

Compost Report 2018



Purpose

Hudson River Park (HRPK) composts its horticulture waste, including grass clippings and pruned tree material, and organic waste from the community, including yard trimmings and food scraps, to help green the Park and support NYC's zero waste by 2030 goal. The Park composts to divert tons of organic waste from landfills, decrease the Park's carbon footprint, and help the Park's green spaces flourish. Instead of food and plant waste slowly decomposing in landfills, HRPK returns this organic matter to the earth and uses it to nourish plant beds throughout the Park. HRPK's composting initiative is one way the Park is involving our community in a more sustainable future.

Project Goals

- Operate seven community compost drop-off sites within the Park
- Compost at least 400,000 pounds of organic waste in 2018
- Engage and educate the community about the Park's compost program and the benefits of compost



Fig. 1 (above) | Map of the compost drop-off locations throughout Hudson River Park.

Methods



Fig. 2 (left) | Volunteer from the community accepting compost drop-off from a family at Chelsea Waterside.

- HRPK's horticulture staff collects all the organic waste that they produce
- Members of the community bring their organic waste to seven drop-off locations, open daily from 7am-7pm
- Organic waste collected by GrowNYC— an environmental organization with compost drop-off sites around NYC— is brought to HRPK
- All organic waste is dropped off at HRPK's compost center on 33rd street where it is weighed and processed in the Park's Green Mountain Technologies In-Vessel Earth Flow industrial composter
- HRPK hosts community compost workshops, school field trips and volunteer opportunities to educate locals on benefits of composting and involve the community in the Park's composting process
- Nutrient rich compost is returned to plant beds throughout HRPK

Major Findings

In 2018, 69,580 pounds of organic waste were collected from the Park's offices, boathouses and community drop-off sites with an overall upward trend in pounds collected throughout the year. The Park's horticulture team also contributed 350,000 pounds of horticultural waste while maintaining the Park this year. In total, HRPK turned nearly 420,000 pounds of organic waste into compost during 2018.

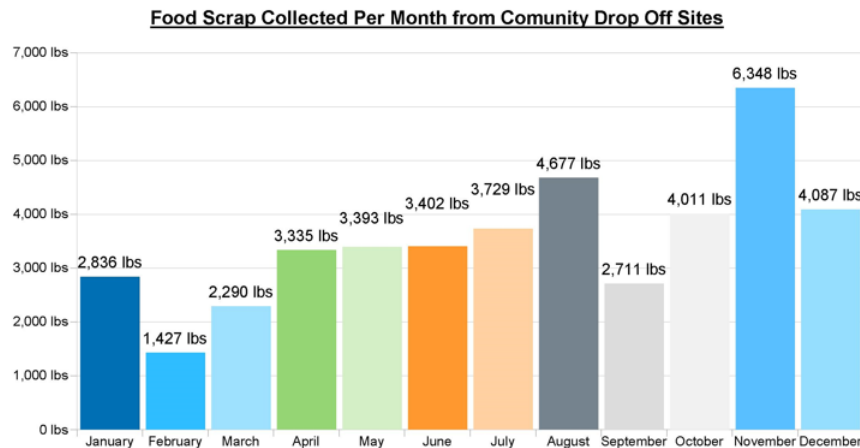


Fig. 3 (above) | amount of food scraps collected in pounds from each drop-off site in 2018

- Community Drop-off Site Total Food Scraps: 38,750 lbs.
- GrowNYC Total Food Scraps: 27,334 lbs.
- The most food scraps were dropped off at Pier 84 (9,297 lbs.)
- The most food scraps were collected in November, due to HRPK's free Pumpkin Smash event

Take Aways

Hudson River Park exceeded its goal to compost at least 400,000 lbs. of organic waste in 2018, and diverted thousands of pounds of waste from NYC's waste stream. HRPK employees and community members were educated at workshops, volunteer events and public programming to encourage best practices in composting.

Fig. 4 (right) | Kid at HRPK's first annual Pumpkin Smash



One of these events was HRPK's first annual Pumpkin Smash at Chelsea Waterside Park where 500 locals participated by smashing their old Halloween pumpkins. These pumpkins were composted and people learned about the benefits of composting. Families also left with a free bag of fresh compost and tips on how they can support composting efforts in NYC.

Future Directions

In 2019, HRPK's Estuary Lab will increase compost education with expanded school field trips and compost educational signage. The Park will continue to host community compost workshops and multiple volunteer opportunities to process, sift and distribute compost on HRPK's plant beds. By involving the community in compost education and processing through a variety of public programs, the Park hopes to help build a city of compost stewards and become a leader in compost processing for Parks throughout NYC.