



ROSEVILLE
SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability Newsletter

Public Works &
Engineering Division

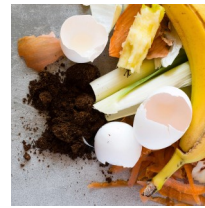
JUL/AUG 2024



Sustainability Tip —
Minnesota State
Parks



Stop Food Waste
Challenge



Composting 101



Recycling Ambassa-
dor Training

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Sustainability Tip — Exploring MN State Parks

This month's tip is written by Evelyn Ankrum, our summer sustainability intern from Winona State University!

Growing up, I had the privilege of going on numerous camping trips to various Minnesota state parks. Spending my childhood at campsites and on hiking trails led me to understand the importance of Minnesota's natural spaces and the opportunities they provide. When I visited state parks as a child, I enjoyed exploring the world around me. As an adult, I still find value in exploration while recognizing the important steps state parks take to offer educational opportunities, conserve Minnesota's natural spaces, and promote environmental stewardship. Minnesota state parks provide numerous recreational and educational opportunities while taking measures to conserve natural plant and animal species.



Fort Snelling State Park from the [MN DNR](#)

The state of Minnesota is home to 65 parks that offer opportunities for relaxation, adventure, and education. You don't have to be interested in camping to enjoy state parks; most visitors come for the day. Whether you're looking to plan a large family outing or a solo adventure, Minnesota state parks cater to a wide range of interests. The list of possible activities at state parks includes camping, fishing, biking (on paved and unpaved trails), hiking, birding, geocaching, swimming, climbing, paddling, educational programs, historical information, various equipment rentals, and more. Many parks are also open during the winter months, providing opportunities for skiing, ice fishing, sledding, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, fat biking, and winter camping. Learn more about what parks offer certain [summer](#) and [winter activities](#).

Education is an important mission of the Minnesota State Park System. Most parks have a Junior Ranger Program, designed for kids ages six to ten but available to anyone. After completing activities in the Junior Ranger booklet, you can head back to the visitor center to collect a free Junior Ranger patch. This program is designed to help introduce children to environmental concepts and help families engage with the state park during their visit.

In addition to the Junior Ranger program, many parks have educational ranger-led events designed for children and adults. These events could include guided nature walks, "Ask a Naturalist" events, information on environmental conservation, and educational presentations on specific animals. See the [state parks and trails events calendar](#) to learn more. Interactive experiences offered by the parks provide outdoor education and make learning about nature exciting for both adults and children.

Join the Stop Food Waste Challenge!



Stop food waste
Fight climate change

About 40% of food is wasted somewhere along the supply chain. All that wasted food adds up to wasted money. The average family of four spends more than \$2,500 on food that goes to waste every year. By taking steps to reduce food waste, we can save money, fight climate change, provide for our families, and improve our cooking skills.

The Stop Food Waste Challenge, stopfoodwaste.ecochallenge.org will help participants learn more about food waste and improve skills in cooking, planning, shopping, and storage. The challenge has more than 60 actions to choose from in six categories. Participants check off the actions they already take, then select up to five one-time actions and five daily actions to track progress on during the four-week challenge.

Team up with Roseville to fight food waste with the Stop Food Waste Challenge! By committing to actions that reduce food waste, we can save money, fight climate change, provide for our families, and improve our cooking skills. Sign up by July 31; the challenge runs from August 1 to August 31.

The online Stop Food Waste Challenge is offered in partnership with Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and Washington County and is powered by EcoChallenge.

Food Scraps and Composting 101

Tossing your food scraps into your [backyard compost](#) or [bringing them to the drop site](#) is a great way to make a sustainable difference in your own home by turning some of the waste you already make into rich compost!

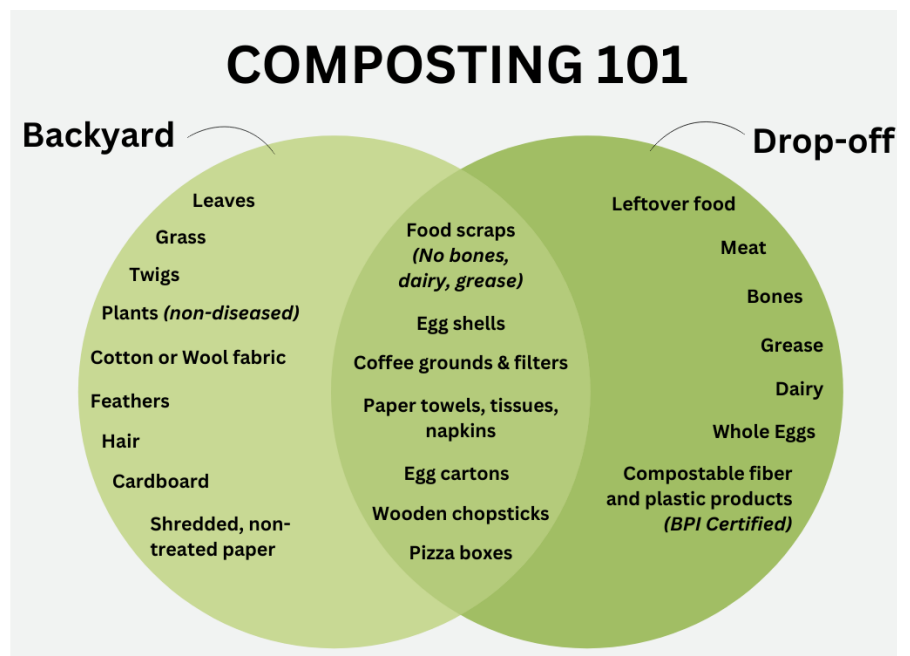
Are you interested in trying this but don't know how to start? [Watch a short how-to video from Ramsey County](#) about how the food scrap composting process works from start to finish.

It's important to know there are some differences between what can go in your backyard compost and what is accepted at the drop sites. We've created a diagram to make it easier to decide what should go where.

The drop-off site is a great option for residents who don't have a yard or don't feel comfortable tending a backyard compost pile.

If you are interested in home composting, there are many resources available to help you get started. **It's important to be mindful of the type and quantity of foods you put into your home compost pile to avoid attracting critters—combining your backyard compost with using the drop-off site is a great way to compost more of your waste!**

- [Ramsey County guide to backyard composting](#)
- [University of Minnesota Extension guide to home composting](#)



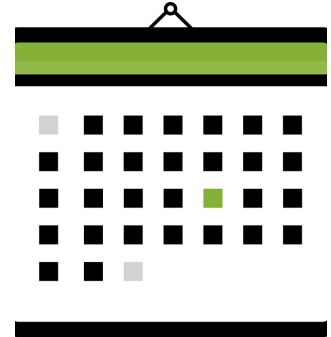
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Events and Resources

State Home Energy Rebates—Public Informational meeting:

Wednesday, July 17th, 6-7pm, Urban League Twin Cities (2100

Plymouth Avenue North, Minneapolis) To provide opportunities for the public and interested stakeholders to inform the design of Minnesota's Home Energy Rebate (HER) programs, Minnesota Department of Commerce will host six in-person public forums to take place throughout Minnesota over a two-week period in the summer of 2024. These forums aim to gather local perspectives, insights, and priorities from those who will benefit from the program, ensuring inclusivity and reaching populations often underrepresented in decision-making processes. **Want to help inform the design of the programs? [Sign up to participate in the advisory group.](#)**



Saint Paul Party Supply Swap—Fri 7/19 3:30-5:30p and Sat 7/20 10am-1pm, Palace Community Center (781 Palace Ave). Bring your unwanted party supplies, new or gently used, to the swap, where they can find new life at someone else's celebration! Then, stick around and browse the shelves! For a full list of accepted items, visit www.stpaul.gov/swaps.

Ramsey County Fix-It Clinic—Saturday, July 27th, 10am-1pm, Maplewood Library. Bring household goods and clothing in need of repair. Please bring any tools and supplies you think might help. Events are first come, first serve. **Volunteers needed!** No fix-it skills needed.

MN State Fair Waste Audit—Saturday 8/24 1:00-5:45pm. Help MPCA and The Rotary to conduct a State Fair-wide waste audit! The goal of this audit is to identify opportunities for the State Fair to reduce their waste and improve their recycling and reuse programs. Teams will sort waste, visit bins and talk to vendors. This is an exciting opportunity to help the Great Minnesota Get Together be more sustainable! Plus, you get a free ticket to get into the fair! **Learn more and sign up here.**

Electroposium 2.0 Event 2024—Monday 9/23 at McNamara Alumni Center. The second installment of this event aims to inspire and empower the next generation of electrification leaders, showcasing cutting-edge technological advancements, offering hands-on training, and fostering vibrant discussions about the future of electrification. The Electroposium is a free and unparalleled networking opportunity for students, industry professionals, and academic experts alike. Perfect for anyone interested in the burgeoning electrification industry. **Learn more and register here.**

Ramsey County Recycling Ambassador Training

Registration for the next Ramsey County **Recycling Ambassador Program** training is now open!

Recycling Ambassadors volunteer to encourage our community to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Topics covered in the training include food scraps recycling, climate change, environmental justice, household hazardous waste, and general recycling.

The training will take place virtually 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Tuesdays: **Sept. 10, Sept. 17, Sept. 24, Oct. 1, Oct. 8 and Oct. 15.** Please make sure you have access to the internet and are available for all six workshops before registering.

[Click here to learn more and to sign up.](#)



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(Continued from Page 1) Minnesota State Parks



Sibley State Park from the [MN DNR](#)

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) plays a crucial role in conservation efforts, including at our state parks. State park workers and volunteers manage habitats, restore native ecosystems, and protect endangered species. Here are some recent and ongoing projects from the Minnesota Parks and Trails Resource Management Program:

- In 2019, a herd of goats was temporarily introduced to Flandrau State Park in New Ulm to eat invasive plant species like buckthorn, garlic mustard, and dame's rocket.
- Controlled burns have been conducted in Buffalo River State Park in Glyndon. This practice helps stimulate native forest and prairie growth.
- Minneopa and Blue Mounds State Park maintain a bison herd as part of the Minnesota Bison Conservation Herd project.
- In 2023, Glacial Lakes State Park facilitated the reintroduction of the federally endangered Dakota skipper butterfly into the park prairie landscape.
- Volunteers and staff crews cut hundreds of acres of European buckthorn annually in Minnesota parks.
- State parks support wetland and water resource protection through riverbank stabilization, reinforcing eroded surfaces, and working to improve the resilience of Minnesota's watersheds.
- The parks are home to numerous scientific research projects, including animal inventories, geological investigations, environmental monitoring, and archaeological surveys.

Like the resource management projects done in state parks, the City of Roseville has taken action to improve habitat and promote the restoration of local ecosystems.

The city has restored a combined total of 5.7 acres of native prairie habitat, located at Corpus Christi Church, Twin Lakes Trail, Concordia Pond, and Willow Pond.

Since 2014, Roseville has worked on 376 acres of city parks to remove invasive plant species like buckthorn and garlic mustard.

Find a state park and plan your visit! On select days each year, Minnesota state parks offer free admission! The next day of free admission this year is Friday, November 29th. If you miss a free admission day, you'll need to purchase a vehicle permit; this can be done [online](#) or at the park office. If you plan on taking multiple state park trips, the year-round vehicle permit can help save you time and money. These permits can also be purchased [online](#) or at the park office. If you plan on more than just a day trip, reserving a campsite is a must. See MN [State Parks and Trails](#) to reserve a campsite or park facility. Minnesota parks offer multiple options for lodging, including traditional tent sites, RV sites, group camps, camper cabins, horse camping, backpack sites, and more!

Minnesota state parks are places of recreation, education, and environmental conservation. Whether you're looking for family adventures or solo relaxation, there is a Minnesota state park that can cater to any interest. With educational programs and numerous recreational opportunities, they are the perfect place to visit year-round.

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Positive Climate News



In a Seismic Shift, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Elevates Nature-Based Solutions. In a new memo, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced it will expand the use of nature-based solutions in its civil works projects. **Related on a local level:** **Minnesota towns see success replacing aging dams with rock rapids.**

Hawaii settles lawsuit from youths over climate change. Navahine v. Hawaii Department of Transportation is the world's first youth-led constitutional climate case addressing climate pollution from the transportation sector. A key term of the settlement requires Hawaii to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions across all transportation modes, including ground transportation and sea and air interisland transportation, "no later than 2045."

Inside America's billion-dollar quest to squeeze more trees into cities—A fascinating tour with an urban forester in Washington, D.C. as they examine different sites for urban tree canopy expansion. **Multiple entities in Minnesota** (including Great River Greening and Hennepin County) received grants from this same program!

The US is about to get its first solar-covered canal—An interesting new concept will be constructed over irrigation canals in Arizona, as a solution to add solar infrastructure, limit disruption to ecosystems and agricultural land, and prevent water evaporation and algae growth in the water. The Casa Blanca installation will provide additional solar energy for the Pima and Maricopa tribes.

What's better for the climate: A paper book, or an e-reader? - The short answer? It depends on how much you read.

Thank you from your Roseville Sustainability Team!

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