Embracing reuse: Municipal approach

City of St. Louis Park

RAM Conference
October 15, 2019
We all know that recycling is important, but it is the last of the 3 R’s…

What can we do to encourage reuse, repair, and waste prevention, and make it fun, accessible, and affordable for all?
Swap it up!
Opportunities

• Many items can be easily swapped
  • Clothing
  • Books
  • Kitchen gadgets
  • Tools

• Relatively low cost
  • Time is primary investment
POUNDS OF CLOTHING

- Swapped
- Donated
- Recycled

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Swapped</th>
<th>Donated</th>
<th>Recycled</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>365</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1023</td>
<td>586</td>
<td>199</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>1428</td>
<td>861</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ATTENDANCE

- 2017: 80
- 2018: 150
- 2019: 200
Because capitalism is evil and it's good to share.

My mom came so I did too!

I want a purely recycled/second hand wardrobe.

Fun with the girls!

Cleaning out old stuff and looking for new things that excite me.

I need pants.

Cleaning out my closet because I lost a lot of weight.

On a budget and love clothes!

Supporting community, sustainable practices.

Great way for quality clothes to find a new home and save from landfills.

Thank you!
Gardener’s Swap
• 2018, 2019
• Tools, pots, décor, plants
Mark your calendar! May 12, 2020
New in 2020!

Media and Entertainment Swap

January 22, 2020

• Books
• Games
• Movies
• Music
Swap planning tips

• **Day/time.** 1.5-2 hours for most.
• **Location.** Get a bigger space than you think you’ll need.
• **Tables.** More is better.
• **Layout.** Label those tables!
• **Who?** Be clear who is welcome.
• **What?** Be VERY clear about what items are and are not ok.

• **Promo.** Digital, print.
• **Staff/volunteers.** Great way to involve Master Recyclers.
• **Impact.** Track weights, people count, items, as appropriate.
• **Leftovers.** Need to have a plan for what is left (donate, recycle, trash).
Building Materials Management
Deconstruction and building materials reuse
2018 Deconstruction

- 5639 Minnetonka Blvd
- Total reclaimed: 8.2 tons (4.2%)
  - 2.88 tons dimensional lumber
  - 1.38 wood flooring
- Total recycled: 125.26 tons (63.9%)
- Total landfilled: 61.52 tons

[Video]
Building Materials Donation Days

• Partnership
  • Nonprofits: Better Futures MN, TC Habitat for Humanity ReStore
  • Cities: Edina, Hopkins and Golden Valley
  • County: Hennepin

• Collected usable materials for resale

• Two days, 4 hours total

• 136 vehicles
  • SLP (51%), Edina (26%), Hopkins (10%), Golden Valley (10%)

• 4 large box trucks

• Promo
  • Postcard (40%), city newsletters (25%), social media (13%), email (10%)
2020

- Partnership with Hennepin County to encourage residential deconstruction (grant)
- Deconstruction of existing Westwood Hills Nature Center
Thank you!

Emily Barker
City of St. Louis Park
ebarker@stlouispark.org
952.924.2187