

NATURALLY SPEAKING

LAKE METROPARKS

LAKE METROPARKS RECYCLES!

By Rande Becker, Environmental Learning Center Administrator and Skip Dugan, Farmpark Horticultural Operations Manager

Recycling makes a difference in the waste stream going into landfills. Recycling saves energy and resources, reduces pollution and creates jobs. The act of recycling on an individual basis, whether at home or work, generally requires a little additional time, space and effort. At Lake Metroparks, a Recycling Standing Committee meets regularly to review and improve the agency's recycling efforts. Currently there are many different items that are recycled at Lake Metroparks – everything from ink jet cartridges to fluorescent light bulbs are routinely recycled instead of being thrown into the waste stream. In the near future, we will begin to refocus on making recycling easier for park patrons.



recycled materials countywide has dwindled. It seems that recycling must be made convenient and easy or recycling will diminish. With this in mind, Lake Metroparks has taken several steps to bolster recycling in Lake County.

Logically, in order for a person to initiate recycling he or she must first understand why it is important to do so and then additionally know what, when, where and how to go about it. Education, therefore, is essential. Lake

Metroparks is forging a reciprocal relationship with the Lake County Solid Waste District and Ohio State County Extension Agency to assist with and promote recycling education. We are posting recycling information online and creating links from www.lakemetroparks.com and LakeCountyBlog.com to the county's recycling site: <http://lake.osu.edu/envir/recycle/htm>.

Every environmentally minded Lake Countian must be saddened by the recent cancellation of our countywide curbside recycling. It is now the responsibility of every city, village and township to arrange its own recycling program with a monetary assist from the county based on the number of households in that entity. Fortunately, several officials have deemed it the correct thing to do to ante up and continue curbside collection within their boundaries. They should be commended for their environmental consciousness! The rest, probably for financial reasons, have determined that curbside collection is not practical for their constituents and have set up County Recycling Drop-Off Centers. Citizen response has been good, but undeniably the amount of

We are also creating taglines and references to the Lake County Solid Waste District and county recycling efforts in many of our advertisements and publications. We are developing a county recycling themed television presentation for airing on the Lakeland Channel. Our goal: To collaborate with other county agencies to collectively increase the amount of materials currently recycled in our community to equal previous levels, and then surpass that to set new records for materials recycled within Lake County. Please consider doing your part to help keep Lake County clean and green – recycle!

Visit <http://lake.osu.edu/envir/recycle/htm> or call (440) 350-2750 or (440) 350-2582 to learn more about recycling in Lake County.

Indian Point Park,
photos by Paul Newman

