



Village of River Forest Curbside Compost Program

Contact: John Anderson, Director of Public Works

When does the program begin?

August 1, 2015 and is subscriber based.

How do I sign up?

You can visit the Village of River Forest website.

How much is it?

\$20.36 per month for one-year contract. You will be billed on your water bill.

Do I need to purchase stickers for my yard waste if I sign up for curbside composting?

You will no longer need to buy brown bags and stickers if you sign up for the compost program. The cart holds the volume of 2-yard waste bags. If you purchase 4 yards waste stickers/per month you can pay for the cost of the cart.

Is it weekly pick up?

Yes, the cart will be picked up on Tuesdays, the regular yard waste pick up day. During the winter months, Dec, Jan, Feb and March pick up will be every other week.

What can be composted? What may not be composted?

All organics-yard waste, soiled paper (paper towels, pizza boxes, napkins, paper plates, soiled newspaper), all food scraps including meat and dairy. All leftover food scraps. Compostable service ware and bags meeting ASTM 6400 and 6868 standards. No pet waste, diapers, plastic packaging, plastic bags. You will receive a full list with your cart delivery.

Will the compost cart attract rodents and pests?

It will not attract any more pests than your regular waste since food scraps were already going in your trash for pick up. If you are experiencing a problem store your cart in the garage or secure lids. Another suggestion is to place yard waste, leaves over food scraps in the cart or place food scraps in newspaper/biodegradable bags to decrease the attractive smell to pests.

Do I get any of the compost?

Yes! At least one time in the spring compost will be delivered to River Forest and available for pick up. You will be notified via email.

Can I share my compost pick-up service?

Sharing is encouraged with your neighbor but the Village will only bill one household for the whole cost.

I am in an apartment building can I sign up?

If you are in a condo or apartment building and would like the service you need to contact your building management for permission and to designate billing.

I already compost at home what is the difference with curbside?

With curbside compost pick up the volume and types of materials that can be included greatly increases. Meats, dairy, all food scraps, pizza boxes, napkins etc. can all be included. In backyard compost containers meat and dairy are not included. You can still continue your backyard compost but now with curbside you can include your yard waste plus items you could not compost before.

Do I pay for the cart?

No, Roy Strom Refuse Removal Service will deliver a cart to your residence at the beginning of August along with an under the counter pail for collecting food scraps.

Can I sign up at any time or just for August 1?

You can add the service at any time but the contract is for one full year and cannot be suspended as you can with refuse pick up.

Why is this a benefit? Food decomposes, what's wrong with it just going to a landfill?

Organic material, including food scraps, is the single largest component of municipal solid waste (MSW) that enters landfills and incinerators across the United States. Once at the landfill, biodegradable materials breakdown in the absence of oxygen to create methane. Methane gas, along with the transportation, impacts climate change and is a potent greenhouse gas. According to the EPA landfills are the largest source of anthropogenic methane emissions in the United States.

What will happen with the compost once Strom takes it away?

Roy Strom Refuse Removal Service hauls it to a compost facility in Illinois. The food scraps will over time be turned into compost that can be used to add nutrients to the soil.

Do I need to wrap my food scraps or put them in biodegradable bags?

It is not necessary but some people find it easier to empty their under the sink container by using a bio bag. If you have a lot of meat or dairy sometimes it is a good idea to wrap scraps newspaper or paper to cut down on smells.

When will the Village move to larger recycling bins?

As of August 1 each resident will be receiving a 32-gallon recycling bin, which holds roughly 3 of our current green recycling bins. You can keep your current bins for overflow. If you want another 32-gallon bin you will have to purchase it from Roy Strom.

Comments ...

There are 198 communities in the US that have CURBSIDE compost programs, in Illinois Oak Park was the first and now River Forest will be #2.