



Litter Management Grant Success Story

City of Cuyahoga Falls

Background

The City of Cuyahoga Falls' Division of Recycling and Litter Prevention (DRLP) is the public involvement and education branch of the City Sanitation Department. DRLP is committed to implementation of litter cleanup events and programming, as well as formal and informal education and outreach. In 2015 and 2016, the City of Cuyahoga Falls committed to expanding local coordination efforts that strengthen litter prevention, cleanup efforts, recycling and natural resource conservation.

Challenge

Expanding local efforts to strengthen DRLP's goals included two main cleanup projects on public grounds and the Cuyahoga River, individual cleanup event days carried out by local schools and organizations and comprehensive water quality conservation and improvement projects. The litter cleanup projects needed funding to assist in purchasing supplies for volunteers from several local communities. Funding was also needed to support an elementary school student poster contest, "Make Every Day Earth Day!" The poster contest targeted second graders from every elementary school within the community highlighting a litter prevention, recycling or conservation theme. This was part of the larger classroom education and outreach effort during the school year.

Solution

The litter management grant from Ohio EPA's Division of Environmental and Financial Assistance, along with matching funds from the City of Cuyahoga Falls, were used to purchase cleanup supplies and t-shirts for volunteers and participants. The grant helped support two separate litter and river cleanup events and educational outreach in 10 different schools impacting 600 students. Besides the poster contest, classroom outreach also included more than 50 presentations covering the importance of recycling, litter prevention and community cleanup projects. An estimated six tons of litter was collected by nearly 200 volunteers during the cleanup events.

Resources

This success story is a good example of how Ohio EPA's litter management grants can help Ohio communities implement litter collection events on public property and support education and outreach necessary to support these types of activities. The grant also supports tire amnesty programs, and the development and continuation of Keep America Beautiful communities and their efforts to prevent litter. The grants require at least a 10 percent matching investment from the applicant.

For more information about Ohio EPA's litter management grant, visit epa.ohio.gov/ocapp/Grants.aspx or contact Chet Chaney at (614) 728-0043.



Volunteers pick up litter on the riverfront during one of the event cleanup days.

Project Specifics

Location

Cuyahoga Falls
Public Utilities Customer Advocate
2310 Second Street
Cuyahoga Falls, OH 44221

Details

Two litter cleanup events/projects on public grounds, including the Cuyahoga River and its tributaries, and classroom education and outreach regarding Earth Day, litter prevention and recycling

Cost

\$5,600 (\$600 from the city and \$5,000 from Ohio EPA's litter management grant)

Environmental Impacts

Collected more than six tons of litter from public grounds and waterways

Education/Outreach Impacts

Conducted classroom education and outreach to 600 elementary students, in 10 local elementary schools, with more than 50 classroom presentations