Building Climate Resilience of Urban Waters, Ecosystems, and Communities

Biannual Report of findings from Manzanita Canyon for Local Decision Makers
May - November 2016

The community cares!

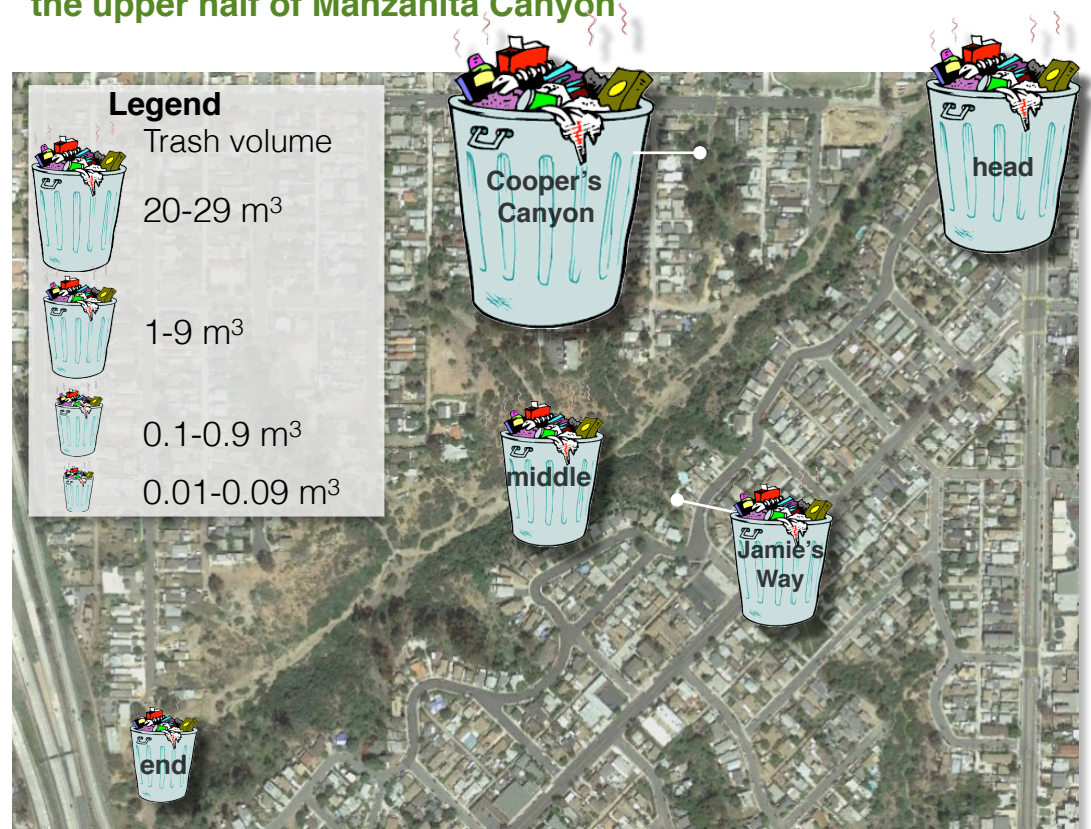## 60 dumpsters full of trash & weeds were removed!

43.1 m³ (4,004 kg) of **trash** & **88.5 m³** (5,673 kg) of **nonnative plants** were removed from Manzanita Canyon.

- **463 volunteer** kids & adults cleaned Manzanita Canyon over these 6 months totaling 1,389 hours.
- **51% of volunteers** live in City Heights.
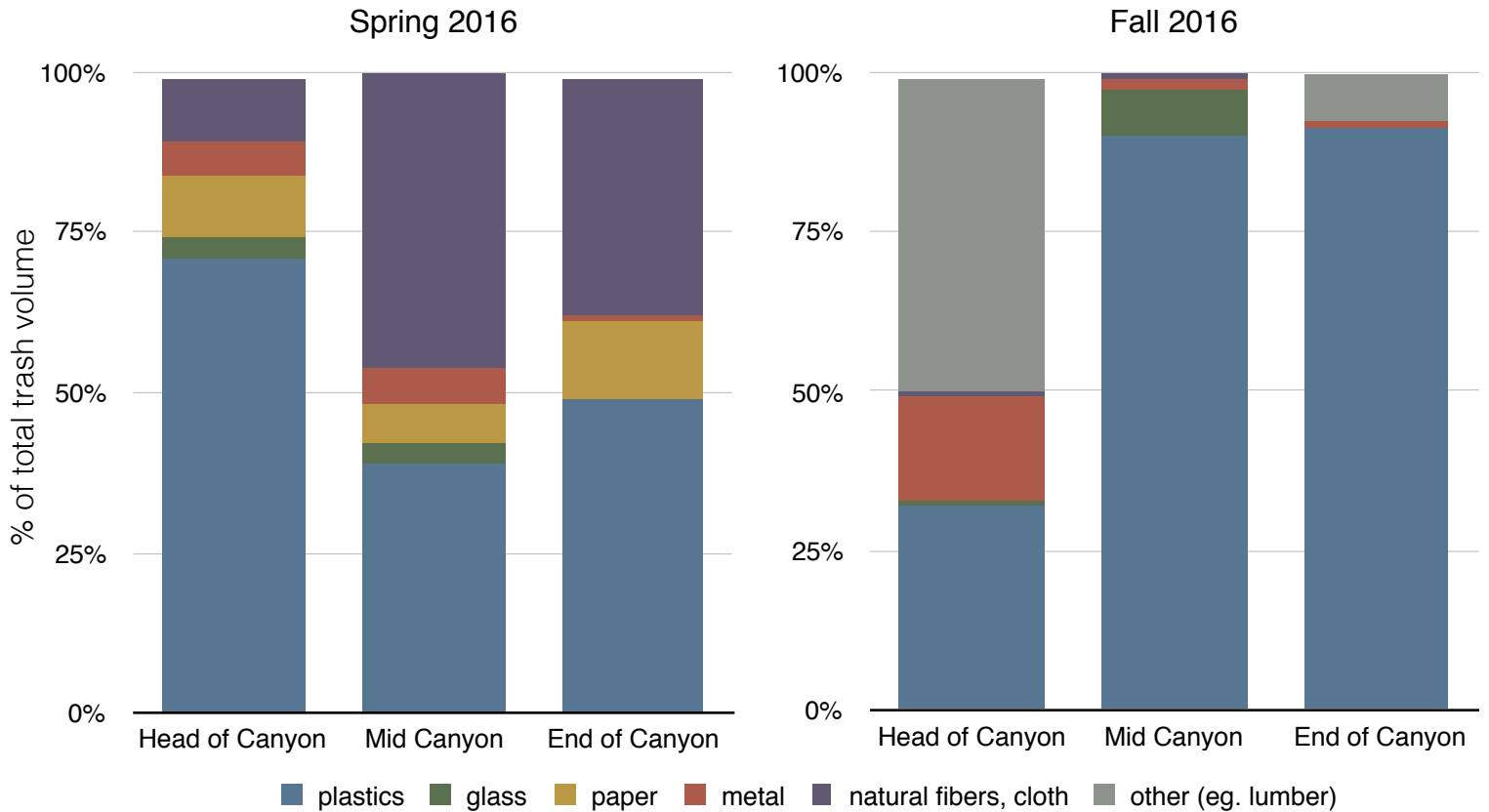- **11 organizations** hosted volunteers, including school clubs, nonprofits, & faith-based groups.

Illegal dumping, homeless camps, & storm drain inputs contribute to trash problems in the upper half of Manzanita Canyon

In May (Spring) and September (Fall) 2016, cleanup efforts were conducted at the head, middle, and downstream end of the canyon (average values shown), and at one side canyon (Jamie's Way in Spring, Cooper's Canyon in Fall). Meso (≤1 m length) and macro (>1 m length) trash were collected and totaled here.

Total trash weights corresponded with volume and ranged from 7±4 kg (Avg±1SE) at the end to 2,132 kg at Cooper's Canyon due to Illegally dumped auto engines and furniture. Furniture, including mattresses, were common macro trash items at the head, while debris from homeless camps filled Jaime's Way and spilled down to the middle of the canyon.

Legend
Trash volume

20-29 m³

1-9 m³

0.1-0.9 m³

0.01-0.09 m³

Cooper's Canyon

head

middle

Jamie's Way

end

Plastics packaging & bags are the most common trash in Manzanita Canyon

Spring 2016

Fall 2016

% of total trash volume

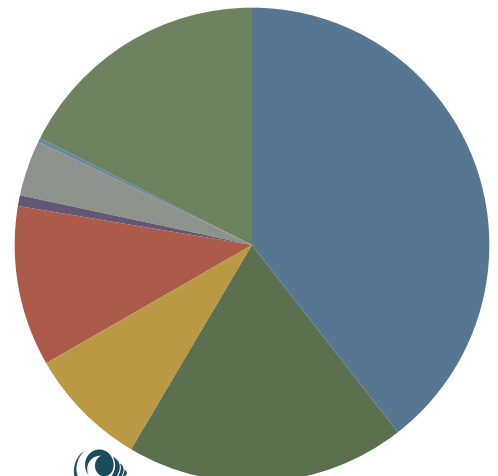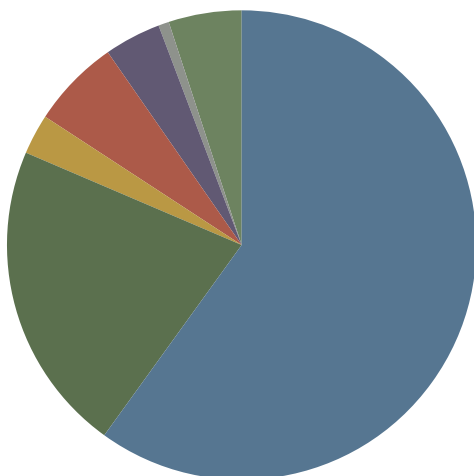■ plastics ■ glass ■ paper ■ metal ■ natural fibers, cloth ■ other (eg. lumber)

Mesotrash (≤1m in length) was collected at the head, middle, and downstream end of the Canyon during the Spring and Fall and sorted into categories (see above). Plastics were then sorted into finer categories (see below).

Plastics dominated most sites, although natural fibers/cloth was common at the middle and end of the canyon in Spring, and pieces of lumber were common at the head of the canyon in Fall.

Pieces of bags, wrappers, and packaging were the most common plastic items found in both Spring and Fall. Single use food containers were also common.

Spring 2016 plastics by type

● bags, wrappers, & packaging
● single use food containers
● cigarettes & smoking related
● household items
● personal care items
● sports & outdoor gear
● construction & automotive
● fragments & pieces

Fall 2016 plastics by type