

**HUDSON RIVER PIK**  
**ESTUARY LAB**

# Compost Report 2019



## Purpose

Hudson River Park (HRPK) composts its horticulture waste, including grass clippings and pruned tree material, and organic waste from the community, including yard trimmings and food scraps, to help green the Park and support NYC's zero waste by 2030 goal. The Park's composting efforts also divert tons of organic waste from landfills and decrease the Park's carbon footprint. Instead of food and plant waste slowly decomposing in landfills, HRPK returns this organic matter to the earth and uses it to nourish plant beds throughout the Park. HRPK's composting initiative is one way the Park is involving our community in a more sustainable future.

## Project Goals

- Operate seven community compost drop-off sites within the Park
- Compost at least 400,000 pounds of organic waste in 2019
- Engage and educate the community about the Park's compost program and the benefits of compost



**Fig. 1** (above) | Map of the compost drop-off locations throughout Hudson River Park.

## Methods



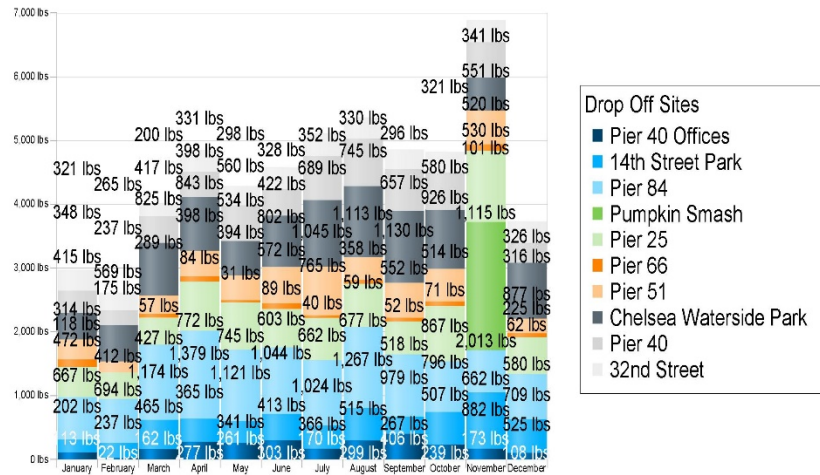
**Fig. 2** (left) | Organic waste is collected at HRPK's compost center and processed in an aerating vessel in order to produce compost.

- HRPK's horticulture staff collects all the organic waste that is produced when maintaining the Park
- Members of the community bring their organic waste to seven drop-off locations, open daily from 7am-7pm
- Organic waste collected by GrowNYC— an environmental organization with compost drop-off sites around NYC— is brought to HRPK
- All organic waste is dropped off at HRPK's compost center on 33<sup>rd</sup> street where it is weighed and processed in the Park's Green Mountain Technologies In-Vessel Earth Flow industrial composter
- HRPK hosts community compost workshops, school field trips and volunteer opportunities to educate locals on benefits of composting and involve the community in the Park's composting process
- Nutrient rich compost is returned to plant beds throughout HRPK

## Major Findings

In 2019, 85,753 pounds of organic waste were collected from the Park's offices, boathouses, community drop-off sites and Pumpkin Smash. The Park's horticulture team also contributed 350,000 pounds of horticultural waste while maintaining the Park this year. In total, HRPK turned over 430,000 pounds of organic waste into compost during 2019.

**Food Scrap Collected Per Month from Community Drop Off Sites**



**Fig. 3 (above) | Pounds of organic waste collected in HRPK during 2019**

- Community Drop-off Total Food Scraps: 49,529 lbs.
- GrowNYC Total Food Scraps: 31,678 lbs.
- The most food scraps were dropped off at Pier 84 (11,516 lbs.)
- The most food scraps were collected in November, due to HRPK's free Pumpkin Smash event

## Take Aways

HRPK exceeded its goal to compost at least 400,000 lbs. of organic waste in 2019. Compared to 2018, there was a 23% increase in organic waste collected in 2019. Community members were educated at volunteer events and public programming to encourage best practices in composting.

**Fig. 4 (right) |** Volunteers supported the composting process at Pumpkin Smash



HRPK's 2nd annual Pumpkin Smash at Chelsea Waterside Park welcomed 1200 locals in smashing over 2,000 lbs. of old Halloween pumpkins. Families also learned about the benefits of composting to the Park and tips on how to compost at home.

## Future Directions

In 2020, HRPK's Estuary Lab will continue compost education with school field trips, update signage at drop off sites, and improve public interpretives at the compost center. The Park will also continue to host volunteer opportunities in the compost center. By involving the community in compost education and processing through a variety of public programs, the Park hopes to help build a city of compost stewards and become a leader in compost processing for Parks throughout NYC.