

Community Focus Statement E: Improve the appearance of the community.

Action Statement E.3: Organize a community clean-up to be held at least two times a year.



Benchmark: In partnership with youth groups, nonprofit organizations, and local businesses, at least two cleanup events per year are held.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$2,000 per event



Community cleanup volunteers in action. Photo source: Tucker Yates

Community cleanups can improve the area’s physical appearance and create a sense of community and pride among residents. In mountainous communities like the Hilltop communities, it is often difficult to control the buildup of trash and maintain the communities’ natural beauty. Established cleanup events can help sustain ongoing cleanup and maintenance efforts. To maintain the cleanliness of the Hilltop communities, a partnership could be created that consists of interested member businesses, associations, and key individuals who are interested in seeing their communities preserved and maintained. This partnership could host a fundraiser to gather needed funds for cleanup supplies and other services that beautify and maintain the core areas. These services could include sidewalk sweeping, trash and debris removal, and landscaping installation and maintenance. The communities could also partner with appropriate local businesses to supply transportation vehicles, trash receptacles, equipment, tools, gloves, snacks, and refreshments.

Two times a year (i.e., in spring and fall), this partnership or a beautification committee could work with youth groups (for example, Boy/Girl Scouts, the Rim Communities for Youth Coalition, or the Mountain High Care Club) and/or nonprofits dedicated to improvement or cleanup work like Rebuilding Together Mountain Communities or Habitat for Humanity to host large-scale cleanup events. These cleanups could be organized to occur just before annual events like Mountain Top Days and would be organized and publicized by the beautification committee.

Due to increasing costs and diminishing revenue, the County held the last Community Clean-Up and Recycling Day on April 14, 2012. Currently, Hilltop communities’ residents have options for low- or no-cost trash disposal. Burrtec provides trash and recycling services to Hilltop communities’ residents and businesses through a contract with the County of San Bernardino. Trash service typically includes bulky item and e-waste pickups at no extra cost. Also, many materials can be recycled or reused by taking them to recycling centers or thrift stores.



Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Establish a partnership of businesses, associations, and individuals to create a community beautification committee.	Champion	Month 1	Community Cleanup Guide http://library.oregonmetro.gov/files/neighborhood_cleanup_guide_2012.pdf
2. Select an adult leader to serve as chair who would provide leadership and champion the committee. Identify youth leaders to serve as coordinators.	Community beautification committee	Month 2	Conducting a cleanup campaign http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/MF931.pdf
3. Host a fundraiser to gather funds for cleanup activities.	Community beautification committee	Biannually, on-going	San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Department http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/SolidWasteManagement/ReductionRecycling.aspx
4. Coordinate with the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management group.	Community beautification committee	On-going	Waste Hauler Information http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/SolidWasteManagement/Hauler.aspx
5. Partner with local businesses to supply transportation vehicles, trash receptacles, equipment, tools, gloves, snacks, and refreshments.	Community beautification committee, with support from local businesses	On-going	Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service, Conducting a Community Clean-up Fix-up Campaign http://www.bookstore.ksre.ksu.edu/pubs/mf931.pdf
6. Select dates for community cleanup, and use youth coordinators to publicize and market the events.	Community beautification committee	Month 3	Building Communities Through Committees http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Building_Communities_Through_Committees
7. Host cleanups. Track participation at each event, and note which events attract the most participants and sponsors. Be sure to thank volunteers and publicize sponsors as a thank you.	Community beautification committee	Biannually	Keep America Beautiful https://www.kab.org/ Waste management education posters http://www.stopwaste.org/resource-library/type/posters