2012 SWANA Collections System Award

City of College Station Northgate Entertainment District

Wally Urrutia, Sanitation Superintendent
Rodney Harris, Sanitation Foreman
City of College Station— P.O. Box 9960 College Station, TX 77842
T: 979-764-3690 DD: 979-764-3841 E: wurrutia@cstx.gov
Executive Summary

College Station, Texas, is a city in Brazos County situated in Central Texas. It is located in the heart of the Brazos Valley and within equal distance to the most populated cities of Texas; Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio. The population estimate is 93,000 as of January 2012.

The City of College Station is Home to Texas A&M University and The Presidential George Bush Library. The university continues to be one of the largest research universities in the United States and is the reason College Station considers itself “The Heart of the Research Valley.”

The City is responsible for the collection of all municipal refuse, recycling, and commercial garbage within the City of College Station. Our mission is to provide safe, efficient, and cost effective solid waste and recycling collection services incorporating state-of-the-art methods, technology, and superior customer service.

The City of College Station redeveloped the Northgate area known as the “Entertainment District”, subsequently, the businesses and increasing crowds in the area revealed unsightly sanitation problems. Initially these businesses utilized individual Front-End Load containers. In 1997, the City of College Station researched better waste collection methods that could provide this location effective, efficient, and convenient service.
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Design of Collection Facility / Management System

Initially developed as a retail area, its location in relation of the University led to the transformation of an Entertainment District. This transformation significantly altered the amount and types of waste generated. As a solution, solid waste staff suggested one centralized location to dispose of their garbage; this would also improve efficiency and the aesthetics in the district. In 1998 the City replaced 4 - 8yd front end load (FEL) containers and installed one 30 cubic yard compactor unit at the location. This change provided a significant improvement over the collection and billing system allowing 15 merchants to utilize one disposal area. Some FEL containers were shared causing billing problems as customers turned over.

The compactor system allowed for each tenant to dispose of their waste and be charged a per use fee. This was accomplished by using a computerized monitoring system which provided greater equity between large and small waste generators. The Waste Edge Trash Pass system was installed and provided a more effective means of recording and charging users for waste removal.

Each merchant is provided a security pin code and granted access to the system by way of an electronic fob key. The system also differed from the previous waste collection method because it allowed for flexibility in the frequency of collections. The Northgate District is located adjacent to Texas A & M University and is a favorite attraction for visitors as well as the large student population of 50,000.
Due to the transient nature of the community, the collection frequency varies throughout the year according to the amount of activity within Northgate. For example, during the fall, Texas A & M home football games attract a large number of visitors to Northgate which dramatically increases the amount of waste generated. During summer months, the reduced student population decreases the amount of commercial waste generated within Northgate.

The compactor system has allowed us greater flexibility in our collections in relation to the amount of activity within the Northgate District. In 2006, the Northgate District was remodeled and during that time experienced significant growth encompassing 34 merchants instead of 15. As a result, a second compactor was added to accommodate continued growth in the area. Each tenant is given access to use either compactor and is still charged on a per cycle basis. The additional second compactor serves multiple purposes; it allows additional capacity on home game weekends and acts as a backup in the event of a compactor breakdown. This expansion replaced all front end load containers for 4 blocks of merchants, eliminating multi collection points.

Before the second compactor was installed, a breakdown of the single compactor during a busy weekend within Northgate led to large amounts of waste being discarded within and around the enclosure causing a health and environmental hazard. The addition of the second compactor as well as a “dummy camera” has deterred illegal dumping and provided added assurance that the Northgate merchants could still dispose of their waste. The current system has proven to be simple to operate for the Northgate merchants and has proven to be extremely reliable for the City of College Station in regards to collections and record keeping.
Environmental Controls & Regulatory Compliance

The Northgate District compactor system meets all environmental protection standards by ensuring that the health and well being of the immediate public are protected. The Northgate Compactor system is maintained and operated in such a manner as to also protect the health and safety of personnel associated with the system. All solid waste collection personnel involved with the system have received instructions and training in safe container and waste handling techniques, and in the proper operation of collection equipment.

Control & Compliance Measures

All vehicles and equipment involved with the storage and collection of Solid Waste for the system are constructed, operated, and maintained in such a manner as to minimize health and safety hazards to solid waste management personnel and the public.

The equipment is maintained in excellent condition and kept clean to prevent the propagation or attraction of vectors and the creation of nuisances. Collection vehicles are maintained and serviced according to the manufacturers' recommendations, and receive periodic vehicle safety checks. Any irregularities are repaired before the vehicle is used.

At least once daily vehicles are cleaned thoroughly post trip. The compactors are collected at a minimum of once a week in order to prevent the attraction of vectors and the creation of nuisances.
In January 2005 The City of College Station Police Department conducted a Northgate Public Safety Analysis which addressed problems within the district attributed to growth in the area. The following is a summary of the department’s solid waste findings encountered within the Northgate District prior to implementing Waste Edge Trash Pass. The current system has helped to significantly improve the environmental quality within the district.

**Northgate Public Safety Policy Analysis - January 2005**

“The unregulated drinking along with the drinks consumed from businesses in the area put a tremendous strain on the resources in the Northgate area that deal with trash disposal. The city recently installed several extra trash receptacles in the area and that made only a minor dent in the amount of trash generated on a busy night. At the end of a busy night there is a complete covering of the ground throughout the entire Northgate area that consists of drink containers. Some of the tables on the promenade have large pyramids of beer cans and the cups and empty 12 packs and 30 packs of beer are littered throughout the area. The trash problem doesn’t stop at just the Northgate area. We have received complaints from the local businesses and Churches in the area about the tremendous amounts of trash that make it onto their properties due to the Northgate crowds. Some of these areas, such as Churches, conduct day care operations and those children find adult oriented trash on their playgrounds when they go out to play.”

In 2005 City of College Station City Council adopted an “Outdoor Drinking Prohibition Ordinance”, prohibiting open containers outside any Northgate establishment. This ordinance eliminated much of the area’s litter issues.
Program Planning

In 1996, the College Station City Council adopted the Northgate Redevelopment Plan as produced by the consulting firm of Hellmuth, Obata & Kassabaum, Inc. (HOK). Since the plan was adopted, several recommendations involving public improvements have been implemented. The improvements that have been completed or are currently under development include the construction of public parking facilities, roadway and utility infrastructure, streetscape improvements, and various other public projects.

The Northgate Business District promenade area was initially setup with individual Front-End Load containers for garbage disposal. In 1997, due to business growth within the district and a new project for re-development, the City of College Station researched for a better waste collection method that it could provide for this location. The solid waste staff brainstormed ideas on how we could have all the merchants use one centralized location to dispose of their garbage plus improve the aesthetics in the district. In 1998 the City installed one 30 cubic yard compactor unit at the location. The initial unit installed was equipped with a Waste Edge Trash Pass System that allowed each merchant to dispose of their waste by using a fob key. This system provided a great improvement over the previous system. In 2006, due to substantial growth within the customer service area a second compactor was added during a remodel of the promenade area.
Performance, Economics, and Cost Effectiveness

In comparison to the old individual container system which consisted of multiple front end load containers and multiple collection vehicles, the Waste Edge TrashPass system is a very efficient operation that allows for all merchants utilizing the system to come to one centralized location to dispose of their garbage.

Industry estimates indicate that 80% of trash compactor containers are less than full when they are picked up on a scheduled basis. Partially full containers are very costly to customers, because this system collects from many merchants the compactors are at full capacity when collected; approximately 13 tons each container per week.

Staff meets new customers in person to introduce, train, and answer any questions they may have about the system. We believe face to face contact and training is essential to preventing any confusion, accidents, or incidents with the system.

The system operates well within its budget, however it is a unique system and required unique budgeting and rates. Merchants pay $2.40 per cycle; this rate is calculated with a 10% return on operating investment. Each year staff conducts “Solid Waste Rate Surveys” based on the current market costs and benchmark cities rates. Rates are adjusted periodically to capture costs associated with market increases and operations.

The City of College Station feels that this system exceeds the goals and expectations in providing waste disposal for this particular business district and its merchants, and is cost effective in its design and operational performance. The compacter systems allows for additional capacity during football weekend when the regional landfill is closed. As a result, there is no overflow or lack of capacity prior to collection when the landfill is open.
Utilization of Equipment/Systems and Technologies

The collection system is comprised of two independent 30 yard compactors which are accessed by way of an electronic trash pass system known as Waste Edge. The Waste Edge offers usage monitoring and on-site data retrieval, in addition to remote functionality. A total of thirty four merchants are granted access to either compactor by using an electronic fob key which opens the compactor door.

The merchant then loads the compactor and closes the compactor door which initiates a cycle. Each merchant is granted unlimited access to the system and is billed monthly on a $2.40 per cycle basis. Each month Sanitation Foremen download customer information on site and transfer this information to an Excel spreadsheet which is then sent to our Utility Billing Department for monthly billing.

Compactors are emptied once or twice a week depending on the amount of activity within the Northgate District and the amount of waste generated. On average 52 tons of waste is collected per month. The compactors are hauled by a roll off truck operated by one driver. College Station’s roll off truck is an Autocar cab over with a gross vehicle weight of 66,000 lbs.

The roll off truck provides an effective method of collection due to the amount of waste that can be contained and hauled in one load. As opposed to another collection method which would require several containers and an increased frequency of collection. This method allows for a minimum of once a week collection and takes approximately an hour and half from start to completion. This is also more efficient considering the rising cost of fuel and the amount it would take to provide service to the area more frequently with smaller containers.
One Plus Waste Edge TrashPass

WasteEdge TrashPass
The Key to Accountability and Security

Used in Malls and multiuser facilities, TrashPass simplifies access and accountability.

TRASHPASS is an exciting new application of digital chip technology. A chip in a dime-sized container records who uses the waste compactor and how often. It can be used in either a Credit account or a Debit account mode. It controls access to use of the compactor and locks out unauthorized users.

TRASHPASS creates a new profit center with a level of service that has never before been possible.

To gain access to use of the compactor, the user merely touches the TRASHPASS button to the reader on the compactor. No ID numbers to remember, nothing to key in. And TRASHPASS is small and light enough to carry on a key ring.

- Used as a Debit system, TRASHPASS functions the same as a Toll pass or bank debit card. It allows the cost of each use of a compactor to be deducted from a credit balance which is retained in the TRASHPASS.
- Used as a Credit system, TRASHPASS keeps track of usage and the information can be used for billing.
- If the account credit balance is low, a warning is displayed on the WASTE EDGE TRASHPASS Monitor informing the user that the balance must be increased.
- Locks out all unauthorized users. Lost passes can be locked out.
- Unlike cards, a new pass can be created in seconds on-site or from a remote location.
- Total security - TRASHPASS cannot be duplicated.
- Turnkey systems are available - easy to install and use.
- The TRASHPASS System is retrofittable to existing WASTE EDGE models.
- TRASHPASS IDs are infinitely re-programmable, reusable, virtually indestructible.
- Can be combined with the WASTE EDGE automatic fullness monitoring system for the ultimate in profitable headache-free waste management.

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Worker Health & Safety

The City of College Station Sanitation Division provides the roll off driver with eighty hours of on the job training before certification, in addition to any previous roll off experience. The driver is recertified each year after completing 40 hours of operation. They are required to review our division’s Standard Operational Procedures and are coursed in the division’s safety practices. Each driver is required to follow all traffic laws and complete their assignments in a safe and efficient manner.

While providing service within the Northgate District the driver must be mindful of pedestrians and traffic within the Promenade area. During collection hours, the area has a high concentration of pedestrians and cyclists that commute to and from Texas A & M.

To further protect employees and pedestrians there is no public access to the compactors, the area is secured and only accessible with an activated key fob. Key fobs are only issued to authorized and trained users. The compactors also feature a locking mechanism on the hopper doors to prevent injury.

As previously mentioned merchants and employees are trained thoroughly on safe operation practices. The injury rate for a roll off driver with this collection system is of the lowest percentile. We have not reported any injuries with this collection system since its inception.
Public Acceptance, Appearance, and Aesthetics

The City of College Station Sanitation Division takes great pride in the appearance and maintenance of our equipment and facilities. The division has in place a vehicle maintenance schedule that requires the daily washing and refueling of each vehicle. We also require that our vehicles are greased according to schedule and receive a pre and post trip inspection for safety or maintenance issues. Our vehicles are routinely serviced by our award winning Fleet Maintenance Division.

The Northgate District compactor enclosure area is cleaned weekly and maintained by City of College Station personnel. The 2006 remodel of the Northgate Promenade also included the addition of public restrooms adjacent to the compactor enclosure. This addition has helped accommodate the large number of patrons who frequent the Promenade area throughout the year.

The area also features screening of the waste loading area and native species landscaping. Native species require less watering, pruning, and maintenance. These plants typically thrive in Texas’s sometimes harsh weather conditions.
Supplemental Materials

Northgate Business District
Waste Edge Trash Pass Specifications

200 MONITOR SYSTEM

The Intelligent Waste Compactor Monitoring System

WASTE EDGE 200 Monitor System works around the clock to provide control, security and accountability for compactor usage.

Usage/Security Monitor records frequency of compactor usage by individual, department or tenant. The on-site System controls access to use of waste compactors. Locks out unauthorized users. Editing functions and data retrieval for billings are easily performed on-site.

Ideal for multi-user facilities - shopping centers, malls, hotels, resorts, residential complexes, healthcare facilities and industrial complexes.

Retrolits to most new or existing compactors.

Features / Benefits

+ Simple to operate. User can easily access use of the compactor by entering an ID number on the Monitor Keypad and/or by using an optional ID Card or Trashpass.
+ Bright, legible display guides the user through operation.
+ Editing functions can be performed on-site by authorized personnel. Add new accounts, close accounts or lock-out users. Retrieve account usage totals.
+ Prevents unauthorized compactor use.
+ Supports and retains data for up to 256 accounts/users per compactor Monitor.
+ Retains current and most recently cleared usage totals.
+ Modular design allows expansion for additional functions and features.
+ Oversized Keypad for easy use with a gloved hand.
+ Large LED display offers maximum visibility at night or in direct sunlight.
Waste Edge | 200 Monitor System

Operating Options:
- Management functions can be performed remotely on a PC (see WASTE EDGE #300)
- Can be combined with Fullness Monitors, including Full-Pac and/or FullAlert
- For remote fullness monitoring and reporting capabilities, see WASTE EDGE #400

Equipment Options:
- Portable Print-Size Printer: Battery operated, with charger, for printing usage totals on site
- Reader: Provides an alternative or additional means of accessing use of the compactor with an ID Card or a Transpass
- ID Cards: Generic and custom. Designed for use in harsh environments
- TRASHPASS: Electronic ID Pass. Small chip with time-stamped computerized chip. Stores ID information. Can be used in debit or credit mode. New Passes can be created onsite. Passes can be reprogrammed on unlimited number of times.

Typical Configuration Diagram

Standard Operation and Configuration
A WASTE EDGE EdgeSecurity Monitor is required for each compactor and is installed on the compactor site. Compactor users gain access by entering an ID number on the Monitor keypad and using an optional ID Card or a Transpass.

Specifications
- Power Requirements: 120 VAC 60 Hz 20 Watts 6 amp
- Operation Temperature: -20°F to 140°F
- Endorsements/Dimensions: NEMA Weatherproof, 14 gauge steel. Made for long lasting

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OnePlus Corp
1182 MacArthur Boulevard, Northbrook, IL 60062
Phone: 847-498-0855 • Fax: 847-498-1370 • info@oneplus.com • www.oneplus.com

Compactor Specifications

KSC-35 SELF CONTAINED COMPACTOR

PORTABLE COMPACTOR

The growing need for compaction of refuse is often hampered by the amount of space required for conventional stationary installations. This is especially true at hotels, supermarkets, office buildings, and large department stores located in urban business communities. For this reason, Kee Service offers KSC-35 - unitized, portable compactor, requiring less than 200 square feet.

- Liquid Tight - for improved odor and insect control
- Maximum compaction in minimum space
- Provides capacity for weekend - holidays - season changes
- Improved housekeeping
- Fire resistant
- Reduces opportunity for back-door pilferage
- Easy loading - simple key operation
- Reduces exposure to pavement
SPECIFICATIONS

- Hopper Capacity: 2 cubic yards
- Container Capacity: 35 cubic yards
- Charge Box Opening: 40” x 60”
- Loading Height from Platform: 37”
- Loading Height from Ground: 49”
- Weight: 10,400 lbs.
- Cycle Time: 24 seconds
- Normal Operating Pressure: 1600 PSI
- Maximum Operating Pressure: 2000 PSI
- Packing Pressure Per Square Inch (PSI): 29 lbs. PSI
- Compaction Force: 36,000 lbs.
- Cylinder Size (2): Double Cylinders - 4” each
- Cylinder Stroke: 32”
- Ram Penetration: 8”
- Hydraulic Pump: 12 GPM
- Electric Motor: 10 HP 208-230/460V 3 Phase
- Control Circuit: 110V computer controlled

OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

- Side or Dock Hopper
- Dock Ramp
- Safety Hand Rails & End Gate
- Fully Enclosed Log House - w/ Door
- Side or Rear Opening Thru-Wall Chute w/ Security Door
- Cart Dumper & Carts
- Deodorizer System
- Oil Immersion Heater
- Fluid Filled Pressure Gauge

Relay logic circuitry for improved reliability with high efficiency triflex power supply.
Operational Procedures for Roll-Off Truck Operation

City of College Station Sanitation Site Operating Plan

The Roll-off Truck is a one-man operational vehicle that is used to pick-up/drop off commercial type containers such as: open top and compactor roll-off containers, in commercial establishments and some residential areas.

Operators Responsibilities:

1. Complete the pre-trip inspection.
2. Check for any last minute instructions and/or route changes.
3. Arrive at first location having used proper defensive driving techniques and having obeyed all the speed limits.
4. Operator should be properly dressed for work. This includes work boots, gloves, safety glasses, hard hat, protective clothing and a high-visibility vest for working in the traffic.
5. Never bypass or remove safety devices which have been installed on the equipment.

Preparing the Truck for loading:

Operator should always make observation of collection site of any possible dangers, before loading process begins.

1. Be sure the area is clear of people.
2. Check the area for low power lines or any other obstacle which may interfere with hoist operation.
3. Never operate equipment which is damaged and/or improperly maintained. **NOTE: The Smallest Crack Must Be Repaired.**
4. Always operate the equipment within its rated capacity.

Operation of loading a Container:

**CAUTION!**

If compactor is equipped with hydraulic hoses, driver must disconnect hoses before lifting the compactor.

See illustrations:
LOADING A CONTAINER

Illustration 1:

Aligning the hoist rails with the long sills on the container, back the truck squarely as possible to the container. Allow 3-4 feet between the container and hoist (allow 8-9 feet for extendable tail models). Put the transmission in neutral and engage the P.T.O. extend the tail on extendable tail models.

Illustration 2:

Raise the hoist until the tail touches the ground. (NOTE: DO not allow the hoist tail to lift the truck by raising the hoist after the tail is touching the ground.)

Illustration 3:

Set truck brakes. Retract the winch cylinder and connect the cable to the container hook.

DANGER - Check to be sure the cable connection is securely attached and in good working condition.
Release truck brakes. Pull the container onto the hoist allowing the truck to roll under the container.

**CAUTION - Be absolutely sure the container long sills are lined up on the hoist properly.**

NOTE: Container front roller ahead of hoist rear hinge point.

NOTE: Container long sills and hoist rails in line with each other.

Continue pulling the container onto the hoist rear hinge point, lower the hoist enough to keep the container long sills and hoist rails in line and even with each other.
Illustration 7 & 8:

Note: C.G. of container is past the rear hinge point of the hoist.

Lower the hoist when the center of gravity of the container is forward until it is securely locked into the front stops.

**CAUTION - Do not attempt to power the hoist down before the C.G. of the container is past the rear hinge point of the hoist. This can cause excessive stress, loss of control and/or damage to equipment.**

Illustration 9:

In addition to the front stops, container and hoist should always have a rear container hold-down device. Disengage P.T.O. before driving away.

**DANGER - The container hoist must be equipped with the proper front stops and rear hold downs. The container specifications must match the hoist specifications. (EX: Roller size & location, proper style hook up, spacing between long sills, etc.) The container and hoist must be in good working order. Non-compliance could result in damage to equipment and/or injury to persons and is the operator/owner's responsibility.**
PREPARING THE TRUCK FOR HAULING

Before leaving location, operators should make sure that the container is not overloaded with items that may cause spillage. The Open-Top containers need to be secured by the automated tarping system. Some Compactors need to be manually secured by an apron.

Before leaving the service location on route to the next service location, operator should also disengage the PTO (Power Take Off) in order to avoid overheating the hydraulic system and possibly causing hydraulic spillage.

DUMPING A CONTAINER

**CAUTION** - Before raising the hoist, observe both sides and rear of the hoist for personnel. **DO NOT RAISE HOIST IF ANYONE IS CLOSE ENOUGH TO BE HIT SHOULD HOIST TIP OVER.** Also, observe for any personnel that may be heading into the area during the dumping operation.

Review all of the following items as a guideline to perform the dumping operation. These items do not exhaust every situation which may occur, but are intended to promote proper operation when combined with safe work habits and common sense.

1. **Dump Site** - The area should be level, solid, and clear of obstacles. Check for overhead clearance such as power lines.
2. **Dumping Loads** - In the down position, open the tailgate and secure the door in the open position using the chain provided on the container door. Engage PTO and raise hoist until load slides out.

**CAUTION** - In the event that all load is not discharged or it becomes necessary to move the unit forward, the hoist and container must be lowered prior to any forward movement of the truck. Always keep the tires properly and evenly inflated.

UNLOADING A CONTAINER

1. Set truck brakes.
2. Raise the hoist high enough to allow the container to move rearward.
3. Lower the container.
4. Release the truck brakes. Continue lowering the container allowing the truck to roll out from under the container.
5. If compactor is equipped with hydraulic hoses, driver must connect hoses after placing compactor back down.

**CAUTION** - If the container being unloaded is heavy, feather the control valve to slow the downward movement of the container. Do not allow the front of the container to hit the ground abruptly. Failure to do so can result in damage to the container.
END OF ROUTE

After completing the route and making certain the truck has been unloaded at the landfill, crews report back to the Public Works facility and do the following:

1. Fuel and wash collection vehicle.
2. Provide preventative maintenance to the vehicle to include; greasing all fittings, clean windows and inside cab.
3. Complete post-trip inspection.
4. Lock doors and turn in keys and paperwork.

SAFETY FEATURES AND WARNING DEVICES

This truck is equipped with safety warning devices in order to ensure and inform the operators of safety precautions. It is very important that these safety devices are in proper working condition therefore, it is the responsibility of the operators to make certain that they are familiarized and that these warning devices are functioning on a daily basis. These devices include:

1. Dump Body Lifting Mechanism (warning lights, buzzers, alarms)
2. Back-up Beepers
3. Warning Reflector Triangles
4. Strobe Lights
Thank you!

The City of College Station sincerely appreciates the opportunity to apply for the SWANA Public Education Excellence Award! We look forward to your results!