



LITTER LEAGUE

2024 RULEBOOK

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Produced in association with:
Municipal partners throughout Allegheny County

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INTRODUCTION

In 2020, Friends of the Riverfront and Allegheny CleanWays were awarded a grant by the RK Mellon Foundation which supported the expansion of volunteer-based litter programs. The Litter League was designed in 2021 during a period of restricted public gathering due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The first season was conducted virtually with a single, in-person gathering on the Summer Solstice.

Inaugural Teams

Carnegie Mellon University - No Litter Please

East End - Trash Talkers

Penn Hills - Litter Avengers

Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc. - Waste Deep

Google SAS - Every Litter Bit

Locomotion - Locomaters

Fineview - 412 Redder Uppers

Confluence - Litter Collectors

TTG Imaging Solutions - Team TTG

University of Pittsburgh - I Felt Happy When You Redded Up

Duquesne Light - Lightning Bolt Litter Brigade

During the 8-week season from Earth Day to Summer Solstice, we collected 29,272.5 pounds of litter.



Over the years, Allegheny CleanWays has engaged with neighbors, businesses, and community organizations to remove more than 5.4 million pounds of debris from vacant lots, wooded hillsides, alleyways, roadsides, streams, and riverbanks. While much of that is done by dedicated individual volunteers, the Litter League demonstrates that teamwork can make even the most arduous work enjoyable. Whether you are new to litter collection or a seasoned veteran, we hope you cherish your time on the field, playing with friends.

Learn more at AlleghenyCleanways.org



Since 1991, Friends of the Riverfront has worked to protect and restore the riverfront in the Pittsburgh region through trail development and stewardship after decades of legacy pollution. Most of the litter in our waterways starts on land. If that waste isn't properly managed, it finds its way through gully and gutter into our rivers. By playing in the Litter League, you are actively restoring our most precious ecosystems and improving our public health.

Learn more at Friendsoftheriverfront.org

STATE OF THE GAME

How we play dirty...

On Earth Day, as we “pickoff” the season, teams of helpers, storytellers, artists, and athletes will once again remind me of the real power in collective effort. Representing small neighborhoods and multi-national corporations alike, the players of the Litter League are a testament to an enduring spirit of optimism in communities throughout Allegheny County.

Each year, about 80 players have accepted our challenge. and each year they have dug deeper and played better, with real results (139,628 lbs. collected!). As competition and camaraderie grow in our league, will we reach a tipping point? Will the practice of collecting litter transform from a federal punishment into a national pastime? As we celebrate these champions of community care, will our idea of ourselves and our teams expand to include our neighbors, one, and all? And what then? Will humanity’s relentless struggle for victory find a common foe in the waste we’ve left behind?

There’s only one way to find out. Focus on strategy. Explore the environment. Repair relationships. Winning is great, but Keeping Pennsylvania Beautiful and Connecting to Something Greater... that’s the point.

So the next time somebody tells you how bad it is out there... ask them to join your team.

Greg Manley – League Referee

THE BASICS

Register

Neighborhood Team - \$100

Colleague Team - \$1000

Create or join a team by visiting
friendsoftheriverfront.org/litter-league

Compete

Start collecting with your team on the Earth Day Tournament and continue throughout the season on whatever schedule suits you best. Challenges offer deeper engagement with the game and other players. Depending on your style, there are several ways to play:

- On your own schedule, by reporting collections online
- With your team in a group cleanup
- Against other teams at a Tournament

Celebrate

Gather for food and drink with opponents at happy hours in some of the county's finest pubs. At the end of the season, you'll have a chance to earn exciting prizes and awards in five separate categories:

Heavy Lifters (most weight)
Cleanup Artists (most creative)
Storytellers (best documentation)
Helpers (most inspiring)
Champions (most points)

2024 SCHEDULE

The season opens the Friday before Earth Day and continues for six weeks until the final tournament on Friday, May 31st.

Earth Day Pickoff

Millvale

Saturday, April 20th

12:00pm

Mid-Season Meet

Braddock

Friday, May 10th

6:00pm

Championship & Awards

Downtown Pittsburgh

Friday, May 31st

6:00pm

WHAT IS LITTER?

Litter is generally defined as “improperly managed waste.” It includes intentionally discarded waste such as cigarette butts, beverage containers, and old televisions. It also includes unintentional waste, such as overflow from trash cans or improperly secured loads that accidentally release debris along roadways. For the purpose of the Litter League, litter is defined more specifically as:

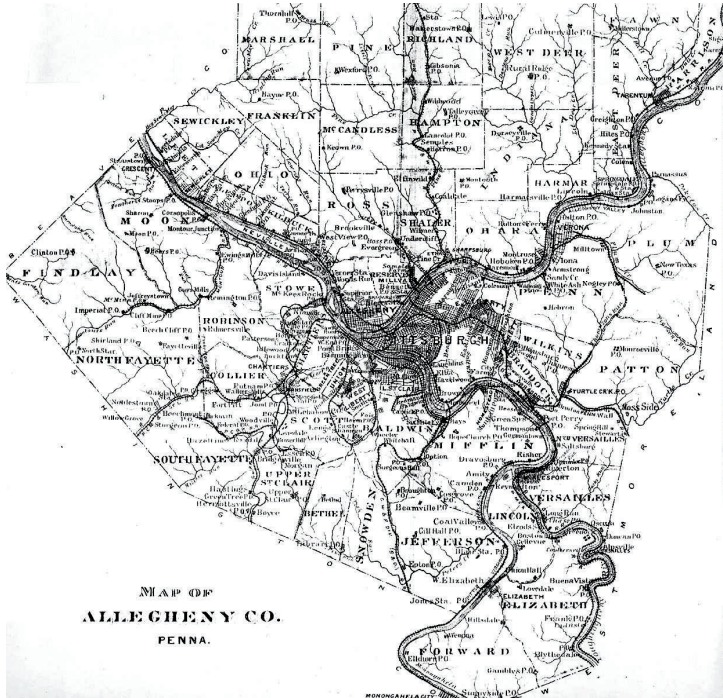
Improperly managed manufactured waste

This definition intentionally excludes biodegrading plants and animals.



THE FIELD

All public thoroughfare in Allegheny County



Allegheny County
Actual Survey Map, 1863

SAFETY

Recommended Equipment

- Gloves
- Closed-toe shoes
- 5-7 gallon sturdy bucket
- Grabber
- Hand sanitizer
- Water bottle
- Hi-visibility vest
- Smartphone (for recording/reporting collections)
- Trash bags
- Luggage scale (for weighing collections)
- Litter-transportation vehicle (wagon, trailer, truck, etc...)

Precautions & Guidelines

- Do not empty containers of unknown liquids.
- Do not collect hypodermic needles.
- Segregate sharp objects.
- Contact authorities about weapons or drugs.
- Do not collect dead animals or feces.
- Sanitize hands before touching food or skin.
- Wash clothes immediately after collecting.

COLLECTION

1 point weekly

Coordinate & Report

For any team collection event, communicate with referee and municipal authorities to ensure swift removal of consolidated litter. While each municipality will have its own guidelines, best practices for litter collection include:

- Consolidate litter in heavy-duty bags, weighing ~35 lbs.
- Segregate sharp objects into a sturdy container.
- Place all litter in a single, truck-accessible location.
- Send a clear image of the consolidated litter to referee with GPS coordinates .

Throughout the six-week season, all collected litter should be scored by the referee as accurately as possible. Scoring collections require (at minimum):

- Player Name
- Team Name
- Location Collected
- Total Weight Collected (#lbs)
- Evidence

Each week, the team with the highest total weight is awarded 1 point.

TOURNAMENTS

2 points each

Orientation

Arrive 20 minutes prior to collection for check-in, orientation, and safety review.

Courtesy

Tournaments are opportunities to demonstrate positive civic engagement. The field is public space and all non-players are considered audience, not obstacle. Safety and common courtesy must take priority above competition.

Contact

This is a no-contact sport. Any aggressive contact between opponents will result in immediate suspension from play. Grabbers may touch.

Possession

The first player to touch a piece of litter (with glove or grabber) assumes team possession. Possession is surrendered after 3 seconds without contact.

Celebration

After 90 minutes of play, the team with the heaviest total collection is awarded 2 points.

Every Tournament will conclude with a social hour at a public location. Awards and special recognition for supporters will be announced during this celebration.

CHALLENGES

1 point each

Three challenges will be introduced on Opening Day which will remain active through the final tournament. Additional “pop-challenges” may be announced at any time throughout the season.

CHALLENGE #1: Say Hello

Introduce yourself and your team in style. Uniforms, banners, chants, player profiles, music videos.. it’s up to you.

CHALLENGE #2: If You Build it...

Work together to create something new out of your collected litter. The 2024 theme will be announced at the Opening Pickoff Tournament.

CHALLENGE #3: Pick Your Poison

Collect and display the largest assortment or widest array of litter from a single brand/manufacturer.

AWARDS

Upon the conclusion of the season, outstanding play is awarded in five categories. They are:

Helpers

Attract the most popular support

Heavy Lifters

Collect the most overall litter by weight

Cleanup Artists

Exhibit the most creative reuse of litter

Storytellers

Demonstrate the most detailed reporting

Champion

Highest total points

RESOURCES



Keep America Beautiful 2020 Litter Study



Pennsylvania's 2021 Litter Action Plan

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