

RECYCLING & ZERO WASTE

POLICY & PRACTICE

It is the policy of the Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department to develop processes for the department’s recreation program staff to follow when evaluating and implementing recycling and zero waste initiatives, programs, events, and within parks and facilities. Policies are updated periodically as needed and reviewed by Woodstock City Council every three years.

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PROCEDURES

Woodstock Parks and Recreation promotes environmental sustainability and education as best it can in all facilities and parks. Protecting Woodstock's open space and environmental resources is imperative to meet the demands of expected population growth. According to the City of Woodstock Comprehensive Plan, the city is expected to triple in population size by 2030. This plan is developed to outline and demonstrate current recycling efforts and look at potential future recycling and zero waste efforts.

OBJECTIVES FOR RECYCLING & ZERO WASTE

1. Analyze current recycling efforts and areas for improvement.
2. Eliminate waste whenever possible through environmentally friendly purchases and actions.
3. Identify park and facility materials that can be re-used.
4. Promote recycling within the Woodstock community.

RECYCLING PROGRAM & STATISTICS

1. Woodstock began its journey to "Go Green" in 2008 with the introduction of Greenstock Day.
2. Greenstock Day includes an e-recycle event, guest speakers, and a concert aimed to educate residents how to be more environmentally friendly.

BATTERIES

1. Batteries are collected at City Hall, the Fire Department, & Woodstock Elementary School.
2. Batteries are also collected during the Greenstock Day and Tis The Season to Be Green Electronic Recycle Events.
3. Parks and Recreation staff deliver the batteries to Battery Recycling Made Easy, LLC in Calhoun, GA.
4. Woodstock Parks and Recreation pays a price per pound to have the batteries recycled.
5. Credit is not given for certain battery types and pricing is based on metal market fluctuation.

ELECTRONICS

1. Recycling events are held twice per year, April and November.
2. An average of 300 cars drive thru and drop off electronics.
3. The department coordinates and works with Premier Surplus, Inc., which is an American and women owned and certified electronics recycler.
4. Equipment is broken down and processed so it can be re-used, thus lessening demands on local landfills and keeping toxins from leaking into the soils and waterways.

CELL PHONES, EYEGLASSES, & HEARING AIDS

1. Cell phones are collected at both Greenstock Day and Tis The Season to Be Green events.
2. Eyeglasses and hearing aids are collected at these events as well, and also at the William G. Long Senior Center.
3. Woodstock Parks and Recreation coordinates with the Lions Club of Woodstock and Lions Lighthouse in recycling cell phones, eyeglasses, and hearing aids.

COMPACT FLOURESCENT LIGHT BULBS

1. These light bulbs are also collected at the e-recycle events
2. Bulbs are take to Home Depot for recycling.
3. The purpose of these recyclables is to educate people on the danger of compact fluorescent light bulbs

DOCUMENT DESTRUCTION

1. This service is offered at both the Greenstock Day and Tis The Season to Be Green events.
2. Several tons of paper are recycled at both events.
3. Parks and Recreation staff take papers used to City Hall where document destruction is offered throughout the year on a regular basis.
4. A1 Shredding & Recycling in Atlanta, Ga offers the document shredding service for the events, and also is a service available to residents throughout the year.

ALUMINUM, PLASTIC, CARDBOARD, GLASS, ETC.

1. Waste Management is contracted to handle all City of Woodstock trash and recycling services.
2. Recycling is picked up curbside at all parks and recreation facilities and parks.
3. A 6yd recycling dumpster is set up at The Park and City Center for use during events, such as the Woodstock Summer Concert Series.
4. All parks and trails have recycling bins alongside the trash receptacles.
5. Additional plastic recycling containers are placed throughout parks during larger events and collected afterward for recycling.
6. The city has a partnership with Woodstock Elementary School to provide recycle dumpsters for them to use at no charge.
7. The school has an active "Green Team" of student volunteers to collect recycling from classrooms and the cafeteria at the end of each day.

2018 – 2020 E-RECYCLE EVENT STATISTICS

June 2020

29,774 lbs.	Electronics
1,270 lbs.	Batteries
7.1 tons	Paper Shredded
1,000 lbs.	Textiles
1.68 tons	Waste
1.06 tons	Other Recyclables (Cardboard, Paper, Magazines, Newspaper)
220	Cell Phones
177	Eyeglasses
296	Ink Cartridges
310	Fluorescent Light Bulbs

April 2019

17,533 lbs.	Electronics
1,447 lbs.	Batteries
9,000 lbs.	Paper Shredded
977 lbs.	Textiles
.61 tons	Waste
.81 tons	Other Recyclables (Cardboard, Paper, Magazines, Newspaper)
142	Cell Phones
52	Eyeglasses
21	Ink Cartridges
164	Fluorescent Light Bulbs

April 2018

11,426 lbs.	Electronics
n/a*	Batteries – *Collection added to the November event totals
9,660 lbs.	Paper Shredded
682 lbs.	Textiles
1.32 tons	Waste
3.92 tons	Other Recyclables (Cardboard, Paper, Magazines, Newspaper)
141	Cell Phones
14	Eyeglasses
2	Hearing Aids
53	Ink Cartridges
48	Fluorescent Light Bulbs

November 2020

11,549 lbs.	Electronics
1,270 lbs.	Batteries (from June event)
4.5 tons	Paper Shredded
.78 tons	Waste
.26 tons	Other Recyclables (Cardboard, Paper, Magazines, Newspaper)
64	Cell Phones
66	Eyeglasses
4	Hearing Aids
85	Ink Cartridges
48	Fluorescent Light Bulbs

November 2019

10,299 lbs.	Electronics
598 lbs.	Batteries
8,240 lbs.	Paper Shredded
.56 tons	Waste
.06 tons	Other Recyclables (Cardboard, Paper, Magazines, Newspaper)
97	Cell Phones
18	Eyeglasses
32	Ink Cartridges
162	Fluorescent Light Bulbs

November 2018

8,011 lbs.	Electronics
1,150 lbs.	Batteries
8,800 lbs.	Paper Shredded
565 lbs.	Textiles
1.32 tons	Waste
3.92 tons	Other Recyclables (Cardboard, Paper, Magazines, Newspaper)
51	Cell Phones
47	Eyeglasses
25	Ink Cartridges
42	Fluorescent Light Bulbs

2020 CITY OF WOODSTOCK SUSTAINABILITY PLAN

The City of Woodstock Department of Community Development is charged with the overall sustainability plan and tracks performance metrics in Energy & Buildings, Land Use, Water Management, Solid Waste, Transportation, Public Outreach, and Government Operations.

1. The City of Woodstock will invest in sustainable solutions and reinforce its reputation as a green community by fostering a culture that values informed participation and the connection between environmental protection and economic vitality.
2. Community members find value in not only each other, but in future generations and the vibrant city that they call home.
3. The vision is that residents become more mindful of how daily lives interact with the environment, they realize their investment in a resilient future where every and thing thrives.

SOLID WASTE - GOAL 8: DIVERSITY WASTE MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Task 8A: Expand Woodstock's Recycling Portfolio

1. The response from public input and growing numbers during the e-recycle events have sparked discussions of the need for better and more convenient recycling options.
2. Strategy 1 – Expand the list of accepted items at and the frequency of the Greenstock Recycling Day.
3. Strategy 2 – Invest in a city run drop center that collects nontraditional recyclables, particularly e-waste, glass, and household hazardous materials.
4. Strategy 3 – Contract recycling bins for use at city sponsored events.
5. Strategy 4 – Find a workable solution for recycling in the Downtown District.
6. Strategy 5 – Provide more opportunities for businesses to recycle, such as the Recycle Bank rewards program, or require solid waste servicers operating in Woodstock to provide commercial recycling options for businesses that want to opt in.

Task 8B: Explore Disposable Options for Compostable Materials

1. Though the majority of everyday waste is organic material (paper, food, yard trimmings), not much action has been taken to address its disposal in Woodstock.
2. Landfilling waste that harmlessly breaks down on its own delays natural decomposition processes and wastes the opportunity to recycle that waste into a valuable agricultural resource.
3. Strategy 1 – Explore options for collecting compost and large debris.
4. Strategy 2 – Use community education to encourage the use of compostable products like those made by CompostNow, EcoProducts, etc.

SOLID WASTE – GOAL 9: DECREASE RECYCLING CONTAMINATION

1. Reducing pollution and decreasing the size of landfills were top concerns during the public input.
2. These ideas are only realized when solid waste is disposed of correctly.
3. Doubts about appropriate practices not only discourage participation but spoil proper efforts.
4. The phenomenon known as “wish-cycling” describes the act of placing seemingly recyclable items (candy wrappers, etc.) or contaminated recyclable items (greasy pizza boxes and paper bags, etc.) into recycling bins, thus causing the entire haul to be landfilled.
5. This happens due to the widely lacking capacity to sort out misfit products.
6. Strategy 1 – Develop a labeling system for all city owned waste receptacles in the public right of way and at sponsored events once proper services are in place.
7. Strategy 2 – Explore outreach options like the City of Atlanta’s Feet on the Street Project that sent staff and volunteers into communities to walk residents through the recycling sorting process.
8. Strategy 3- Provide continued community education on the most current information about proper recycling practices and avoiding contamination, as the recycling landscape and market changes.

SOLID WASTE – GOAL 10: REDUCE OVERCONSUMPTION & CONSUMPTION OF SINGLE USE PRODUCTS

1. Consumers can benefit as much as the environment when they invest in long lasting products instead of continuously purchasing disposable items.
2. This task aims to eliminate the wasteful use of resources and minimize the amount of solid waste that can be sent to landfills by discouraging single use products like plastic packaging and utensils.
3. Strategy 1 – Promote efficient habits, such as the “Pack One More Item” campaign by Walmart.
4. Strategy 2 – Explore the plastic bag ban in Atlanta, which starts at the city level with a reusable tote subsidy.
5. If leadership isn’t in favor of a ban, conduct a public awareness campaign about how to dispose of plastic bags and why to use reusable totes.

TRACKING & REPORTING

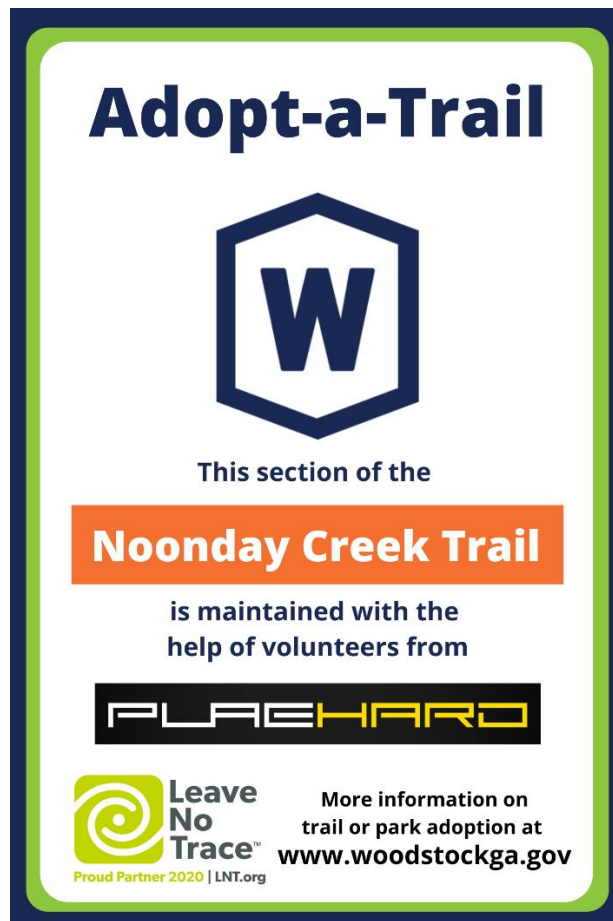
1. The Sustainability Committee will be responsible for creating a short-term work program for the implementation of the plan.
2. Both the Recreation Operations Manager and Special Events Coordinator serve on the committee.
3. Green Communities measures and other tracking related recommendations should be prioritized so that annual updates may be presented to the Mayor and Council.

ADOPT-A-TRAIL PROGRAM

The City of Woodstock adopted a proposal from the parks and recreation department on August 24th, 2020.

1. Adopt-A-Trail is a partnership program between the City of Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department and members of the community.
2. Trail adoption is a great way for individuals, families, businesses, and organizations to give back to the community on a regular basis.
3. Adopters are responsible for regularly removing debris and trash from designated sections of trails, assisting with Leave No Trace information and notifying the Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department of any issues that need to be addressed.
4. Yearly, adopters host a public service project in partnership with the City of Woodstock.
5. The parks and recreation department develops unique signage for each adopter to display on the trail indicating the section of trail adopted, and by who.
6. Phase 1 Sections Include: (3) sections of the Noonday Creek Trail, (2) sections of the Towne Lake Pass Trail, (2) sections of the Rubes Creek Trail, and (2) sections of the Trestle Rock Trail.

Signage Example



PARKS AND RECREATION ZERO WASTE INITIATIVES

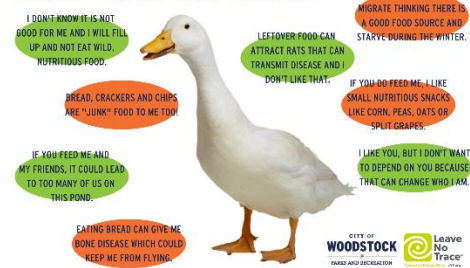
In 2020, Woodstock Parks and Recreation participated in and began to develop programs and initiatives involving recycling, conservation, and being “Green”. The City of Woodstock as a whole continuously improvise processes and policies to take steps in being a cleaner and more efficient city, more specifically in recycling. The Community Development Department spearheads a lot of these programs through their Sustainability Plan and initiatives.

Inter-departmental cooperative programs include events, such as the Christmas Tree Chip & Dip, Bring One for the Chipper, Annual Little River Cleanup, and Lake Allatoona Noonday Creek Study. In addition to the newly adopted and growing Adopt-A-Trail program, the popular E-Recycle events already in place, and the inter-departmental programs, 2020 also started some new initiatives and traditions.

LEAVE NO TRACE

1. Woodstock Parks and Recreation is a proud partner of (LNT) Leave No Trace.
2. Leave No Trace provides research, education, and initiatives so every person who ventures outside can protect and enjoy their world responsibly.
3. The department has a dedicated Leave No Trace webpage on the parks and recreation site that consists of educational videos pertaining to popular activities in the parks, as well as general information, and many printable and online activities for parents and children to enjoy at home.
4. LNT materials and programs are also available to the local system in hopes to better educate the children, and for potential programming and events between the schools and the parks and recreation department.
5. Signage and logos are placed on signs, website, brochures, flyers, and anywhere that is deemed necessary by the parks and recreation department.
6. Leave No Trace plays an integral role in the City of Woodstock Sustainability Plan and sustainability initiatives, programs, and reporting.
7. In addition to Leave No Trace, the Recreation Division also educates and informs the public of other conservation efforts though signage and educational website information and activities.

Don't Feed Me Bread!



8. The Leave No Trace **ZERO LANDFILL TEAM** recommends that the Woodstock Parks and Recreation Department educate users on the following principles, at minimum for zero waste.
 - a. Know Before You Go, and:
 - b. **Plan Ahead and Prepare** – think about what you bring into the parks. Check to see if it can be recycled or composted in the park you are visiting.
 - c. **Opt for Online When/Where You Can** – try smartphone apps to help navigate your way around the park, when/where access is available.
 - d. **Mug for The Parks** – bring a reusable coffee mug or buy one from the souvenir shop to help reduce waste at parks.
 - e. **Bring Your Own Water Bottle** – bring a refillable water bottle or buy one at the souvenir shop while taking advantage of convenient water refilling stations located around the parks.
 - f. **Choose Reusable Bags** – bring your own reusable bag or tote for your supplies and souvenir items to help eliminate plastic bag waste.



Leave No Trace
2018 HIGHLIGHTS

ZERO LANDFILL TEAM

Our parks welcome more than 330 million visitors annually, who leave behind 70 million pounds of waste that could otherwise be recycled or composted. That is why the National Park Service, Subaru of America Inc., National Parks Conservation Association, and park concessioners and partners are working to significantly reduce visitor-generated waste through the Zero Landfill Initiative.



12,742
MILES



86
DAYS



59
EVENTS



33,765
TOTAL ATTENDEES

1. The Lake Allatoona Association's (LAA) Lake Warrior's volunteer group was formally established in late-2018. The Lake Warriors are made up of a group of volunteers that collect trash throughout the year, particularly in the winter and spring months when the water levels are lowest.
2. LAA's long term goal, after trash study data is collected, is to engage Cherokee County and City(s) within the County to join in or at least sponsor / assume responsibility for areas within their jurisdiction where large amounts of trash is entering into one of their most valuable resources – Allatoona Lake.
3. LAA has installed a trash collection boom (trash trap) in Noonday Creek to conduct a (6) month study of the trash volume and contents in order to determine the best methods of required to capture and remove trash before it reaches Lake Allatoona.
4. In addition to the Boom, signage was installed to educate the community walking along Towne Lake Pass Trail of what the project in the creek is all about, and how they can get involved.
5. Once complete, and plan is coordinated between various city departments of how to move forward based on results, then conduct another study in a different location, such as the Little River which flows through many different city properties and neighborhoods.
6. Little River is also a large recreational destination for Woodstock residents so their will be multiple studies over several years.

Noonday Creek Trash Study

Lake Allatoona Association is conducting a test on a better way to keep our lake clean!

**PLEASE OBSERVE THE DEVICE FROM A
DISTANCE WITHOUT DISTURBING SO THAT IT
CAN PERFORM THE WORK IT WAS MADE TO DO.**

For more information on how you can donate or volunteer, please contact: greatallatoonacleanup@gmail.com

