

SUCCESS STORY

THE GREAT MIDWEST RIB FEST



Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
WASTE WISE

The Great Midwest Rib Fest is an outdoor festival held at Mystic Lake Casino in Prior Lake every July.

Attracting 35,000 visitors over three days, the event features live music and food. While the event organizer, the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community (SMSC), had implemented recycling in years prior, existing recycling receptacles were the wrong color (black with red tops instead of the preferred blue). To address this issue and to more clearly encourage recycling by attendees, SMSC worked with MN Waste Wise to apply for a Scott County Business Recycling Grant replace black bins with blue receptacles. As part of the expanded recycling initiative, the new bins would be also be paired with organics barrels to capture any compostable material generated on site. SMSC worked with vendors to ensure all food items would be served on BPI-certified compostable products and any beverages be offered in recyclable cans, bottles, and cups only.

By coordinating with vendors, and pairing recycling, organics, and trash bins throughout festival grounds, Rib Fest was able to see 80% waste diversion in 2019. Of the 11.8 tons of total waste generated, 6.01 tons were composted, and 2.9 tons were recycled.

With a commitment to environmental responsibility and stewardship, the SMSC looks forward to using the recycling and organics infrastructure for future outdoor events and anticipates seeing a greater positive environmental impact in years to come.

HIGHLIGHTS

12,020 POUNDS OF ORGANICS
COMPOSTED AND 5,800 POUNDS OF
MATERIAL RECYCLED OVER 3 DAYS



Minnesota's cherished environment is important to our quality of life. Partner with Waste Wise, a direct service of the Minnesota Chamber, to protect our natural resources and build your profits. Our expert staff will identify ways to lower your overhead costs through reducing, recycling and reusing waste. It's as easy as inviting us into your worksite, and we take it from there.