

City of Grand Rapids Recycling Newsletter

SPRING 2025 (VOL. 8)



The City of Grand Rapids Public Works Department Recycling Program makes it easy to recycle! Since 2010, Grand Rapids has been a single-stream recycling program. This means that all clean recyclable materials are able to be recycled together in one cart.

Recycling is available to all residents of Grand Rapids. For more information on how to start, stop or change your service and to find the recycling pick up schedule, click on the City of Grand Rapids Public Works link below.

Recycling does not need to be a chore. There are so many ways you can recycle. Donating clothes, reusing plastic bottles and cups, or even turning old materials into new art projects. With recycling the possibilities are endless!



We aim to make sure the City's environment is healthy. To do this, we use the latest cutting edge technology for waste, recycling, and street management. We are also committed to making the City of Grand Rapids one of the most sustainable cities in the U.S.

Each recycling cart is made with 40% recycled plastic and the program is available to all residents who have access to public streets.

DID YOU KNOW?

The City of Grand Rapids is considering a shift of services where it will become the **sole provider** for residential refuse collection.

The decision to shift to the City of Grand Rapids becoming the sole hauler for residential homes came from two separate reports: a rate study and an operational study. Both studies recommended this proposed shift for the following reasons:

- Positive impact on road maintenance--less wear and tear due to fewer refuse trucks on the roads.
- The City will continue to meet its Sustainability priorities by lowering greenhouse gas emissions by having fewer refuse trucks on the road, as well as moving from the City Refuse Truck Fleet from diesel to compressed natural gas.
- A continued investment in equity. The reports observed that the current Pay as You Throw is the most equitable refuse system nation-wide. This approach may allow the City to offer more competitive rates and pricing for Grand Rapids customers.

[Click Here to take the Survey](#)

ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN GRAND RAPIDS

Road Closures are apart of living in the city. Keep in mind that some road closures are not tied to road construction projects. Some road closures may be the result of private development projects, traffic signal work, utility work, or emergency repairs.

Road Projects

Want to know more about road construction projects near you? Check out upcoming, current and past projects using the link below!

[CLICK HERE](#)

Interactive Road Work Maps

You can check out the interactive map that shows road work all over the city. This map will let you see everything going on and how long some projects might take, as well as past projects.

[CLICK HERE](#)

Vital Streets Program

In 2014, Grand Rapids voters established the Vital Streets fund. This fund dedicates its focus to improving our street conditions. This

focus is fueled by our community values:

safety, healthy places, vibrant economy, environmental sustainability, diverse transportation options.

[CLICK HERE](#)

[For more information click HERE](#)



THE BASICS OF COMPOSTING

Compost: a dark, crumbly, earthy-smelling soil produced by the decomposition of organic materials.

Did you know you can recycle your food waste through **composting**? This earth day, compost and learn how it can help mother earth!

There are many different ways to compost including: **home composting, community composting, on-site composting, municipal composting, commercial composting** and **industrial composting**. [Click Here](#) to learn more!

Want to check out your Carbon Footprint?
[Click Here](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON COMPOSTING AND HOW TO START YOUR OWN PILE
[CLICK HERE!](#)

Yard Waste Season Is Here!

Did you know that in addition to a curbside yard waste cart, there is a free drop-off site for yard waste?

You can drop-off leaves, brush, and tree branches at 2001 Butterworth SW. This is offered to **Grand Rapids residents only!**

Yard Waste **includes**: Grass clippings, Leaves, Brush, Twigs (less than two inches in diameter), Garden Plants, Tree Limbs - cut 5' or less, Logs - cut 5' or less

Yard Waste **does not include**: Sod, Dirt, Stones, Broken concrete, Trees, Railroad Ties, Stumps, Animal feces and dead animals.

Mulch and Compost Pickup - 2,000 yards of mulch and compost will be available each season. City residents will be allowed to pick up to one cubic yard each season on a first come basis.

Compost and mulch are available for pickup during normal business hours each Saturday. If you would like to purchase more material beyond one cubic yard, the retail prices are as follows:

- **Screened Compost - \$19.50 per yard**
- **Natural Wood Mulch - \$9.25 per yard**
- **Wood Chips - \$5.25 per yard**
- **Spring Soil - \$19.50 per yard**

For more information [Click Here!](#)

Indoor Spring Cleaning

As you prepare for spring cleaning, we have solutions for hazardous materials that **CANNOT** be disposed of in your trash or recycling carts such as:

- **Toxic-** poisonous or lethal when ingested, touched or inhaled
- **Flammable-** ignitable and burns easily
- **Corrosive-** eats through materials and living tissue
- **Reactive-** can possibly explode or react with other chemicals



Kent County SafChem Program collects household hazardous waste for FREE
[Click Here](#) to find out more!

Clean Up Your Neighborhood

Spring clean up season is in effect. If you and your community of neighbors or work communities are looking to give back to the community, try doing a trash pick up at your favorite park!

The Public Works Department will provide individuals and groups **orange** bags to pick up trash from community parks, parkways and public spaces. The city will then pick up the full bags that you leave at your clean up location the next business day.

Whether your private company would like to pick up trash or your group of neighbors, reach out to Public Works to pick up bags and grabbers and make your city that much more beautiful.

For more information about bags and clean ups, email
nrapacki@grand-rapids.mi.us

Look Out For The Street Sweepers!

The City of Grand Rapids Public Works Department has two new ALL ELECTRIC street sweepers!

These zero emissions street sweepers will be prioritizing business districts, major trunklines, and paying more attention to bike lanes.

But do not worry, our street sweeping team will still sweep every city street along our 41 different routes.

These sweepers will remove the equivalent of 51.5 metric tons of CO2 emissions over the course of one year!

To learn more about our M3EV electric street sweepers [Click Here!](#)





RECYCLING GUIDE

Kent County Recycling & Education Center | reimaginetrash.org



KENT COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC WORKS

RECYCLE THESE ITEMS

CLEAN, EMPTY & LOOSE (NOT BAGGED OR BUNDLED)

CARDBOARD & PAPER



PLASTIC BOTTLES, CUPS & CONTAINERS

Rigid plastics #1-7; no foam or flexible plastics



GLASS BOTTLES & JARS



METAL CANS, BOTTLES & FOIL



MILK, JUICE & SOUP CARTONS



If the cap/lid and container are the same material, keep them attached. If they're different materials, detach and recycle separately.

KEEP OUT OF RECYCLING CONTAINERS!



**SEPARATE
OUT
RECYCLING
TRASH**



**No hazardous waste
or chemicals:**
Batteries, electronics,
propane tanks, fuel,
chemicals, ammunition
or other hazardous waste.



**Nothing that
would tangle:**
Plastic bags, flexible
plastics, string lights,
extension cords, clothing,
hoses, tarps, hangers, etc.



**No bundled or
bagged recycling:**
Recyclables need to be
loose in order to be
sorted properly.



No foam plastics:
Foam take-out containers
or cups, blocks of styro-
foam, packing peanuts,
foam coolers, etc.

Have an item you'd like to recycle that's not on this guide? We can help!
www.reimaginetrash.org | recycle@kentcountymi.gov | 616-632-7920

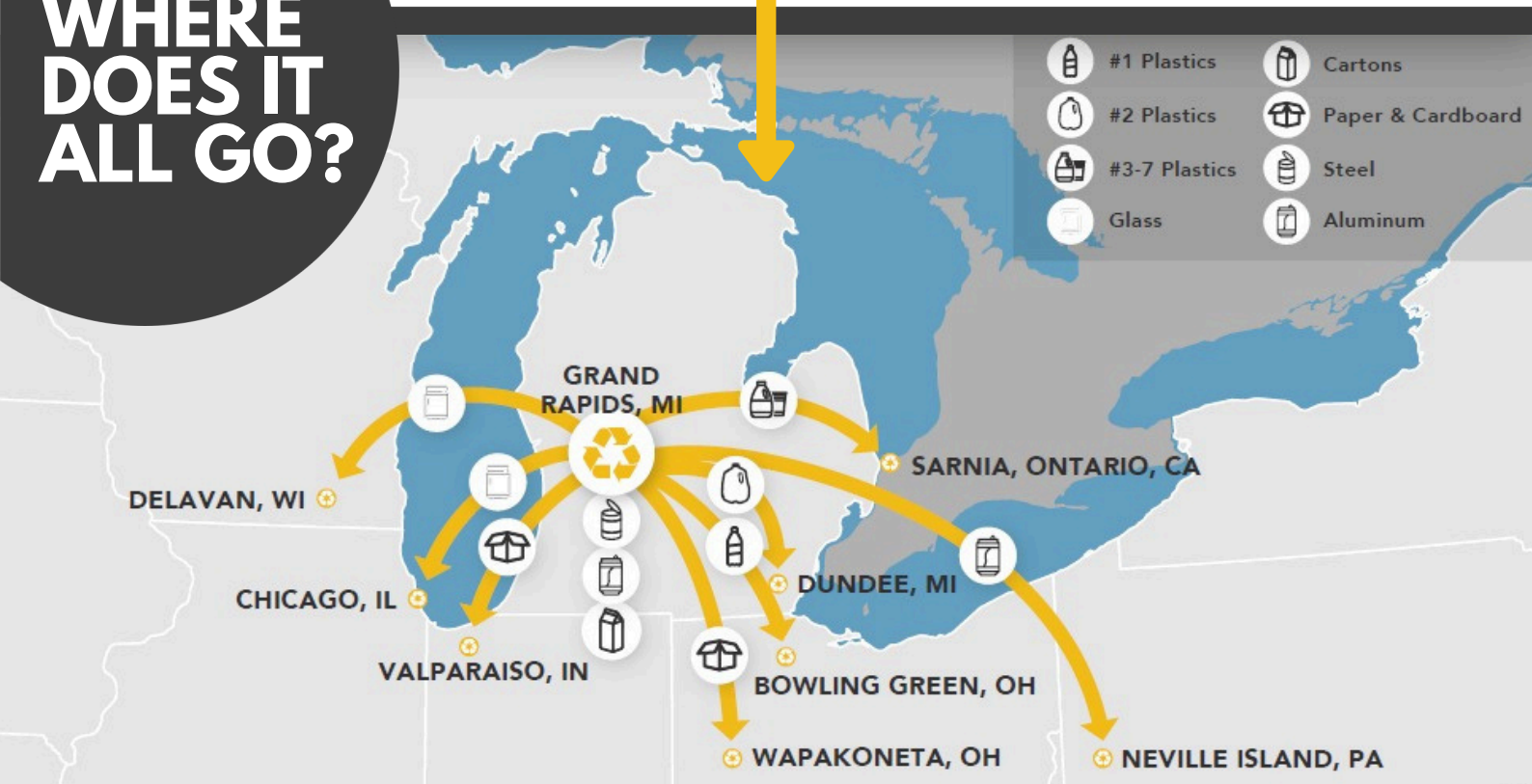
DO YOU RECYCLE?

Economic Benefits *Environmental Benefits*

- Recycling creates American jobs in the recycling industry
- Recycling supplies American manufacturers with raw materials
- Recycling keeps valuable materials out of landfills

- Recycling conserves natural resources and energy
- Recycling is an investment in our community's environmental health
- Recycling prevents pollution and other environmental impacts from raw materials extraction

**BUT
WHERE
DOES IT
ALL GO?**



TO START RECYCLING

www.reimaginetrash.org/recycle