

Introduction

This report highlights overall participation in the Nashua Region Solid Waste Management District's (NRSWMD) Household Hazardous Waste Program. This program is funded by municipal assessments, user fees, and a grant received by the Nashua Regional Planning Commission from the NH Department of Environmental Services. The following tables and figures reflect data from waste collection events held during 2024.

This year was the first of a three-year contract with Tradebe Environmental. Since this was our first time working with Tradebe, we spent time getting to know the company, its people, and its policies. All the Nashua events were held at the Public Works Garage at 9 Stadium Drive. It is a tight site that creates traffic conflicts, especially with neighboring Stellos Stadium, so we will be moving back to 25 Crown Street in 2025.

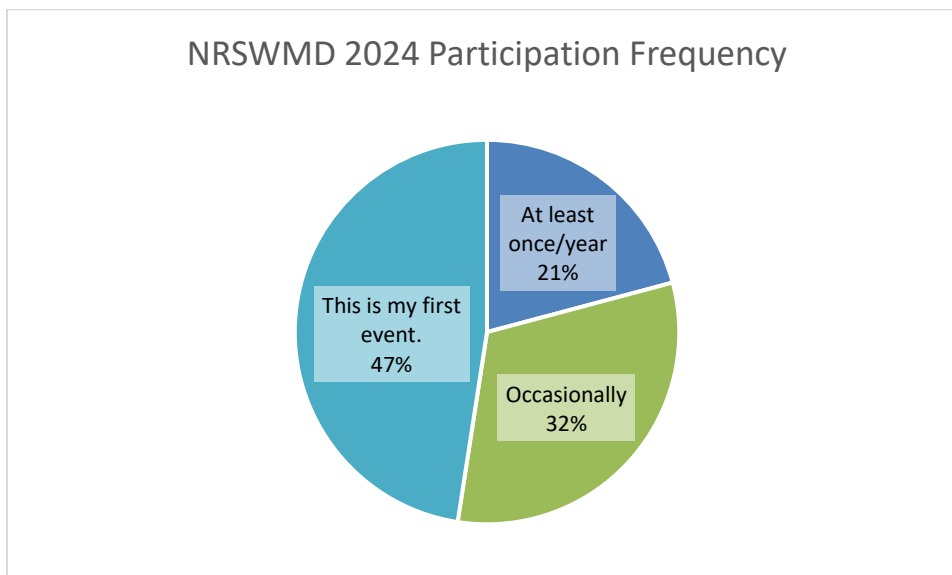
Collection Overview

Six events were held during 2024: five in Nashua and one satellite event in Milford. Residents from any of the eleven NRSWMD member municipalities could participate in any event. In odd-numbered years, the satellite event has typically been held in Pelham.

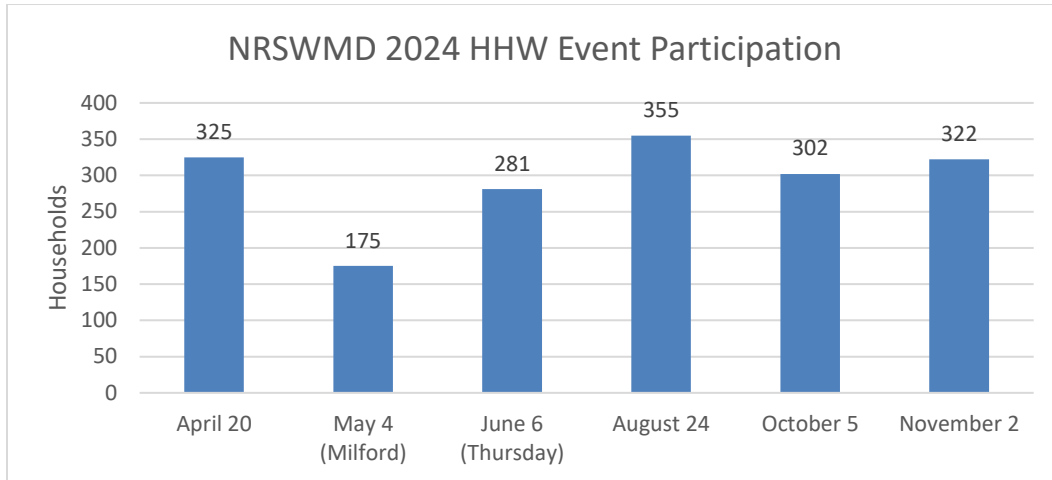
Saturday April 20, 8am-12pm, in Nashua	Saturday August 24, 8am-12pm, in Nashua
Saturday May 4, 8am-12pm, in Milford	Saturday October 5, 8am-12pm, in Nashua
Thursday June 6, 3pm-7pm , in Nashua	Saturday November 2, 8am-12pm, in Nashua

Participation

In 2024, a total of 1,760 households participated in the HHW collections. As pictured in the pie chart below, 32% of the participants indicated attending HHW collections occasionally, 47% reported attending for their first time, and 21% reported attending at least one event every year.



The most popular event in 2024 was the August 24 Nashua event, with 355 households participating, as shown in the bar chart below.

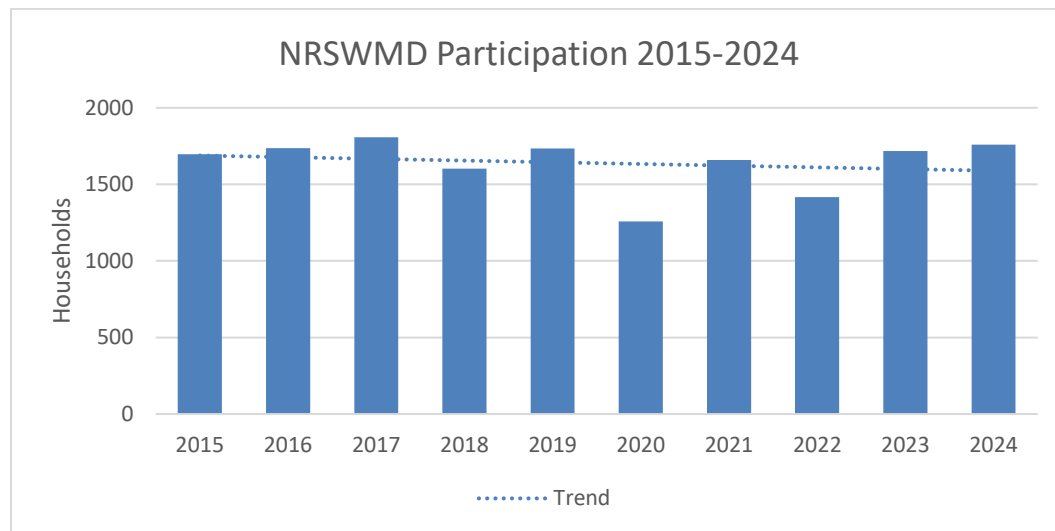


Participation by community largely reflected the size of each community. Nashua and Pelham residents utilized the events at slightly lower rates than we would expect based on their size, while Hollis residents utilized the events at a slightly higher rate, as seen in the table below. There were 29 households from communities that are not members of the NRSWMD, which accounted for 1.6% of participants.

Town	Households Participating	% of NRSWMD Participation	% of Regional Population	Difference
Amherst	105	6.0%	5.1%	0.8%
Brookline	37	2.1%	2.5%	-0.4%
Hollis	114	6.5%	3.7%	2.7%
Hudson	167	9.5%	11.2%	-1.7%
Litchfield	65	3.7%	3.7%	0.0%
Merrimack	234	13.3%	12.5%	0.8%
Milford	129	7.3%	7.1%	0.2%
Mont Vernon	36	2.0%	1.1%	0.9%
Nashua	638	36.3%	39.8%	-3.5%
Pelham	57	3.2%	6.3%	-3.0%
Windham	149	8.5%	7.0%	1.5%
Out of Region	29	1.6%	n/a	n/a

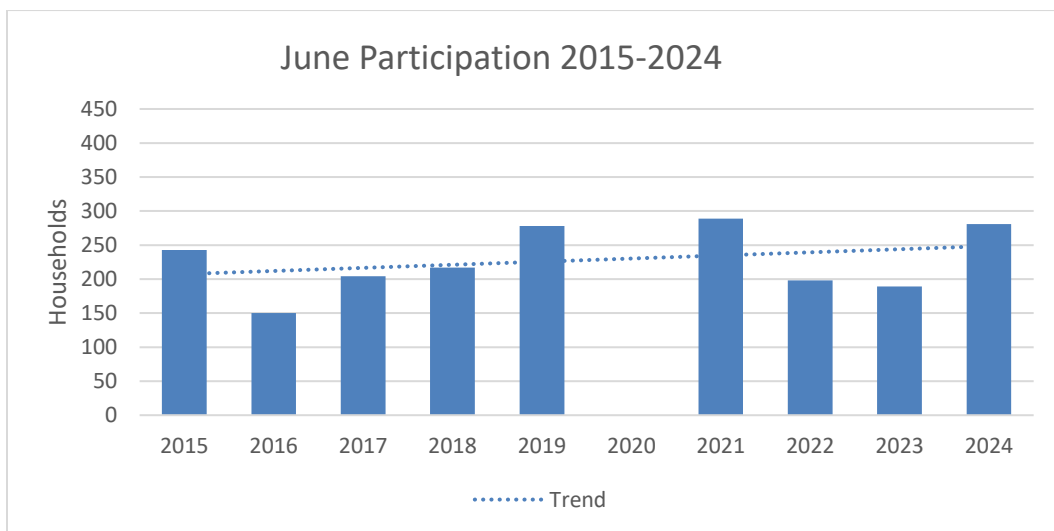
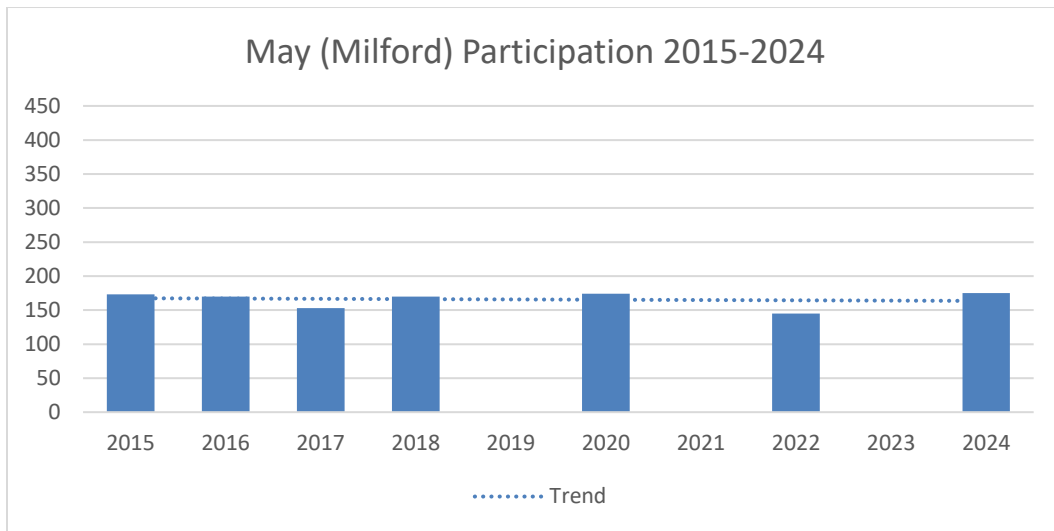
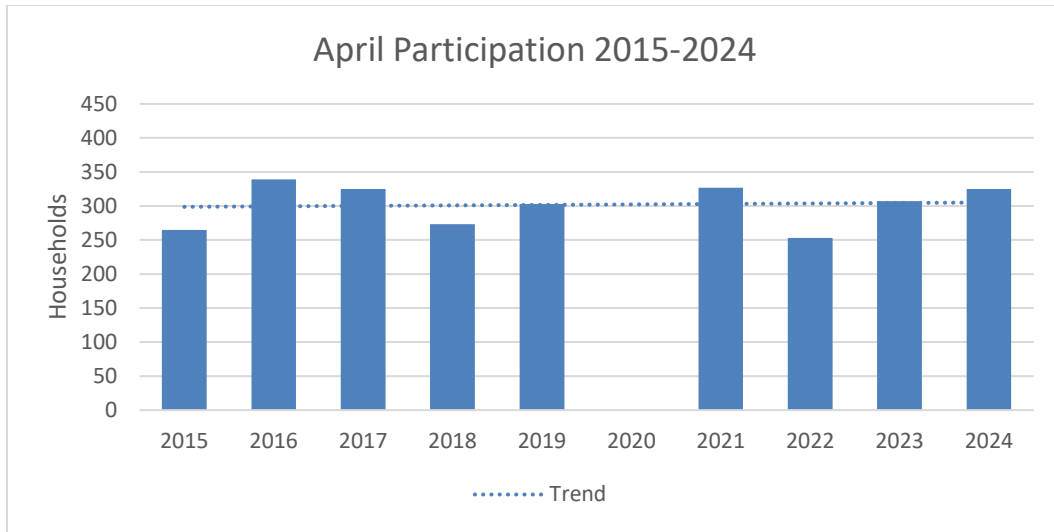
Historic Participation Trends

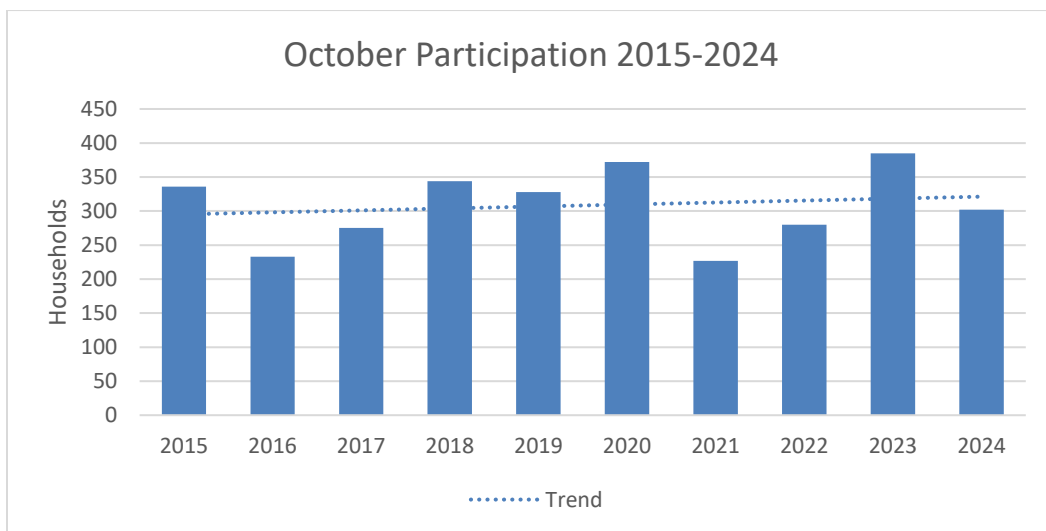
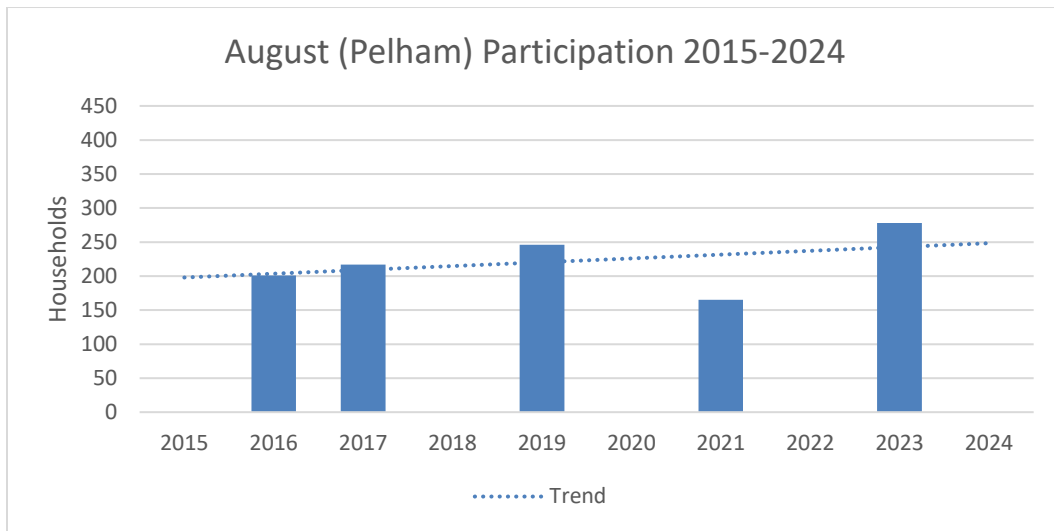
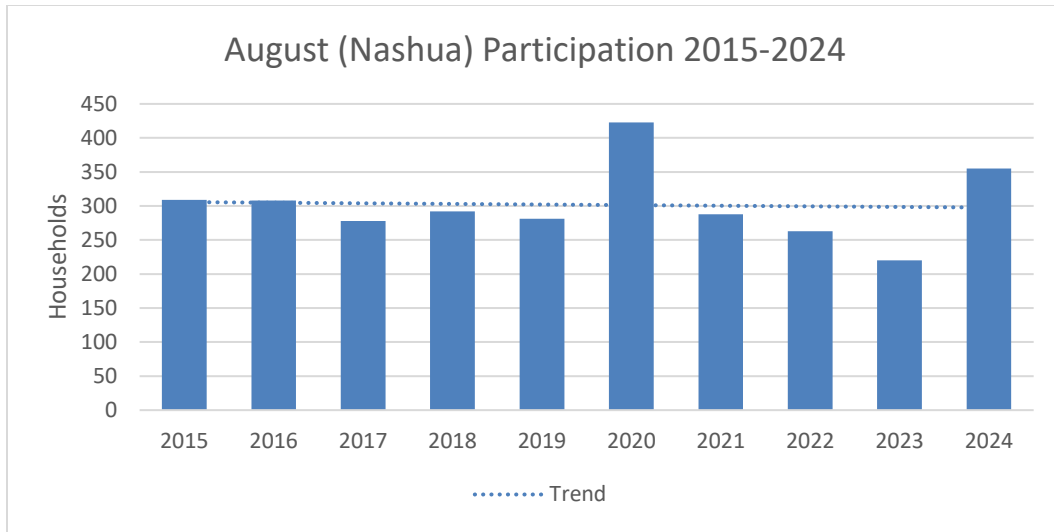
NRSWMD began charging a \$10 user fee per vehicle in 2008, which was raised to \$15 in 2019. While participation rates trended consistently upward from 2015 to 2017, they have fluctuated up and down since then. The district held seven events in 2016 and 2017, only four events in 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, and six events each year from 2021 to 2024.

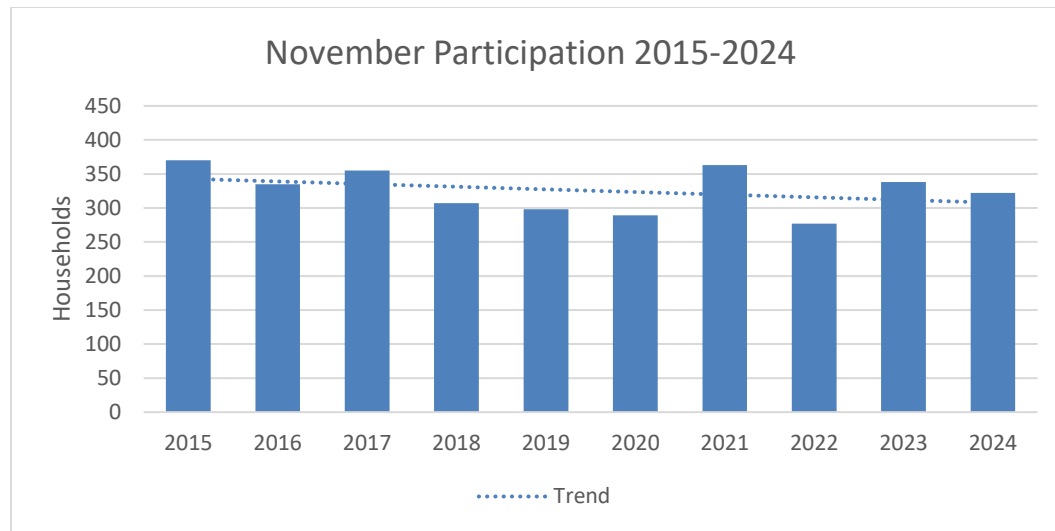


Year	April (Nashua)	May (Milford)	June (Nashua)	Aug. (Nashua)	Aug. (Pelham)	Oct. (Nashua)	Nov. (Nashua)	Total Households
2024	325	175	281	355	N/A	302	322	1,760
2023	307	N/A	189	278	220	385	338	1,717
2022	253	145	198	263	N/A	280	277	1,416
2021	327	N/A	289	288	165	227	363	1,659
2020	N/A	(Aug) 174	N/A	423	N/A	372	289	1,258
2019	303	N/A	278	281	246	328	298	1,734
2018	273	170	217	292	N/A	344	307	1,603
2017	326	153	204	278	217	275	355	1,808
2016	339	170	150	308	201	233	335	1,736
2015	265	173	243	309	N/A	336	370	1,696

Attendance at each event fluctuates from year to year, as seen in the table above and charts below. In 2020, the April and June events were cancelled and the Milford satellite event was postponed from May until August. The 2024 August event in Nashua had more attendees than in previous years, perhaps because it took place at the end of the month, instead of the beginning. However, traffic and staffing were a challenge that weekend due to conflicts with other local events.

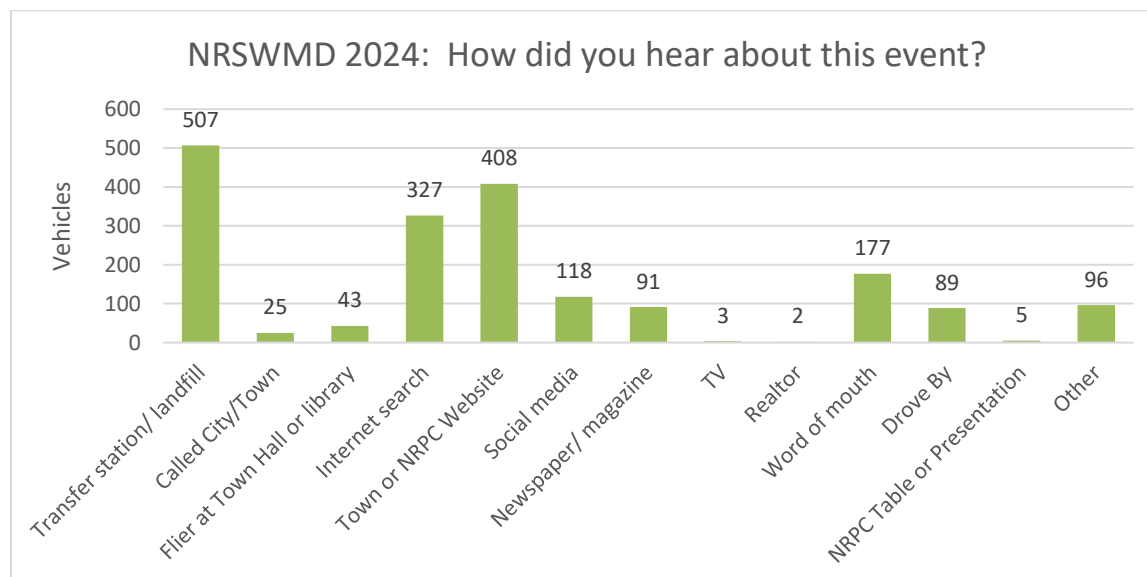






Marketing & Outreach

By tracking how participants learn about HHW events, the district can better target its marketing and outreach. In 2024, most participants learned about the collection events from either their local transfer station (507) or their municipality's website or the NRPC website (408 vehicles). Many learned about the event by using an internet search (327), or by word of mouth (177).

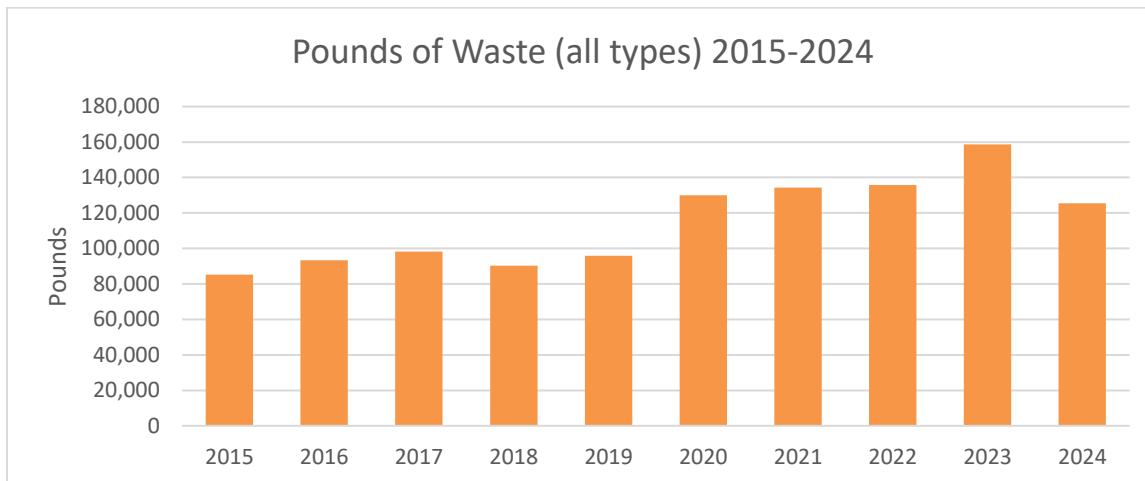


Materials Collected

The district manifested a total of 125,474 pounds of waste during the 2024 collection season. Of this, 60,818 pounds were hazardous, and 64,656 pounds were non-hazardous. This is a decrease of 33,124 pounds from the 2023 total of 158,598 pounds (total pounds of waste in 2023: 141,278 pounds hazardous and 17,320 pounds non-hazardous). The significant decrease is likely due to differences in how our new waste contractor accepts and sorts waste compared to our previous contractor.

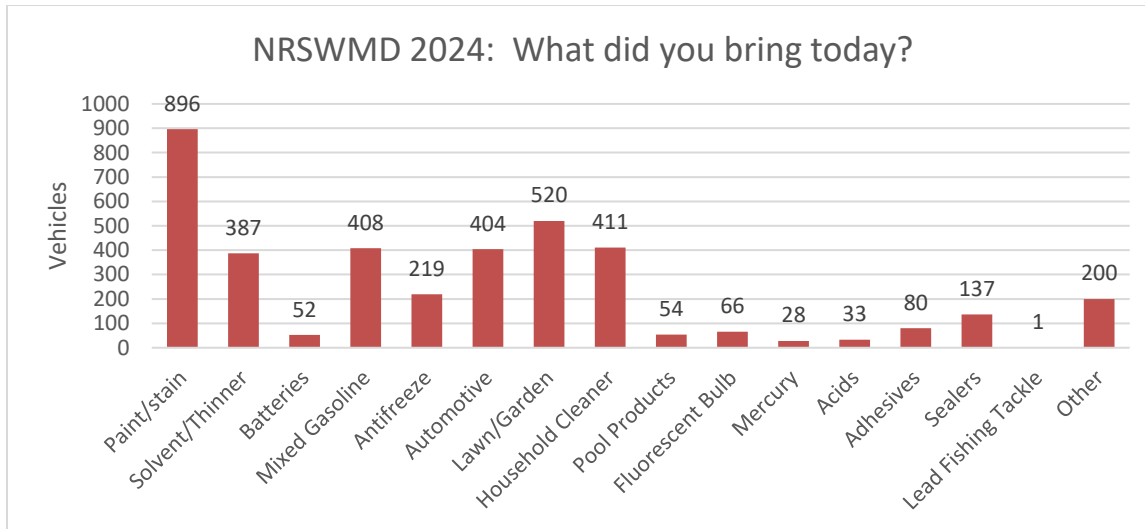
2024 Volume by Event (Pounds)			
Date	Haz	Non-Haz	Total
4/20	12,662	12,631	25,293
5/4	5,152	6,572	11,724
6/6	5,360	9,434	14,794
8/24	14,637	12,276	26,913
10/5	8,295	9,392	17,687
11/2	14,712	14,351	29,063
2024 Totals	60,818	64,656	125,474

The volumes of waste from the last ten years can be seen in the chart below.



Participant surveys provide more detailed information on the types of waste being collected from each community. The types of waste collected in 2024, as reported on participant surveys, are shown in the figure below.

Participants reported paint/stain (896 vehicles), lawn/garden (520 vehicles), and household cleaner (411 vehicles) as the three most common types of waste.



Conclusions

Total event attendance increased since last year, although the amount of waste collected decreased. Rising disposal costs continue to put pressure on our communities and environmental contractor. The proper disposal of household hazardous waste is enormously important as it decreases our impact on the environment and the risks of accidental poisonings in the home. The dedication of our members and professional expertise of our environmental contractor have been vital to the success of this program: Thank you.