



The Trex Bench: 500 pounds of plastic wrapper waste converted into one bench.

The Orphan Bench

Steve Soreff, MD

Plastic wrappers can be converted into benches. This article has several purposes. First, it shows you how plastic waste can become a bench. The benches both solve some of the plastic waste problems and offers a way for these seats to provide comfort and beautify our community. This is the beauty and genius of the [Trex Recycling Program](#). “Trex® was founded on the premise that ingenuity can help extract value from what was once seen as waste. In creating this turnkey program for schools, we provide students with a better understanding and appreciation for the importance of recycling by demonstrating how small, everyday efforts can translate into a tangible product and successful business.”

The second reason answers the question, Why now is this article? For several years, the [Nottingham Parks & Recreation Department](#) (NP&RD) has been doing the Trex Recycling Program. This has resulted in them collecting enough plastic to produce six benches. These benches are about town in places such as on the Marsh Woods Trails and the playground behind the Community Center, pictured above. They have halted their Trex program. That creates a great opportunity for another community organization to take it on.

This is the third reason—a description of what the actual Trex program involves. Spoiler alert! The Nottingham Recycling Center and the Northwood Hannaford are key payers in the program. It begins with you placing Trex about the town. NP&RD had one in the Community Center and at the Recycling Center.



The collection box

People bring their plastic wrappers to these boxes. When the box is full, all the plastic wrappers from it are placed into one huge plastic bag. Then that big bag is brought to the Recycling Center where it is weighed.



The Recycling Center



The scale at the Recycling Center

The weighted and marked bags are now at the Recycling Center. Next the sponsoring agency takes them to the Northwood Hannaford.



Northwood Hannaford

The bags are deposited behind Hannaford.



The deposited bags of plastic wrappers

In turn, the Northwood Hannaford bags are transported by Hannaford to the Hannaford headquarters in Scarborough, Maine. Once you have reached the 500-pound level, Trex sends you a bench. Yes, some assembly is required. And the sponsoring agency places the bench in Nottingham.

But all is not lost. Right now no Nottingham organization is collecting plastic wrappers for benches. However, many residents are still saving their plastic wrappers. These can be taken to the Plastic Recycling bin in front of the Northwood Hannaford. It is small and is emptied often during the day.



One place to bring your plastic wrappers.

If your organization wishes to adopt the Trex bench program, Kortney Dorow Duball, Director, Nottingham Parks & Recreation Department, recreation@nottingham-nh.gov will help you. And it should establish a relationship with Trex, the Recycling Center, and Northwood Hannaford. If you adopt this program, it means benches for Nottingham.