

Environment Committee

## Shoe Recycling Drive - "Putting Good Soles to Work"

Did you know that:

- 300 million pairs of shoes in the US end up in landfills every year
- Shoes in landfills take 30-40 years to decompose
- All garbage generated in DuPage County is transported outside the county; landfill space is limited
- Millions of people globally do not own a pair of shoes

### Purpose

This shoe collection drive will help us align with people in our community to perform service projects, divert shoes from landfills, be a good environmental steward.

### Organizations/Companies Involved

The Lisle's Woman's Club is working with Lakeshore Recycling (Lisle's trash hauler), SCARCE (School & Community Assistance for Recycling and Composting Education) and RewearAble (non-profit that provides employment for people with development disabilities) to collect and reuse/rework shoes.

### Shoes for Collection

All shoes of any kind new or gently used (laces tied together or like shoes rubber banded) will be accepted. Unacceptable shoes include roller blades, ski boots, ice skates or wet w/holes.

### Collection Locations

Presentations were provided to Lisle High School and Benet Academy. Students are excited to kick off the collection. Other drop-off locations include the lobbies of the Police Department, Lisle Park District (main office) and the Lisle Park District Fitness Center. We hope to add other location drop-offs soon.

### What is done with the shoes?

We work closely with SCARCE and RewearAble to find the best home for shoes. Outlets change as needs change. School children in DuPage, DuPage County Jail and St. Andrews Methodist Church in Carol Stream have been locations in need of new/nearly new shoes. Also, we may be collecting for the Ukrainian refugees in the future. Their current needs right now are focused on medical supplies.

### Timeframe:

We will be working with the school and community until the end of the school year. Depending on the support received we may start up again in fall.

