



Illegal Dumping

April 12, 2024



Overview

- Informational report regarding strategies to deter illegal dumping in Milwaukee County Parks
- Report requested via Amendment 7 during the 2024 Budget process
 - Requested Parks research a neighborhood parks watch program aimed at addressing illegal activities, including dumping in Milwaukee County parks and parkways.

Background



- Illegal dumping is the dumping of waste illegally instead of using authorized methods
- Illegal dumping has a significant financial and environmental impact on local governments across the United States
- The parks and parkways of Milwaukee County witness this impact as well

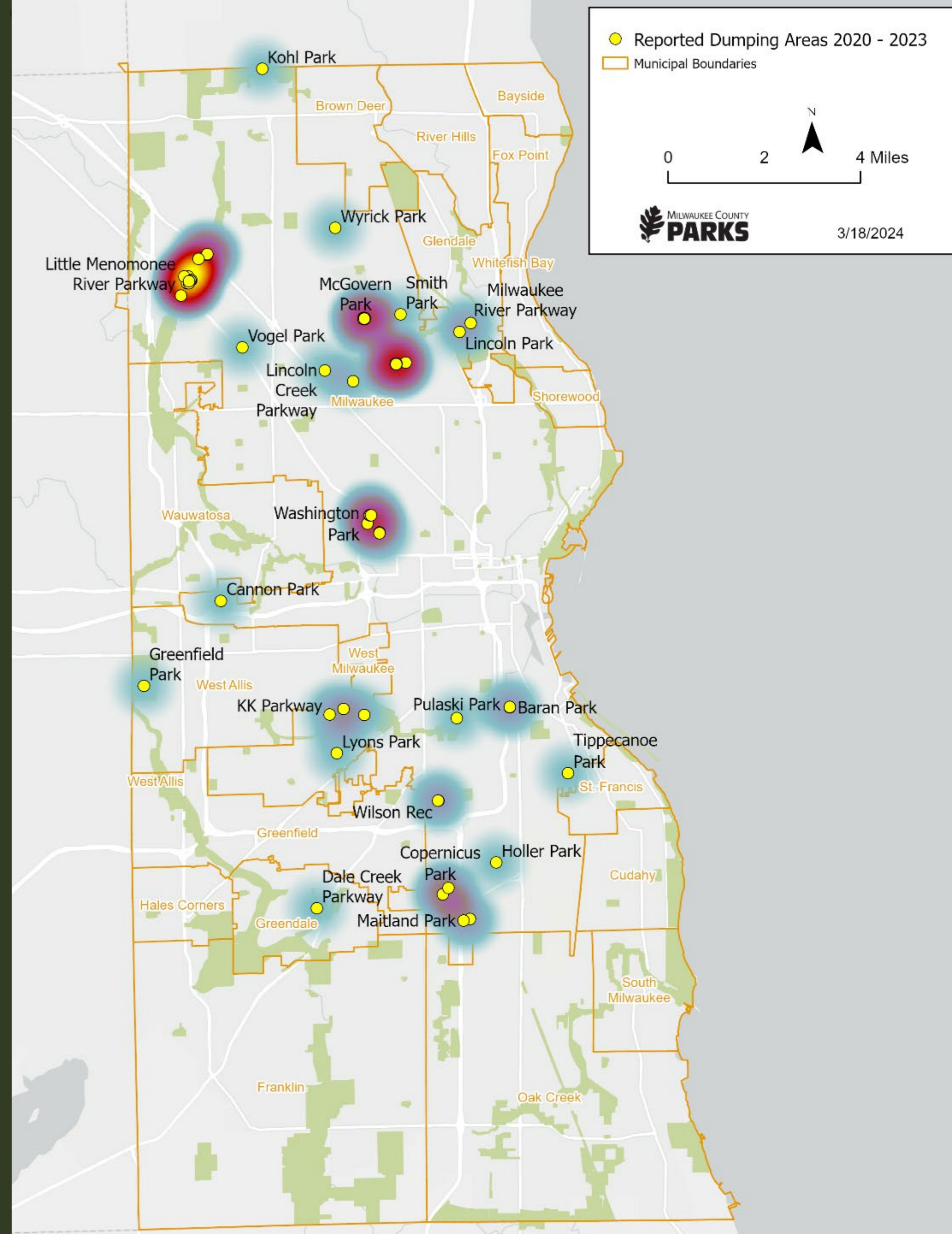
Background



- The amount of illegally dumped material in the United States has increased
- A 2021 report from the City of Los Angeles estimated that 1.5 million tons of trash were dumped annually
- A 2017 thesis found that most illegal dumping sites were located within census tracts that had lower median family incomes, higher percentages of non-English speaking individuals, and a significantly higher percentage of residents who were renters
- The financial impact of abating the impact of illegal dumping takes significant municipal resources

Background

- Significant clusters of illegal dumping have occurred on Milwaukee County Parks property in recent years





















414-257-PARKS







AM NOV 05

11:12

NOTICE
THIS AREA
IS UNDER VIDEO
SURVEILLANCE
NO PARKING
ANY TIME





11:13





























Common Themes

- Dumping of convenience in secluded areas
- Occurred near the start of each month and consists of household materials
- Contractors disposing of construction debris from residential or commercial sites
- Medical waste dumping at various parks

Action Strategies

- Eliminating vehicle access
 - Little Menominee River Parkway between Appleton and Mill Road
- Installing barriers to reduce easy dumping access
 - Lincoln Creek Parkway
- Partnerships
 - MCSO
 - Friends Groups
 - Partner organizations (UEC, Peak, Boys and Girls Club)



MILWAUKEE
ACTIVE STREETS



Costs

- There have been over sixty instances of large-scale illegal dumping over the past three years
 - 600 hours of staff time per year
 - Average annual cost of \$14,000
 - This does not include the cost to use outside vendors to address medical waste clean ups
 - Money redirected from other staffing needs

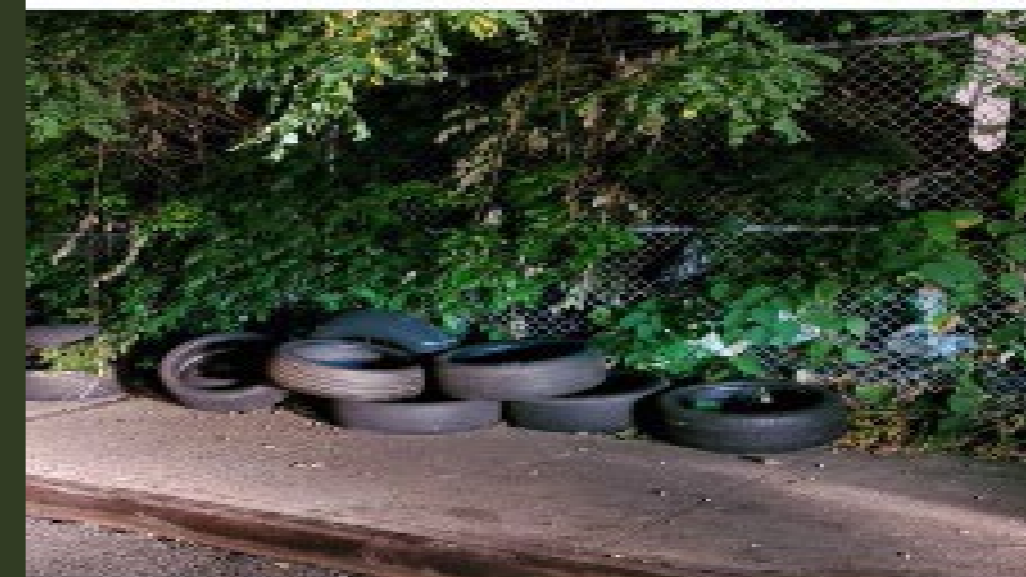
Strategies

- Increasing fine amount for illegal dumping in parks
 - Parks has the authority to cite individuals for disposing of waste on county property under section 47.36 (Citation Authority) of the County Code.
 - Under Section 47.48 (Department abatement of dumping), Parks is allowed to impose a civil penalty of two hundred dollars (\$200.00) for each day that dumping remains on county property
 - Amount has not been adjusted since 1997

Strategies

- Increasing fine amount for illegal dumping in parks
 - Parks recommended that the existing ordinance be increased from \$200 to \$5,000.
 - In alignment with the City of Milwaukee's penalty for illegal dumping
 - Other communities have similar levels, as well as vehicle seizures

as a regular night of breaking
our neighborhoods. NOPE -
Sanitation Police, who seized
three of the famous \$4,000 su



Strategies

- Use of Technology to Improve Enforcement Efforts
 - Parks currently works with the Park Rangers and MCSO to increase an active presence in parks
 - Working to install additional cameras on site to document illegal dumping activity
 - The City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) is working with partner organizations to install solar powered trail cameras on city-owned property

Strategies

- Increasing Partnership with the City of Milwaukee
 - The City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS) is responsible for addressing the city's illegal dumping activity
 - Per DNS, most reports of illegal dumping are not investigated
 - In 2022, the City of Milwaukee received 438 complaints of illegal dumping, but only issued 14 citations
 - In 2023, 361 complaints were received, and 11 citations were issued
 - After waiving disposal fees in early 2020, the City of Milwaukee resumed their fees and reduced service hours in 2021 for loads of disposed materials at the city's two Drop Off Centers

Strategies

- Developing Partnerships with Neighborhood Residents and Groups
 - Many of our Parks have Friends groups
 - Many Parks that are focal points for dumping lack friends groups
 - Our Public Engagement team actively works to develop new friends groups throughout the county
 - Partnership with entities such as the Riverkeepers to develop long-term collaboration

Questions?



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