

Green Initiatives

In an effort to mitigate our impact on the environment, the City of College Park has instituted the following practices and programs:

Solid Waste and Recycling

- Performs weekly curbside recycling - Recycling bins are provided at no cost to residents who use the City's trash service. For more information on what is accepted go to <http://www.collegeparkmd.gov/recycling.htm>.
- Installed recycling containers in the downtown area—Recycling containers for public use are now located next to trash receptacles on many street corners in the downtown area.
- Recycles used motor oil - A receptacle for recycling used motor oil is provided year-round at the Department of Public Works at 9217 51st Avenue and is available at all times. Oil shall be deposited in accordance with directions posted at the facility.
- Conducts street sweeping five times annually – Street sweeping keeps litter out of the catch basins and out of our streams and rivers. The City posts schedules for street sweeping in neighborhoods prior to sweeping.
- Cleans downtown-area parking lots daily.
- Makes SmartLeaf® compost – The City collects grass clippings and other yard waste in paper lawn bags or an approved reusable container from residents as well as City buildings and parks to produce compost that is available for purchase. For more information go to <http://www.collegeparkmd.gov/smartleaf.htm>.
- Creates wood chips from collected tree trimmings—the City collects branches from residents and chips them into mulch that is available for use by City residents.
- Maintains the position of City recycling coordinator – This position was re-established in 2006 to market and work with other agencies promoting recycling activities, distribute recycling information, and serve as the City's recycling contact person.
- Conducts e-cycling events – The City conducts electronics recycling (e-cycling) collection events for City residents in conjunction with spring and fall cleanup months.
- Conducts staff-based recycling at City buildings – The City recycles paper, glass, plastic, and aluminum at all City buildings.
- Purchases of recycled paper for City use – The City purchases recycled office paper for use at City buildings.
- Provide logistical support to volunteer groups interested in participating in litter clean-ups along streams

Transportation

- Hosts an annual Bike to Work Day
- Advocates for the purple line
- Purchased one hybrid vehicle
- Works to expand local and regional bus service
- Continues efforts to expand the hiker-biker trail

Natural Resources

- Partnered with the Anacostia Watershed Society to restore the Paint Branch stream valley.
- Participated in the Tree City USA since 1989 – <http://www.arboday.org/programs/TreeCityStandards.cfm>.
- Installed rain gardens – The City has installed rain gardens to capture stormwater runoff at locations throughout the City, including Duvall Field.

Energy

- Installed energy-efficient street lights
- Encourages the use of mass-transit by employees – City staff have the opportunity to purchase farecard vouchers (Metrochecks) pre-tax.
- Purchases wind power equal to 10% of municipal consumption (City buildings, street lights, etc.).