

Solid waste and recycling

A guide to the city's solid waste services



St. Louis Park

MINNESOTA

Experience **RECYCLING** in the park

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This guide is intended for St. Louis Park residents who receive city solid waste collection services for recycling, organics, yard waste and garbage.

Inside you will find information to help you understand how to use these services, as well as other resources that can help your household reduce, reuse and recycle!



Residential solid waste collection

Contact the appropriate hauler listed below to report a missed pickup or request extra services outlined on page 4.



Garbage and recycling

The Buckingham Companies

952.226.6457

SLP@buckinghamcompanies.com



Organics

Republic Services

952.941.5174

SLP@republicservices.com



Yard waste

Waste Container Systems

612.405.9579

SLP@wastecontainersystems.com

City of St. Louis Park

Public works

952.924.2562

recycling@stlouisparkmn.gov

www.stlouisparkmn.gov/garbage-recycling

- General program information
- Questions on what's accepted
- Report a missing or damaged cart

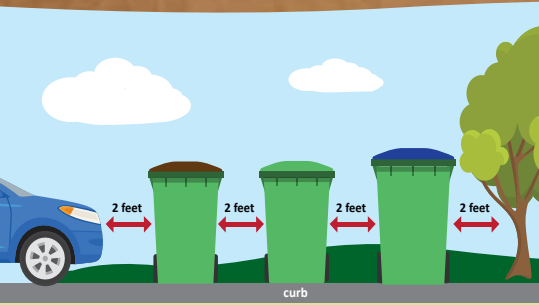
Utility billing

952.924.2111

utilitybilling@stlouisparkmn.gov

- Change cart size
- Request another recycling cart
- Add organics service
- Utility bill questions
- Apply for garbage hold
- Request every-other-week garbage service

Collection day information



Cart spacing

Carts set out curbside for collection must be spaced 2 feet apart and 2 feet from other objects (trees, cars, etc.) to allow drivers in automated trucks to safely and efficiently provide collection. Carts should be placed so that lids open toward the street and be as close to the curb as possible without being in the street or on the sidewalk. Households with alley collection don't need carts spaced apart.

How to find your collection day and recycling week

Contact public works or visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/recycling to view a collection day map and recycling calendar. Collection frequency is as follows:

- Recycling: every other week
- Organics: weekly
- Yard waste: weekly; April – November
- Garbage: weekly; 30-gallon service level may opt for collection every other week

Holidays

Six holidays delay collection if they fall on a weekday: New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. On these days, there will be no collection. Collection for the remaining days that week are delayed by one day.

Setting material out for collection

Place all materials out by 7 a.m. Don't place carts in streets, alleys or on sidewalks as they get in the way of vehicles, pedestrians and snow removal.

- For curbside collection, place carts on your driveway or on the boulevard between the street and sidewalk. Make sure to leave at least 2 feet of space between carts and surrounding objects.
- For alley collection, place carts on your property, driveway or beside your garage next to the alley.

During winter months, you must keep your cart collection area clear of snow. Carts can't be placed on top of snow banks, as haulers can't safely access them.

Missed pickup

Report a missed pickup of garbage, recycling, organics or yard waste within two calendar days of your collection day by contacting the city's hauler(s). The hauler is required to return to collect a missed pickup, once it is reported, by the next business day. See page 2 for contact information.

Extra collection options

All garbage, recycling and organics must fit inside your cart with the lid closed for collection. Consider these options for extra material:

- Extra recyclables can be placed in containers next to your cart; extra carts are also available. See the recycling section on page 9 for more information.
- Extra bags of household garbage can be collected for an extra fee. Contact utility billing for more information.
- Extra collection of material before your next collection day can also be requested. Residents must contact and prepay the city's hauler(s) listed on page 2.

Home pickup of appliances, bulky wastes and electronics

The city's hauler offers collection of items that must be recycled like appliances, TVs and computer monitors. Bulky waste like carpeting, broken furniture, remodeling debris and mattresses are also collected. Residents must contact and prepay The Buckingham Companies for collection.

Walkup service

Walkup service is offered for an extra fee. The hauler can collect carted material at a different location on your property at their discretion. Carts must be outside, not inside a building such as a garage. Sign up by calling the city's haulers (see page 2). Separate fees are charged for each service type (garbage, recycling and organics). Walkup service is not available for yard waste.



Cart storage

Storing your carts after collection

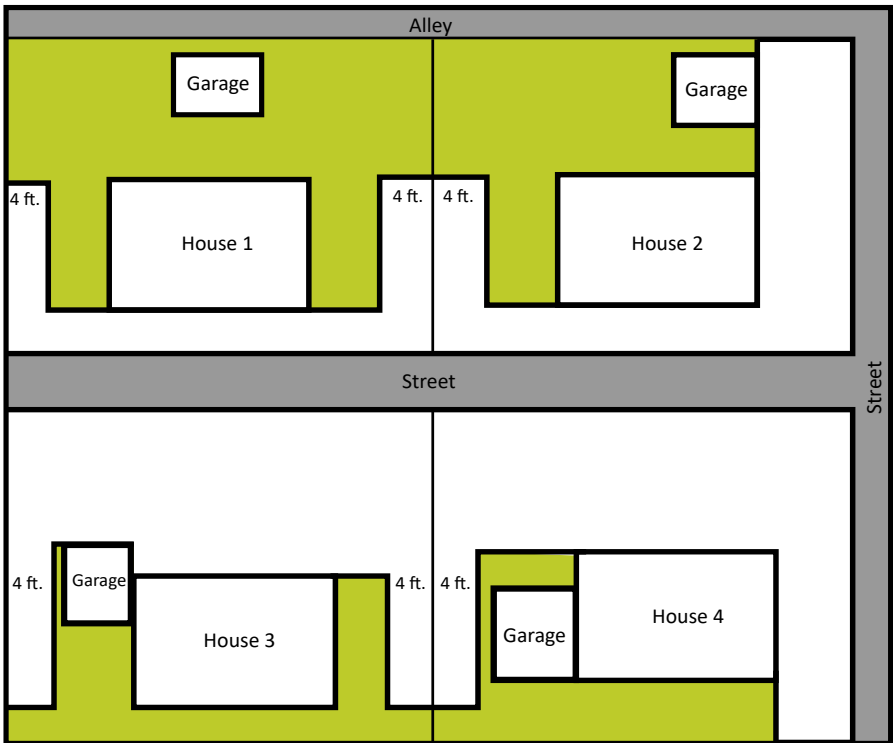
Carts should be put away as soon as practical after they are emptied on your collection day. If you must store your carts outside, please be considerate. Carts stored outside must be:

- At least 4 feet from interior lot lines adjacent to a house
- Behind the building line adjacent to any street

Carts and yard waste containers may also be stored in the alley right of way immediately next to your garage. The cart may not extend into the alley itself.

Examples of allowed cart storage areas (green shaded area)

- House 1: mid-block house, alley collection
- House 2: corner house, alley collection
- House 3: mid-block house, curb collection
- House 4: corner house, curb collection



Educational tags

Educational tags are left on carts to remind you of program guidelines. A tag may be left if you've put something in the wrong cart, overfilled your cart, placed large items outside your cart without requesting a bulk pickup or placed your cart in the wrong location. Problem materials will be left behind.

If you receive a tag and have questions about what should be corrected, contact the city's hauler or public works.

Trim shrubs, branches in alley

Please trim shrubs and branches behind your property line in the alleyway to ensure crews can navigate alleys safely during collection.

Dumpsters

Dumpsters are not allowed on city property or right of way, including streets, alleys, boulevards and sidewalks. Dumpsters, including soft-sided dumpster bags, must be placed on private property, such as a driveway or yard.

Dumpsters are allowed for up to six months when used for a permitted building project. All others must be removed within 14 days. Call the inspections division at 952.924.2588 with questions.



House numbers on garages

The city requires that your house number be clearly visible on your garage if you have alley collection. This allows your home to be easily identified for service.

Service level and rates



Changing cart size

To change your cart size, contact utility billing at utilitybilling@stlouisparkmn.gov or 952.924.2111.

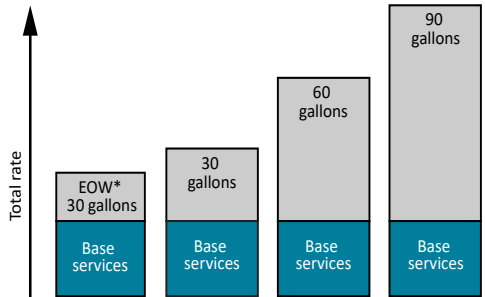
Garbage and organics cart sizes may be changed once per year for free. Additional changes will result in a fee. Recycling carts may be changed or added at any time without a fee.

Reporting cart damage

The city will inspect damaged carts and determine if they should be repaired or replaced. Contact public works at operations@stlouisparkmn.gov or 952.924.2562.

Rates and service levels

Solid waste rates include all city collection services. A base fee is paid by all households and covers the cost of recycling, organics and yard waste, as well as education and support provided by city staff. The remaining cost is determined by, and increases with, the garbage service level. This approach supports waste reduction by charging residents based on how much garbage they throw away. Larger garbage carts come with higher costs.



Garbage service level

*every other week

Garbage hold

If your home will be vacant for four or more consecutive weeks, you can request that all solid waste services be put on hold by contacting utility billing at utilitybilling@stlouisparkmn.gov or 952.924.2111.

Waste reduction

While many of the City of St. Louis Park's programs focus on recycling and organics, we know that the best way to reduce our impact on our planet is by preventing and reducing waste in the first place. Reuse is a great way to keep existing items out of the trash, while also reducing the demand for new products.

Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/reuse to learn more about food waste prevention, reuse directories, events (including swaps) and more.

Food waste prevention

While recycling and composting are important, waste prevention has the largest environmental benefit. Learning how to properly store food helps eliminate food waste, which reduces how much you throw out and saves money.

Swaps

The city hosts swap events to encourage and support reuse. These events are open to everyone, including non-residents, and have included swaps for clothing, gardening supplies, books, movies, CDs and more.



Fix-it clinics

Hennepin County helps residents fix their broken stuff and learn valuable repair skills. Extending the life of usable items reduces environmental impacts and avoids waste.

Visit www.hennepin.us/fixitclinic to learn how to participate.



Recycling



Extra recyclables

There is no charge for setting out extra recyclables on your collection day. Place extra recyclables outside the cart in a reusable container (such as an old recycling tote) or a cardboard box. Extra recyclables in plastic bags will not be collected.



Cardboard boxes that don't fit in your cart must be flattened and folded or cut down to pieces 3 feet by 3 feet or smaller. Bundle cardboard with string or tape so it can be collected easily. Place next to your recycling cart.

Additional recycling cart

If you consistently have extra recycling, you may change your cart size or request an additional cart for no extra charge by visiting www.stlouisparkmn.gov/recycling or calling utility billing at 952.924.2111.

Numbers on plastics

Many people are aware of the numbers found on plastics. These numbers range from 1 – 7 and are found inside a triangle that looks like a recycling symbol. Unfortunately the number and symbol don't mean the plastic is recyclable, but instead indicate the type of plastic. Currently, rigid plastics with numbers 1, 2 and 5 can be recycled in the city's program.



Place recycling loose in your recycling cart.



Don't put plastic bags in your recycling cart.

Keep recyclables loose in cart

Please place recyclables directly into your cart. Leaving recyclables in bags causes problems in the sorting process. Recyclables tied in plastic bags are often discarded as workers don't have time to open bags, and loose plastic bags wrap around sorting equipment. Don't place plastic bags of any kind in recycling. Paper bags can trap items inside causing improper sorting. To avoid bags completely, consider using a reusable container to collect recyclables.

Size

Items that are smaller than 3 inches by 3 inches are not accepted. They are too small to be properly sorted at the recycling facility.

Plastics

Bottles and jugs keep caps on.

- Water, soda and juice bottles
- Milk and juice jugs
- Ketchup and salad dressing bottles
- Dishwashing and laundry soap bottles and jugs
- Shampoo, soap and lotion bottles



Cups and containers

- Yogurt, pudding and fruit cups
- Margarine, cottage cheese, and other tubs and lids
- Produce, deli and takeout containers

NO: plastic bags or film, bubble wrap, Styrofoam™ or containers that held hazardous substances such as motor oil

Metal

- Food and beverage cans
- Aluminum foil (balled) and trays
- Decorative tins and pie tins



NO: paint cans, propane cylinders, helium tanks, fire extinguishers, containers that held hazardous substances, holiday lights or electrical cords, needles, syringes or auto injectors (e.g., epinephrine pens)

Only include clean recyclables. Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/recycling for more information.

Glass

- Food and beverage bottles and jars

NO: drinking glasses, window glass, ceramics or mirrors



Paper

- Mail, office and school papers
- Magazines, newspapers and inserts
- Phone books
- Books (remove hard covers)

Boxes

- Cardboard
- Cereal, cracker, shoe and gift boxes
- Refrigerated food boxes
- Toothpaste, medication and other toiletry boxes



NO: paper plates, paper towels, napkins, receipts, freezer boxes, ice cream tubs or coffee cups

Cartons

Do not flatten.

- Milk cartons
- Juice boxes
- Soup, broth and wine cartons



NO: paper or Styrofoam™ egg cartons or ice cream tubs

Other items not accepted: batteries, diapers, electronics, garden hoses or toys

Recycling



Bulky rigid plastics

Collected in your cart: All items must fit inside the recycling cart; don't cut into small pieces. Bulky rigid plastics with numbers 1, 2 and 5 are accepted.

Examples include:

- Plastic buckets 5 gallons and smaller (clean, no paint/spackle, metal handle are OK)
- Plastic tubs and laundry baskets
- Plastic garden pots (less than 8 inches in diameter, free of dirt, no multipacks)

Plastic bags

Deliver to retail drop-offs:

Plastic bags can be recycled if delivered to a retail drop-off. Many local grocery and retail stores offer collection of plastic bags for recycling. Don't put plastic bags in your recycling cart or bag your recyclables in plastic bags.

Scrap metal

Deliver to events or drop-offs:

Scrap metal should be brought to city cleanup day events or to a scrap metal recycler. Don't place these items in your recycling cart as they are not accepted by the recycling facility and can harm people who work at the facility on sorting lines.



Textiles

Deliver to events/drop-offs or collected separately: Textiles, including clothing, blankets and towels, can be collected or dropped off to certain organizations for reuse or recycling. These items should never be placed in your recycling cart. Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/reuse for more information.

Paper shredding

Deliver to events or drop-offs:

Residents are requested to discontinue placing shredded paper in recycling carts due to the problems caused at sorting facilities. Even when placed in paper bags, shredded paper usually ends up as a contaminant in glass.

If you need to shred, limit shredding to truly confidential items (medical, financial, tax documents, etc.), and place in the trash. If possible, bring unshredded paper to city or private business sponsored shred events where it will be shredded and recycled. Several office supply and shipping businesses also offer shredding services. Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/cleanup for more information on shredding events.

Over 25% of trash is made up of food scraps and other material that could be composted through the city's voluntary curbside organics program. Organics is collected weekly from single-family homes by the city's contracted hauler.

How to participate

There's no additional cost to participate in organics service. It is already included in your solid waste fee, along with your garbage, recycling and yard waste service. To request a cart, visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/organics or call utility billing at 952.924.2111.



Scan QR code to sign up!



www.stlouisparkmn.gov/organics

How organics works

1. Collect your food scraps, coffee grounds, paper towels, napkins and tissues in compostable bags, provided by the city. You can pick up compostable bags from city hall or the Municipal Service Center.
2. Place bagged organics in your brown-lidded organics cart. Pizza delivery boxes and paper egg cartons don't need to be bagged.
3. Place your organics cart at the alley or curb by 7 a.m. for weekly pickup on your collection day.

Compostable bags

Organics must be bagged in compostable bags. Compostable plastic bags must have the BPI-certified compostable logo. Brown paper grocery bags may also be used for organics, like tissues and paper towels. Participating households are eligible to pick up a supply of bags once a year at the following locations:

City hall – First floor

5005 Minnetonka Blvd.

Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Municipal Service Center

7305 Oxford St.

Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/organics for more information.

Organics guide

All food

- Fruits and vegetables
- Meat, fish and bones
- Dairy products
- Eggs and egg shells
- Pasta, beans and rice
- Bread and cereal
- Nuts and shells

NO: grease, oil or gum



Food-soiled paper

- Pizza boxes from delivery
- Napkins and paper towels
- Paper egg cartons

NO: frozen food boxes, microwave popcorn bags, fast food wrappers, ice cream tubs or towels used with cleaning chemicals



Certified compostable products

- Compostable paper and plastic cups, plates, bowls, utensils and containers labeled with the BPI logo or “certified compostable”

NO: items only labeled as biodegradable, oxo-degradable, earth friendly, made from plant starch, plant-based, green, etc.

Other compostable items

- Coffee grounds and filters
- Paper tea bags and loose tea leaves
- Wooden chopsticks, popsicle sticks and toothpicks
- Facial tissues
- Hair and nail clippings
- Cotton balls and swabs with paper stems
- Houseplants and flowers



NO: yard waste, diapers, menstrual products, animal and pet waste, litter or bedding, cleaning or baby wipes, Styrofoam™, dryer lint or dryer sheets, recyclable items (cartons, glass, metal, paper, plastic)

Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/organics for a detailed list of materials accepted and more information about the city’s organics collection program.

WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT

Avoiding contamination is especially important in organics. If you are unsure if an item is compostable, contact city staff at recycling@stlouisparkmn.gov or place it in the garbage.

Don't overfill bags

The heavier the bag, the more likely it will tear. Letting organics sit in the bag for longer will weaken the bag, so make sure to take it out at least once per week and follow the tips below for reducing liquids. Bags are required to be tied to keep carts as clean as possible. We recommend taking out your organics when the bag is about two-thirds full, as it's easier to tie.



Lose the liquids and keep it cool

When collecting organics in your kitchen, remove excess liquids before placing them in the bag. Liquids sitting in a compostable bag will weaken the bag. Also, allow warm foods, coffee grounds and tea bags to cool before placing them in the bag.



Use a vented container to help control odors

Air flow helps reduce odors. Purchase a kitchen pail with a vented lid or make your own by reusing an empty plastic or metal container (ice cream pails or coffee containers work well) and cutting slits in the lid.



Set out cart for collection every week

The longer organics stay in the cart, the more materials will break down and produce stronger odors. Leaving organics in the cart longer also may attract pests. Organics carts are collected weekly. Set your cart out for collection each week, even if it isn't full.

Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/organics for additional home setup tips.

Yard waste

Yard waste guidelines

Yard waste is collected April – November, from all households at no extra cost. If there is a significant snowfall before the end of November, yard waste collection will end at that time.

Yard waste includes all garden waste, grass clippings, leaves, weeds, wood chips, twigs and branches.

Yard waste may be set out in the following ways as long as bags, containers and bundles do not exceed 40 pounds:

1. Use a reusable container. Containers must be 32-38 gallons in size and 26-32 inches high, with sturdy handles. Yard waste will not be collected from buckets, pails, collapsible containers, or containers with wheels. Material can be left unbagged in the container.
2. Use certified compostable bags, brown paper lawn bags or brown paper grocery bags.
3. Tie branches into bundles or put in one of the container options listed above. Branches must be less than 4 inches in diameter and less than 4 feet long.

Dirt and sod are not accepted. It is illegal to put yard waste in your garbage.

Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/yard-waste for more information.



Christmas trees

Christmas trees can be set out for collection on your regular collection day by 7 a.m. during the first three weeks of January. The city's hauler collects real (cut) Christmas trees for no charge during this time. Trees set out after the free collection timeframe will be charged for a bulk pickup.

Remove all decorations, wires, stands, lights, tinsel, etc. Bagged trees will not be collected. Make sure your tree is not stuck in ice or snow on your collection day.



Brush drop-off site



Brush drop-off site

The city's brush drop-off site is a convenient way for you to dispose of branches and logs that are too large for curbside pickup.

Entrance: 6215 Cedar Lake Road, on the southeast side of the railroad tracks

Hours:

- Tuesdays: 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Saturdays: 7 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Sundays: noon – 4 p.m.

The brush site is generally open April through November.

Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/brush-drop-off for more information.

Accepted: grass, leaves, woody debris, branches, logs

Not accepted: lumber, construction debris, dirt, rocks

Fees: free of charge to residents

Requirements: Proof of residency required. Identification can include Minnesota ID with St. Louis Park address or Minnesota ID and a utility bill with St. Louis Park address.



Backyard composting



Backyard composting

Composting is a great way to manage yard waste and some food scraps at home.

Residents may compost leaves, grass, fruit and vegetable scraps, eggshells, loose leaf tea and paper tea bags, coffee grounds and paper coffee filters.

Don't place meat, bones, dairy products, eggs or pet waste in backyard bins. These items can attract pests and create foul odors.

The city has a few basic rules for backyard composting to help prevent potential issues:

- Compost bins must be made of durable material such as wood, wire mesh, plastic or concrete block.
- Bins must be enclosed on all sides and have a lid.
- Bins should be no greater than 150 cubic feet in volume.
- Bins must be in the backyard, at least 15 feet from any house and at least 5 feet from any trail, street, alley or property line adjacent to a city park.

Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/backyard-composting for more information.

Cleanup day

The city holds two cleanup day events each year, one in spring and one in fall. These annual events offer collection for disposal, recycling or reuse for the following items:

- Large bulky waste
- Remodeling debris
- Scrap metal
- Mattresses and box springs
- Electronics
- Bicycles
- Tires
- Electrical cords and holiday lights

Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/cleanup for more information. A reminder will be sent by mail before each event.

Severe weather could affect these events. If ended early or canceled, every effort will be made to provide alternatives.

Many of the items collected at the cleanup day events can also be taken to Hennepin County drop-off facilities or area businesses. Visit www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide for options available year-round.

Westbound traffic on Oxford Street will not be allowed to turn into the event and must line up on Meadowbrook Road/Oxford Street. Traffic must head east on Oxford Street upon exiting the event.



Hazardous waste and drop-off recycling

Hennepin County drop-off facilities accept a number of items, including household hazardous waste. See next page for location and hours.

Automotive fluids

- Antifreeze
- Brake, power steering and transmission fluid
- Gas and fuels
- Lubricants and degreasers
- Motor oil and oil filters



Household, lawn and garden products

- Cleaners
- Mercury-containing items, including fluorescent light bulbs, thermometers and thermostats
- Paints, stains, thinners and varnish
- Pesticides
- Pool chemicals
- Propane and gas cylinders – 1 pound or smaller, non-refillable containers only
- Solvents



Appliances*

- Microwaves, stoves, refrigerators, freezers
- Water heaters
- Dehumidifiers
- Air conditioners



Batteries

Place clear tape over terminals.
No lead acid batteries.



Cords and lights

- Electrical cords
- String and holiday lights



Electronics

- TVs, computer monitors, laptops*
- Computer peripherals (CPUs, mice, printers, etc.)
- Mobile and cordless phones
- Rechargeable products



Electronic media

- DVDs and CDs
- Flash drives
- Media storage cards
- Video game cartridges



Mattresses and box springs*

- All sizes – including futon and crib mattresses



Only accepted at Brooklyn Park location.

Plastic bags

Clean and dry. Place bags into open plastic bag.



Tires*

Less than 4 feet in diameter.



*accepted for a fee

County drop-off facilities

Brooklyn Park

Brooklyn Park Transfer Station
and Recycling Center
8100 Jefferson Highway
Brooklyn Park

Bloomington

South Hennepin Recycling and
Problem Waste Drop-off Center
1400 W. 96th St.
Bloomington

For the most current facility information, visit www.hennepin.us/dropoffs or call 612.348.3777.

Facility hours:

Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed: Sundays, Mondays and holidays

What to bring:

- Proof of residency, such as a driver's license or utility bill
- Payment, if applicable – cash, check or credit card

Additional disposal options

- Household hazardous waste collection events: Held in various locations across the county from spring to fall. Visit www.hennepin.us/collectionevents to find the schedule and list of materials accepted.
- Medicine disposal: Medicine drop boxes are available throughout Hennepin County, including the St. Louis Park Police Department. Visit www.hennepin.us/medicine for more information.

Have something that you aren't sure how to get rid of? Try searching Hennepin County's Green Disposal Guide at www.hennepin.us/green-disposal-guide for information on recycling and disposal of a variety of items.

Safe storage

Store products in original containers, making sure all lids and caps are tightly closed. Never mix chemicals together. Keep them out of reach of children and animals.

More resources

In-home labels

Help everyone in your household know what goes in recycling, organics and trash by labeling your containers.

Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/garbage-recycling to order online or call public works.

Recycling Champions

The Recycling Champions program exists to engage residents who are interested in learning more about waste reduction and recycling. Through the program, residents serve as ambassadors in the community and share what they learn with family, friends and neighbors.

Visit www.stlouisparkmn.gov/recycling-champions or email recycling@stlouisparkmn.gov to learn more about becoming a Recycling Champion.

Hennepin County Community Recycling Ambassadors

Hennepin County's Community Recycling Ambassadors program is a great way to learn more in-depth information about waste prevention, recycling and composting. Through a six-week course, residents gain knowledge to become a better advocate for waste reduction and recycling.

Visit www.hennepin.us/recycling-ambassadors to learn more.





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MINNESOTA

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Reduce. Reuse. Recycle.


City of St. Louis Park Public Works

952.924.2562


recycling@stlouisparkmn.gov

www.stlouisparkmn.gov/garbage-recycling

www.stlouisparkmn.gov

 nextdoor.com

 @stlouispark  @stlouispark

 www.youtube.com/slpcable



City of St. Louis Park Public Works

952.924.2562

recycling@stlouisparkmn.gov

www.stlouisparkmn.gov/garbage-recycling

This guide was printed September 2023.

Please recycle any previous guides.

Disclaimer: This information is subject to change as city contracts or practices change.

The most current information will always be available on the city's website at www.stlouisparkmn.gov.