

# Clean Pittsburgh Commission

## 2014 Annual Report

This 2014 annual report provides an overview of waste management, blight and property issues, including litter, illegal dumping and graffiti in the City of Pittsburgh. It also includes proactive initiatives, programs and activities to address these challenges and enhance the overall quality of life in our City.

The Clean Pittsburgh Commission's vision for the City of Pittsburgh is to be one of America's cleanest and cared for cities. We at the CPC work to be the driving force behind making this vision a reality by bringing together local government, organizations, institutions, and residents to combat quality of life issues.

### 2015 Clean Pittsburgh Commission Members

Sarah Alessio Shea, Pennsylvania Resources Council - **CPC Chair**  
Joe Divack, At Large Member, Community Advocate - **CPC Vice Chair**  
Patty Chavez, Pittsburgh Public Works - **CPC Secretary**  
Grant Ervin, City of Pittsburgh Sustainability Manager  
Aftyn Giles, City of Pittsburgh Sustainability Coordinator  
Justin Stockdale, Pennsylvania Resources Council  
Kyle Winkler, Pittsburgh Bureau of Environmental Services  
Luci-Jo DiMaggio, At Large Member, Community Advocate  
Mark Marianni, City of Pittsburgh Department of Permits, Licenses and Inspection  
Myrna Newman, Allegheny CleanWays  
Melissa Rosenfeld, Pittsburgh Public Works; Anti-Litter Coordinator  
Erika Deyarmin-Young, Ad hoc Member, Waste Management  
Alicia Carberry, Ad hoc Member, Oakland Planning & Development Corp.



89,853 Total Volunteer Hours spent to Clean Up the City of Pittsburgh Neighborhoods.



693 Total Tons of Litter Collected in 2014.

Issued by: Clean Pittsburgh Commission  
May 28, 2015  
[www.cleanpittsburgh.org](http://www.cleanpittsburgh.org)  
[www.facebook.com/cleanpghcommission](https://www.facebook.com/cleanpghcommission)

For more information:  
Sarah Alessio Shea, Chair  
Phone: (412) 733.7156; Fax: (412) 488.7492  
Email: [info@cleanpittsburgh.org](mailto:info@cleanpittsburgh.org)



## Litter

Since 2006, volunteers of all ages have been participating in twice annual Redd Ups throughout the City of Pittsburgh. These organized clean-ups work because of a network of dedicated community leaders.

Post Redd Up result surveys give us a pretty good idea of the thousands of participants who take to the streets and collect hundreds of tons of litter for public works departments in Pittsburgh and elsewhere to pick up collected litter bags, discarded tires and trash and transport them to legal dumps.

Here are some highlights from our 2014 Redd Ups:

**Spring—April 25-26-27      Fall—October 17-18-19**

- Almost unanimous participation from the City of Pittsburgh's 90 neighborhoods.
- More than 300 total area communities and groups participated.
- 27,000 to 30,000 volunteers devoted 87,000 hours. While volunteers time is valuable, the cost to pay a staff of employees for this work would have cost the city around \$1.7 million.
- Volunteers collected an estimated 500 + tons of litter and recyclables.

## Illegal Dumping

The CPC, City of Pittsburgh and Allegheny CleanWays saw significant strides made in the combat of illegal dumpsites throughout the city.

Here are some highlights from 2014:

- 997 volunteers donated a total of 2,853 hours to cleaning up 80 illegal dump sites
- Volunteers collected 387,230 pounds (193.72 tons) of debris
- 3,478 tires were removed from the hillsides, alleys, empty lots, rivers, streams, and ravines of Pittsburgh
- City of Pittsburgh received a donation from Keep PA Beautiful to provide two sets of surveillance cameras (total of six per site).
- Issued nine illegal dumping citations
- Issued four abatement cases; responsible parties removed and cleaned
- Issued three written citations for illegal signage
  - Had a 98% compliance rate of responsible parties removing illegal signage after verbal warning

## Graffiti

Seventeen years ago, the City of Pittsburgh instituted a graffiti removal program known as the "Graffiti Busters". The "Graffiti Busters" is managed by the Traffic Division of the Department of Public Works and its function is to remove graffiti damage from public buildings and places as reported and from private property on a case-by-case basis.

The following chart shows graffiti incidents in the City of Pittsburgh over the past 5 years with associated costs for removing the graffiti.

Year	Number of Graffiti Incidents Cleaned	Obscenities/ Possible Gang Related	Cost
2010	7,624	590/118	\$72,536
2011	6,481	502/104	\$61,656
2012	7,016	498/97	\$67,156
2013	6,019	414/113	\$57,180
2014	6,620	450/104	\$62,898

## Recycling

Recycling is mandatory for every resident, business, office and institution in the City of Pittsburgh (City Code 619). The City'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.

We have continued to see great recycling participation numbers by residents of the City of Pittsburgh, thanks to the simplicity of the Together Green, single-stream recycling program.

The following is a table summary of materials collected through the City's recycling program. Thanks to these programs, the city saw \$386,475 landfill cost savings:

Year	Tons of Yard Debris Composted	Tons of Tires Recycled	Tons of Material Recycled
2012	2,810	18.99	15,941
2013	3,178	7.78	16,213
2014	3,760	102*	15,459

\*This includes total amount of tires that the City collected. Prior years only include the amount of tires that Environmental Services Department directly handled.

# Neighborhood of Focus

Starting in 2014, the Clean Pittsburgh Commission, began our first ever effort of having a Neighborhood of Focus. The inaugural neighborhood for this program was Hazelwood. The goal for the Neighborhood of Focus is for the CPC to work directly with stakeholders in this community and via the represented organizations and City departments on the Commission mobilize efforts around beautification and quality of life issues.

Highlights thus far include:

- **Center of Life Summer Camp** - CPC member organizations supported the Center of Life's Summer Camp in the Summer of 2014 by providing educational activities on litter prevention, recycling and watershed awareness.
- **Center of Life Summer Camp Field Trip** - CPC member organization, Allegheny CleanWays, took 40 middle school students on a pontoon boat ride to Sycamore Island. The students were treated to a full day of watershed and island-related activities on and off the island with a goal to connect them to the waterways that they live so close to and that they impact.
- **Cameras** - City of Pittsburgh installed a camera in the Hazelwood Greenway in order to monitor illegal dumpsites.
- **Clean Up** - CPC member organization, Allegheny CleanWays, helped clean up West of 2nd Avenue by clearing 14 empty lots and three roadsides. In total, they removed 25,908 pounds of vegetation and 22,615 pounds of trash. Volunteers donated 116 hours of time to assist with the project, and Allegheny CleanWays staff invested 166 hours of time to complete.
- **Assessments** - City of Pittsburgh assessed and coordinated cleanups with surveillance signs placed in dumping hot spots.
- **Enforcement** - The former Bureau of Building Inspection, now Department of Permits, Licenses, and Inspections reviewed outstanding citations in the neighborhood.
- **Collaboration** - CPC is working with local stakeholders including the Hazelwood Initiative and Center of Life on a recycling collection event and art installation on abandon properties set for Summer 2015.
- **Support** - The Bob O'Connor Foundation has supported the CPC's work in Hazelwood over the past year.



## Partner Resources



**City of Pittsburgh**  
**Dept. of Public Works Traffic Division**  
Phone: 412-255-2872  
[www.pittsburghpa.gov](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov)



**Allegheny CleanWays**  
Phone: 412-381-1301  
[www.alleghenycleanways.com](http://www.alleghenycleanways.com)



**City of Pittsburgh Environmental Services**  
Phone: 412-255-2631  
[www.pittsburghpa.gov](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov)



**Pennsylvania Resources Council, Inc.**  
Phone: 412-488-7490  
[www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org)

## Resources

A shortlist of local organizations whose missions focus on improving the environmental quality of life of the City of Pittsburgh

- **Citizens Against Litter (CAL)**  
[www.citizensagainstlitter.org](http://www.citizensagainstlitter.org)  
CAL's mission is to keep Pittsburgh litter free.
- **Construction Junction**  
[www.constructionjunction.org](http://www.constructionjunction.org)  
Construction Junction's mission is to support and promote conservation through the reuse of building materials.
- **Friends of the Riverfront**  
[www.friendsoftheriverfront.org](http://www.friendsoftheriverfront.org)  
Works to reclaim and restore the Pittsburgh region's riverfronts for public use.
- **Greenspace Alliance**  
[www.pghgreenspacealliance.wordpress.com](http://www.pghgreenspacealliance.wordpress.com)  
The Greenspace Alliance is an affiliation of non-profit organizations working on greenspace issues in and around the Pittsburgh area.
- **Grow Pittsburgh**  
[www.growpittsburgh.org](http://www.growpittsburgh.org)  
Grow Pittsburgh's mission is to teach people how to grow food and promote the benefits gardens bring to our neighborhoods.
- **Group Against Smog and Pollution (GASP)**  
<http://gasp-pgh.org/>  
GASP is a non-profit citizens' group in Southwestern Pennsylvania working for a healthy, sustainable environment.
- **GTECH Strategies**  
[www.gtechstrategies.org](http://www.gtechstrategies.org)  
GTECH cultivates the unrealized potential of people and places to improve the economic, social, and environmental health of our communities.
- **Paddle Without Pollution**  
[www.paddlewithoutpollution.com](http://www.paddlewithoutpollution.com)  
Paddle Without Pollution brings communities together through watershed stewardship and education.
- **Pittsburgh Parks Conservancy**  
[www.pittsburghparks.org](http://www.pittsburghparks.org)  
Improves quality of life for the people of Pittsburgh by restoring the park system to excellence.
- **Student Conservation Association (SCA)**  
[www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org)  
SCA's mission is to build the next generation of conservation leaders by engaging young people in hands-on service to the land.
- **Western Pennsylvania Conservancy**  
[www.waterlandlife.org](http://www.waterlandlife.org)  
The Conservancy has been protecting the region's natural places, maintaining 135 gardens in 20 counties, and more.

*For information on household chemical and hard to recycle collections visit [www.prc.org](http://www.prc.org) or call (412) 488-7490  
For information on illegal dump cleanups visit [www.alleghenycleanways.org](http://www.alleghenycleanways.org) or call (412) 381-1301.*