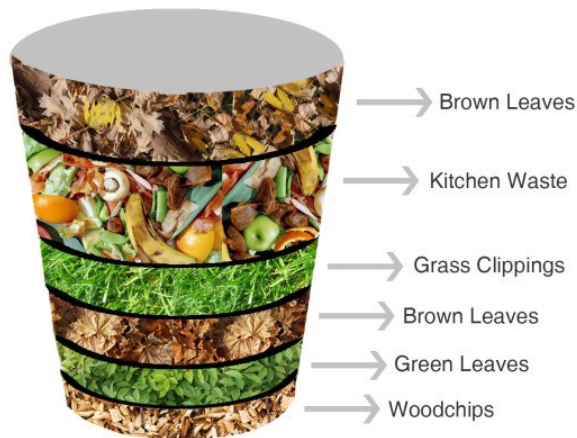


What is Compost?

Compost is once-living materials, such as leaves, fruits, and vegetables, that have decayed. After decomposition occurs, the remains eventually are absorbed back into the ground and the nutrients are used by living plants. It can take nature 1000 years to create an inch of soil. By composting, we can help speed up this process for our yards, gardens, and houseplants.



Benefits of Composting

By choosing to compost, you can reduce your household waste up to 30%. This can have a significant impact on your home. By reducing your waste, you are discarding less garbage and lessening the burden on landfills. By returning nutrients to the soil, you are improving your soil and its water retention. This enables you to reduce the quantity of and frequency of application of chemical fertilizers.

The Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation is dedicated to preserving open space and natural resources, providing safe parks and facilities, and offering educational and recreational opportunities, all contributing to an enhanced quality of life for present and future generations.

SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

The rules and regulations governing use of facilities or properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation are promulgated in accordance with provisions of the N.J. Statutes Title 40:32-7.12, which reads as follows:

"The Board of County Commissioners may by resolution make, alter, amend, and repeal rules and regulations for the supervision, regulation and control of all activities carried on, conducted, sponsored, arranged, or provided for in connection with a public golf course or other county recreational, playground or public entertainment facility, and for the protection of property, and may prescribe and enforce fines and penalties for the violation of any such rule or regulation."

These rules and regulations have been promulgated for the protection of our patrons and for the facilities and natural resources administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

Permits: A fully executed Facility Use Permit, issued by the County of Hunterdon for any activity shall authorize the activity only insofar as it may be performed in strict accordance with the terms and conditions thereof. The State of NJ, County of Hunterdon, or the local municipality may require additional permits.

Prohibited Acts: The violation of any Municipal, State, or Federal law. Advertising, solicitation, ice skating, ice fishing, and any other on-ice activities, downhill skiing, bathing, fuel-powered model aircraft, the release of any animal, explosives of any kind, poisons of any kind, after-hours use, alcohol without a permit in a non-designated area, controlled dangerous substances, weapons, posting of signage, inappropriate attire, and climbing on, or rappelling from any cliff, rock face, or boulder, with, or without the use of specialized equipment.

Regulated Activity: The sale of merchandise, aviation, boating, cross-country skiing, bicycling, and sledding. Battery-powered model aircraft, and horses must be in designated areas, dogs must be restrained with a leash not exceeding six feet, pet waste must be removed, camping/fires are by permit only. All groups of 15 or more must obtain a permit for use of any Park area.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Property: No person shall make, excavate on, destroy, paint, fill in, cut, remove or tamper with any property, organic or inorganic.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of Natural Resources: No person shall disturb wildlife or vegetation in any manner. No person shall pollute waters, litter, dump debris, or release helium balloons in any property. It is illegal to remove any natural resource from, or introduce any plant material, bulbs, or seeds to any property without a proper permit or license.

Prohibited Acts for the Protection of People: No person shall obstruct a county employee/official, interfere with a visitor, conduct any unsafe act, or cause a hazardous condition.

Vehicles: All the provisions of the N.J. State Motor Vehicle Act apply. Vehicles are not allowed in unauthorized areas. Parking is allowed in designated areas only. **ATVs, dirt bikes, and snowmobiles are prohibited on County Park lands.**

Enforcement: The rules and regulations of the County shall be enforced by duly authorized Rangers or representatives of the County under the provision of N.J.S.A. 40:32-2, thru 40:32-7.13. Any person who enters into a County Park for any purpose whatsoever has a duty and is presumed to be aware of the provisions of these rules and regulations governing the use of the facilities and properties administered by the Hunterdon County Division of Parks and Recreation.

Penalties: Any person violating any of the provisions of these regulations shall, upon conviction before a court or other adjudicative body of jurisdiction, be liable for the replacement, repair or restoration of damaged property, if any, and shall pay a penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) or other amount in the discretion of the court or other adjudicative body or may be sentenced to imprisonment in the County jail for the term not exceeding ninety (90) days, or both, provided that this section shall not supersede any applicable penalty provision for specific offenses, which may be set forth in the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, N.J.S.A. 2C:1-1, et seq., or in any other applicable state or federal law.

NOTE: County Park Rangers of the Division of Parks and Recreation have the authority to issue summons, and make arrests for violations of rules and regulations governing the use of facilities and properties administered by the Division of Parks and Recreation. This is only a summary of the rules and regulations. Rules applying to special conditions, activities, or situations may be supplemental to these rules and regulations. When special rules apply, they will be posted at affected areas. The complete text of regulations is available for inspection at the Park administration office in Clinton Township during regular business hours.

Composting for the Home



Hunterdon County
Division of Parks & Recreation
PO Box 2900, Flemington, NJ 08822-2900
1020 State Route 31, Lebanon, NJ 08833
Telephone (908) 782-1158
Fax (908) 806-4057

E-mail: parks@co.hunterdon.nj.us
Website: www.co.hunterdon.nj.us
(click on "Living" & "Parks & Recreation")

Office Hours:
Monday to Friday 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

What to Compost

Almost all organic matter, from your kitchen to your yard waste, can be composted. Food scraps are generated in abundance in every home. Old lettuce, fruit/vegetable peels, stale bread, egg shells, tea leaves, and coffee grinds are a few examples of material that can easily be composted. Never compost meats, grease, bones, or dairy products. These items will draw unwanted pests and create unpleasant odors. Also do not compost manure and solid waste from pets and humans.

Dry leaves are the most important component of composting yard waste. They provide the carbon for your mulch and will give the mulch that rich dark color. Other carbon-rich “browns” include hay and moist newspaper scraps. Do not add any yard debris that is diseased, sprayed with chemicals, or full of weed seeds. Weed seeds are only killed if your composter can reach up to 140 degrees.

Grasscycling

Grasscycling is the practice of leaving grass clippings on the lawn and thereby eliminating bagging of the grass. Clippings are 75-85% water and will decompose quickly. They release nitrogen and other nutrients back into your lawn. This can reduce your fertilizer use by 50%. When you mow, adjust the mower to remove only 1/3 of the growth. Mow at least once a week. Use excess clippings as mulch.



Types of Composters

One-bin System: This system is popular and inexpensive. Often made from recycled material, these bins hold heat and moisture well, are easily movable, come with lids, and are scavenger-resistant.



Wire Mesh/Plastic Fencing System: A quick and inexpensive way to compost. Systems are prone to scavengers and can have trouble heating. However, when compost is finished, just remove the barrier.



Multi-bin System: The perfect system if you generate significant waste or if you have enough space. Stockpiled material can be collected in one bin while another bin is being used to make compost. Material can be moved from one bin to another for easy turnings of the piles.



Tumbler: Expensive and small. However, the consistent rotating of the pile both aerates and heats contents fast. Creates finished compost in a short span of time.

It is the policy of the County of Hunterdon to provide reasonable modifications to persons with disabilities. Individuals requesting modifications shall describe what they need to use the service. Whenever feasible, please make the request in advance, before the modification is needed to access the service.

Placing Your Composter

When you place your composter, make sure that you consider ease of access. Typical locations: near the back door, the garden, or the garage. Ensure that the composter will get plenty of sunlight so it can work. Keep the area tidy to deter unwanted pests and scavengers.

Controlling your Pile

There are two strategies for composting. A batch pile consists of all the material to be composted loaded into one bin at the beginning, and it becomes mulch without adding any more debris. All additional compost would go into a second bin. It is fast (1-3 months) but does take planning. The “add-as-you-go” pile is more common. This takes little effort and planning, and provides quick disposal of debris. The disadvantage is that the piles take about 6 months to decompose. Either way, your compost pile needs to be turned weekly. Common problems that may occur include:
Too wet: turn the pile and add dry material.
Too dry: moisten the pile without saturating it.
Pile is moist but not decomposing: add fresh grass, vegetable or fruit matter, and turn pile.
Ammonia smell: too much nitrogen; add dry leaves and turn pile.
Putrid smell: pile is too wet; add dry leaves and turn pile.
Animals & flies: Remove meat and fatty foods and turn pile. Do not leave fresh fruit and vegetable matter exposed.

Revised 12/2022