



VILLAGE OF RIVER FOREST
BLOCK PARTY PERMIT
400 Park Avenue, River Forest, Illinois 60305
Phone: 708-366-8500 Fax: 708-366-3702

Must Be Submitted 2 Weeks Before Requested Date of Party

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

We want to GO GREEN!

Yes

No

Our Block would like to have a "Green Block Party!" Learn more about green block parties on the attached pages.

Block Party Details

Date of Party: _____

Rain Date: _____

Street Name to be Closed: _____

From House Number: _____ to House Number: _____

Time Block(s) to be Closed: _____

Please do not set-up before 10:00 a.m. Streets must be re-opened by 10:00 p.m.

Special Requests for Barricades

Emergency vehicles must be able to access the street. Barricades cannot be taped or otherwise tied together. Vehicles may not be used as barricades.

By signing this document you agree to the notification of residents on the block affected by this party, observance of the Village noise ordinance (Title 6 Section 7 of the Village Code) and barricade terms as noted on this application

SIGNED _____ DATE _____

OFFICE USE ONLY

FD: _____ PD: _____ PW: _____

Special Instructions:

Empty box for special instructions

Notification of Permission: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

of Extra Barricades & Placement:

Empty box for extra barricades and placement

RIVER FOREST GREEN BLOCK PARTIES

The Green Block Party, now in its 4th year, is supported by the River Forest Sustainability Committee. It is a community effort to share knowledge on waste diversion and healthy lawn care.

New this year are three (3) Zero Waste Stations that are available to loan out for your neighborhood events. Waste Stations allow participants to sort their trash, recyclables, and compost materials into separate bags and then dispose of all the bags as part of the Village's weekly trash, recyclable, and compost pickups. The Waste Stations include the foldable waste Station, bags, and instructions on how to sort the waste.

Waste Stations can be reserved using the Village of River Forest website at www.vrf.us (*submittal form coming soon!*) Once reserved, the Waste Station can be picked up and returned to Village Hall at 400 Park Avenue Monday through Friday, between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm.

River Forest is a leader in community sustainability. We are only the second community in Illinois to offer residents curbside composting! Green Block Parties offer residents not only the opportunity to learn about this exciting new program, they also have the opportunity to win a one year free subscription.

In 2014, RF residents created over 4,100 tons of municipal solid waste. RF currently diverts only 33% of its garbage from the landfill (from leaf & yard waste pick-up and curbside recycling combined.) The rest of our waste (much of it compostable food scraps) is trucked to a landfill in Winnebago County, 80 miles from River Forest. Our landfills are almost at their limits. By composting you can be part of the solution for waste diversion.

And it's not all about waste. The Green Block Party is also about sharing knowledge for a healthier environment. The Healthy Lawn, Healthy Family Initiative is also part of the program, and residents will learn how to create beautiful native, natural lawns and gardens. Your garden can become part of the Monarch Butterfly Corridor! Learn how to save water and money with your lawn and garden care

and how to bring native species of birds and butterflies back to your yard while keeping your family and pets safe from toxic chemicals. Everyone on your block will also receive discount vouchers at the River Forest Good Earth Green House.

Together we can green our community block by block.

RIVER FOREST GREEN BLOCK PARTIES

GREEN BLOCK PARTY KIT

If you select to have a Green Block Party, you and your block get to keep:

❖ **1 backyard composter and collection bin**

❖ **1 compost caddy**

❖ **20 Compost Discount Coupons**

from Green Home Experts: 811 South Blvd Oak Park, IL 60302

(708) 660-1443

www.ghexperts.com

❖ **Fact Sheets**

Tips for a Zero Waste Event Recycling in River Forest Backyard Composting in River Forest Things Kids in River Forest can do to Help the Planet (A booklet created by Willard Elementary students.)

Items for you to use during the party:

Note: River Forest Public Works Department will pick these up from your front porch \when your party is over.

❖ **3 Zero Waste Signs to affix to waste bins: Landfill, Recycle, Compost**

❖ **Green block party banner(s)**

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information on recycling:

<http://www.river-forest.us/departments/pw/refuse.php#recycling>

<http://www.roystrom.com>

<http://www.epa.gov>

<http://www.earth911.com>

If you need an additional recycling bin, please contact the Village of River Forest at (708) 366-8500

For more information on Composting:

RF Parks Foundation: Sue Crothers at suebillgee@comcast.net

Plan It Green: <http://www.oprfcf.org/>

Green Community Connections: <http://greencommunityconnections.org/>

BACKYARD COMPOSTING IN RIVER FOREST: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I start?

Getting started with composting is easy. You can purchase a compost container (free with your RF Green Block Party Coupon) or purchase or create one yourself. Then follow these simple steps:

1. Add yard and food waste to the bin, in loose layers, being sure to break down larger pieces.
2. Add fruit, vegetable, and bread scraps.
3. Moisten dry materials with water as you add them. When the material at the bottom is broken down and dark in color, remove compost from the bin and use as fertilizer.

What goes in, what stays out?

YOU CAN COMPOST: Cardboard rolls, clean paper, coffee grounds and filters, cotton rags, dryer and vacuum cleaner lint, eggshells, fireplace ashes, fruits and vegetables, grass clippings, hair and fur, hay and straw, houseplants, leaves, nut shells, sawdust, shredded newspaper, tea bags, wood chips, wool rags, yard trimmings.

DO NOT COMPOST:

Black walnut tree leaves or twigs. Coal or charcoal ash	Releases substances that might be harmful to plants
Dairy products (e.g., butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs. Fats, grease, lard, or oils. Meat or fish bones and scraps.	Create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies.
Diseased or insect-ridden plants.	Diseases or insects might survive and be transferred back to other plants.
Pet wastes (e.g., dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter.)	Might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans.
Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides.	Might kill beneficial composting organisms. Might transfer toxic chemicals to other plants.

This list can be viewed at <http://www.epa.gov/osw/conservation/rrr/composting/basic.htm>

How do I maintain the perfect carbon to nitrogen ratio?

Compost happens, naturally. If you don't mix, turn or water, it will still decompose naturally, just at a slower rate. Don't stress about it. If you would like it to happen faster, you can turn it to aerate, water it and make sure to keep a good balance of brown (dry, carbon rich) items such as dried leaves, straw, sawdust (from untreated wood), cardboard, paper, towels, newspaper to green (wet, nitrogen rich) items like grass clippings, vegetable, fruit & grain waste.

Will it stink like my garbage does?

NO, finished compost smells like soil. Most garbage odors arise from rotting meat and dairy products (which do not go into your compost pile.)

What if there is some cheese on my pizza cardboard? Will this ruin my compost?

No. Small amounts of meat and dairy like cheese or a little turkey or mayo left on a sandwich crust is fine. It will decompose if you put it in your compost pile, but too much may cause odors or attract animals.

What happens in the winter?

You can compost all year round. Decomposition slows in the winter, but the freeze-thaw cycle helps jump-start the process when spring comes. A well maintained compost pile actually produces heat from the activity of the microorganisms.

What if I have a lawn service?

Some River Forest residents who compost in their back yards use a lawn service. Most services will flip your compost pile during spring or fall clean-ups. You can also have them put your grass clippings and leaves in your compost bin.

Won't I attract wildlife with a compost bin?

Raccoons, opossums, foxes and coyotes prefer the meat and dairy products in your garbage cans. They have no interest in your banana peels, apple cores and leaves.

TIPS FOR A GREEN BLOCK PARTY

Green block parties are a great opportunity to model and teach good recycling and waste reduction practices in your neighborhood. You can save money too ! These tips will help you and your neighbors keep it green.

1. Invitations and activities.

Email invitations or use recycled paper for printing. Save time by using the online *Green Block Party Invitation Template*.

Check with your neighbors before buying anything new.

Use signs and decorations that can be used over and over again. Attics, basements and garages can serve as a treasure trove of games and supplies for cool block party projects.

2. Tableware

Use cloth napkins, washable tablecloths, and real plates and silverware as well as reusable pitchers and cups. Remember to label them with your name. Or consider buying an inexpensive set of dishes and utensils to be shared by the block every year. Thrift shops have good deals.

Avoid Styrofoam at all costs—it's toxic and NOT recyclable. If you absolutely must, purchase biodegradable paper items, which can be composted.

3. Food and supplies

Buy in bulk to reduce packaging. Provide condiments in bulk instead of single use servings.

Shop local: Encourage your neighbors to use local food from a farmer's market or their own backyard garden.

Use eco-friendly cleaning products or a vinegar and water mixture for clean up.

4. Reduce, reuse, recycle!

Clearly label all waste receptacles: LANDFILL, RECYCLABLES, and COMPOST. (Pre-printed signs are included in your kit.) Place the green recycling bins next to your other waste receptacles.

5. HAVE FUN!