

Our Zero Waste Initiative

Three Rivers Park District is committed to lessening our impact on the environment by reducing the amount of waste generated at events. As a part of our Zero Waste Initiative, the following requirements have been installed at our featured facilities and are encouraged throughout our park district:



Use of washable dinnerware, cutlery and glassware. Use of washable linens and napkins.



Use of certifiable compostable paper dinnerware, cutlery and drinkware. Compostable table coverings, napkins and paper products.



Single-serving bottles of water, juice, or carbonated beverages in plastic bottles are NOT allowed.



Food served in disposable plastic or styrofoam containers is NOT allowed.



Sort recycling, compost and trash into proper containers.

Sorting Event Waste

We ask that events within our parks make waste prevention and recycling an important feature of their preparation, setup and cleanup. Please familiarize yourself with the appropriate sorting measures, and direct guests to the on-site compostable and recycling bins.

Recycling (Blue Bins)

- Glass and bottles
- Metal and cans
- Cardboard and paper containers

vs.

Compostables (Green Bins)

- Compostable or BPI Certified products
- All food waste
- Paper products soiled with food waste

Plastic wrap and dirty aluminium serving trays are NOT recyclable. These items go into the trash bin.

Zero Waste Event Checklist



Choose a venue or rental space that is committed to facilitating effective and simple Zero Waste Events.



For invitations, consider electronic invites, save-the-dates, or RSVP methods. For printed invitations, consider sustainable materials, plant-based inks, and the minimized use of paper.



To outfit the event borrow, rent, or buy consignment equipment, decorations, and supplies. Consider DIY elements using repurposed materials.



Choose local vendors to source food, flowers, equipment, and entertainment. Inform them of your efforts to produce a Zero Waste event and see how they can support you.



Find ways to reduce travel emissions by suggesting car pools, offering shuttles, or arranging for group transportation.



Make plans to use reusable or compostable products & food ware. Place an order for your compostable products with Three Rivers no later than 2 weeks before your event.



Brainstorm ways to cut out or reduce single-serve items. Consider replacing water bottles with carafes or beverage dispensers. Use large signs instead of individual agendas, ceremony itineraries, menus, or table assignments.



Choose gifts and favors carefully, recognizing some will be cherished while others end up in a landfill. Select low waste favors, wrapping, and gifts that are not single use. Consider donations, services, or sustainable acts like planting a tree.



Inform your guests about your Zero Waste event, instructing them to sort waste appropriately. Designate a "Waste Sort Champion" if necessary to ensure everything is sorted correctly.

Frequently Asked Questions

What does Zero Waste mean?

Zero Waste is an approach to resource management that conserves, repurposes and recycles what otherwise would be buried or burnt, into valuable assets that contribute to environmental, economic and social wellbeing.

While the main philosophy behind a Zero Waste lifestyle revolves around the three R's—reduce, reuse, recycle—the most important to keep in mind is reduce. By reducing the amount of resources we use we are conserving them.

What's the difference between Biodegradable & Compostable?

Biodegradable refers to any product that has the *ability* to break down & decompose in the environment, but often times will degrade at the same rate as man-made plastics without the proper conditions.

Compostable refers to products made with natural materials that *will* break down & decompose in the environment over the course of several months. Compostability is a desirable feature in disposable products as they are commonly made of sugarcane fibers or vegetable starches.

It's important to use products clearly labeled "compostable" and have the BPI Certification logo.

Why does Three Rivers prohibit plastic products if they can be recycled?

While some plastics are accepted in well-known municipal recycling programs, plastics are not often recycled back into their original forms.

Instead they are down-cycled into secondary mixed-plastic materials that cannot be recycled again.

By avoiding these materials all together, we reduce any potential negative impact on our environment and our parks.

Three Rivers Compostable Product Pricing Guide

All products are distributed in packages of 50, except Beverage Napkins which are in packages of 100. Prices do not include sales tax and are subject to change.

9 oz Squat Cold Cups	\$12.00
12 oz Cold Cups	\$12.75
12 oz Hot Cups	\$12.75
Forks	\$6.00
Knives	\$6.00
Spoons	\$6.00
6 oz Dessert Bowl	\$8.50
11.5 oz Soup Bowl	\$8.50
6 in. Dessert Plate	\$5.50
9 in. Dinner Plate	\$14.50
Beverage Napkins.....	\$5.50
Dinner Napkins	\$6.00

Three Rivers has a limited quantity of compostable products on hand. Restocking times vary due to current intermittent shipping delays. Please allow at least 2 weeks for order processing.

For questions on item availability or to place an order for your event, contact us at:

**ReservationHelp@ThreeRiversParks.org or
763.559.6700**