



Wilmette Park District Sustainable Event Guidance

The Wilmette Park District encourages all facility renters to incorporate sustainable practices into their events whenever possible. The following guidelines are intended to help reduce waste, conserve resources and minimize environmental impacts.

For more information on the Park District's sustainability practices, visit:

<https://wilmettepark.org/sustainability-green-initiatives/>

Giveaways, Supplies, and Decorations

- Whenever possible, choose reusable or environmentally friendly alternatives.
 - Opt for reusable service ware such as plates, cups, utensils and tablecloths to reduce single-use waste.
 - Don't have enough reusable items? Compostable or recyclable alternatives are a great choice!
 - If using recyclable service ware, choose unlined, 100% paper, glass or aluminum containers.
 - For compostable service ware, ensure it is BPI-certified for composting.
- Steer clear of hard-to-recycle plastics, such as:
 - Straws, utensils, hard plastic #6 (e.g., Solo cups), and polystyrene (Styrofoam)
 - These are typically not recyclable through curbside programs. If you end up with these items, recycle them through the Village's hard-to-recycle plastics program. Learn more about the Hefty ReNew program [here](#).
- Composting at your event
 - Dispose of your compostable items in either your curbside organics container or at one of the given Village drop-off locations. [Find drop-off locations here](#).

Waste Reduction

- Plan food and supplies carefully
 - Use a Guest-imator to estimate the amount of food needed to avoid overbuying and excess waste.
 - Take home or donate any leftover food, decorations or promotional items to minimize waste.
- Limit single-use items
 - Try to reduce or eliminate balloons, confetti and glitter.



- Especially avoid glitter and confetti when utilizing outdoor spaces where this could contribute to pollution of the environment. ***Please note: Glitter is not allowed at Gillson Beach or Park.***
- Catering
 - Choose local, seasonal food options to reduce carbon footprints associated with food transportation.
 - Minimize packaging waste by asking caterers to use bulk containers or eco-friendly packaging (e.g., compostable trays or paper wraps).
 - If providing beverages, opt for larger dispensers instead of individual bottles or cans, which create unnecessary plastic waste.

Event Communications

- Encourage eco-friendly transportation
 - Promote walking, biking or public transportation as options for guests to reduce carbon footprints.
- Share sustainability goals with your guests
 - Inform guests about your sustainability efforts ahead of the event, so they know what to expect and can participate.

