

CleanCOS

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Purpose and Topics



- Update the City Council regarding litter removal from public rights-of-way and city-owned lands
- Inter-departmental coordination
- Public land vs. private land enforcement
- Resources, capabilities, managed expectations

Coordination Efforts



- **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department**
 - Parks Operation and Maintenance Division
 - Forestry Division
 - Special Improvement Maintenance Division
 - Regional Parks, Trails and Open Spaces Division

- **Planning and Community Department**
 - Neighborhood Services

- **Public Works Department**
 - Operations and Maintenance Division
 - Stormwater Enterprise Division

- **Police Department**
 - Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

Collaboration Efforts



- Along the urban trail corridors, creek corridors and city property abandoned homeless camps are handled by the appropriate department.
- Occupied homeless camps are managed by the Colorado Springs Police Department Homeless Outreach Team and supporting organizations. (Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful, Neighborhood Services, Water Resources, and Parks)
- Parks and Public Works Departments support the Annual Creek Week that is sponsored by the Fountain Creek Watershed District.
- Parks and Public Works Departments collaborates and supports the Annual Great America Cleanup
- Parks and Public Works Departments both use adopt a park or waterway program for groups to perform monthly clean ups
- Parks Department utilizes Friends and Advocacy group to coordinate monthly cleanups.



Neighborhood Services



Zoning Enforcement (2 FTE's)

Code Enforcement (12 FTE's)

Quality of Life Team (9 FTE's)

Community restitution workers from Front Range Community Services used as often as they are available to assist the Quality of Life Team

Neighborhood Services



Major functions related to litter removal:

- Homeless camp clean-up
- Illegal dumping
- Unpermitted signs (bandit sign)
- Roadside clean-up
- Neighborhood clean-up events

Other

- Zoning enforcement/unpermitted use of property/STRs
- Property maintenance – junk, trash, weeds
- Noise, light

Neighborhood Services



Private Property

- Generally, responses to complaints
- Abatement by land owners
- Need an abatement warrant from Municipal Court to remove litter, debris, items, etc.
- Code Enforcement and Zoning Enforcement Officers investigate, contact, process documents and work with the property owners

Public Property

- Quality of Life Team action
- Coordination with other city departments

Neighborhood Services



Homeless camp clean-up

- 7 Quality of Life staff are assigned to homeless camp clean-up
- Removal of litter and debris from homeless camps 24 hours, or the next business day, after the camp is posted by CSPD's Homeless Outreach Team regardless of where the debris is located and regardless of the property's controlling department. (Consent of private property owner needed)
- Litter and debris is removed from surrounding area and any waterways and drainageways. If unable to remove, QOL Team contacts Stormwater or other controlling department for assistance.

Neighborhood Services



Neighborhood Services



Illegal dumping

- Items - primarily furniture and tires - dumped on vacant lots, sides of the road, alleys, or other areas are removed the same day if reported to Neighborhood Services by noon.
- Single small items (i.e. a tire, a chair, etc.) are usually removed by the code enforcement officers assigned to the area.
- Larger items or piles of dumped debris are removed by the Quality of Life Team.

Neighborhood Services



Unpermitted signs (bandit signs)

- Unpermitted signs in the rights-of-way are removed by code enforcement officers in their assigned areas on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.
- Removal is conducted only on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday because the sign code permits these signs from Friday at noon through Monday at noon.
- Signs affixed to public infrastructure (i.e. light poles, stop signs, etc.) or located in medians are removed immediately by the area code enforcement officer as these are prohibited altogether.

Neighborhood Services



Roadside clean-up

- Upon completing high-priority clean-ups, Quality of Life Team mows “no-man’s” and abandoned parkways along public streets and trails/greenways
- One Quality of Life Team staff is permanently assigned to graffiti removal Citywide (private property need permission)
- Quality of Life Team also mows overgrowth on private properties visible from public streets when authorized

Neighborhood Services



Neighborhood clean-up events

- Neighborhood Services provides trash bags, trash pickers/grippers, and removal of filled bags to neighborhood groups for organized clean-up events.
- Neighborhood Services provides roll off dumpsters, trailers, bag removal and disposal, and assistance with resources (other than labor) during Creek Week and other similar clean-up events

Neighborhood Services



Neighborhood Services at a Glance (2020)

- 1,712 Homeless Camps Cleaned
- 2,784 Truckloads of Homeless Debris Removed
- 7,556 Graffiti Sites Remediated
- 11,417 Code Enforcement Complaints Received
- 29,665 Inspections Conducted
- 14,965 Code Violations Observed

Current Efforts and Resources (2020 Summary)

➤ Street Sweeping Team

- 10 FTE's/8 Sweeper/2 Tandem Axle Dump Trucks
- 23,397.75 Curb Miles Swept
- 26,950 Cubic Yards Material Recovered

➤ Median Maintenance Team

- 1 FTE/4 Temps (PPRTA Funded)
- 644,507 LF (122 Miles) Median Maintained
- 400 Cubic Yards Litter/Trash Recovered

Public Works Department



Current Efforts and Resources (2020 Summary)

- **Detention Basin Team**
 - 2 Temps (GF Funded)
 - 225 Cubic Yards Litter/Trash Recovered

- **Roadway Dead Animal/Illegal Dumping**
 - 1 Temp (GF Funded)
 - 439 Dead Animals Recovered
 - 70 Cubic Yards Litter/Trash Recovered

Current Efforts and Resources (2020 Summary)

➤ WorkCOS Team

- 6 Temps (PPRTA Funded)
- 810,309 LF (153 Miles) Medians and Shoulders Litter/Debris Removal
- 546 Cubic Yards Debris Removed
- 11,400 LF Sidewalk/Pedestrian Ramps Cleaned
- 26 Cubic Yards Trash/Woody Debris Removed
- 3 Fully Housed Graduates; 1 Hired as FTE within Public Works

Perspective: That volume of litter removed in 2020 would fill up an Olympic Swimming Pool 8.5 times

Current Efforts and Resources (2019 Summary)

➤ Organized Litter Cleanup Events

- Adopt-A-Waterway
- Great American Cleanup
- Creek Week
 - 102 Events, 3,321 Volunteers
 - 33 Tons of Trash Removed, \$10k per year on trash bags, etc.

➤ Gutter Bins

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luCSyxiSf3k>

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department



Current Efforts and Resources – Neighborhood Parks

- Trash collected by 16 staff (2 GF, 9 CTF, 5 TOPS) between one to three times a week depending on technician schedules and workload at 138 park sites totaling 904 acres.
- Trash collected at high use neighborhood parks up to five days a week depending upon the season and use patterns
- During the mowing season, the mowing contractor will collect trash weekly
- Trash collected seven days a week at parks with restrooms during the period of time that the restrooms are open.
- Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful is utilized at Dorchester Park once a week
- Parks with adoptive groups periodically collect trash
- At all Park sites \$88,748 of fees are paid for waste disposal with over 600 yards of debris managed



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department



Current Efforts and Resources – Special Improvement Maintenance Districts

Briargate, Norwood, Stetson Hills, Platte Avenue,
Old Colorado City, Gateway and Woodstone

- Trash collected by 7 SIMD funded staff once a week prior to mowing on 130 acres of improved rights of way and medians
- Windy conditions will prompt additional trash collection efforts
- Trash collected by staff every other week after the growing season and after snow events once melted.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department



Current Efforts and Resources – Sports Complexes/Community Parks With Programmed Sports and Major Events

- Trash is collected seven days a week as needed during the programmed sports season (approximately February 15 through October 31) by 13 staff (12 CTF, 1 GF) at 9 park sites totaling 595 acres
- Trash is collected outside of the sports season five days a week on an as needed basis
- Trash is collected around Prospect Lake at Memorial Park seven days a week year-round weather permitting
- Keep Colorado Springs Beautiful performs trash collection four days a week during the summer months at the Memorial Park skate park, the War Memorial, along Union Boulevard and Dorchester Park (\$33,900)
- Special events are required to collect trash and litter



Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department



Current Efforts and Resources – Rights-of-Ways and Downtown Medians

Powers Blvd, Hwy 24 and 115 within City Limits,
Sections of Academy Blvd, Hancock, S. Circle

- Mowing contractors collect trash prior to mowing during the May to October mowing season
- Park staff/Contractors collect trash while performing spray operations during growing season. This frequency can fluctuate depending upon the quantity and location of the areas requiring herbicide treatments.
- 3 staff members (3 GF) collect trash every four to six weeks on over 200 miles of ROW's and daily on 38 acres of Downtown Medians during the non-growing season
- Windy conditions will prompt additional trash collection efforts
- During the mowing season, the mowing contractor will collect trash weekly
- Medians with adopted flowerbeds have litter collected by their adopters when performing weekly maintenance

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department



Current Efforts and Resources – Regional Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces

- Trash is collected seven days a week year-round especially in the areas accessible by vehicles
- Trash is collected on trail corridors within regional parks and open spaces intermittently year-round depending upon staff schedules and general maintenance requirements.
- Trash is collected along urban trail corridors every two to four weeks depending upon scheduling
- Park staff coordinate with Public Works on waterways such as Monument Creek, Fountain Creek, Sand Creek or Cottonwood Creek
- Volunteers regularly collect trash in high use areas
- When requested, Public Works will provide street sweepers to sweep the park roads which will pick up dirt and gravel as well as what litter may be present



The Way Forward



- Understand Capabilities
- Identify Any Redundancies
- Disposal Companies
- Evaluate Resources

The End Questions and Discussion

