yardwaste Hauling
- Yardwaste Hauling Survey
- McHenry County Waste Hauling
- Potential Next Steps

# Background

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- February 2019 – E&E Committee directed staff to research Clean Air Regulations (i.e., yard waste burning restrictions) per their adopted work plan
- June 2019 – Staff presented preliminary research and received direction from the Committee
- December 2019– Staff presented results of in-depth research
- Today – Follow up on research

# Temporary Burn Ban

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# Temporary Burn Ban

- On May 12, the County Board adopted the Lake County Temporary Emergency Public Nuisance Ordinance to enact a temporary ban on open burning in the unincorporated area. The ban was extended by the County Board on two occasions and is currently set to expire on August 12
- The ordinance recognizes the increased risk of negative health impacts of open burning of landscape waste on individuals who have been infected with COVID-19
- The County's temporary ordinance permits small recreational fires and the use of self-contained outdoor burn devices under certain criteria

# Enforcement of Temporary Ban

- Planning, Building and Development (PB&D) set up intake process for complaints on violations of the temporary open burning ban
- Information on the ban was communicated through various media platforms and a handout was created for direct distribution on site
- Residents were directed to report an open burning complaint occurring in the unincorporated area to the Lake County Open Burning Hotline (847-377-2999)

# Spatial Analysis for Potential Clean Air Standards

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# Spatial Analysis for Potential Clean Air Standards

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- Purpose of Spatial Analysis: Determine the Impact of Setbacks on Ability to Burn in Unincorporated Areas
  - Baseline: McHenry County Model (100' to habitable structure, 50' to non-habitable, and 500' from habitable)
  - What kind of impact would similar restrictions have in unincorporated Lake County (e.g., the number of properties able to burn vs. unable to burn)
  - GIS tools used to estimate impacts



# Spatial Analysis for Potential Clean Air Standards

- Since December 2019, staff has refined mapping analysis to:
  - Better estimate lot size needed to meet proposed setbacks (McHenry Model)
    - 100' to habitable structure, 50' to non-habitable, and 500' from habitable
  - Determine the number of properties that could be impacted by yard waste burning restrictions
  - Confirm percentage of properties with or without existing yard waste hauling service

# Acreage Requirements

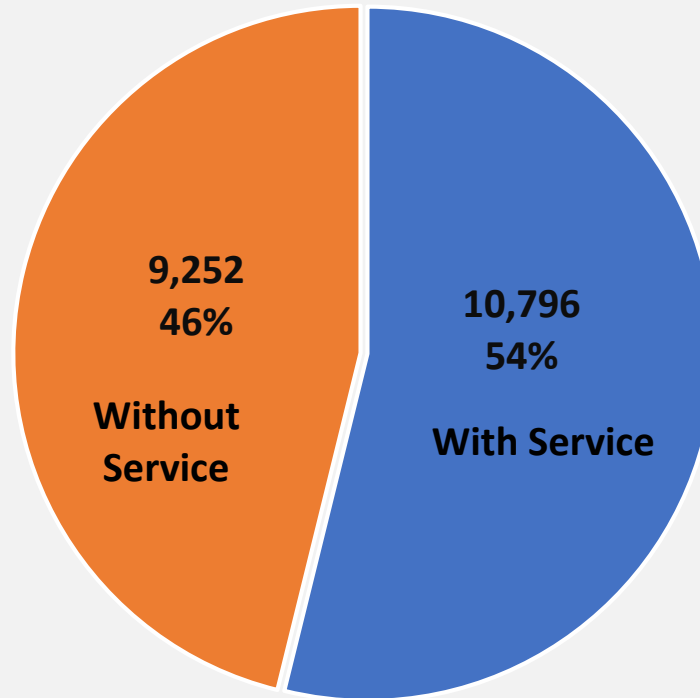
Model	Median area of parcels <b>that would not be able to burn</b>	Median area of parcels <b>that would be able to burn</b>
McHenry Model (100' to habitable, 50' to non-habitable)	0.23 Acre	1 Acre
McHenry 500' Model	0.29 Acre	4.9 Acres

# Residents' Yardwaste Service

McHenry County Model  
(100' to habitable)

Total = **20,048** residential  
properties that would be  
unable to burn

**70%** of unincorporated  
residential properties



■ With Yard Waste Service

■ Without Yard Waste Service

# Waste Hauling Options

# Waste Hauling Options

- Options for yard waste typically includes 8 months of:
  - Subscription service (heavy users), and/or
  - Sticker service (light users), and/or
  - Additional Service: 6 weeks of leaf vacuuming from Oct – Nov (may not be economically viable in rural areas)
- Option 1: Franchise waste, recycling and yard waste services for unincorporated residents outside of townships offering service
- Option 2: Franchise for yardwaste only for residents outside of townships offering yard waste services



# Waste Hauling, Cont.

- Option 3: Amend County waste hauling ordinance to require haulers offer yard waste service in addition to waste and recycling
- Option 4: Engage Townships on exploring potential referendum/franchising options within their respective jurisdictions
- Option 5: No uniform yard waste hauling services for unincorporated residents ahead of burning restrictions

# Franchised Township Yardwaste Hauling

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# Franchised Township Yardwaste Hauling

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- Collected yardwaste pickup rate information from the six franchised townships
- Subscription costs for 8 months of yardwaste service vary from approximately \$29 to \$195 with an average rate of **\$109**
- Yardwaste sticker costs range from approximately \$2 to \$4 dollars with an average cost of **\$3**
- The number of households covered by Township hauling agreements ranges from 656 to 5,486

# Yardwaste Hauling Survey

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# Yardwaste Hauling Survey

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- SWALCO conducted outreach to licensed waste haulers to:
  - Determine if yardwaste hauling services are typically offered to unincorporated residents
  - Assess response to a potential ordinance amendment requiring haulers offer yardwaste pickup service to all unincorporated residents
  - Determine if the haulers have the capability to offer county-wide yardwaste service
  - Receive feedback on potential costs if they were required to offer yardwaste service to all unincorporated residents



# Yardwaste Hauling Survey Results

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- SWALCO received responses from 4 haulers:
  - **3 out of 4** haulers already offer yardwaste service to unincorporated residents
    - **2** haulers only offer it in certain areas of the County.
    - Includes **8 months** of service
    - By subscription or sticker (on call for stickers)
    - Costs range from **\$20 a month (\$160 a season)** to **\$200 a season**
  - Responses to an ordinance amendment included: concerns with ability to service entire county, increased costs to customers, inconsistency between municipal and county services, and desire to only service existing waste/recycling customers.

# Yardwaste Hauling Survey Results

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- **3 out of 4** haulers stated they would have the capability to offer yardwaste service to unincorporated residents
- **4 out of 4** haulers stated if they were required to offer it the costs would be higher than what they charge now
  - Higher costs attributed to increased driving time and fuel costs, an additional truck and driver, and increased cost at facilities accepting yardwaste.
- **1** hauler stated their rate would be the same as existing customers (**\$180 a season**), **1** stated they would charge **\$150 a season** and only offer subscription, and the other **2** said they couldn't provide estimate for expanding their service area.

# McHenry County Waste Hauling

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# McHenry County Waste Hauling

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- McHenry County requires licensed haulers to offer yardwaste removal service to all residents not included in the County's franchise agreement
- Residents not covered by the County's franchise report paying between **\$85 - \$150** per quarter for refuse and recycling, and anywhere from **\$180 to \$200** per season for yardwaste service

# McHenry County Waste Hauling

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- McHenry County franchises waste hauling services on behalf of residents in more densely populated areas
- As of the February 1, 2020, contract renewal, the cost for service ranges from **\$49 to \$57** per quarter and includes refuse, recycling and yardwaste services
- Containerized yardwaste pickup unlimited from mid-April to mid-Dec, and the County also offers 3 loose leaf pickups (i.e., vacuum) collections a year



# Potential Next Steps

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1. Institute temporary restrictions for the Fall 2020 burn season (with disposal alternatives) and continue discussion and analysis of permanent restrictions
2. Explore options to hold virtual public forums on permanent burning restrictions
3. Develop draft ordinance standards
4. Continue to review County and Township-level franchising options

The background of the slide features a low-angle, light-colored photograph of a modern multi-story building with a grid of windows. In the lower right foreground, a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln is visible, shown from the chest up, facing left. The text 'DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS' is centered over the image.

# DISCUSSION / QUESTIONS

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