



Prepared By
FNA Staff,
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Trash Talk - Tackling Litter in the Riverwards

All of your questions about trash, recycling, and beautification efforts in Fishtown...answered!

What can I do to reduce litter *before* it becomes a problem?

The number one thing we can do to reduce litter in our neighborhood is to reduce the length of time public waste is on the streets and ensure it is properly secured in the meantime. This means:

- Making sure trash bags are fully tied
- Not adding to overflowing public trashcans or placing litter in private receptacles
- Having closed recycle bins or placing cardboard items atop smaller recyclables to secure them
- Keeping personal trash (especially dog waste!) on your person until you find an appropriate place to dispose
- Keeping up-to-date on any trash collection day changes for upcoming holidays

How do I find out if trash and recycling pick-up is delayed this week?

The Streets Department is responsible for scheduling and picking up trash across the city, and posts changes to scheduled pick-ups on [its website](#). This site also lists the options for disposing of larger items that the streets department will not pick up on their regular rounds.

How do I report dumping, graffiti, and other nuisances?

Philly 311 can help address a variety of problems, including missed trash picked up, illegal dumping, graffiti, and much more. Issues can be reported by phone (just dial 3-1-1), the [Philly 311 website](#), or the smartphone app – you will get real time updates on the resolution status of your complaint.

I love the fish head trashcans! How do I get one on my block?

We're glad you're loving them! **Fishtown Business Improvement District** manages the program to install fish head trashcans, and you can request one via [this form](#).

I want to organize a clean-up in my neighborhood. How do I get started?

You can get started by checking out this [Community Cleanup Resource Guide](#) from [Keep Philadelphia Beautiful](#).

If you're interested in organizing a clean-up on your block, the Streets Department's Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee (PMBC) can help you [become a Block Captain](#).

I'm not ready to organize a clean-up, but I'd like to participate in one! What organizations do clean-ups?

There's quite a few options in the Riverwards!

- **Fishtown Neighbors Association** (that's us!) hosts occasional community clean-ups, mostly during spring and fall. Follow our social media accounts and subscribe to our monthly newsletter to find out when the next one is happening.
- Local neighborhood associations like the **Olde Richmond Civic Association (ORCA)** and **East Kensington Neighbors Association (EKNA)** often host clean-ups as well, if you want to volunteer.
- **United by Blue (UBB)** is a certified B Corporation founded in Philadelphia that removes one pound of trash from our world's oceans and waterways for every product sold. To date, UBB has hosted more than 200 cleanups around the waterways of Philadelphia and beyond. You can get involved by taking part in one of their [regular hosted clean-ups](#), or submit a suggestion for a clean-up site.
- [Love Your Park](#) hosts citywide celebrations on the second Saturday of May and November, and shares ongoing volunteer opportunities in parks across Philadelphia on their website.
- [Philly Spring Clean Up](#) is Philadelphia's largest city-wide, single-day clean-up event to kick off the spring season.
- Neighborhood parks like [Konrad Square](#), [Palmer Park](#), and [Penn Treaty Park](#) host regular clean-ups. Palmer Park has clean-ups every Saturday.