

Allegheny CleanWays Presentation
Blight Busters
October 27, 2014

A. Illegal dumping

1. The Problem
 - a. 2009 survey of the City of Pittsburgh identified 279 illegal dump sites in the city of Pittsburgh alone.
 - b. We believe that there are as many as 3 times that amount, many over hillsides, or on “paper” streets, not visible from the road.
 - c. A similar survey of Allegheny County in 2005 identified 202 illegal dump sites in Allegheny County outside of the city. We can assume that that number is also greatly under estimated
 - d. We currently have 706 surveyed sites in our database.
2. Definition of an illegal dump site: a spot where someone has deliberately brought a substantial quantity of debris to one spot to get rid of the material illegally.
3. Typical material that is dumped includes: Remodeling debris; Household trash and furniture; Landscaping debris; Roofing materials; Tires
4. The Cost
 - a. Economic Costs
 - Cleanup costs
 - an average of \$629* - \$835** per ton
 - average cleanup cost was \$2,947 per site*
 - based on those numbers, the cost to clean up all of the 706 sites that we’ve identified so far in Allegheny County would be **\$2,080,582**

* [Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Statewide Illegal Dumping Cost Research 2014](#)
** [Litter and Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania: A Fact Sheet for Local Law Enforcement Officials](#)

 - Real estate – no exact numbers are known, but illegal dumping, like other forms of blight, has a significant effect on property value and lack of economic development and reinvestment. According to the 2013 Tri-COG study on the financial impact of blight
 - Indirect costs associated with loss of property value are estimated between \$218 and \$247 million
 - Indirect costs associated with the loss of real estate taxes due to a decline in property value is estimated to be between \$8,574,723 and \$9,718,019
 - The loss associated with lack of development and reinvestment is \$8,284,294 annually

Source: [Financial Impact of Blight on the Tri-COG Communities](#)

 - b. Social Costs - Crime, Hopelessness, and Failed Opportunities
 - c. Health Costs - Physical and Psychological
 - d. Environmental Costs - Erosion, Watershed contamination, Soil contamination, Danger to wildlife

B. Allegheny CleanWays – Who we are and How we can help

1. We are the Allegheny County affiliate of Keep PA Beautiful and Keep America Beautiful
2. We've been cleaning up dumpsites in Allegheny County for 14 Years
3. Since our origins we've cleaned up more than 1,500 tons (3,000,000 pounds) of debris, including 21,364 tires
4. Our programs
 - a. Prevention through Education
 - b. Cleanup Programs
 - Water-based
 - Tireless Project
 - DriftCombers
 - Land-based Cleanups:
 - Large Group Cleanups
 - DumpBusters
 - c. Community Support and Enforcement
 - d. Stewardship
5. What do we offer?
 - a. Dump site Cleanup
 - b. Lot Clearance
 - c. Stewardship Plan and/or Enforcement Support
 - d. Involvement with neighbors/relationship building
 - e. Professionalism
6. Our Process:
 - a. Identify site
 - b. Prioritize site - often a result of funding
 - c. Assess site – a detailed look at the site, scope, terrain, debris, logistics, etc.
 - d. Put on work calendar and pull together appropriate crew of DB volunteers
 - e. Work job continuously (usually daily) until finished
 - Completion – transformed the area as much as could possibly be done; looks the way it's "supposed" to be
 - Ready for next step (i.e. planting, gardening, trails – informal or formal; stewardship)
 - f. Stewardship Process – work with the community to develop stewardship plan to maintain the site and prevent repeat dumping
7. Our Funding
 - a. Grants
 - b. Fee for Service