



## Clean & Green Agenda for Tuesday April 17, 2018

### Attendees:

- 1) Spring Cleanup Re-cap
  - What worked well?
  - What can we improve on?
  - Next cleanup
  
- 2) Street cleaning update
  
- 3) Earth Day
  - SWCC tree planters 4/21
  - Love your park @ Julian Abele 5/12 10am – 12noon
  - Philacycle event on 4/28 – become a philacycle captain
  
- 4) Carpenter Green
  - Friends of group
  
- 5) New business
  - Cigarette microgrant

### Upcoming events

- Safety meeting 4/19
- Rain check workshop 4/23
- PSA meeting 4/26
- COPS meeting 5/3
- Clean block rep info session
- Plazapalooza 5/12

## SOSNA Dog Waste Project

### Random thoughts (pre planning)

- Partner with community businesses (retail and service) to donate supplies or money for - supplies and pet waste stations.
- Convince them to invest in their neighborhood community.
- Information/education tables set up and maned at all community sponsored events.

### *Incentives:*

- Signage on stations.
- Awards at banquet.
- Store/office display plaques (different levels of generosity)

### *Target:*

- Retail: Petsmart, doggie styles, Wawa
- Service: Vets, Groomers, PAWS, realtors
- Institutions: CHOP, Veolia, PECO
- City partners: BMPC, Councilmen, Street Dept.
- Organizations: Keep Philadelphia Beautiful,

### *Supplies needed:*

- Signs - Clean up after your dog/\$300 fines
- Dog waste stations and bins
- Poop bags (refills)
- Printed literature - about the reasons for proper waste disposal.

### *Community Involvement:*

- Volunteers to monitor waste stations (refill bags, empty bins)
- Sweep officers to patrol streets for compliance and as a visual deterrent.
- Block captains
- Volunteers to make public presentations about negative effects of dog waste pollution.
- (Churches, schools, home and school association, library, and other associations.
- Volunteers to create a community web presence
- Committee managed - SOSNA Green and Clean

### *Dog waste:*

#### Benefits of proper disposal -

- Health/sanitation - avoids biological contaminants, disease, pest infestation.
- Environmental - unsightly, smelly, water pollution → contamination of streams.  
(fishkills, blocks sewers, plastic waste bags are swallowed by animals which kill!)
- Property values increase due to clean neighborhood.
- Waste can be composted or turned into usable energy (fuel - methane gas)

passing the first state ban on plastic bags, one of the loudest concerns comes from pet owners asking: How will we scoop our dogs' poop?

It's not an idle question. America's 83 million pet dogs produce some 10.6 million tons of poop every year.

That's enough to fill a line of tractor-trailers from Seattle to Boston, one waste removal service has calculated. Add in litter from our more than 90 million cats, and you've got enough pet waste to fill more than 5,000 football fields ten feet deep, according to another poop-scooping company. Indeed cleaning up after our pets has spawned an entire industry with its own professional organization, the Association of Pet Animal Waste Specialists, complete with pun-filled newsletter ("What we doo").

This probably wasn't one of the issues that biologist Eugene Stoermer and ecologist Paul Cruizen had in mind when they coined the term "Anthropocene" to refer to the human impact on the planet. But there's no question that our heavy footprint includes the paw prints of our pets.

True, poop is not exactly an environmental threat on the order of carbon pollution, nuclear waste or a Superfund site. Still, the risk from poop can be more than just a mess on your shoes. Dogs can harbor lots of viruses, bacteria and parasites --- including harmful pathogens like *e coli*, giardia and salmonella. (A single gram contains an estimated 23 million bacteria.) Studies have traced 20 to 30 percent of the bacteria in water samples from urban watersheds to dog waste. Just two to three days of waste from 100 dogs can contribute enough bacteria, nitrogen and phosphorous to close 20 miles of a bay-watershed to swimming and shellfishing, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It also can get into the air we breathe: a recent study of air samples in Cleveland, Ohio, and Detroit, Mich., found that 10 to 50 percent of the bacteria came from dog poop.

So while the stakes may be lower than say, radioactive waste, the question remains: What do we do with this s\*\*t?

It's a question that has nagged me for years as I've followed my dog on walks, plastic bags at the ready. Aimee Christy, a shellfish biologist in Olympia, Washington, has also

Most commercial composters are already processing dog and cat waste that gets swept up in municipally collected yard trimmings.

Flushing it could be an option — the EPA even recommends it. You can buy special bags designed to be flushed down the drain. But as Macy points out, sewage treatment facilities use a lot of chemicals and energy to remove contaminants from human waste; adding our pets' waste could burden some systems and would pose an extra drain on water when there's a drought, as Californians are currently suffering.

Maybe the problem is that we are looking at poop as waste, rather than what it really is: a resource that could — and should — be recycled for compost or energy. (Cat waste is a more complicated matter because felines can harbor a hardy toxoplasmosis parasite you wouldn't want in your compost, and many kinds of kitty litter aren't degradable.) Dog poop, like many other kinds of manure, can be composted — but rarely is. Even cities with curbside programs that compost food scraps and other organic waste discourage people from putting dog waste in their compost bins, because commercial composting facilities don't want it. Toronto's program for composting pet waste (as well as dirty diapers) is a forward-looking exception. If you're a topical expert — researcher, business leader, author or innovator — and would like to contribute an op-ed piece, email us here.

Composting dog waste in a backyard bin can be iffy. It's hard to achieve the temperatures needed to kill off pathogens, so you should never use composted pet waste on plants you'll be eating. But commercial composting facilities are required to keep the compost at hot enough temperatures, for a long enough period of time, to get rid of harmful pathogens. If properly treated, the resulting compost is "perfectly safe," says Will Brinton, president of Woods End Laboratories, a compost research lab in Mount Vernon, Maine. In fact, most commercial composters are already processing dog and cat waste that gets swept up in municipally collected yard trimmings. But none of them like to trumpet the fact, says Brinton. "It's bad for marketing."

A handful of private companies are stepping in to fill the void. GreenPet Composting, a poop-scooping service in Portland, has begun trucking the poop it collects up I-5 to a composting facility in western Washington. In Boulder, Colo., retiree Rose Seeman started EnviroWagg to address the waste "twilight zone that no one is doing anything about." She is currently processing about three tons of poop a year into her "Doggone Good Compost" but hopes to expand the operation. "It's very, very potent."



# 2018 CLEANING SCHEDULE

PMBC has scheduled the following Saturdays for Clean Block events. To participate when your area is scheduled for cleaning, please contact your PMBC Clean Block Officer. A list of Clean Block Officers and their phone numbers is included on the other side of this flyer. Interested participants should call at least three (3) weeks in advance of the listed cleaning date on which they wish to schedule a Clean Block event.

Some of the things you should know about Clean Block events:

- All debris should be bagged and placed at either end of the block to facilitate collection.
- No bulk or household trash will be collected during the Saturday Clean Block Program.
- Do not sweep trash or dirt into inlets.
- Streets should not be blocked off with parked cars during cleaning.

**PMBC hopes that you will join with your neighbors by holding a Clean Block event!**

DATE	POLICE DISTRICT	SANITATION AREA
March 17	<b>Block Captain Rally</b>	
March 24	6 <sup>th</sup> / 9 <sup>th</sup> / 22 <sup>nd</sup> / 26 <sup>th</sup>	3
April 7	<b>Philly Spring Cleanup</b>	All Areas
April 14	12 <sup>th</sup> / 16 <sup>th</sup> / 18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup>	1
April 28	24 <sup>th</sup> / 25 <sup>th</sup>	5
May 5	5 <sup>th</sup> / 14 <sup>th</sup> / 35 <sup>th</sup> / 39 <sup>th</sup>	4
May 12	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 7 <sup>th</sup> / 8 <sup>th</sup> / 15 <sup>th</sup>	6
May 19	1 <sup>st</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup>	2
May 26	6 <sup>th</sup> / 9 <sup>th</sup> / 22 <sup>nd</sup> / 26 <sup>th</sup>	3
June 2	<b>Jr. Block Captain Fun Day</b>	
June 9	12 <sup>th</sup> / 16 <sup>th</sup> / 18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup>	1
June 16	24 <sup>th</sup> / 25 <sup>th</sup>	5
June 23	5 <sup>th</sup> / 14 <sup>th</sup> / 35 <sup>th</sup> / 39 <sup>th</sup>	4
June 30	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 7 <sup>th</sup> / 8 <sup>th</sup> / 15 <sup>th</sup>	6
July 7	<b>Rain Date for Fun Day</b>	
July 14	1 <sup>st</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup>	2
July 21	6 <sup>th</sup> / 9 <sup>th</sup> / 22 <sup>nd</sup> / 26 <sup>th</sup>	3
July 28	12 <sup>th</sup> / 16 <sup>th</sup> / 18 <sup>th</sup> / 19 <sup>th</sup>	1
August 4	24 <sup>th</sup> / 25 <sup>th</sup>	5
August 11	5 <sup>th</sup> / 14 <sup>th</sup> / 35 <sup>th</sup> / 39 <sup>th</sup>	4
August 18	2 <sup>nd</sup> / 7 <sup>th</sup> / 8 <sup>th</sup> / 15 <sup>th</sup>	6
August 25	1 <sup>st</sup> / 3 <sup>rd</sup> / 17 <sup>th</sup>	3



# CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA MORE BEAUTIFUL COMMITTEE  
STREETS DEPARTMENT  
2601 Glenwood Avenue, 2nd Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19121  
Phone # 215-685-3971  
Fax # 215-763-8465

Dawn C. Woods  
Acting Clean Block Administrator

October 25, 2013

Dear Mr.:

Thank you for your request concerning information about the Streets Department's Adopt-a-Basket Program. The Streets Department will provide a wire mesh litter basket based upon the following requirements:

The citizen making the request must:

- Be a Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee (PMBC) Block Captain.
- Submit a letter requesting a basket and must furnish the reason/s for this need. Details are very important, i.e. near a school, mini-mall, commercial strip, or industrial park. The letter should be mailed to:  
Dawn C. Woods, Clean Block Administrator  
Streets Department – Sanitation Division  
Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee  
2601 W. Glenwood Avenue, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19121
- agree to obtain written permission from the owner/s of the property where the basket will be placed.
- secure the basket with a chain.
- provide liners (trash bags – paper or plastic), replace liners and store trash bags until their scheduled trash collection day.

After the request is approved, a contract will be sent to the Block Captain, who will acquire the signature of the owner/s of the property where the basket will be placed. The contract can then be returned to the PMBC office (see above address). Basket delivery is handled by the streets Department's Sanitation Division and depends on availability.

**NOTE:**

A new City of Philadelphia law requires that places of business, which prepare or sell food for takeout or consumption off the premises, must place private business receptacles at all public entrances during their normal hours of operation only.

If you wish to become a PMBC Block Captain, please call the PMBC office at (215) 685-3981. Please contact the Customer Affairs Unit at (215) 686-5560 if you require any other Streets Department services.

Sincerely,

Dawn C. Woods.  
PMBC Administrator