

Little Rock Zoo's Conservation Efforts

The Little Rock Zoo is intentionally landscaped with a mix of native and tropical trees, shrubs, grasses and flowering plants. By using drought-tolerant, mostly native plants in the landscape, the Horticulture Department reduces the amount of water needed for irrigation. This practice is known as Xeriscaping. In our efforts to promote conservation, we compost our elephant manure along with weeds, leaves and grass clippings to produce high quality compost that is used throughout the Zoo landscape.



Did You Know:

Every day at the Zoo, over 48 cubic feet of animal manure is composted! That's a lot of POO!

Conservation Quiz

Place the correct letter by each of the items listed below to show which they are best suited for - composting, recycling, or garbage.



- Grass/Lawn Clippings
- Newspapers
- Tea Bags
- Aluminum Cans
- Bones
- Pet Waste



- Fruit Peels
- Milk Products
- Coffee Grounds
- Magazines
- Vegetable Peels
- Weeds



- Eggshells
- Meat Scraps
- Leaves
- Plastic Bottles

Check our Web site to see how you did.



Composting

Learn How Elephant Poo Helps the Zoo

Little Rock Zoo
Facilities Operations

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What is Composting and what are its advantages?

Composting is the natural process of recycling organic materials into a rich soil additive for your garden.

Adding compost to your soil provides too many benefits to list here, but the result is better soil and healthier plants.

Composting is an easy way to reduce the amount of waste going into the landfill and provide your garden with nutrient rich humus.

How to build a compost bin:

A simple compost bin can be constructed in your back yard using easy to find, refurbished materials such as used pallets or chicken wire. Airflow is important to decomposition. Make sure that your bin provides airflow on all sides, including the bottom. If you want to buy a pre-constructed bin, talk to your local hardware store about bin options.



What can be composted?

Almost anything that was once alive can be composted. Common compost ingredients include yard and kitchen wastes. To maintain a healthy compost bin, combine equal amounts of Green and Brown wastes.

Greens

- vegetable peelings
- fruit peelings
- coffee grounds
- grass clippings
- fresh manure
- green plant cuttings
- annual weeds
- young hedge trimmings

Browns

- leaves
- hay & straw
- paper & cardboard
- woody prunings
- eggshells
- tea bags
- sawdust

The ingredients should be mixed as well as possible. Chopping the materials will be a great advantage to help the decomposition process.

Do NOT compost prepared and cooked food or anything with meats, oils, fats, or preservatives. These foods are likely to attract unwanted pests to your garden.

Don't Add:

- meat & bones
- poultry & fish
- fatty food waste
- whole eggs
- dairy products
- human & pet feces
- pernicious weeds
- treated wood

Why Conservation Matters

Every little bit counts!

In an interdependent world, individual conservation efforts will help maintain the biodiversity among plants, animals, people, and the environment. Conservation efforts in the home such as composting and recycling will help reduce our impact on the environment, but we can't do it alone. With the help of government agencies, non-profits, industry professionals, and individuals like you, we can all work together to reduce our footprint on the earth. Find out what's going on locally and get involved!

Take larger steps!

If you already recycle and compost, that's great! Here are other ideas to try.

- Live near your work? Try walking or riding a bike once a week. Save gas and get exercise at the same time!
- Support a local farmer! By reducing the number of miles your food travels from farm to plate, you are helping save transportation costs and support a local farmer in your area. Local farmers markets provide you with fresh, seasonal produce that is grown practically in your back yard!
- Be energy conscious! Do you leave your computer on while you are asleep or at work? Turn off the computer while it's not in use.

Did You Know:

Unused appliances that are plugged in still draw energy! Save energy and cut your electricity bill by unplugging these unused appliances!