

Appendix 2D

Summary of Illegal Dumping Survey

As part of the study on public collection, County staff completed a survey of communities in Ramsey and Washington Counties. This is a summary of that survey.

The following is a summary, based on responses from a majority of communities in Ramsey and Washington Counties.

- The majority of cities/towns do not report illegal dumping on public or private land to be a significant problem, but it is cited as a major problem for St. Paul, five communities in Washington County, and by Ramsey County Public Works and Parks depts.
- The trend in illegal dumping over the past 5-10 years is mixed—some increasing, some decreasing, some about the same—about evenly divided in Ramsey County’s and Washington County’s organized cities/towns, but increasing in a number of Washington County’s open hauling communities.
- Of 21 communities reporting they have annual or semi-annual cleanup/clean-sweep events, 11 report a reduction in illegal dumping due to these events. A few communities with cleanups that did not notice a reduction in illegal dumping also did not report significant illegal dumping.
- All but 1 of the 12 organized cities that responded reported a reduction in illegal dumping due to their organized collection contract.

Other notes:

- Illegal burning was cited as a significant problem in 4 Washington County cities/towns.
- MDOT has reported that Adopt-a-Highway and Sentence-to-Serve crews pick up about 4000 tons a year in Ramsey County and 300 tons in Washington County, about ¼ of which is recyclable wood or cans. Quantities of materials littered on MDOT roads in the metro area have been increasing rapidly.
- Based on conversations with some communities in Washington County, the closure of the Bellaire transfer station may be contributing to an increase in dumping in areas near that closed transfer station.

A table on the next page provides more detail on the survey results.

Table: Summary of Illegal Dumping Survey

	# Cities/towns responding/total # cities/towns	Is illegal dumping a significant problem?	Trend in illegal dumping past 5-10 years	# Cities/towns with cleanup/clean-sweep event/Has it reduced illegal dumping?	If organized, has it helped reduce illegal dumping?
RAMSEY organized	5/5	0 yes 5 no	2 increasing 1 decreasing 2 about same	5 with cleanups 4 note reduction	4 of 5 note reduction
RAMSEY open	12/12	3 yes 9 no	2 increasing 4 decreasing 4 about same	8 have cleanups 4 note reduction	N/A
SAINT PAUL district councils-open	11/17	5 yes 3 moderate problem 3 no	1 increasing 2 decreasing 5 about same	all have cleanups 7 note reduction	N/A
WASHINGTON organized	7/9	1 yes (Afton) 6 no	1 increasing 1 decreasing 5 about same	3 have cleanups 2 note reduction	all 7 note reduction
WASHINGTON open	11/22	6 yes 5 no	5 increasing 1 decreasing 5 about same	6 have cleanups 1 notes reduction	N/A

Note: For purposes of this survey, Blaine, Spring Lake Park, and Hastings are ignored, and White Bear Lake is considered to be entirely in Ramsey County. Responses from individual district councils in St Paul are not included in this draft table, but will be tallied when a greater number of responses have been received. Not all responses were complete.