

## Topic

Environmental leadership (“greening our parks”)

## Goals - At the end of this session, your crew should be able to:

Identify and implement “greening our parks” opportunities in the recycle/reuse realm.

## What do I need?

Examples of projects that utilize recyclable materials.

## Flow

- Maintenance employees are surrounded by materials that have numerous opportunities
- Explain some opportunities of reuse and purposes...here are a few examples:
  - Cardboard used in place of landscaping fabric – not only blocks weeds but also retains moisture.
  - Packaging peanuts – place in bottom of planters or pots as filler and also lightens the container for moving purposes.
  - Broken up concrete or old bricks/pavers – used as retaining walls or for raised gardens or also repurposed as sidewalks, drives etc.
  - Aluminum cans – utilized to make mini solar heaters.
  - Coffee grounds, banana peels, other left overs – grounds and peels are an excellent fertilizer source for flower beds as well as using these and other left overs for compost
- Most parks have either small/large bone yards of either old equipment or scrap construction materials that can be repurposed.
- Have employees identify other recyclable materials in the Park as well as what they can be repurposed for.

## Notes

Good resources, examples, ideas:

- 1) <http://www.stopwaste.org/preventing-waste/residents/reuse-and-recycling>
- 2) [http://gabion1.co.uk/gabion\\_pic\\_info2.htm](http://gabion1.co.uk/gabion_pic_info2.htm)  
Retaining wall reusing terra cotta pots and wire (below) – could use any type of scrap metal, brick, machine parts



3) <https://www.pinterest.com> – type in key words of “recycle” with whatever excess material you have...endless ideas!!

- 4) Project of an inner city community/pollination garden. We utilized recyclables and reused construction materials that had been sitting around for close to 10 years at the Park:
- Reuse of sand and pavers removed from a sidewalk.
  - Excess cardboard was laid on top of gravel, followed by reused sand and pavers from the sidewalk removal.
  - Bent conduit that was painted with excess paint. (grape trellis)





And yes....we DO use rainwater reclamation for watering!!!