

Omaha World-Herald

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Household-Waste Site Is Selected

BY DAVE MORANTZ
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Get ready to clean out that grimy cabinet under the kitchen sink.

Douglas and Sarpy Counties could have their first collection site for leftover paint, drain cleaners and other household chemicals in about a year.

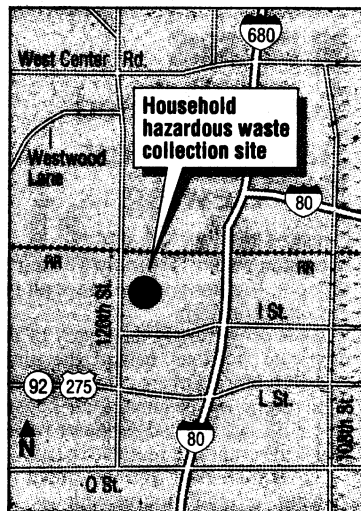
A partnership of local agencies announced Thursday that it had selected a site near 120th and I Streets to house Omaha's first household hazardous waste drop-off facility.

Construction could begin as early as next spring. The \$1.1 million project should open late next summer or early next fall.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Agency and other agencies chose the 120th and I site from among three finalists because of its large lot size and highway access. The City of Omaha will move its road materials already there to a new site near 96th and F Streets.

"There's a lot of material that should not go into the landfill," said Louis Violi, MAPA executive director. "People who don't know what to do with that, whether it's Weed-Be-Gone or whatever it is, will have a place to take it."

The center will initially serve Douglas and Sarpy Counties and could expand to include Cass and Washington Counties.



DEAN WEINLAUB/THE WORLD-HERALD

Officials estimate that Douglas and Sarpy Counties produce almost 1,200 tons of household hazardous waste each year. That includes cleaners, drain openers and old motor oil. If not disposed of properly, such waste can pollute rivers, lakes and drinking water sources.

Violi said the new collection center will send the hazardous materials off-site to be processed and disposed

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■ WASTE Partnership Selects Site For Facility

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of. It will offer residents a free swap shop, where they can pickup paint or cleaners that others have dropped off. Officials estimate the swap shop will recycle 75 percent of the site's materials.

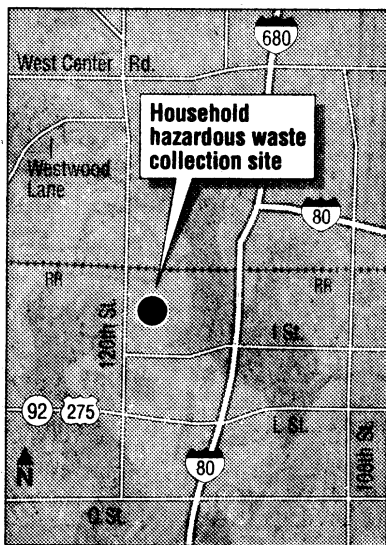
Representatives from the City of Omaha, Keep Omaha Beautiful and Jacobson Helgoth Consultants, the engineering firm involved with the

project, will go to door to door Sunday in the neighborhood around the site to answer questions and hand out information.

MAPA and its project partners, which include Douglas and Sarpy Counties, Omaha and the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District, announced 10 possible sites in February and pared the list to three in April.

The next step, Violi said, is to apply for grant money to cover the construction cost and the estimated \$420,000 annual operating cost. Douglas and Sarpy Counties have raised their landfill tipping fees, which officials hope will bring in about \$110,000 a year.

DOUGLAS AND SARPY COUNTIES



DEAN WEINLAUB/THE WORLD-HERALD

Site to Collect Hazards From Households

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Violi said the new collection center will send the materials off-site to be processed and disposed of. It will offer a swap shop, where items that have been dropped off can be taken for free.

Representatives from the City of Omaha, Keep Omaha Beautiful and Jacobson Helgoth Consultants, the engineering firm involved with the project, will go to door-to-door Sunday in the site's neighborhood to answer questions and hand out information.

MAPA's project partners include Douglas and Sarpy Counties, Omaha and the Papio-Missouri River Natural Resources District.