



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA
Work Session - Solid Waste Rate Modification Proposal

This meeting will be held in-person and virtual.

**25 Crescent Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770**

OR

**Virtual Participation
Zoom Webinar Attendees:**

**Please submit your request in writing via email to questions@greenbeltmd.gov
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84781561116?pwd=AM24BMeBYeoH8MaiAujhFU2F4ePEvZ.1>**

Dial-in: 301 715 8592

Webinar ID: 847 8156 1116

Passcode: 759176

Monday, March 3, 2025

7:30 PM

Work Session Packet - Solid Waste Rate Modification Proposal

Work Session - Solid Waste Rate Modification Proposal

Suggested Action:

Agenda

- Introductions
- Presentation: Solid Waste Operating Conditions and Proposal
- Presentation: Compost Services Presentation and Proposal
- Proposal to use Armory site for Composting.
- Council Discussion
- Questions and Answers
- Other Items

Comments:

Solid waste rates have not been raised in over 10 years, causing the Solid Waste Services fund to operate at a deficit. This deficit is being subsidized by the general fund at unsustainable levels. Substantial rate increases are necessary to fully fund Solid Waste Services, eliminate the current deficit, and keep pace with rising costs. Additionally, increasing tipping fees, which are projected to rise from \$70 per ton to \$85 per ton in July 2025 and \$90 per ton in July 2026, further contribute to the financial strain.

Despite having one of the lowest solid waste rates in the region, Greenbelt provides arguably the best service, including high-quality waste collection, recycling, and composting programs. To ensure the continued sustainability of these services, adjustments to the fee structure are necessary.

The City Manager and staff will present a detailed report on these challenges and proposed solutions at Monday's meeting. Attachments include a presentation by the Green Team outlining the environmental and financial considerations of the City's Pilot Compost Program.

[Tipping Fees for FY2025 FINAL_.pdf](#)

[City of Greenbelt - Post-grant composting options - Feb 2025.pdf](#)

[Compost Crew - Greenbelt Armory Usage Proposal - Feb 2025 \(1\).pdf](#)

City Council Work Session Agenda Item Report

Meeting Date: March 3, 2025

Submitted by: Shaniya Lashley-Mullen

Submitting Department: Administration

Item Type: Work Session Item

Agenda Section: Work Session Packet - Solid Waste Rate Modification Proposal

Subject:

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Angela D. Alsobrooks
County Executive

THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Department of the Environment



Andrea L. Crooms
Director

November 14, 2024

Dear Sir or Madame:

As a result of the adoption of the FY2025 Budget, the following fees will be placed in effect as of January 1, 2025, planned future fees are also provided for planning purposes.

Sanitary Landfill Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Standard Rates

	Resident Rate & County Contracted Hauler for Residential Service per contract	Municipal Rate	Commercial Rate
Current	\$0	\$70/ton	\$70/ton
Effective July 1, 2024	\$0	\$70/ton	\$70/ton
Effective January 1, 2025	\$0	\$70/ton	\$77/ton
Planned* July 1, 2025	\$0	\$85/ton	\$85/ton
Proposed* July 1, 2026	\$0	\$90/ton	\$90/ton

**Proposed, subject to change, provided for planning purposes.*

Sanitary Landfill Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Tire Rates

	Resident Rate	Municipal Rate	Commercial Rate
Current	\$0 up to 5 tires at a time	\$400/ton	\$400/ton
Effective July 1, 2024	\$0 up to 5 tires at a time	\$400/ton	\$500/ton
Effective July 1, 2025	\$0 up to 5 tires at a time	\$450/ton	\$625/ton
Effective July 1, 2026	\$0 up to 5 tires at a time	Actual contract rate, TBD.	Service no longer provided

Sanitary Landfill Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Other Material Rates

	Resident Rate	Municipal Rate	Commercial Rate
Recyclable Wood Wastes	\$0 *preference is to bring to convenience center	\$45/ton	\$45/ton
Recyclable Metal Wastes	\$0 *preference is to bring to convenience center	\$25/ton	\$25/ton

- County Residents' household generated trash is accepted at no charge Monday thru Saturday at the convenience center or landfill. Since FY2023, there is no charge to residents bringing waste to the landfill or convenience centers in personal cars, SUV's, vans (even with the seats removed), or pick-up trucks up to ¾ ton.
- County Residents can bring trash, recycling and organic waste (wood and yard trim) to the Brown Station Road convenience center in personal cars, SUV's, vans (even with the seats removed), or pick-up trucks up to ¾ ton for no charge.
- County Residents can bring trash and recycling to the Missouri Avenue convenience center in personal cars, SUV's, vans (even with the seats removed), or pick-up trucks up to ¾ ton for no charge.
- Waste delivered in pickup trucks at 3/4 ton or greater, trucks with gated sides, trailers, or vehicles for commercial use/with commercial markings and loads of commercial waste brought in any vehicle must tip (dispose) at the Sanitary Landfill and are subject to the standard disposal rate with a ten dollar (\$10) minimum charge.

Organics Composting Facility

County Contracted Residential Haulers	\$0.00 per ton
Municipalities	\$25.00 per ton
All Others	\$45.00 per ton

Residential Refuse Collection

Trash & Garbage Charge for County Refuse Collection Service	\$236.55 per unit
Administrative Overhead Charge	\$4.11 per unit
Total Refuse Collection Charge	\$240.66 per unit

*Typical Total Solid Waste Service Charge
for Single Family or Town Home* *\$357.39 per unit*

Residential System/Service Charge (\$ per Dwelling Unit)

System Benefit Charge

Unincorporated Areas SF/TH**	\$35.49 per unit
Municipalities SF/TH**	\$35.49 per unit
Apartments	\$35.49 per unit
Condominiums	\$35.49 per unit
Mobile Homes	\$35.49 per unit

Recycling Charge

Unincorporated Areas SF/TH**	\$59.73 per unit
Municipalities SF/TH**	\$47.79 per unit
Condominiums	\$32.25 per unit
Southeast Exempt Areas	\$35.84 per unit

Bulky Trash Charge

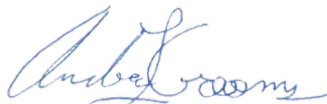
Unincorporated Areas SF/TH**	\$21.51 per unit
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Non-Residential System Benefit Charge (\$ per square foot)

Waste Generation Rate

Low = 0 – 3.99 lbs./Sq. Ft.	\$5.07 per Sq. Ft.
Medium = 4.0 – 5.99 lbs./Sq. Ft.	\$12.68 per Sq. Ft.
High = 6.0 or more lbs./Sq. Ft.	\$17.75 per Sq. Ft.

Sincerely,



Andrea L. Crooms
Director

cc: Floyd E. Holt, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
for Government Infrastructure, Technology and Environment

Denise N. Robinson, Executive Director
Revenue Authority

Pamela F. Dickerson, Director & Purchasing Agent
Office of Procurement

Stanley A. Earley, Director
Office of Management and Budget

Stephen J. McGibbon, Director
Office of Finance

Dawit A. Abraham, Director
Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement

Michael D. Johnson, Director
Department of Public Works and Transportation

Rhonda L. Weaver, County Attorney
Office of Law

Wanda R. Coley-Smith, Billing and Contract Manager
Office of Finance

Larissa Broady, Audit/Mortgage Company Clerk
Office of Finance

Michelle W. Russell, Deputy Director
Department of the Environment

Adriana Caldarelli, Deputy Director
Department of the Environment

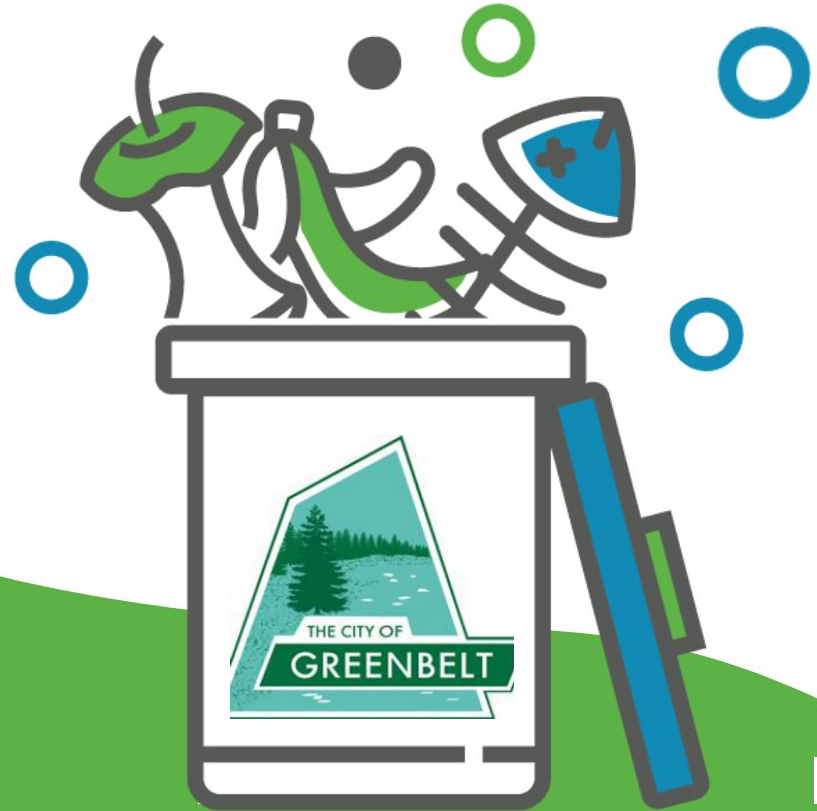
Rushane M. Jones, Associate Director
Strategic Services Division, DoE

Timothy B. Richards, Deputy Associate Director
Resource Recovery Division, DoE

Brandon Key, Budget Manager
Strategic Services Division, DoE

Bruce M. O'Dell, Disposal Section Manager
Resource Recovery Division, DoE

CITY OF GREENBELT - POST-GRANT COMPOSTING OPTIONS



OBJECTIVES

- Continue momentum for food scrap composting in the City of Greenbelt that was started by the USDA grant
- Keep processing of Greenbelt food scraps locally to minimize traffic & emissions
- Continue to give Greenbelt a valuable, locally-produced soil enrichment product
- Support Trinity Church's food recovery program
- Come up with a financial model that works for the City, its residents & Compost Crew



ISSUES ADDRESSED BY PROJECT

- Food waste comprises at least 24% of weight going to landfills, per EPA.
- Food that decomposes anaerobically in landfills produces methane, a potent greenhouse gas.
- Food scraps & organic waste composted locally lowers greenhouse gases.
- Soils are losing nutrients, and people feel the need to apply chemical fertilizers to compensate.
- Loss of organic matter in soil increases stormwater runoff & water pollution.
- By closing the organics loop, we incorporate nutrients back into our soils in the form of compost, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, require fewer or no fertilizer inputs, help make soil spongier & more absorbent, and reduce the amount of runoff

ENVIRONMENTAL & SOCIAL BENEFITS

- Divert food scraps and organics from the landfill in an efficient way both environmentally and economically
- Reduce Greenbelt's greenhouse gas emissions
- Expand Greenbelt's food waste diversion program
- Demonstrate local food waste composting capacity at a small/medium scale
- Increase local compost production
- Assist food production in community gardens.
- Improve soil health
- Demonstrate the benefits of returning a valuable recycled resource to the community

YEAR ONE HIGHLIGHTS



Thursday, May 9, 2024

Gathering at Compost Facility Showcases City Pilot Program

Thursday November 21, 2024

Curbside Food Scrap Program Marks Milestone with Delivery

"The delivery of 40 cubic yards of compost to Greenbelt community gardens marked the **official accomplishment of a key component of the program – closing a food loop....[F]ood waste that formerly went to the landfill now returns to Greenbelt as a high-quality soil enrichment resource.**"



*Ribbon cutting with city officials
and Compost Crew*

HELPING COMMUNITY GARDENS

“The compost was of excellent quality. All the gardeners who I talked to in Henry's Hollow were very pleased and are looking forward to another delivery in the spring of next year. **It's great to have a program whereby the community enriches the gardens of Greenbelt.**”

- Eric Raun, coordinator for Henry's Hollow community garden (***News Review***, 11/21/24)



*First compost delivery,
Oct. 15, 2024*

CURRENT PROGRAM

- **The service residents get today, which is currently funded by the USDA grant, is priced at \$22-23 per home**
- After the grant to continue weekly collection & processing for 410 households
 - The proposed cost is \$21.68 per home per month
 - In this scenario, Greenbelt owns the shipping containers
 - Compost Crew owns the finished compost, which can be offered to local groups and residents at a discounted rate



COST SAVINGS

- **All materials sent to landfill will cost the City \$85/ton effective July 2025**
- At 410 homes, the City will divert an expected 122 tons of food scraps annually. That will save \$10,370 vs. tipping at the landfill (\$2.10 / home per month). Composting will also use ~366 tons of yard waste.
- At 660 homes, the City will divert nearly 200 tons of food scraps per year, which will save \$17,000
- Landfill rate increase to \$90/ton (+6%) in July 2026 has already been announced



TO REDUCE PROGRAM COST - OPTION #1

- **Greenbelt sells the shipping containers at the Outpost to Compost Crew**
 - Compost Crew would purchase the containers used at the Compost Outpost for a depreciated price (80% of original cost)
 - Purchase would happen over two years, via a reduction in monthly service fees
 - The monthly rate for service would drop by \$2.55 at 440 homes or by \$1.70 at 660 homes



TO REDUCE PROGRAM COST - OPTION #2

- **Expand participation to 660 Greenbelt households**
 - The current program has a cap of 410 participating households
 - The Compost Outpost at Trinity can process food scraps from as many as 440 homes
 - If Greenbelt makes available space at the Armory for storing & processing finished compost, it would enable expansion to 660 homes
 - That would reduce the per home cost by between \$1.00-1.25 per month



TO REDUCE PROGRAM COST - OPTION #3

- **Change to a partially-subsidized program**
 - Greenbelt can have residents pay a small monthly fee for this service, reducing the amount paid by the City
 - City of Alexandria has just decided to introduce a \$5 / month fee; Falls Church charges \$8 / month
 - Charging a fee will likely reduce participation to some extent, but a small monthly fee should minimize attrition

OPTIONS FOR USE OF FINISHED COMPOST

- **The Garden Club would get first right to purchase the finished compost**
 - \$45 per cubic yard (list price \$75 / cy)
 - Max of 300 cubic yards
- **Compost Crew retains the finished compost**
 - Trinity Church is also interested in buying available compost
- **Residents may have an option to purchase smaller amounts**

THANK YOU

- We are grateful for the opportunity to work with the City of Greenbelt to demonstrate the value of this local, closed loop system for processing food waste
- We are happy to answer your questions



Proposal for the use of space at the Armory building
City of Greenbelt, Green Team and Compost Crew
February 2025

Summary

Food scraps collected as part of the City of Greenbelt's curbside composting program are currently processed locally at a composting site at Trinity Assembly of God (aka Trinity Church), as a model of a circular system for managing food waste close to its source. The current system minimizes the amount of time the collection truck spends transporting these food scraps, and keeps the finished compost local. The Compost Outpost® at Trinity Church has the capacity to process food scraps from approximately 440 homes. The primary limitation is the amount of space available on that site. In order to increase the capacity to support composting food scraps from 660 homes, which would reduce the per home cost of the composting program, we propose to use some additional space at the Armory building, located at the corner of Southway and Greenbelt Roads. By storing the cure pile at the Armory, and managing the compost sifting process twice a year at the Armory site, it would provide the added capacity to expand the composting program with a minimum of additional changes needed to the Compost Outpost at Trinity Church.

Composting Proposed Process for Expansion:

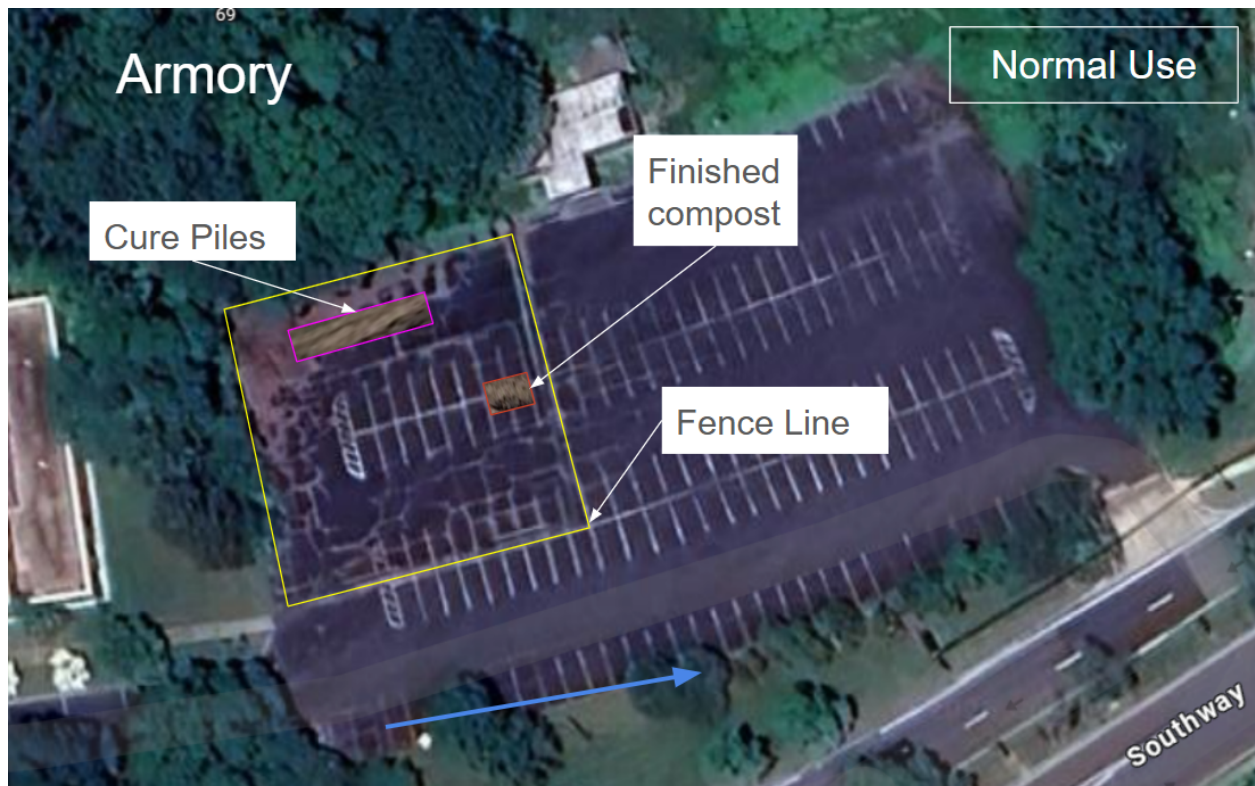
- The goal is to expand to be able to service 660 homes with the existing two AirEz pods, which would typically have a capacity of 440 homes. Thus, Compost Crew would need to build an above grade ASP pipe system at Trinity with bin block bunkers.
 - Two piles each week will be loaded by Compost Crew into the AirEz pods, for a two-week processing cycle. This represents 27 cubic yards per week of total feedstock being processed.
 - Compost Crew unloads material into the above grade ASP for a two-month processing cycle. This assumes ~781 square feet are needed for the two month storage time.
 - Browns are still stored onsite. This assumes ~689 square feet are needed for two months storage time - since we get continuous delivery of browns from the City's yard waste crews.
 - When material is moved out of the composting system, it goes into the cure pile, and from there moved to a larger cure pile at the Armory. The entire cure pile is currently at Trinity, but would need to be moved to accommodate the construction of the above grade ASP.
 - A Greenbelt collection truck already tips yard material on a biweekly set schedule - once that truck is empty, it would pick up the cure pile each time and deliver material to the Armory cure pile. Compost Crew staff would need to be onsite to help the City crew load the Greenbelt truck. The ideal time for this would be on Thursday afternoons.

- The footprint needed at Trinity would be approximately the same as it is today, with a maximum space allocation of roughly 1,800 - 3,000 sq. ft.
- Armory flow:
 - Compost Crew completes a quick scan of Armory weekly to monitor the temperature of the cure pile and cleanliness of the site.
 - Assuming a biannual sift schedule, the maximum amount of space needed would be as follows:
 - Cure pile ~1,400 sqft
 - Finished compost ~345 sqft
 - Overs ~1,000 sqft
 - While Compost Crew is sifting, its team would transport the overs to Trinity for brown usage. Compost Crew may ask the City collections crew to assist with larger bulk movement, if needed, after sifting is complete.
 - Finished compost would be covered and periodically delivered from the Armory to customers.
 - The maximum space allocation needed would be approximately 1,500 - 3,000 sq. ft. (please reference the site design pictures below.)

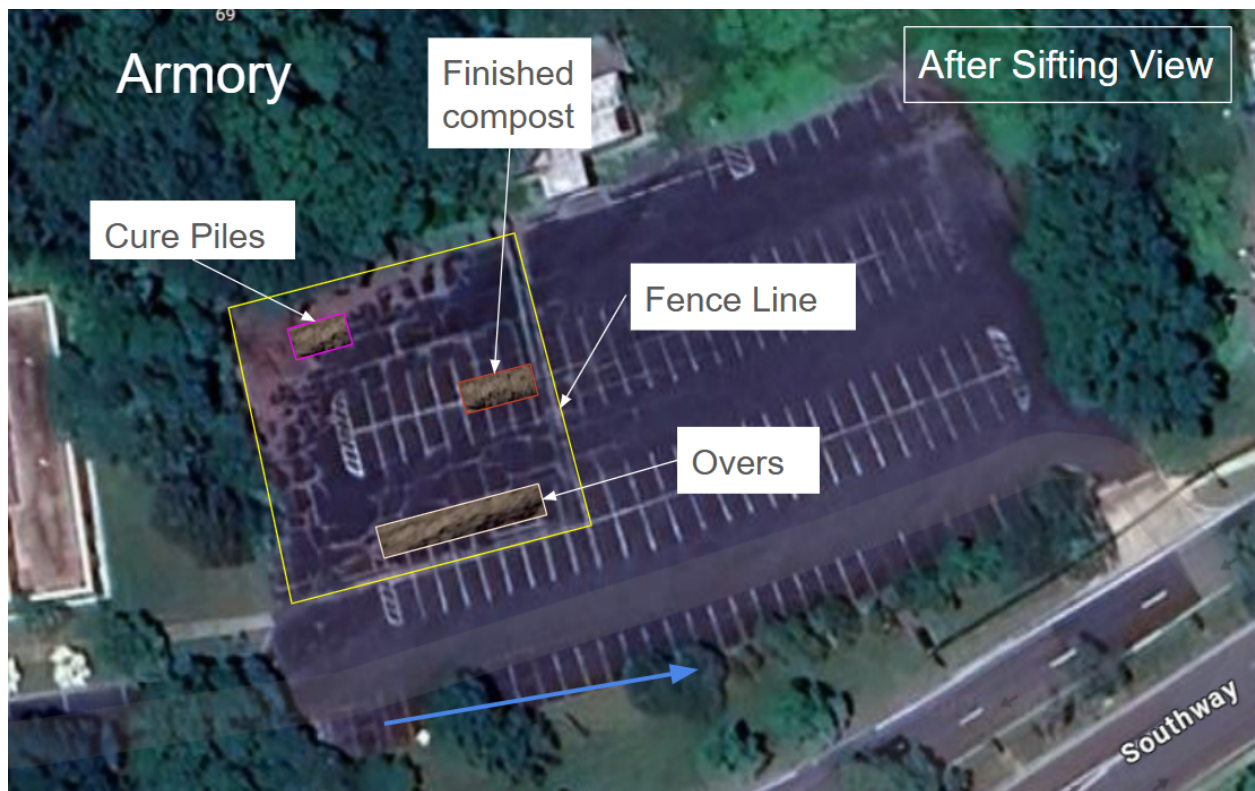
Armory Needs & Expectations:

- Utilities: will need to have electric & water connections available within the fenced area at the Armory site.
- Both Greenbelt collections crews and Compost Crew staff would need access to the fenced area.
 - **Biweekly:** One Greenbelt pickup truck that is used for yard waste collection would tip the cure material in a pile, most likely Thursdays or Fridays. The total drive time from the yard waste site to Trinity Church, then to the Armory and then back to the yard waste site is approximately 30 minutes. Including tipping and loading times, the level of effort is estimated to be one hour biweekly.
 - **Weekly:** Compost Crew staff would stop by the site briefly to monitor temperature and make sure everything looks good. This would typically take place on Thursdays or Fridays.
- Sifting the finished compost would require more active usage of the space for one to two weeks twice each year.
 - Compost Crew would coordinate the transportation of a sifter to the site. The sifter requires access to electricity.
 - Compost Crew would transport its skid steer to the site.
 - Compost Crew would be onsite daily to sift the cure pile and move the overs (material that doesn't fit through the sifter) back to Trinity to be reintroduced into the composting process.
 - The finished compost would be delivered to customers periodically throughout the year. Thus, Compost Crew staff would bring a truck and trailer to the site along with the skid steer. Compost Crew would load the finished compost into the trailer and take it off site.

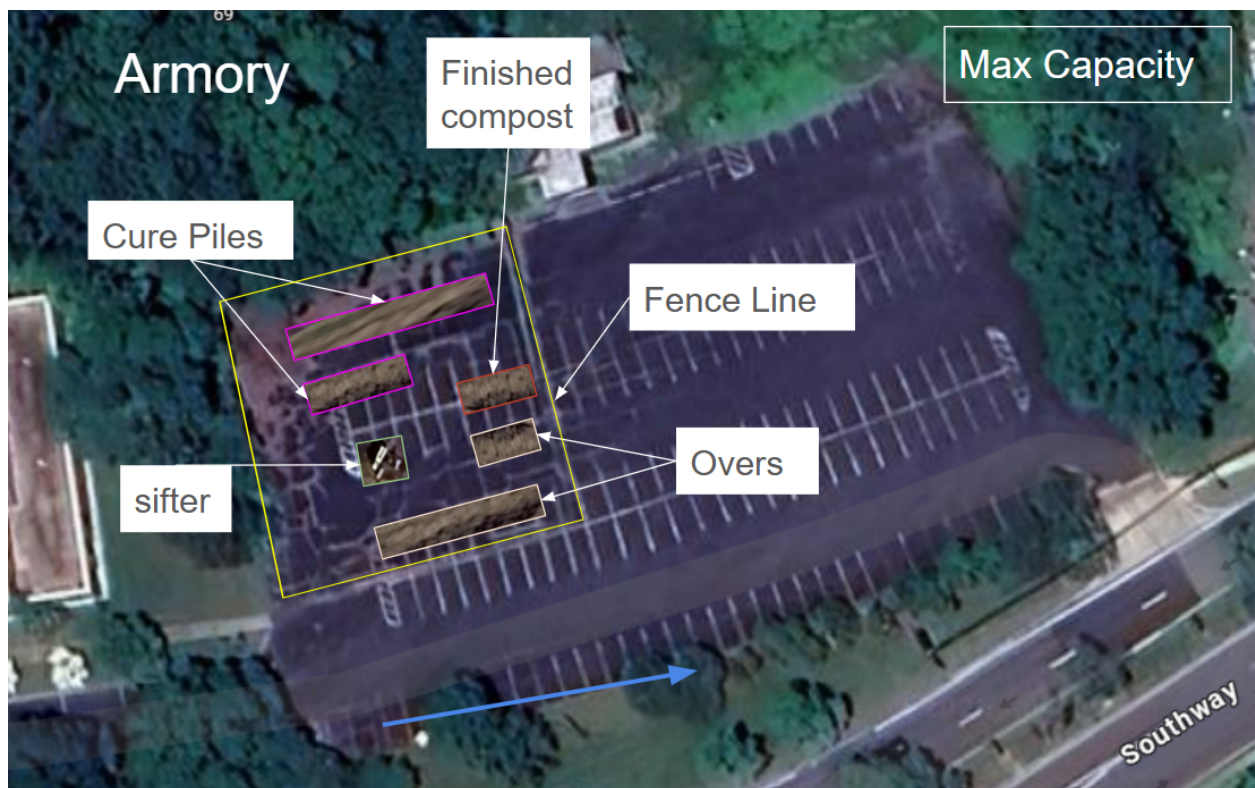
- Site space used:
 - Everything would be inside the designated fenced area of the parking lot.
 - Typical usage of the site at most times of the year is depicted as Picture 1
 - After sifting is complete is depicted in Picture 2
 - Maximum potential site capacity (during the sifting process) is depicted in Picture 3



Picture 1 - Typical use of site



Picture 2 - Site use after biannual sifting (2x per year)



Picture 3 - Potential max capacity during biannual sifting (2x per year)