

TRUMPING THE DUMPING: ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION IN ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK

SUBMITTED AS PART OF ZOOL509 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
PROJECT TEAM: SOPHIE JOHNSTON, DILAN SUNTHARESWARAN, AND MELISSA PLATSKO

ILLEGAL DUMPING (THE LARGE-SCALE DISPOSAL OF WASTE IN UNAUTHORISED AREAS) IN ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK IS A CONSISTENT, ONGOING, AND SEVERE ISSUE. THERE HAVE BEEN 889 DUMPING INCIDENTS RECORDED FROM JUNE 2020 TO APRIL 2023 WITH HOUSEHOLD WASTE AS THE MOST COMMONLY DUMPED ITEM. ILLEGAL DUMPING DAMAGES VARIOUS ECOSYSTEMS, PRODUCES FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCE STRAIN, AND NEGATIVELY IMPACTS VISITOR EXPERIENCE.

THE NUMBER OF ILLEGAL DUMPING EVENTS ROSE CONSIDERABLY WITH THE ONSET OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND HAS REMAINED CONSISTENTLY HIGH. WITH WORLDWIDE CLOSURES AND LOCKDOWN, RNUP FACED A HIGH INFLUX OF VISITORS DESPITE CLOSURE OF VISITOR SERVICES. THE BOOM IN PARK VISITORS INCREASED WASTE LEFT BEHIND AT THE PARK INCLUDING SMALL-SCALE LITTER AND FACE MASKS.

BARRIERS TO PROPER WASTE DISPOSAL

SYSTEMIC CAUSES OF ILLEGAL DUMPING IN TORONTO AND THE SURROUNDING REGION PERSIST DUE TO CURRENT WASTE MANAGEMENT PROTOCOLS AND PROGRAMS. THESE CAUSES INCLUDE A LIMITED PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE OF PROPER WASTE DISPOSAL, LIMITED RESOURCES FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF ILLEGAL DUMPING BYLAWS, LIMITED ACCESS TO WASTE DROP-OFF SITES, AND FINANCIAL BARRIERS TO PROPERLY DISPOSE OF WASTE.

WHERE DOES ILLEGAL DUMPING OCCUR IN THE PARK?

DUMPING CAN OCCUR ANYWHERE WITHIN AND ALONG THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PARK, BUT MOST DUMPING HOTSPOTS ARE BUSY PARKING LOTS AND ROADSIDE PULL-OFFS FOR VEHICLES TO TURN AROUND, STOP, OR ACCESS AGRICULTURAL LANDS. MOST DUMPING OCCURS IN SECLUDED LOCATIONS THAT LACK SIGNAGE INDICATING PARK PROPERTY AND FINES ASSOCIATED WITH ILLEGAL DUMPING.

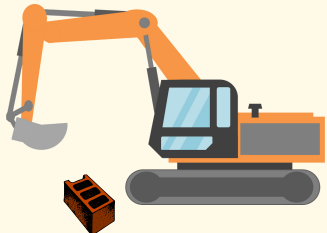
ILLEGAL DUMPING PREVENTION ACROSS THE GLOBE

HOW DO OTHER PARKS AND URBAN GREENSPACES ADDRESS ILLEGAL DUMPING?



VANCOUVER, CANADA

AN INTERVIEW WITH A PARK RANGER FROM VANCOUVER, BC, HIGHLIGHTED THE SEVERITY OF ILLEGAL DUMPING IN THEIR URBAN PARKS. VANCOUVER IS CURRENTLY COMBATING ILLEGAL DUMPING BY DEPLOYING MORE WASTE RECEPTACLES THROUGHOUT THE CITY AND EXPLORING A LARGE WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS TO ADDRESS THE “REAL ISSUE AROUND RESPONSIBILITY” OF PERSONAL WASTE LEFT IN PARKS.



BRAZIL

A STUDY ON CONSTRUCTION AND DEMOLITION WASTE ACROSS OVER 1200 SITES IN BRAZIL REVEALED MOST ILLEGALLY DUMPED WASTE IS RECYCLABLE. LONG-TERM MONITORING OF WASTE TYPE, COMPOSITION, AND AMOUNT ALONGSIDE PROPER MANAGEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL COULD HELP IDENTIFY PREVENTION STRATEGIES WHILST A RECYCLABILITY ASSESSMENT COULD PROMOTE THE DIVERSION OF WASTE FROM LANDFILLS TO RECYCLING PLANTS.



POLAND

OJCOW NATIONAL PARK EXPERIENCES ILLEGAL DUMPING WITHIN AND ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE PARK, PARTICULARLY CLOSE TO ROADSIDES. ONE STUDY SUGGESTS ENHANCING THE ECOLOGICAL AWARENESS OF LOCAL PEOPLE (VIA EDUCATIONAL AND YOUTH PROGRAMS) AND IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND CONSISTENCY OF DUMPING SITE DATA USING COMMUNITY SCIENCE ARE THE BEST METHODS TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING.

PREVENTING DUMPING IN ROUGE NATIONAL URBAN PARK

MOVING FORWARD, SEVERAL STRATEGIES SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED TO PREVENT ILLEGAL DUMPING IN RNUP:

- IMPROVING THE QUALITY AND ABUNDANCE OF SIGNS THAT INDICATE PARK PROPERTY AND FINES ASSOCIATED WITH DUMPING
- FILLING IN ROADSIDE PULL-OFFS WITH GREENERY AND INFRASTRUCTURE
- PROMOTING AWARENESS OF THE CULTURAL AND ECOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE OF RNUP THROUGH PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND COMMUNITY SCIENCE

