

Our Mission: We strive to provide exceptional services that enhance quality of life and promote a safe, healthy, and welcoming community for all.

**Date:** Dec. 18, 2024  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Washington County North Environmental Center opens Dec. 18

The North Environmental Center will open in Forest Lake on Wednesday, Dec. 18, offering residents a second location to drop off items that don't belong in the trash, like household chemicals, batteries, electronics, recyclables, food scraps, and more.

Washington County has provided household hazardous waste collection services since 1995, including operation of a South Environmental Center in Woodbury since 2009. The North Environmental Center, located at 6065 Headwaters Parkway (east of Highway 61) in Forest Lake, will expand access by ensuring all Washington County residents are within 25 miles of an Environmental Center.

"Washington County is committed to proactively managing waste in the most responsible, environmentally conscious way," said Washington County Commissioner Fran Miron, District 1. "This facility ensures that residents in the northern portions of the county have access to a close-to-home option for disposing of materials that should not enter the regular waste stream."

Items accepted at the North Environmental Center include hazardous materials, electronics, household sharps, recyclables, and food scraps. The site features an on-site Free Product Room, where residents can find usable products, such as latex paint, household cleaners, automotive fluids, and lawn/garden products. The North Yard Waste Site, formerly located in Hugo, has been permanently relocated to the North Environmental Center campus, providing a free drop-off option for leaves, grass clippings, brush, and other yard waste.

The North Environmental Center is expected to serve over 40,000 customers in the first year of operation, with an anticipated collection of 600,000 pounds of electronic waste and 750,000 pounds of hazardous waste. The North Environmental Center is open to residents of Washington, Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Scott counties. The North Yard Waste Site is open to residents of Washington and Ramsey counties only.

Hours of operation are:

- Monday: 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Wednesday: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
- Friday: 8 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.
- Saturday: 8 a.m.- 2 p.m.

For more information, visit [WashingtonCountyMN.gov/EnviroCenter](http://WashingtonCountyMN.gov/EnviroCenter) or call 651-275-7475.

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**Photo cutlines:**

**001:** The Free Product Room at the Washington County North Environmental Center in Forest Lake.

**030:** Washington County Commissioner Fran Miron (District 1) speaks at the county's North Environmental Center ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 16.

**033:** U.S. Representative Pete Stauber (MN-08) speaks at the Washington County North Environmental Center ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 16.

**034:** Forest Lake Mayor Mara Bain speaks at the Washington County North Environmental Center ribbon-cutting ceremony Dec. 16.

**038:** Washington County Commissioner Fran Miron (District 1) cuts the ribbon at the county's North Environmental Center. Miron is joined by fellow Washington County Commissioners Stan Karwoski (District 2), Gary Kriesel (District 3), Karla Biggam (District 4), and Michelle Clasen (District 5), along with U.S. Representative Pete Stauber (MN-08), Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt (District 7), and local officials from Hugo and Forest Lake.

*A great place to live, work and play...today and tomorrow*

Government Center | 14949 62nd Street North | P. O. Box 6 | Stillwater, MN 55082-0006  
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[www.co.washington.mn.us](http://www.co.washington.mn.us)

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**045:** The Washington County North Environmental Center opened to the public Dec. 18 in Forest Lake.

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