



FROM STRATEGY TO IMPACT

Data-Driven Vacant Lot Management in Baltimore

Baltimore Data Day 2026



Data, Operations, and Community Leadership



Nichole Stewart

Department of Planning

**Assistant Director of Operations,
Data and Performance**

Treston Codrington

Department of Planning

Clean Corps Program Director

Maddy Silberger-Franek

Department of Planning

Clean Corps Program Manager

Tori Derrough

Preston 2K Block Association

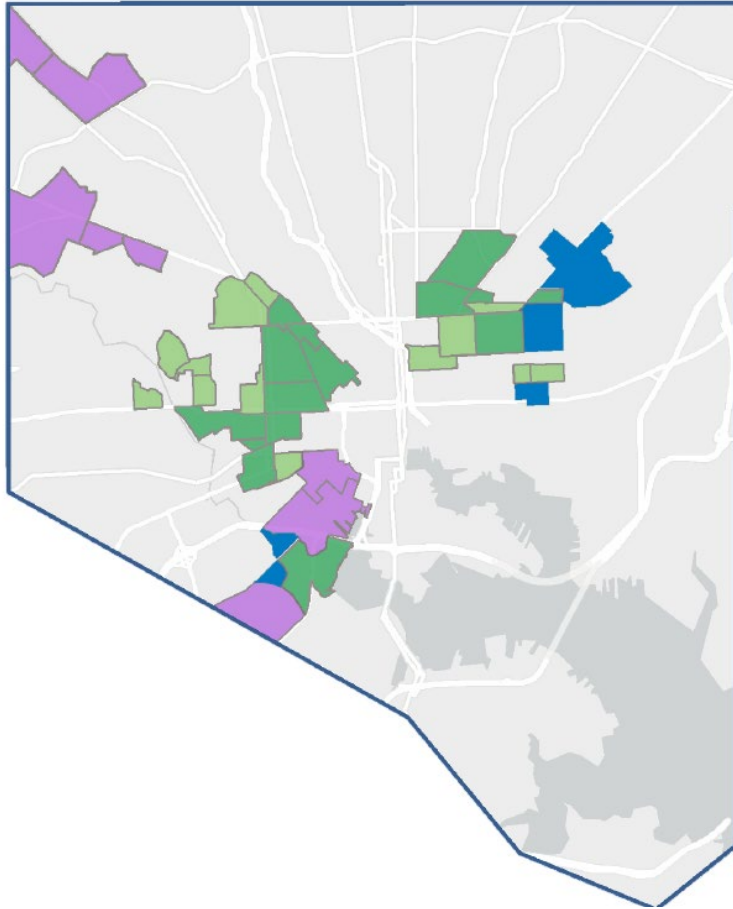
Community Leader

Dartanion Swift-Williams

Mayor's Office of Performance and Innovation

Executive Director & Chief Data Officer

PROGRAM SUMMARY



Clean Corps is a multi-agency initiative, led by the Baltimore City Department of Planning and operated in close collaboration with Baltimore-based nonprofits.

Funded primarily by the American Rescue Plan (ARPA), Clean Corps works in partnership with community leaders in 42 underinvested neighborhoods to tackle issues of illegal dumping, litter, overgrown grass and weeds across the city.

Clean Corps grantees hire under and unemployed residents to clean and maintain community-selected **vacant lots, alleys, sidewalks, tree pits, public trash cans and more** to enhance quality of life.

Over 4 years, Clean Corps has piloted a vacant lot maintenance strategy that can be a model to support the City's efforts with Baltimore City's Vacant Lot Strategy.



Clean Corps Operations

The New Culture of Clean



Example of Regional Model Service Priorities in CHM

PRIORITY #1:
PROACTIVE
SCHEDULING AND
SCOUTING

Priority #2:
Frequent 311 SR
Locations

Priority #3:
Known
Hotspots

Priority #4:
Corridors and
community assets



- Regional teams led by **Civic Works** and **Bon Secours Community Works** implement Whole Block Strategy and enhanced lot maintenance.
- DOP coordinates the partners'
 - **Proactive** maintenance schedule
 - **Reactive** community requests and 311s
 - **Preventative** initiatives such as dumpster days for block level interventions





To date, Clean Corps has...

Completed

19,240

Cleaning and mowing services on vacant lots

Completed

20,400

Alley cleanings

Completed

3,000

tree pit cleaning and weedings

Completed

330

DPW assigned work orders

Completed

10,000

street front cleanings

Removed nearly

3,000

tons of trash

Employed

241

Baltimore City residents



June 2026

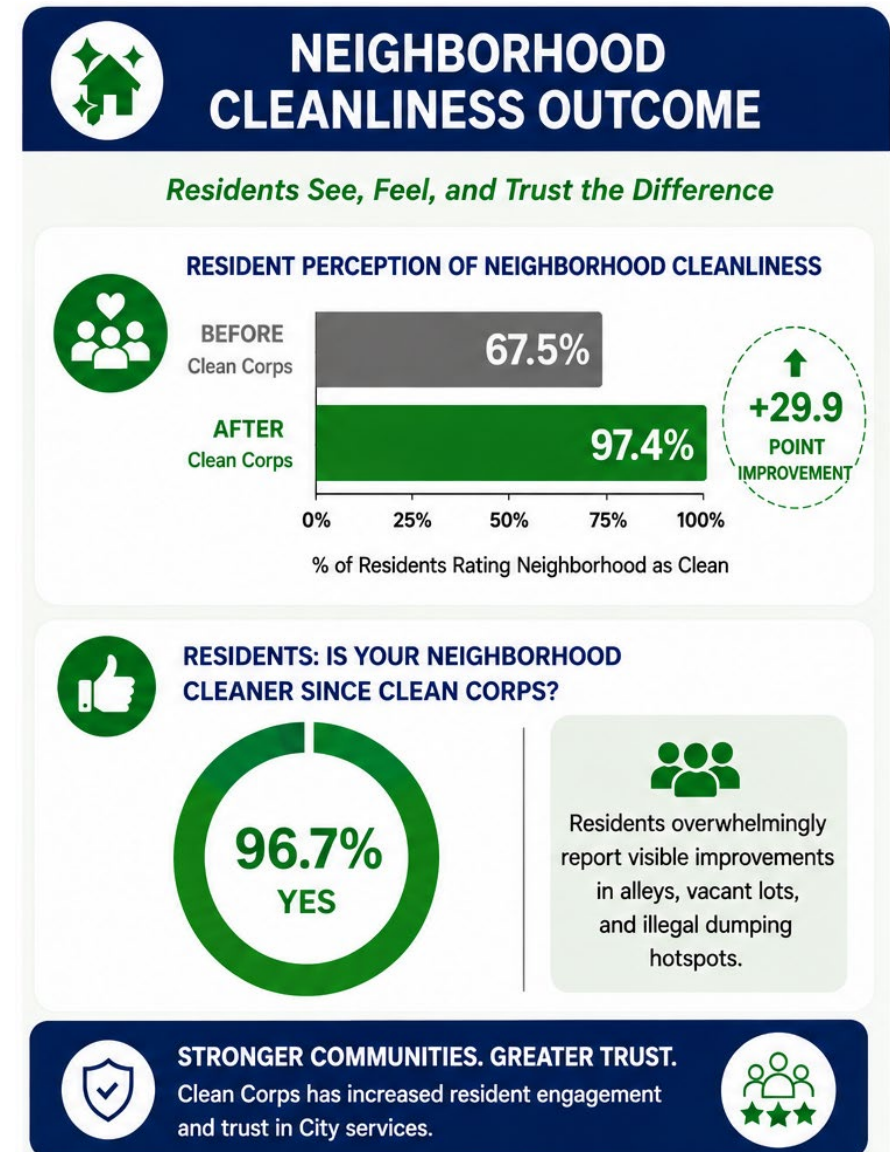
Clean Corps Impact-Resident Experience



“Clean Corps has been [instrumental in] helping our community maintain a cleaner, safer, and more welcoming environment.” **Regina Hammond, ReBuild Johnston Square**

“Clean Corps has consistently demonstrated that they are more than a service provider—they are a true community partner invested in the success and sustainability of Baltimore neighborhoods.”- **Tracy Malone, Sandtown Winchester Community Collective Corp.**

“[Clean Corps] not only improves the physical appearance of our communities, but also boosts resident morale, strengthens neighborhood pride, and demonstrates that the City and its partners are invested in the quality of life of those who call Baltimore home. **Mark Washington, CHM Community Corp.**



Source: 2026 Clean Corps Resident Survey Evaluation

Current State of Vacant Lot Maintenance



Lot Status

Lots with Recent Work

Work: ≤ 2 weeks

Work: 2-4 weeks

Work: 4-8 weeks

Work: > 8 weeks

Lots with No Work Record

City-Owned

Private

Care A Lot

Filter by Team

Clean Corps

DPW

Quick Views

Ownership

Show All

Data Summary Dashboard

Total Vacant Lots

19,865

City-Owned (MCC)

6,820

Privately-Owned

13,045

Work Status Breakdown

Lots with Work Records

6,846

Lots without Work Records

13,219

Serviced Private Lots

2,785

Work Recency (of lots with work)

≤ 2 weeks (Green)

989

2-4 weeks (Orange)

710

4-8 weeks (Red)

1,195

> 8 weeks (Dark Red)

3,772

Work by Team

Clean Corps

923

Clean Corps - Public lots

434

DPW

5,723

DPW - Public Lots

3,427

Clean Corps

42 Communities - All

8,076

42 Communities - Private

4,277

Intensive Services - All

7,465

Intensive Services - Private

3,732

Close

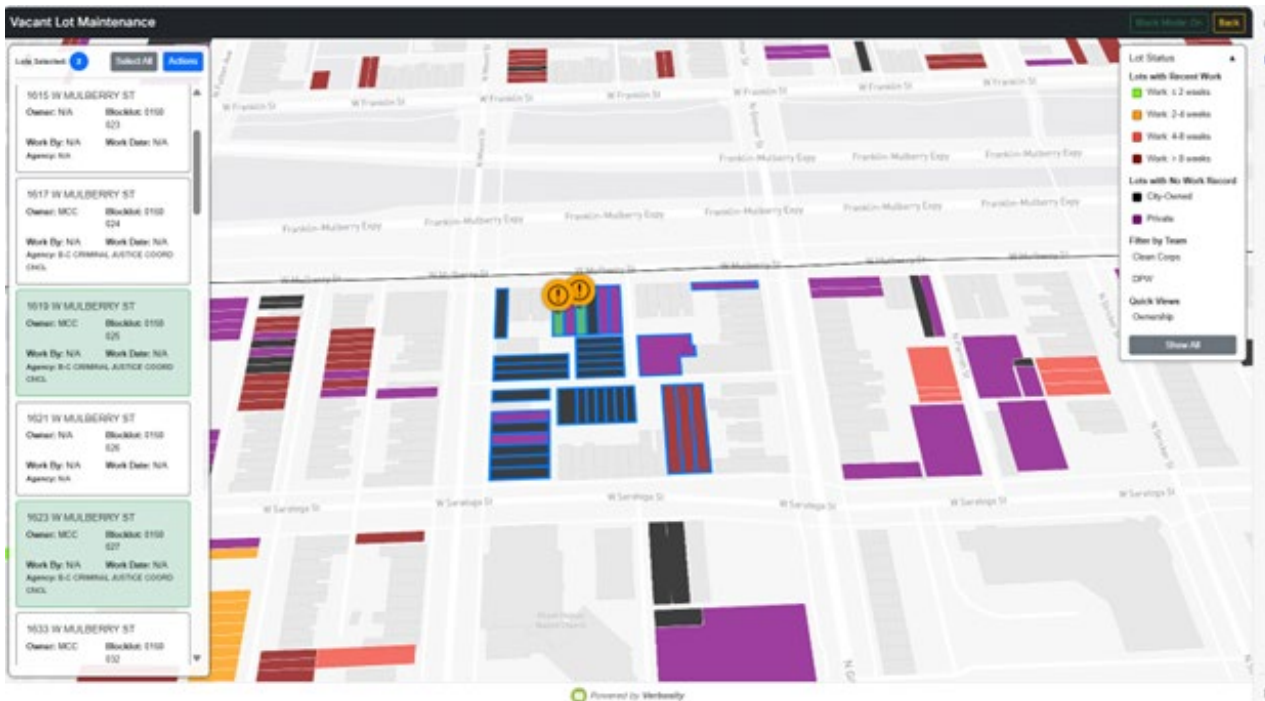


The dashboard supports deployment, validation, and accountability.

Data and Accountability



- Unified platform for real-time tracking
- Transparency across Clean Corps, agencies, and other partners
- Capability to be a source of ground-truthing of vacant lot inventory by crews.



3. Type of Maintenance

Make Your Selection

4. Reason this service could not be performed

Search here..

5. Make Your Selection

Site is a Community Greenspace (garden, farm, etc.)

Site is no longer a grassy area

Site has a standing structure on it

Site is inaccessible (fenced and locked)

6. Site has obstructions or hazards

The dashboard changes field decisions, not just reporting



WHERE

Which lots and blocks need attention?

WHEN

How long since the last verified service?

WHAT

What condition is present now?

NEXT

What route or response is most appropriate?

Data becomes useful when it shortens the distance between observation and action.

Evaluation asks whether the system changed



Capacity

Did proactive cleaning expand?

Demand

Did reactive requests change?

Coverage

Were more city-owned lots maintained?

Frequency

Were lots serviced more consistently?

Longitudinal trends, deployment waves, and comparison neighborhoods help distinguish activity from impact.

Vacant Lot Maintenance- Evaluating Capacity, Coverage, and Frequency



Why This Matters



Clean Corps has increased both the number of vacant lots receiving maintenance and the frequency of service, creating a more consistent maintenance presence in neighborhoods with the greatest need.



A Clean Corps team can service

40-60
lots per week.

This capacity allows teams to deliver regular, proactive maintenance where it's needed most.



20,000+

VACANT LOTS MAINTAINED
SINCE PROGRAM BEGAN
(March 2023 to present)



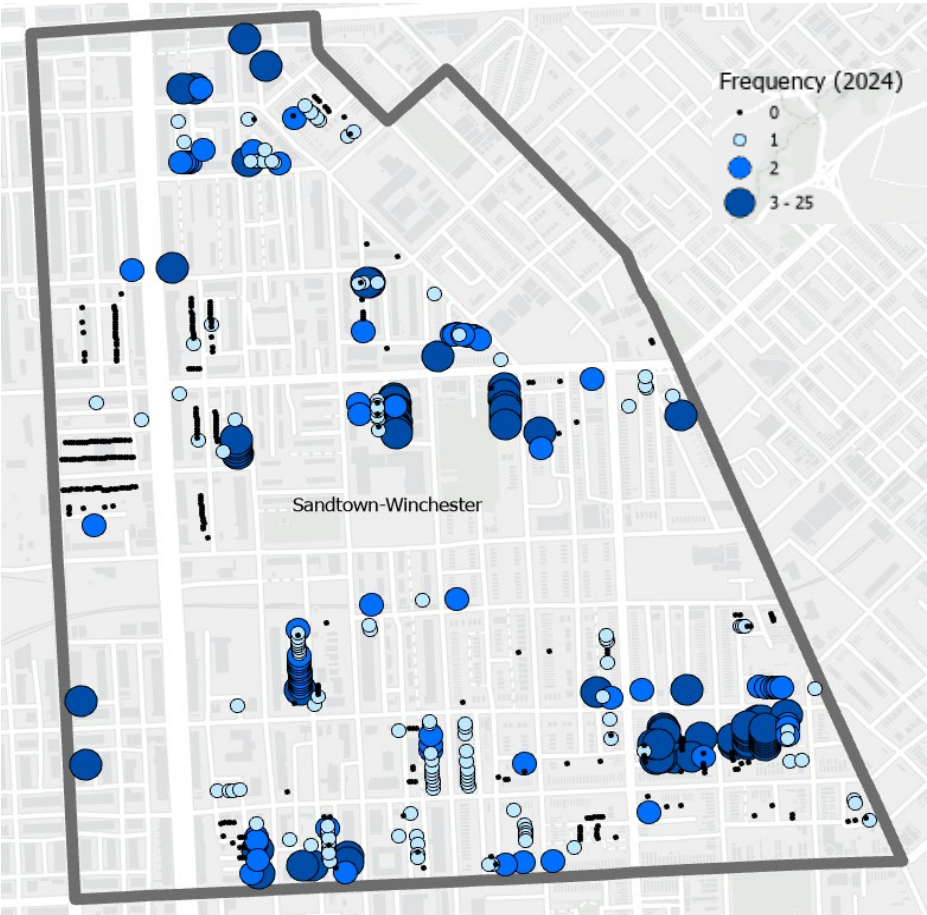
54% of all
city-owned vacant lots
are located in Clean Corps'
42 neighborhoods.

This means more than half of Baltimore's city-owned vacant lots are in the neighborhoods where Clean Corps focuses its proactive maintenance.



Lots are about
1/3
of all Clean Corps
services.

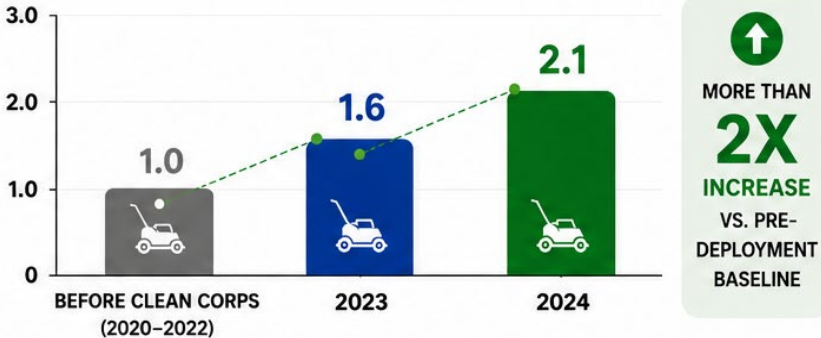
The remaining 2/3 of services support alleys, streets, trash removal, tree pits, and storm drains.



VACANT LOT MAINTENANCE IMPACT

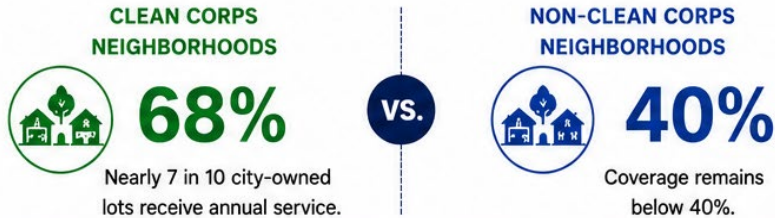
More Coverage. More Service. Better Outcomes.

AVERAGE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE TOUCHES PER CITY-OWNED VACANT LOT



Total vacant lot touches more than doubled by 2024, while DPW service levels remained stable—reflecting net new capacity, not displacement.

COVERAGE OF CITY-OWNED VACANT LOTS RECEIVING AT LEAST ONE SERVICE ANNUALLY (2024)



Clean Corps is increasing maintenance frequency and expanding coverage where it's needed most.



Clean Corps Impact-Operational Analytics



FY27 Agency
Performance
Measures



1. PROACTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY

% of City cleaning services in Clean Corps service area delivered as proactive services by Clean Corps.



2. VACANT LOT COVERAGE

% of **high-priority** City-owned vacant lots in Clean Corps service areas receiving at least one cleaning/mowing service.

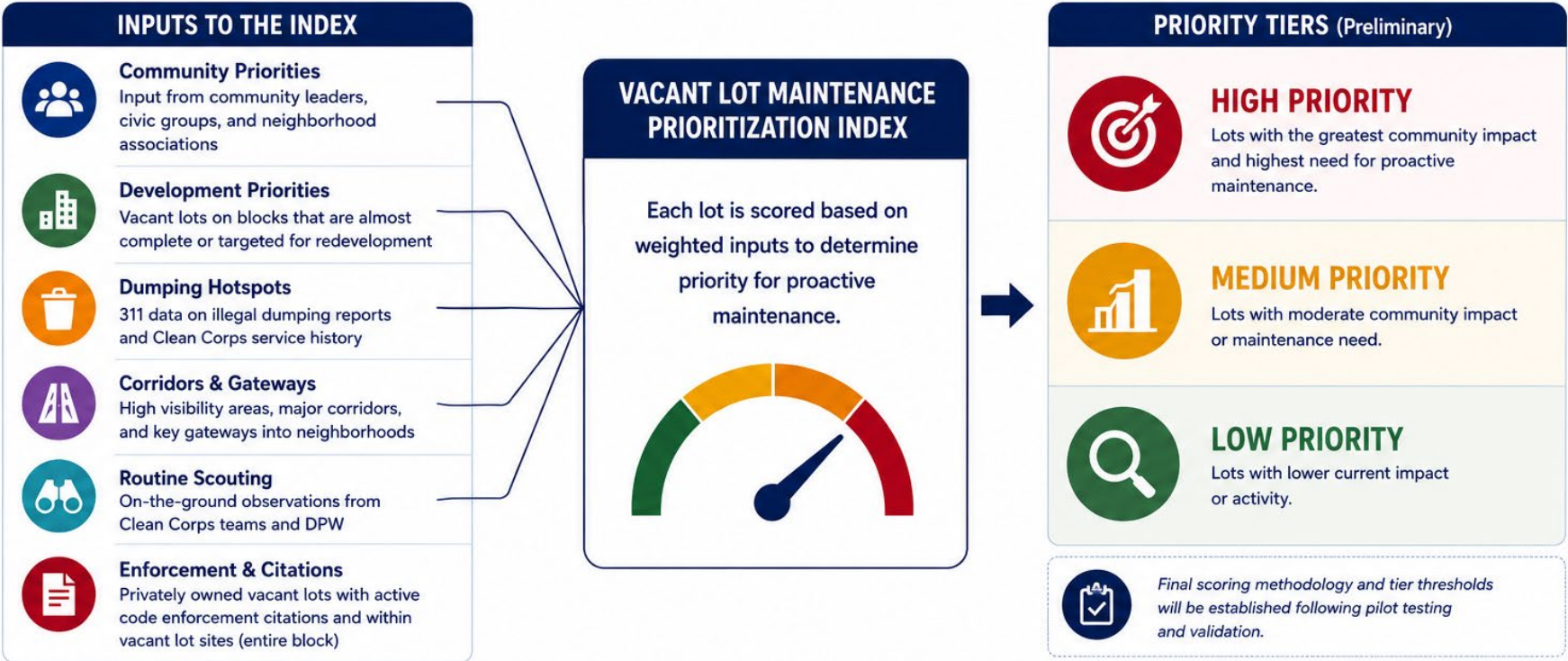


Vacant Lot Maintenance-Prioritization



VACANT LOT MAINTENANCE PRIORITIZATION INDEX

Data-driven. Community-informed. Focused where it matters most.



How can Baltimore combine operational data, resident knowledge, and evaluation evidence to make better vacant-land investments?

HOW THIS INDEX WILL INFORM SERVICE PLANNING

The index produces a prioritized list of lots (High, Medium, Low). In the next step, we will use this prioritization—along with our annual service capacity—to determine how resources are allocated across priority tiers to maximize community benefit.

WHY THIS MATTERS: Using a transparent, data-informed index ensures we invest resources where they deliver the greatest community benefit—improving safety, reducing blight, and advancing redevelopment.

FY27 PERFORMANCE MEASURE:
80% of High Priority lots receive at least one annual service.

Prevention begins by investing in resident leadership



01

IDENTIFY

Residents already improving their blocks

02

BUILD

Capacity through information, tools, and resources

03

GROW

Resident-driven stewardship over time

Maintenance stabilizes a place; stewardship helps sustain it.

P2K Block Association

Transforming a dumping spot into the Preston 2K garden



RESIDENT-LED TRANSFORMATION

- Reclaimed a site used for illegal dumping
- Created a productive, cared-for community space
- Matched local leadership with partnerships, resources and sustained support

Data identified the condition. Resident leadership created the future use.

Enhancing resident-led cleanup efforts



Invest in our service area neighborhoods and build the capacity of residents and community partners to address issues of trash, overgrowth and illegal dumping in their neighborhoods.

Education and Workshops

- Equipment maintenance workshop
- Community Champions Workshop
- School service learning (100+ Students)

Preventative Pilots

- Walkthroughs
- Canvassing (30+ trashcans provided)
- Increased code enforcement

Grants

- Clean Community Challenge
 - Inspired by AFRO Clean Block
- Block Captain Boost
- 76 projects funded



Clean Corps Preventative Strategy



- Identify residents who are actively working to improve their neighborhoods.
- Increase their capacity over time through sharing information and resources.
- Encourage the growth of resident-driven efforts.



Forest Park High School builds the next generation of stewardship



01 CAREER DAY

Introduce pathways

02 SERVICE LEARNING

Practice neighborhood stewardship

03 GRANT

Support a student-led project

Case Study: Forest Park High School



Career day



Service-learning day



Clean Community Challenge grant



Prevention becomes durable when young people can see—and shape—the system around them.



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor



Thank You!!

Questions?