

## Ramsey/Washington County Success Story: Como Docksider

The Minnesota Waste Wise Foundation contacted Como Docksider prior to the opening of their restaurant in Como Park to offer assistance in setting up waste and recycling programs. Following an initial site visit with Waste Wise, manager Doug Tuttle decided the restaurant would maximize waste diversion by adding both recycling and organics recycling programs. This was a no-brainer decision for Doug, who said, "We are in a park, so we want to be good stewards. It's something we believe in."



With an outdoor patio that holds weddings, concerts, and other events of up to 1,000 people during warm months, Como Docksider had a huge opportunity for customers and the public to participate in their recycling efforts. Waste Wise worked with the restaurant to take inventory of the bins that would be needed both in-house and outdoors. From there, appropriate color-coded bins were selected for each area. To help with the start-up costs of the new bins, Como Docksider



applied for the BizRecycling grant. Grant funds also covered the initial cost of compostable bags used to collect organic waste in the kitchen, bathrooms, and outdoor patio. After being connected to local haulers to pick up recycling and organics waste, the final step was to ensure restaurant staff was confident in using the programs.

Waste Wise provided a training to explain what should go in each bin. Lucky for Doug and Waste Wise, getting staff on board was a breeze. "The staff picked it up quickly. It's a part of their generation now, so they get it."

The success of Como Docksider's recycling efforts during their first year of operations speaks for itself. Accounting for seasonal fluctuation, the restaurant is composting an estimated 31,500 lbs. annually while recycling 19,968 lbs. of cardboard and 32,637 lbs. of mixed recyclables. "The whole program was easy to use and Waste Wise was great to work with," says Doug. "The community likes it and we've gotten positive feedback."

### Highlights

**What:** Establishing organics recycling and single stream recycling programs for a new restaurant.

**Why:** To demonstrate a commitment to waste diversion and keep disposal costs low.

**How:** Received assistance from Waste Wise in contacting service providers, applying for a BizRecycling grant, and training staff.

**Results:** 31,500 lbs. of organics composted annually; 19,968 lbs. of cardboard recycled annually; 32,637 lbs. of mixed recyclables recycled annually.