

### Did you know...?

In New Orleans alone, roughly **12,500 tons of beads** are thrown from floats each year.<sup>1</sup>

### Did you know...?

Beads are **non-biodegradable** and made from oil in a process that can be very **ecologically damaging**.<sup>3</sup>

### Consider this...

Beads often end up in trees, which is **harmful** to the trees and animals that live in the trees.

### And remember...

Any trash that is left on the ground after clean up crews finish will go where ALL LITTER left on the ground goes: **into the storm drains that lead to the Vermilion River!**

Remember, bring bags to hold trash until a dumpster is available to keep trash off the ground and out of the river!

### Did you know...?

Each year, Mardi Gras parade revelers in Lafayette leave signs of the party behind – about **34 tons of trash**.<sup>2</sup>

### Just think...

of all the red solo cups, aluminum cans, glass bottles, beads, trinkets, plastic bags, paper plates and napkins that never make it to a trash can or recycling bin! Make sure these items are **properly disposed of!**

# Mardi Gras madness



## Be conscious of the impact our celebration has on the environment!

### Keep Practicing The 3 R's:



## Reduce

- When shopping in preparation for parades and parties, try to reduce the amount of disposable items you buy!
- Knowing exactly how many people you are expecting will help reduce tendencies of over-purchasing.



## Reuse

- Instead of buying new beads, buy recycled beads from local retailers like LARC's Mardi Gras Beads-n-More or Arc of Acadiana
- Save collectible throws and use them for next year or re-gift them
- Bring a reusable cup or bottle to parades, balls or parties
- Reuse an old costume or channel your creativity and make a unique costume!
- Bring reusable bags to carry beads and trinkets



## Recycle

- Beads can be donated at LARC, 303 New Hope Road, or at any Goodwill Industries of Acadiana location. Donated beads are packaged and sold through Mardi Gras Beads-n-More, one of LARC's Enterprises, which creates jobs and opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Arch of Acadiana also accepts donated beads to be repackaged and resold. This provides employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities.
- Downtown Lafayette partners with Project Front Yard to collect beads for donation using the #Y Sculpture in Parc Sans Souci! The empty space will be replaced with the 6-foot tall chicken wire 'Y' that will collect donated beads that will go to LARC, Lafayette Association for Retarded Citizens.



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1. <http://www.neworleansonline.com/tools/infographics/mardi-gras-2015.html>

2. <http://theadvocate.com/news/neworleans/11532315-93/lafayette-mardi-gras-keep-it>

3. <http://www.bizneworleans.com/Biz-The-Magazine/January-2015/Purple-and-Gold-but-Mostly-Green/>