

Editor's comment: Dan Dinelli sent me the following article that he wrote for his club newsletter. I thought it would go along with the articles that Tod Hoppman had written earlier in the year.

## Recycle

As the population grows the urban sprawl continues, waste is becoming an increasing problem. NSCC is doing what it can to help curb contributions to the growing mountain of solid waste. Integrated Waste Management, which includes reduction, reuse and recycling is part of the solution.

The Grounds Department at NSCC reduces, reuses or recycles just about all landscape waste. Clippings from mowing are either left in place (rough and lawn areas) or picked up and scattered in rough areas, generally far from play. As the clippings dry and decompose they disappear into the soil. Each autumn the fallen leaves are blown from play areas and mulched. The rotary mowers break up the leaves into small pieces. The pieces are left in the rough, adding organic matter to the soil. With these practices of soil enhancement, the need for fertilizer in the rough is greatly reduced. When pruning shrubs and trees, the limbs are processed through a chipper. The chips are stock piled and used as needed to mulch newly planted trees and shrubs. Mulching plants helps to minimize weed growth, maintain soil moisture and aids in keeping soil cooler. Logs (except diseased logs) too large to chip are saved and split for fire wood. Miscellaneous items, such as inedible fruits, divots, some grass clippings, weeds, spent flowers are composted in our compost pile to the left of 8 tee.

In our greenhouse, we grow the annuals in plastic flower pots. These pots are saved, steam cleaned to disinfect and reused. This saves money as well as space in the landfills.

In the shop, broken and used parts including batteries are saved. Once a year we load the scrap into our trucks and haul it to a scrap yard. Not only does this reduce scavenging fees, but we actually get money back! Last year we used the funds to purchase a microwave oven for the grounds crew's kitchen.

In the past we have collected aluminum cans from the litter generated on the golf course. Unfortunately, garbage separation became a low priority, during peak season. This year we want to improve on this. We will be installing a separate receptacle at the halfway house for discarding empty aluminum cans.

Much of the equipment used to maintain a golf course is powered by gasoline engines. Some of the engines are two stroke, using oil mixed with gas, to lubricate the moving components. Most of our engines are 4 stroke. These engines require an oil bath to lubricate, much the same way as your automobile engine. Each year, we collect and save over 500 gallons of used motor oil from these engines. We have an approved storing facility to house the used motor oil until pick up. A service picks up the oil charging only a 25 dollar fee to conduct an on site test to ensure the oil's purity. The company then sells the used oil to companies for reprocessing. The oil can be reused as fuel, lubricants or in products like asphalt.

These are just some of the examples of how we reduce, reuse and recycle some of our "potential wastes." Most of our neighboring communities offer curbside collection and drop-off centers for recycling household trash. However, proper disposal of used motor oil or antifreeze is often a challenge. We invite you to drop off your used clean motor oil or antifreeze at either the club or the Grounds Department. If there are any questions please call the Grounds Department at 724-4963.



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