

Anti-Littering



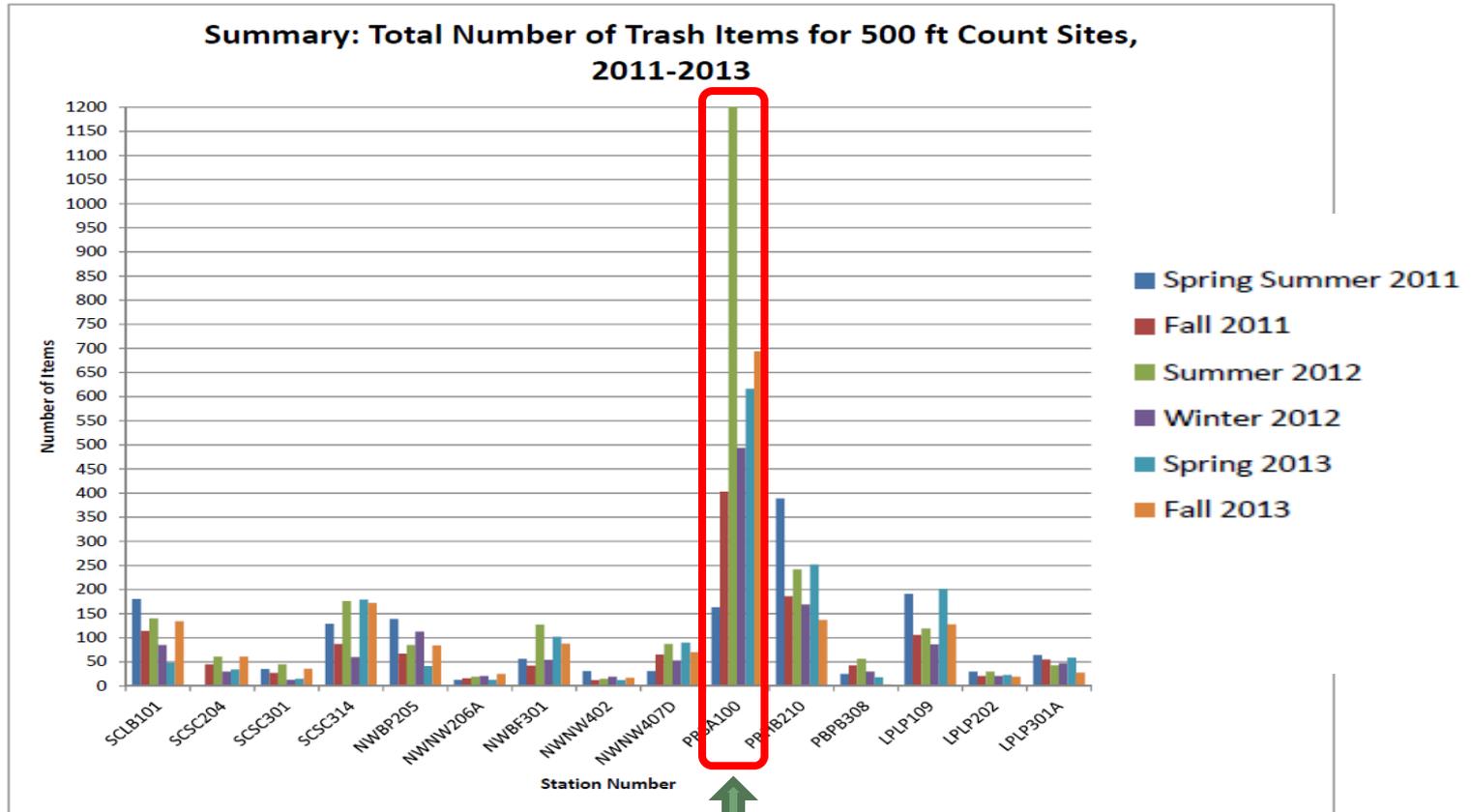
Documenting the issue

- From 2008-2009 Anacostia Watershed litter monitoring took place regionally to help set the baseline TMDL for trash in this river.
- Monitoring has been continued in Montgomery County through 2011-2013 to track progress towards meeting the reduction goal of the set trash baseline.
- Sites were chosen to represent a variety of land uses and by proximity to existing biological monitoring stations.

Ongoing trash monitoring

- 15 stations in the Montgomery County area of the Anacostia Watershed are surveyed about 2 times per year.
- Ongoing monitoring has highlighted a specific area in the watershed as having the highest levels of trash found in the stream.
- Based on these results, it was decided to target this area to implement a pilot project aimed at reducing litter.

Monitoring Results from 2011-2013



DRAFT

White Oak
Station

8

Engaging the Community

- Initial community engagement efforts were started to highlight the litter issue within the neighborhood.
- Regional anti-litter ads on buses and at bus stops to encourage proper trash disposal.
- Cleanup held on Earth Day in 2013.
- Hoped to find community leaders to continue anti-litter efforts.
- No active watershed group.



Regional Anti-Litter Bus Ads



Results of 2013 Earth Day Cleanup

50 volunteers removed 100 bags of trash and 58 tires in this neighborhood.



Targeted research

- Surveys of apartment complexes and shopping centers conducted in FY13 to better understand factors contributing to the litter issues.
- The voluntary surveys included questions on what is being done by these properties to manage the issue and what specific trends may be happening in the area that could be better addressed.
- A total of 61 multi-family and 16 commercial property managers were contacted and asked to participate.

Survey results

- Multi-family properties return rate - **38%**.
- Commercial properties return rate - **31%**.
- Multi-family property survey results:
 - Managers recognized a litter problem exists on their property, but many rated it small, but manageable.
 - Managers find that the litter problems are greatest near dumpsters and in parking lots and sidewalks.
 - About half of the managers indicated they actively contact residents to address the litter problem through written notices.

Survey results cont.

● Commercial property results:

- Most commercial property managers recognize a litter problem exists on their property and rate it either as small but manageable, or noticeable.
- Most managers find that the litter problems are greatest near dumpsters, street curbs, sidewalks, parking lots, and near buildings.
- Most managers indicated they have not contacted their tenants about the litter problem and have not posted signage on the property to discourage littering.
- Most respondents indicated they do not have a problem with illegal dumping and do not have signage on the property to discourage illegal dumping.

Additional data

- July 2013 - Additional field observation surveys began in the White Oak area along roadways and in storm drain inlets to document type and extent of litter.
- Three types of observational surveys were performed monthly by contractors:
 - Bus stops
 - Walking
 - Storm drain inlet
- This data can show us where litter problems are greatest, and what types of litter are most prevalent.

Litter found in storm drain inlet



As a result of specific monitoring, we find that a large amount of litter is comprised of recyclable materials.

Next Steps



- A targeted litter reduction pilot project in the White Oak area is currently being designed based on this data and the results collected.
 - Focus on offering education, training and services to property managers in order to educate tenants about the litter issues and what they can do to help reduce the problem.
 - Since there is a concentration of litter near high traffic areas of bus stops and near businesses, considerations include installing recycling bins in these areas to provide more disposal options.