Trash Reduction Efforts
Status Update
Segment 14 of the South Platte River
2012 - Trash Inventories

Area A

Area B

Area C
Data Analysis: Questions to Answer

1. What are the Most Commonly Found Types of Trash?
2. Does Distribution of Trash Relate to Surrounding Land Uses?
3. Does the Observed Distribution of Trash Provide Clues about Sources?
4. Benchmarks to Measure Effectiveness of Education Campaigns
1. Most Commonly Found

- Tobacco
- Food Packaging
- Paper & Cardboard
- Plastic Bags
- Styrofoam
- Other Plastics
- Glass
- Plastic Bottles
- Cups and Plates
- Aluminum Cans
South Platte River, All Inventory Dates

1. Most Commonly Found

- Plastic Bags: 11.29%
- Food Packaging: 11.09%
- Tobacco: 10.22%
- Styrofoam: 9.47%
- Paper Cardboard: 8.08%
- Glass: 7.56%
- Plastic Bottles: 6.26%
- Alum. Cans: 4.41%
- Cups Plates: 3.72%
- Other Plastics: 2.91%
- All Others: 24.98%
2. Surrounding Land Uses

Summary of Observations

- **Paper and Cardboard**
  - Terrace areas - linked to nearby businesses?

- **Tobacco Products**
  - Terrace areas and along trails near businesses
  - Where roads cross over or are next to the river

- **Food Packaging**
  - Terrace areas at Confluence Park & the Skate Park
    - Reflects heavy recreational use?
3. Observed Distribution

Summary of Observations

- Lightweight Items (Plastic Bottles, Styrofoam, Plastic Bags, and Aluminum Cans)
  - Instream
  - Banks

- Food packaging
  - Homeless encampments
  - Trails and areas with heavy use

- Tobacco Products
  - Terrace areas with high use and no trash cans or ash trays
    - Ubiquitous in Area A and C terraces
  - Homeless encampments
Other Observations

By Date

- April & July Inventories
  - More food packaging overall

- September Inventory
  - More tobacco products overall
  - Area A - much greater amount of trash than other dates
    - Food Packaging
    - Tobacco Products
      - Large number of homeless encampments - related to camping ordinance?
Next Steps

- Launch a grassroots communications campaign
- Measure impact in the coming year(s)
- Summarize overall program findings
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