

PARK(*ing*) DAY 2009



Center for Architecture

urban sustainable backyard

Visit our blog entry that also lists the following resources: <http://blog.cdesignnc.org/>

Salvaged (re-claimed/ re-usable) materials:

- Craigslist's For Sale section for furniture, architectural materials, garden supplies, etc: <http://philadelphia.craigslist.org/>
- ReStore is a great architectural salvage company located in the northeast: <http://www.re-store-online.com/>
- Kevin Brooks Salvage is a sustainable demolition & salvage company in north philly: <http://www.kevinbrookssalvage.com/>
- Provenance is an historic architectural salvage company located in Fairmount: <http://www.phillyprovenance.com/about/>
- Your neighbors! People routinely throw out furniture and like items that can be re-purposed for re-use. So grab that chair out of the trash, wash it, sand it, repaint it, or re-upholster it, or maybe it's just perfect as-is.

Recycle:

Philadelphia accepts #1 and #2 plastic narrow-neck bottles (look for the number in a triangle on the bottom of the container), glass jars & bottles, metal cans, paper (mail, phone books, magazines, newspapers, cereal boxes, etc., but NOT food-soiled paper like pizza boxes), and flattened cardboard. Every 10 aluminum cans recycled saves 4 pounds of carbon and every 10 glass bottles recycled saves 3 pounds of carbon. Just by recycling paper offices can reduce 50% of the waste sent to landfills.

- For all your recycling questions like what you can recycle and where to get a bin: <http://www.recyclenowphiladelphia.org/>
- The official recycling site for the City of Philadelphia: <http://phillyrecyclingpays.com/>
- Watch a video on how single stream recycling works: http://www.bluemountainrecycling.com/blue_mountain_videos.php

Compost:

Philadelphia does not (yet) have a municipal composting program for the majority of organic waste. However, the Fairmount Recycling Center takes lawn and tree clippings. Try saving your kitchen scraps from fruits, vegetables, and coffee grounds in a composting bin or container. Compost helps plants grow strong and healthy, creates deeper topsoil, recycles nutrients and saves landfill space.

- Fairmount Park Organic Recycling Center: <http://www.fairmountpark.org/Recyclingcenter.asp>
- Backyard recycling resources for Pennsylvania: <http://backyardcompost.cas.psu.edu/>
- How to build a compost bin: http://greenliving.lovetoknow.com/Building_a_Compost_Bin
- Composting basics: <http://www.organicgardening.com/feature/0,7518,s1-3-79-3,00.html>
- Compost ingredients: <http://www.organicgardening.com/feature/0,7518,s1-3-79-829,00.html>

Grow your own food:

There are numerous workshops that take place in Philadelphia every year where you can learn how to garden/ grow your own food. Whether or not you have a backyard, a small patio space, or access to a roof you too can grow some of your own fruits and veggies. Fresh veggies are not only healthy, but they forgo the energy used in canning and freezing processes. If you like flower gardening, consider planting native species which require less maintenance, are better adapted to survive extreme temperatures and droughts, often require less water than non-natives, and provide plenty food for bees, birds and butterflies.

- Philadelphia Horticultural Society sponsors a wide variety of events and learning programs about gardening: <http://www.pennsylvaniahorticulturalsociety.org/home/index.html>
- UC Green has some great how-to resources on planting trees and beautifying neighborhoods: <http://www.ucgreen.org/howto.html>
- Greensgrow Farms located in the northeast not only sponsors a variety of workshops from composting to growing vegetables but they also have a great selection of quality veggie starter plants and native species to boot: <http://www.greengrow.org/>
- The basics on growing your own plants from seed: <http://www.gardeners.com/How-to-Start-Seeds/5062,default.pg.html>

Conserve Water:

- Get a free rain barrel from the Philadelphia Water Department and use the water for irrigation: <http://www.phillywatersheds.org/rainbarrel/>
- Build a rain garden: <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/pdf/GWQ037.pdf>
- Plant native varieties: http://www.plantnative.org/reg_pl_main.htm

Other tips for greening your backyard:

- Use solar lights available at Home Depot or Lowe's.
- Don't have a yard? Green your roof: <http://www.thekitchn.com/thekitchn/gardening/how-to-start-a-green-roof-garden-051257>