WHAT'S THE LITTER INDEX, AGAIN?

This report covers the results of the second wave of the 2020 Litter Index surveying pilot. To learn more about the objectives, methodology, and general overview of what the Litter Index is, check out the first report found on our City of Pittsburgh webpage at: https://pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/litter-index

WAVE 2 AREA OF FOCUS

As the 1st wave of results focused on the North Side, the 2nd wave surveyed West Side neighborhoods Fairywood, Windgap, Chartiers City, Esplen, Sheraden, Crafton Heights, Elliott, West End, Westwood, Oakwood, and East Carnegie.
Averaging all of the data points yielded an overall final rating of **2.12**

**Over 3/4ths** of the streets in the West Side have at least a moderate amount of litter.

Of those littered streets, **2/5ths** is so heavily littered that it would require a team to clean.

Just over 3% warranted a 4 rating, but that means there were **34 locations** that were either illegal dumping locations, or so much litter accumulation that it would require heavy machinery.

A rating of **2.10** may seem like "2 out of 4, only half way littered!" But when this rating is parse out to show just how much of our streets are covered in litter, we can see how extensive and widespread this problem is.
The results of the Litter Index pilot was successful in making the case within City administration that this program is worth expanding city-wide. While it is too late into 2020 to do full coverage before winter, the pilot is continuing with a second wave of neighborhoods in the Western quadrant of Pittsburgh, including Sheraden, Crafton Heights, and Westwood.

The Department of Public Works is exploring how to best perform this yearly indexing of every street in Pittsburgh, and finding ways to gain more data as we survey as well.

DATA TO INFORM ACTION

Taking in data through the survey allows us to view the problems through an overhead lens. The only way to recognize patterns in whose needs are not getting met is to continuously collect objective information. For example, 311 request maps do not show where problems are, but rather where people are who are likely to report a problem. By knowing about conditions we aren’t expressly told about by the public, we can transition from REACTIVE to PROACTIVE.