



Sustainability Breakout Session

2022 Bank of America Chicago Marathon Event Preparation Meeting

Council for Responsible Sport

The Bank of America Chicago Marathon utilizes the standards set forth by the Council for Responsible Sport to develop and improve performance on social and environmental impacts. We are the first marathon to achieve Evergreen Status, the highest level of achievement, and the only marathon to become an Evergreen Inspire event.

- Planning and communications
- Procurement
- Resource Management
- Access & equity
- Community Legacy



Sustainability timeline

- 2010 Received certification from CRS
- 2012 Renewed certification
- 2014 Certified at the Silver Level
- 2016 Certified at the Evergreen Level
- 2018 Awarded Evergreen Inspire Status
- 2019 Early signatory of the UN's "Sport for Climate Action Initiative"



Green Team Key Contacts

Sustainability Manager: Cat Morris

Sustainability Program Coordinator: Alesandra Pena

Sustainability Program Captain: Kristen McCormick

Sustainability Zero Waste Station Captain: Angela Noyes

Finish Line Sustainability Coordinator: Debbie Kopsky

Participant Services Sustainability Coordinator: George Mejia

Start Line Sustainability Coordinator: Devon Marx

Post-Race Party/Runner Reunite Sustainability Coordinator: Michelle Sandquist

Zero Waste Station & Sustainability Supervisors

Responsibilities:

- Review sustainability cheat sheet with all volunteers and make sure they fully understand the different waste streams
- Monitor sorting by volunteers to reduce contamination in bins
- Ensure volunteers are dumping any liquids before placing into bins
- Communicate with volunteers to make sure they have everything they need
- Encourage volunteers to be enthusiastic and to engage with participants

Zero Waste Station & Sustainability Supervisors, cont.

Radio: Make sure your radio is turned to the maintenance channel. If your bins need to be emptied, please make an announcement on the radio with your location and what needs to be serviced.

Meals: When you are ready to eat, please ensure your volunteers know they need to stay in their positions. Please notify your Sustainability Coordinator via radio that you are taking a break. Coffee and breakfast will be provided. Lunch will be served at the Key Volunteer Check-In tent beginning at 10 a.m. Key volunteers are also welcome to snacks, bananas and beverages served in the Volunteer Hospitality Tent.

Restroom: Porta-potties are located throughout Grant Park for your use.

Radio etiquette

- Radio channels are used to transmit official race business only.
- Avoid discussing sensitive or medical issues on open channels unless directed by Race Officials or Dispatch.
- Good radio etiquette demands that all users limit their communication to essential radio calls only.
- Avoid stepping on other transmissions.
- Delay to speak, wait for the beep to talk
- Request ear piece: easier to hear in noisy environment
- Dispatch is listening to all transmissions and is available to pass along messages to other channels.



Cups to soil



Compost collection

By utilizing our Green Team volunteers at Runner Refresh, our Zero waste stations in Grant Park and our Aid station volunteers on course, we anticipate collecting up to 15 tons of organic waste.

Compost collection includes:

- 2.4 million compostable bamboo cups
- 67,000 banana peels
- 47,000 apple cores
- food scraps from hospitality tent



Collection points

Compost bins are to be staffed at all times to reduce contamination. Bins will be located in the following areas:

- Runner refresh
- Zero waste station tents
- Grouped bins throughout Grant Park (Waste, Compost, & Recycle bins grouped together and staffed by volunteers)



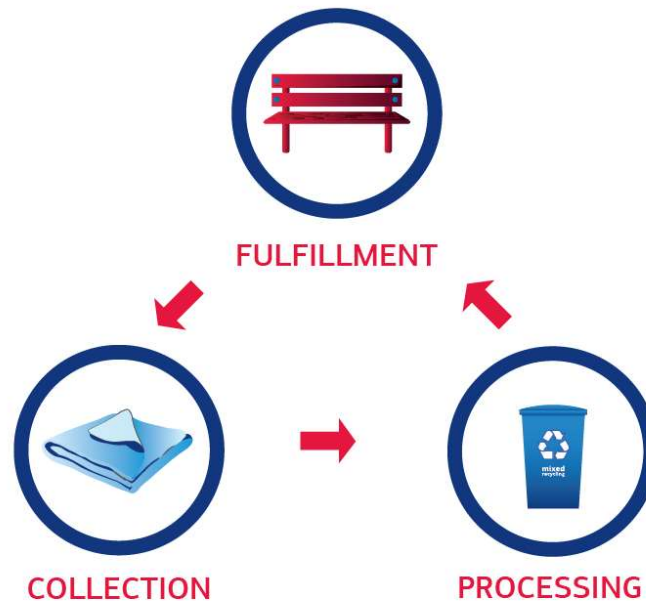
Processing and fulfillment

1. The organic waste is taken to a local compost facility
2. Over a course of 90 days, the waste is processed, resulting in several tons of a nutrient rich soil amendment
3. The finished compost is donated to local community gardens to nourish their soil

2021 Compost was donated to BEET Chicago and El Paseo Community Garden



Blankets to boards



Heatsheets™/LDPE collection

Heatsheets™ blankets, made from LDPE (#4 plastic), are distributed at the finish line to regulate runners' body temperatures.

Collection includes:

- Heatsheets™
- Stretch wrap from pallets
- Outer wrapping of water bottle cases
- Grocery bags/ Participant bag
- Empty ice bags



Heatsheets and LDPE collection method

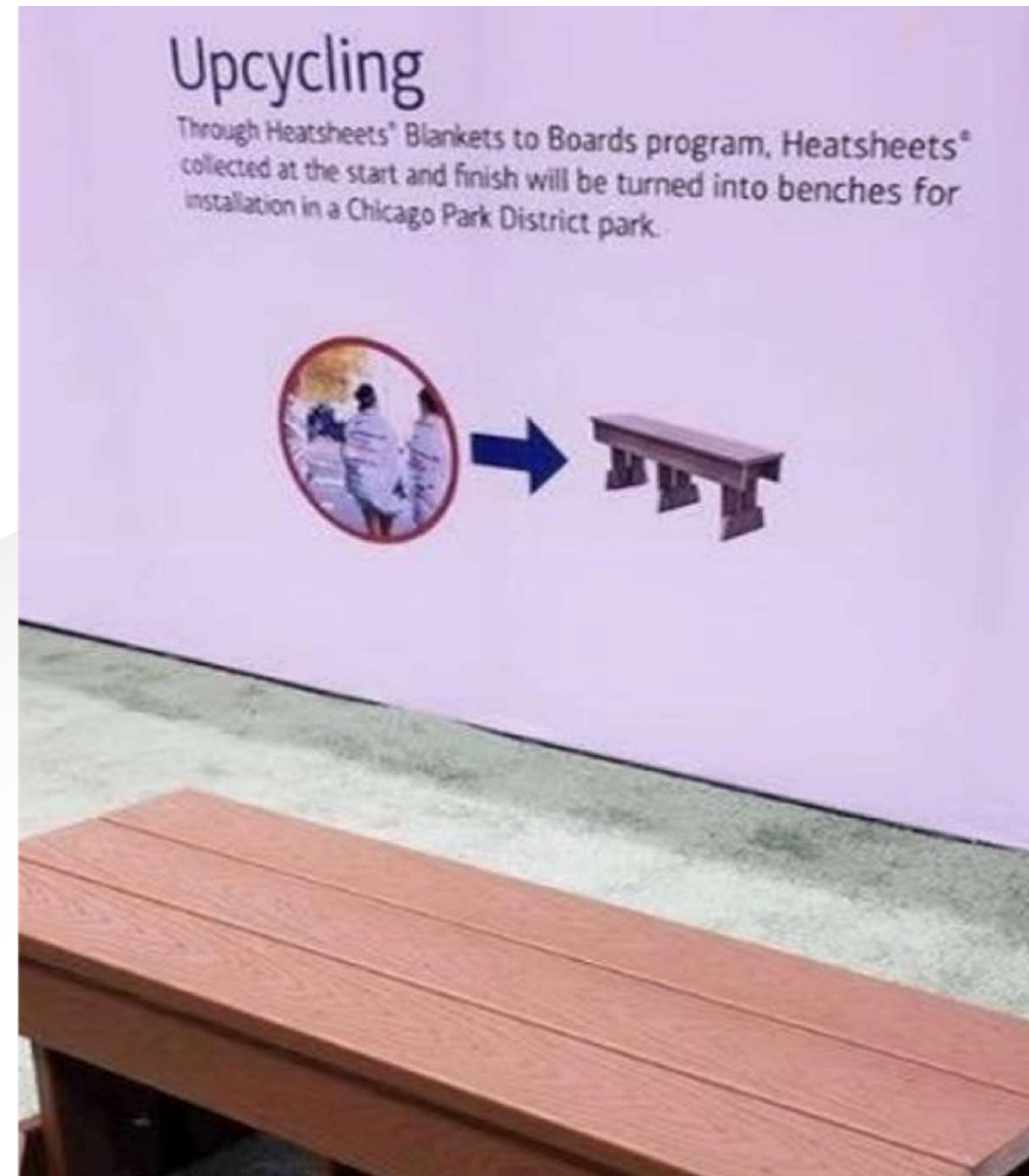
Heatsheets™ and other LDPE materials will be collected in clear recycle bags with blue logo (pictured)

- Stretch wrap collection areas are set up along the fencing along Runner Refresh
- Materials can be added to any Heatsheets recycling bin (sidekick attached to toter, pictured)
- Zero waste stations will collect in x-racks (inset picture)



Blankets to boards processing and fulfillment

1. Heatsheets and other LDPE (plastic bags and stretch wrap) are collected and sent to Trex
2. Trex melts the plastic and combines it with sawdust to create wood alternative boards
3. The Trex boards are used to produce park benches which are donated to communities impacted by our race



Bottles to fabric



Bottles to fabric

Plastic bottles along with other recyclables are collected at the finish line and throughout Grant Park

Collection includes:

- Plastic water bottles (distributed at Runner Refresh)
- Gatorade bottles (distributed at Start Hydration)
- Beer cans (distributed at Post Race Party)

Plastic bottles are pelletized and fashioned into yarn that is used to make fabric. The fabric created is used to make the Zero Waste Station tents and signage in event activations at the Abbott Health & Fitness Expo.



TerraCycle Collection at ZWS

What is accepted:

Any brand and size of flexible plastic-based candy and snack packaging and wrappers, such as That's It bars, Over Easy bars, Beyond Jerky. The wrappers are upcycled by TerraCycle, a company specializing in recycling difficult to recycle items.

Collection method

- Zero waste stations in x-racks
- Bags will be tinted light green with a blue recycling symbol



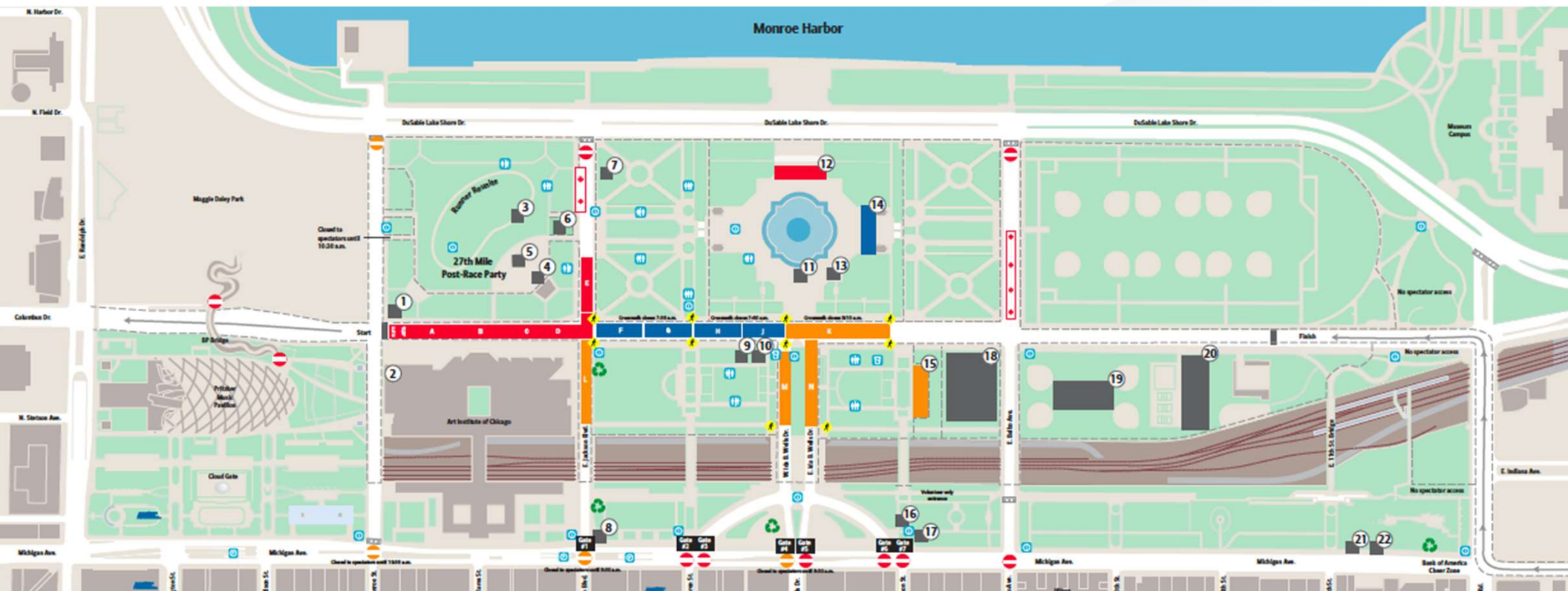
Zero waste stations

The Bank of America Chicago Marathon introduced Zero waste stations in 2018.

- Increase waste diversion from the landfill and ensure minimal contamination
- Collect difficult to recycle items such as wrappers and energy gel packets through TerraCycle
- Opportunity to educate the public



Zero Waste Station locations



Start line - Clothing collection

Start Line Coordinator:

Start Line Supervisor

Radio: Maintenance Channel

Depending on the weather, the Bank of America Chicago Marathon collects 10-15 tons of clothing from the start line. Start corral volunteers help bag the clothing, where it get loaded onto multiple 24' box trucks. The clothing is donated to Illinois AMVETS.

- Corral supervisors have plastic bags stored under Spotter towers, in their backpacks and at the volunteer exit points
- Additional bags will be provided to start line sustainability
- Filled plastic bags will be placed in gondolas to move to street for truck collection
- Bagged clothing will be loaded onto trucks



Participant Services

Participant Services Sustainability Coordinator: George Meja

Participant Services Sustainability Supervisor, Zero Waste Station Supervisors

Radio: Maintenance Channel

Participant Service coverage area is from Runner Refresh exit to and including Buckingham Fountain.

- Grant Park opens to participants at 5:30 a.m. Gear check stations and start line hydration open.
- Zero waste stations are staffed in two shifts
- Wayfinder signage are used to direct traffic to Zero Waste Stations



Finish line/Runner refresh

Sustainability Coordinator: Debbie Kopsky

Sustainability Supervisor & ZWS Supervisor

Radio Channel: Maintenance

Zero Waste Pop Up Tent (located just past exit point)

- Will accept all waste and sort into bins

Stretch wrap/bottle wrap recycling

- Collect in labeled side kicks on fence line near skids
- Clear bags with blue recycle symbol
- Green Team to move to central collection point

Blue Bins: Recycling (plastic bottles, dry cardboard)

Smaller, dark blue bins: Compost

Black Bins: Trash



27th Mile Post-Race Party in Butler Field

Post Race Party Sustainability Coordinator: Michelle Sandquist

Post Race Party Activation Coordinator: Tina Muir

Sustainability Supervisors, ZWS Supervisors, Activation Supervisors

Radio: Maintenance Channel

- Open from 9:30 am to 4 pm.
- Alphabetical signs are located along the bean-shaped inner path, allowing participants to reunite with family and friends.
- 3 Zero Waste Stations in Butler Field
- Sustainability activation with active Zero Waste Station, games and compost demonstrations



Water filling stations

To help reduce the use of plastic in Grant Park, we offer water filling stations to participants and spectators at six locations.

- Both water bubblers and bottle fillers
- Runners are encouraged to keep water bottles
- Sustainability activation passing out Goose Island water bottles
- 499 gallons of water were provided, which is equivalent to 3,779 plastic water bottles



Food recovery efforts

The Bank of America Chicago Marathon has a robust food recovery program. We practice source reduction, utilize organizations like the Food Recovery Network to deliver our perishable food to homeless shelters, donate remaining food and water, and compost what we can't donate.

- In 2021, over 12 tons of food and drink from Runner Refresh were donated to The Greater Chicago Food Depository and the Chicago Food Sovereignty Coalition

