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## Reclaimed Earth Materials Have Many Usages in Current Landscape Design by W. Wesley Reed

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Given our ever-increasing consciousness of how everything that we use, consume and build with affects our environment, the construction industry remains in the forefront of "Green" consciousness. Building "Green" in this case is the reuse of materials, which in some way contributes to the earth's regeneration process. With incentives such as the Leed (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Program and mandates to think "Green," architects, designers, builders and property owners are finding new ways to incorporate recycled or reclaimed material in their landscaping and hardscaping projects.

The Reed Corporation of Lynnfield and its sister company, Olde New England Granite, are the foremost area suppliers of reclaimed historic hardscape materials. Granite wall building block, reclaimed from bridge and foundation demolitions in our area, antique granite curbing, vintage 19th century cobblestones from New England mills, and unique antique brick pavers from Ohio, are only some of the many materials available at our granite farm. As "niche" contractors for over 40 years, The Reed Corporation specializes in design/build services, which uses historic granite, cobblestone and brick pavers in many aspects of landscape design. Antique driveway paving and entry enhancements, aprons, edging, walkways and walls constructed in these materials gives that venerable "New England" look. In addition, an antique granite step, landing, post or bench makes a handsome period addition to most any landscape.

Why use reclaimed earth products? They have withstood the test of time and are indigenous for the most part to our area. They have historical significance that improves property values; their use saves energy, and reduces landfill space. In addition, there is an economic incentive as in many instances; using such "Green" building materials may qualify a project as eligible for points in the aforementioned Leed program.

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