

COMMUNITY CLEANUP PILOT PROGRAM REPORT

JUNE 2021



Overview

- This Pilot program partners 14 agencies and jurisdictions to conduct public property cleanups along the Naches and Yakima Rivers, from the Selah Gap to Valley Mall Boulevard
- Yakima County serves as the coordinating jurisdiction, and provides free waste disposal at the Terrace Heights Landfill
- First partnership meeting held June 16, 2021 with 35 attendees: public property owners, local jurisdictions, fire districts and social service agencies

Goals

- To eliminate illegal campsites, associated illegal activities and biohazards, and restore these public properties to their natural scenic beauty for the public to enjoy
- To provide safe, hazard-free access to the public

How to Get It Done

- Invite ongoing commitment from public property owners and agencies to meet the goals
- Develop consistent “voice” and messaging among agencies
- Coordinate regular partnership cleanups of illegal campsites
- Conduct regular “sweeps” of properties to ensure they remain clean, safe, and inviting to the public

Accomplishments

Most Recent Cleanups

- June 24 (in progress): WSDOT, Yakima County, City of Yakima removed illegal camps and mowed brush between I-82 and Boise Cascade in Yakima
- June 23: WSDOT and Yakima County removed nearly 7 tons of garbage from WSDOT property at the end of North First Street in Yakima

Earlier 2021 Cooperative Cleanups

- Partners removed over 30 tons of garbage, conducted 6 cleanups, and 25 site visits in March and April
- **Participating partners:** Cities of Yakima and Selah; Yakima County; Greenway Foundation; WSDOT, Camp Hope and Greenway Foundation

Next Steps

- Prepare partner resource list
- Post properties with consistent signage (e.g., “Day Use Only,” “No Trespassing”)
- Continue organizing cleanups and sweeps