

# Hudson River Park Friends Enhances their Community Compost Program



## Hudson River Park Friends

The Hudson River Park (HRP) provides more than 17 million annual visitors with countless opportunities for recreation each year. In addition, HRP's free public programming -- including environmental education programs -- serves over 100,000 New Yorkers and City visitors. Established in 1999 as an independent advocacy organization, Hudson River Park Friends (HRP Friends) is the official fundraising partner of HRP. HRP Friends create opportunities for contributions to and participation in HRP's operations and growth, including fundraising, advocacy, stewardship and volunteerism.

## Challenge

The New York City community generates a lot of food waste while the parks generate landscape waste. Traditionally, this waste would end up in a landfill. Fortunately HRP Friends developed a Community Compost Program where they operate food waste drop-off points accessible to members of the community. In order to expand and enhance the program, HRP Friends must grow its volunteer program, expand outreach efforts, and increase the amount of food waste collected and processed by the Compost Center.

## Solution

HRP Friends conducted educational programming throughout the year, attended the Chelsea Waterside Park Association Annual Meeting, they hosted the Pumpkin Smash community event, prepared and distributed educational flyers, their volunteer program was expanded through corporate volunteers, and they expanded community participation in the collection of food scraps.

## Results

Educational programming took place throughout the year with 28 volunteer events or educational workshops in 2019, with over 450 participants. Educational flyers were prepared and at least 580 were distributed. The Chelsea Waterside Park Association Annual Meeting attracted 100 community residents who heard a talk about the Compost

## Challenge

- HRP Friends needs a larger volunteer program, expanded outreach efforts, and increased food waste collection to enhance their Community Compost Program.

## Solution

- HRP Friends conducted educational programming, hosted the Pumpkin Smash community event, distributed educational flyers, used corporate volunteers, and increased their food scrap collection.

## Results

- During the grant period the Community Compost Program held 28 volunteer events or educational workshops with over 450 participants.
- The Pumpkin Smash community event attracted 1,200 people and resulted in the composting of 380 pumpkins.
- A total of 23,800 pounds of food scrap were diverted in 2019.

## Testimonial

Center, asked questions, and received educational flyers. The Pumpkin Smash community event attracted 1,200 people. A total of 2,013 pounds of pumpkins were smashed and 380 were composted.



To expand the volunteer program, HRP Friends held a Green Team event and a Community Workshop. In addition, there were numerous corporate volunteer events with participants from a diverse array of organizations. Lastly, community participation in food scrap collection increased with an additional 16,347 pounds collected in the fourth quarter of 2019 for a total of 23,800 pounds.



## Online Media

- [Website](#)
- [Twitter](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [Instagram](#)

*"With the generous assistance of NYSP2I Hudson River Park (HRPK) grew the Community Compost Program in 2019. The program was able to increase its impact in the community by engaging additional volunteers and educating an increased number of Park visitors and the local community about the methods and importance of compost. Overall, this funding supported HRPK's Community Compost Program in its collection and processing in the Hudson River Park Compost Center. In 2019, HRPK supported the community by collecting 86,000 pounds of food scraps, combining with horticultural waste for 450,000 pounds of waste that was diverted from landfills. NYSP2I helps create the opportunities that communities need to create, implement and expand sustainability efforts and encourage environmental stewardship."*

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