

2010 Clean Pittsburgh State of the City Report



Issued by:
Clean Pittsburgh Commission
March 24, 2011

Introduction

This report contains an overview of waste management and blight and property issues, including litter, illegal dumping, vacant lots and buildings, abandoned cars, graffiti, and recycling in the City of Pittsburgh.

The Clean Pittsburgh Commission's vision is for Pittsburgh to be recognized as one of America's cleanest cities. We see Pittsburgh as a place where images of a dirty steel town are those of our past. Our City's government and its citizens are dedicated to making Pittsburgh a cleaner and greener place.

Highlights from this report include:

- **20,000 volunteers** participated in spring and fall Redd Ups;
- **Several hundred tons of litter** from streets, lots and illegal dumps were removed by Public Works and special Redd Up crews;
- Recycling programs **saved the city \$350,000** in landfill costs;
- **More greening programs** were initiated to reduce blight, revitalize vacant lots, involve neighborhood residents

This is the State of Our City, category by category for 2010.



2010 Members of the Clean Pittsburgh Commission

Sarah Alessio, Pennsylvania Resources Council

Patricia Chavez, Traffic Division

Joe Divack, Dump Busters

Luci-Jo DiMaggio, Duquesne University Evergreen

Cheryl Doubt, Bureau of Police

Kim Graziani, Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Brian Hill, Bureau of Building Inspection

Jeff Koch, Department of Public Works

David Mazza, Pennsylvania Resources Council

Robert McKinley, Allegheny CleanWays

Corey O'Connor, Congressman Mike Doyle's Office

Jessica Sharrow, Eckert Seamans

Mandie Stehle, West Pittsburgh Partnership

Melissa Rosenfeld, Totally Against Graffiti

Boris Weinstein, Citizens Against Litter

Shawn Wigle, Department of Public Works

For information contact:

Boris Weinstein, Chair

5403 Ellsworth Ave.

Pittsburgh, PA 15232

Phone: 412-688-9120

Fax: 412-622-0167

E-mail: boris.weinstein@verizon.net

Litter

Far from a holiday, Pittsburgh's spring and fall Redd Ups, a name popularized by the late Mayor Bob O'Connor, have become fixtures on neighborhood "must do" calendars. For the fourth consecutive year, 20,000 volunteers of all ages took to the streets and participated in neighborhood cleanups in 2010, bringing the total over this time to 80,000.

Citizens Against Litter leads the effort with support of Clean Pittsburgh Commission members and organizations Allegheny CleanWays, PA Resources Council, City of Pittsburgh Public Works, PennDOT, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Pitt Make A Difference Day, Duquesne University Evergreen, Dump Busters, Stash the Trash, Totally Against Graffiti and Graffiti Watch.

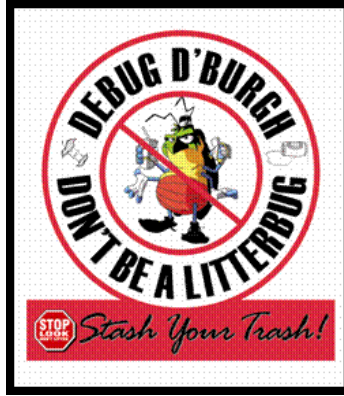
2010 Redd Up Events: April 23-25, October 15-17

- **80+ neighborhoods** participated in each event
- **20,000+ volunteers** participated
- **150,000+ tons of trash/recyclables** collected



Stash the Trash Event

For the past 18 years, schools throughout the City of Pittsburgh have participated in Stash the Trash Day, a clean-up event held twice a year where students pick up litter and recyclables around their schools. This past year Pennsylvania Resources Council partnered with the Pittsburgh Pirates to provide participating schools with a wonderful recognition event at PNC Park for an afternoon baseball game!



The CPC collaborates with Pittsburgh Public Schools as well as a number of private and parochial schools throughout the City to host this event and show students how they can make a difference in their community. Stash the Trash for 2010 resulted in:

- **48 Schools** participated with more than **4,600 students**
- **546 trash bags** and **56 bags of recyclables** collected



Illegal Dumping

Pittsburgh still has a legacy of illegal dumping left over from days when waste disposal was nonexistent or limited. Expanded recycling services, drop-off center operations, and special trash collections by the City have helped to reduce the volume of illegal dumping. However, regionally limited options or fees for disposal of tires, lawn debris and remodeling and construction debris continue to contribute to illegal dumping of these items.

In 2009, Allegheny CleanWays conducted and published a survey of illegal dumpsites in the City of Pittsburgh, identifying 280 illegal dump sites. While this is an increase from the 138 illegal dump sites identified in our 2002 survey, our identification methods have improved greatly and many were missed in 2002. Of the 138 dumpsites identified in 2002, only 49 still existed in 2009.

Since the publication of the 2009 survey, Allegheny CleanWays has pushed to remove as many of the known dump sites as possible, discovering additional sites in the process. With the help of two new programs, DumpBusters and Junior DumpBusters, 2010 became a banner year for debris removal.

- In 2009, 19.80 tons of debris and 327 tires were collected
- In 2010, **211.14 tons of debris** and **1,590 tires** were collected



Mayor's Green Up Pittsburgh Program



Mayor Ravenstahl's Green Up Pittsburgh Program has worked to reduce blight, inspire community pride, and promote environmental values by stabilizing vacant lots. Since the program was introduced in 2007, more than 120 City-owned vacant lots have been transformed into community green spaces, memorial gardens, urban farms and green palettes.

In 2008, the program was expanded to have a greater impact Citywide. The expanded program physically prepares vacant lots for reuse, including future development, greenways, parks, and stormwater management. Through the program, healthy greenspace is now replacing demolition sites, where a once blighted and condemned structure stood. In addition to post-demolition greening, the City continues to create community-stewarded gardens, and is providing resources to large-scale community-wide greening strategies and plans. Green Up Pittsburgh provides responsible stewardship, reduces future maintenance costs, blight and liabilities, and increases public safety, neighborhood involvement, and the potential for traditional development.

Passive Green Space

Before



After



Vacant Lots

The City of Pittsburgh currently owns 2,500 vacant lots. The City's Redd Up crew works to maintain the lots, along with other abandoned lots within the City.

- In 2010, **836 properties were boarded up, 239 total lots were cleaned** and **2,546 tons of debris were cleared**

Abandoned Buildings

The Mayor's Office, the Bureau of Building Inspection and the Pittsburgh Community Reinvestment Group (PCRG) have been doing outreach to community groups to prioritize condemnations in their neighborhood for preservation and demolition. This outreach has helped BBI to utilize their limited funds to target public safety hazards and neighborhood demolition priorities.

- In 2010, **483 buildings were demolished**

Mayor Ravenstahl's 311 Response Line

Mayor Ravenstahl's 311 Response Line was designed to address non-emergency questions, comments and concerns.



Residents are able to access the line simply by dialing 3-1-1, or 412-255-2621 from outside the city. Residents may also complete the online web form: city.pittsburgh.pa.us/mayor/html/311_request_form.html

- In 2010, Mayor Ravenstahl's 311 Response Line processed **46,138 service requests**. The 311 Response Line took a total of **34,051 calls**, and **6,243 emails and web requests**

TogetherGreen Pittsburgh Recycling

The City of Pittsburgh's Bureau of Environmental Services provides curbside recycling collection for residences, multi-family units and non-profit institutions that complete a service agreement form with the City. The City also provides a recycling drop-off service for residences and small businesses.

The City of Pittsburgh's Together Green program allows residents to recycle magazines, catalogs, paperboard, junk mail, mixed paper, phonebooks, office paper and corrugated cardboard at the curb, in addition to the bottles, cans and newspapers that they have always recycled. The participation in the program continues to grow. For the third year in a row, recycling tonnage has increased significantly. In 2010 the City recycled over 14,000 tons of curbside material.



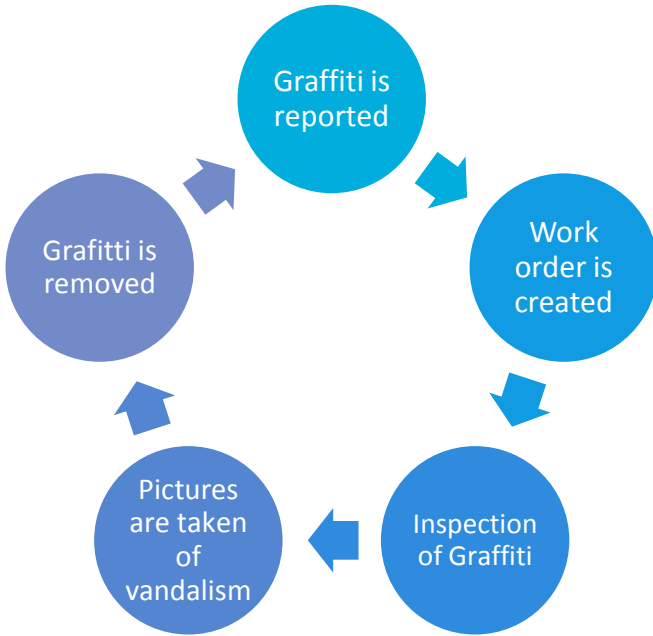
	2009	2010
Tons of Yard Debris Recycled	3,041.77	3,666.45
Tons of Tires Recycled	9.88	74.9
Tons of Material Recycled	13,615.53	14,656.78
Landfill Cost Savings	\$313,701.81	\$368,178.31



Graffiti Busters Program

The Graffiti Removal Program for the City of Pittsburgh, better known as the Graffiti Busters, is managed by the Traffic Division under the City's Department of Public Works. The Graffiti Busters' function is to remove all graffiti damage from public buildings and places and from private property on a case-by-case basis.

- In 2010, there were **7,624 graffiti incidents**, costing **\$72,536**.



To report graffiti on public property, call 412-255-2872 or 412-255-2823.

Totally Against Graffiti



T.A.G. (Totally Against Graffiti), has been diligently removing graffiti in the Carrick neighborhood and has formed many partnerships within the City for support, and with major corporations. T.A.G. has formed a working relationship with the Post Master and the United States Postal Service in being committed and working together to remove graffiti from USPS mailboxes. As a result, a committee known as “Stamp Out Graffiti” was formed. T.A.G. has also, successfully created an “Art Escape Project” in the Carrick neighborhood. It consisted of 17 local artists that volunteered their time to create works of art in empty storefronts of the Carrick business corridor, in hopes of revitalizing the Carrick Neighborhood.

Graffiti Watch

Graffiti Watch (GW) is an enthusiastic and dedicated group of community volunteers, formed in June 2007, who have been working together to prevent and remove graffiti from the South Side.

GW has identified graffiti zone action leaders who provide leadership in organizing graffiti prevention and removal activities within each of the 10 action zones designated by the South Side Community Council. When possible GW recruits a person on each block who will serve as the graffiti block watch monitor. GW encourages individuals to Adopt a Spot, no matter how small, and help keep it free of graffiti. Contributions cover the cost of paint and supplies.

Abandoned Vehicles



Abandoned vehicles litter our streets and are a persistent problem in the City of Pittsburgh. Due to a lack of resources or a means of properly disposing of an unwanted vehicle, some vehicle owners elect to abandon them on City streets or dump them in other off-road venues. Doing so is against the law. Under the law, police are required to investigate complaints within five days and remove cars within 10 days. If registration and inspection stickers have been expired longer than 90 days, the car must be towed.

Since 2005, the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police has had an officer from each of the six zones assigned to deal with abandoned vehicles. This increased enforcement effort has not only led to a decline in the number of abandoned vehicles towed since 2005, but has also increased public awareness of the problem. In 2010, the 311 Response Line received only 465 calls regarding abandoned vehicles compared to 1,557 in 2009.

Year	Street Tows	Private Property Tows	City Property Tows	Towed from Tow Pound	Total Tows
2009	1,206	135	16	653	2,013
2010	842	100	14	31	987

Mayor's Taking Care of Business Districts Program



In 2008, Mayor Ravenstahl launched his Taking Care of Business Districts Program. The Program is part of the Mayor's plan to clean and revitalize our City's 50 major neighborhood

business districts through clean sweeps, streetscape improvements and long-term strategies to renew neighborhood lifelines.

Mayor Ravenstahl continues to lead business district sweeps. During these sweeps, City public works and safety crews 'swept' the area to clean up storefronts. Working from a list of action items delivered by 311 callers and businesses, the TCOB crews work to cite properties, remove graffiti, paint road lines and respond to on-the-spot concerns from citizens.



Through the program, the City has been able to offer streetscape items to business districts, such as trash and recycling receptacles, street trees, street banners, bike racks, increased streetlight wattage, and way-finding signs.

2010 Clean Pittsburgh Stewards

A network of Clean Pittsburgh Stewards in all of Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods organize, plan, recruit and help execute Redd Ups and other litter prevention efforts. Stewards are the backbone of the Redd Up program – the link between City Departments, the Commission and citizens.

Neighborhood	Name
Allegheny West	Gloria Rayman
Allentown	Ken Wolfe, Judy Hackel, Sally Tupi
Arlington	Debra Morgan
Banksville	Lori Marabello, Gregg Johnson, Kim Detrick
Bedford Dwellings	Gail Felton
Beechview	Phyllis DiDiano, Sue Pfeuffer, Max Hurwitz
Beltzhoover	Lorraine Bradford, Angie Bradford, Walitta Abdullah
Bloomfield	Karla Owens, Terry Ford Aiello
Bon Air	Jan Koczerat, Tony Mosesso
Brighton Heights	Pete Bellisario
Brightwood	Ed Brandt, Kan Hale
Brookline	Keith Knecht
California Kirkbride	Debbie Reed, Tom Corcoran
Carrick	Dawn Harder
CBD-Downtown	Paul Hochendoner
Central Northside	John Canning
Chartiers	Sharif Zyhier, Samantha Barber
Crafton Heights	Theresa Smith, Carl Suter, Annette Studeny
Crawford Square	Shelia Petite
Duquesne Heights	Frank Valenta
East Allegheny	Lynn Glorieux
East Carnegie	Lois Kercher
East Hills	Claudia Wells, Monique Shorter

Neighborhood**Name**

East Liberty	Katherine Camp, Nathan Wildfire, Loralyn Fabian
Elliott	Matt Hogue, Gena Turner, Kelly Frey
Esplen	Christie Steb
Overbrook	Sue Baumgart
Fineview	Ed Lewis, Bill Weis
Friendship	Rebecca Mizikar
Garfield	Aggie Brose, Kathryn Vargas
Greenfield	Pat Hassett
Hays	Phil Jamison
Hazelwood, Glen Hazel	Jim Richter
Highland Park	Bob Staresinic
Homewood North	Dawn Webb-Turner
Homewood (south, west)	Kiva A. Fisher-Green
Knoxville	Sharlee Ellison
Larimer	Ora Lee Carroll
Lawrenceville	Lauren Byrne, Becky Thatcher
Lincoln	Denise Johnson
Lincoln Place	Phil Jamison, Neil Schaming
Lincoln-Larimer	Ebony Scott
Lower Hill District	Marlene Jackson
Manchester	Maureen Neary, Stanley Lowe, Pat Torrey
Mexican War Streets	John Engle, Kathy Deis
Middle Hill	Michele Cooper
Morningside	Amy Ervin
Mount Oliver City	Suzanne N. Photos
Mount Washington	Kathryn Hunninen
New Homestead	Phil Jamison
North Point Breeze	Meghan Shaver
Northview Heights	Keith Murphy
Oak Hill	Phylis D. Ghafoor
Oakland	Ryan O'Donnell

Neighborhood	Name
Oakland (north)	Kathie Scrabis
Oakwood	Tom Palmosina
Overbrook	Carol Anthony
Perry North	Walt Nalducci, Mike Everhart
Perry South	Janet Gunter
Polish Hill	Stephanie Tecza, Terry Doloughy, Josie Ramsey
Regent Square	Alina Keebler
Ridgemont	Nick Martini, Annette Studeny
Schenley Heights	Phyllis Jackson
Shadyside	Boris Weinstein, Ryan Duffy, Jake Krohn, Katy Caliguiri
Sheraden	Craig Garay, Sam Palombini, Debbie Whitfield
South Oakland	David Panasiuk
South Point Breeze	Judy Griffiths
Southside Flats	Sarah Alessio, Catherine Mitchell
Southside Slopes	Paul Lorincy
Spring Garden	Ruth Ann Dailey, Walter Flanagan
Spring Hill	Ben Soltesz
Squirrel Hill North	Bicky Goldzser
Squirrel Hill South	Barbara Grover
St Clair	Keith Murphy
Stanton Heights	Dave Janco, Jim Heinrich, Bridget McNamee
Strip District	Becky Rodgers
Summer Hill	Georgiann Lucas, Heather Samuel, Dave Schuilenburg
Swisshelm Park	John Shields
Troy Hill	Nicole Moga, Julie Ewing
Uptown (aka Bluff)	Luci-Jo DiMaggio
West End Village	Lisa Costa, Eric Worthing
Westwood	Theresa Smith, Annette Studeny
Windgap	Samantha Barber, Sharif Zyhier

Closing

In 2011, the Clean Pittsburgh Commission has identified these Priorities as it continues to monitor, prevent and Redd Up litter, blight and illegal dumping and strive to develop alternative litter enforcement policies and promote greater awareness of the problem.

2011 Priorities:

- Maintain frequent communications with Neighborhood Clean Pittsburgh Stewards;
- Re-start the construction of the CPC web site;
- Support Neighborhood Redd Ups in spring and fall with Citizens Against Litter;
- Sponsor two open meetings—Community Conversations-- for stewards;
- Sponsor the Meet n’ Greet Mixer and Volunteer Recognition event;
- Sponsor Stash the Trash in the spring and fall with Pittsburgh Public Schools and PA Resources Council;
- Support vacant lot and green up Initiatives with the City;
- Support programs to eliminate illegal dumping with Allegheny CleanWays and Dump Busters and Derek Green’s Stash the Trash;
- Support anti-graffiti programs such as Stamp Out Mail Box Graffiti, Graffiti Watch and Graffiti Busters;
- Support recycling programs like “Let’s Tackle Recycling”;
- Continue to pursue funding resources for the CPC

For more information on the Clean Pittsburgh Commission, please visit: www.cleanpittsburgh.org.

Printing courtesy of the Office of Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

2011 Upcoming Events

- ❖ April 23rd – Stash the Trash
Multiple Locations
- ❖ April 24th & 25th – Spring Redd Up Weekend
Multiple Locations
- ❖ April 30th - DEA National Drug Take Back Day
Multiple Locations
- ❖ May 7th - Household Chemical Collection Event
North Park Swimming Pool
- ❖ May 12th – Stash the Trash Recognition Day
PNC Park
- ❖ May 19th – Community Conversation, 6:00 PM
CCI Center, South Side
- ❖ June 11th - Hard to Recycle Collection Event
Mall at Robinson
- ❖ July 16th - Hard to Recycle Collection Event
Brashear High School
- ❖ September 17th - Hard to Recycle Collection Event
Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills
- ❖ October 1st - Household Chemical Collection Event
Allegheny County
- ❖ October 15th, 16th & 17th - Fall Redd Up
Multiple Locations
- ❖ November 5th - Pharmaceutical Collection Event
Greentree Fire Hall

Clean and Green Partner Resources



City of Pittsburgh

Contact: Patty Chavez
Phone: 412-255-2872
patty.chavez@city.pittsburgh.pa.us
www.pittsburghpa.gov



Allegheny CleanWays

Contact: Myrna Newman
33 Terminal Way
Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-381-1301
myrnan@alleghenycleanways.org
www.alleghenycleanways.org



Citizens Against Litter

Contact: Boris Weinstein
5403 Ellsworth Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15232
Phone: 412-688-9120
Fax: 412-622-0167
boris.weinstein@verizon.net
www.citizensagainstlitter.org



Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc.

Contact: Dave Mazza
64 S. 14th Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15203
Phone: 412-488-7490, x209
davem@ccicenter.org
www.prc.org