



NEIGHBORHOOD INFORMATION

Neighborhood Environmental Project Case Study Form

Neighborhood/Community Name Maple Leaf Golf and Country Club

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PROJECT INFORMATION: *Track 4 Resource Management -Yard/Horticultural Waste to Mulch.*

Please provide an overview of the project. Why did you choose it? What were the conditions like before and after implementing the project?

We had been sending our horticultural waste from the community common areas and golf course to a recycling facility that grinds it into compost and mulch. We were also purchasing “Eco-mulch” to dress the community landscape beds and pinestraw for golf course beds. We were spending a lot of money for these services.

A fellow golf course superintendent referred me to a company that shreds horticultural waste on-site to create mulch. (Grass clippings cannot be shredded and we will need to either continue to ship them off-site or create a composting operation to handle them). To take advantage of this shredding service, we needed a larger storage area for the waste and a storage area for the created mulch. We decided to use large “bin blocks” that the landscape supply companies use to create our storage areas.

We chose this project to lessen our environmental impact on the waste stream we generate and save money.

Please list your goals for this project:

The goal of the project is to create a ready supply of mulch for the residential common areas and golf course landscape beds while we save money and reduce waste stream.

This is a pilot project. Depending on the amount and quality of mulch produced, we may be able to provide product for individual homeowner use.

What specific steps did you take to implement your project? What kind of ongoing maintenance will it require? (Please give sufficient detail so that someone interested in duplicating this project could do so.)

1. Contacted the company that shreds waste on-site to get general information on their service locations and the overall operation as well as costs.

2. Contacted a local company that forms the blocks and will set them in place. Discussed specifics such as size of blocks, design of layout and cost. We decided to build 3 bins – one for waste, one for shredded mulch and one extra for overflow of either.
3. Submitted cost projections to our Board of Directors for budget consideration. To analyze project cost, I calculated the amount I would need to spend on mulch, pinestraw and waste disposal fees. These amounts would now be cost savings. Then I subtracted the initial cost of bins and estimated shredding costs to calculate the first-year net expense. Every year after that, the only expense will be the shredding.

Describe the results you achieved. What were the environmental benefits? Please be as specific as possible about any tangible results (i.e., numbers of acres naturalized, new species observed, or number of fledglings).

We have just installed the bins and cannot report actual cost savings yet. We also have some non-measurable results from reducing our waste stream through re-use/recycle.

1. Reducing truck fuel and oil usage by reducing shipments of waste out of the community.
2. Reducing truck fuel and oil usage by reducing mulch and pinestraw shipments into the community.

How did people respond to the project? How did you communicate your actions and results?

Our Board of Directors and Natural Resources Committee are completely behind the project. When we are at a more advanced stage, we will promote the project throughout the community.

What, if anything, would you do differently if you were to do the project again? What would you recommend to others implementing this project?

I would do nothing different and if all goes as planned, I would recommend this project to others.

How much did it cost to implement this project?

To be determined.

What are your anticipated or actual financial savings?

To be determined