



**The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources identified hundreds of illegal dumpsites on Pennsylvania's** state park and state forest lands. The sites primarily contained household wastes, such as appliances, bottles and cans, furniture, household hazardous waste, materials from remodeling projects, and tires. DCNR employees were spending thousands of hours picking up trash from hillsides, waterways, and along roadsides.

In 1998, the Pennsylvania General Assembly enacted the Forest Lands Beautification Act (Act 125), signed by Governor Ridge. The Act allowed DCNR to partner with the non-profit organization PA CleanWays, Inc., to design and implement a program to clean up the illegal dumpsites and to initiate ways to abate future dumping.

The PA CleanWays approach coincided with DCNR's mission and resulted in a tremendously positive partnership. Through the efforts of DCNR, PA Cleanways, Inc., the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, Professional Recyclers of Pennsylvania, and local volunteers, the state's parks and forests are being returned to their natural beauty.



Department of Conservation and Natural Resources  
717-783-7941  
[www.dcnr.state.pa.us](http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us)



PA CleanWays, Inc.  
724-836-4121  
[www.pacleanways.org](http://www.pacleanways.org)







Pennsylvania's forests are our wooded refuge, offering paths to behold nature's beauty, places to find adventure, and peaceful sites in which to relax and share time with family and friends.





Our forests filter  
our air and water,  
produce valuable  
timber, and  
protect native  
plants and  
wildlife...



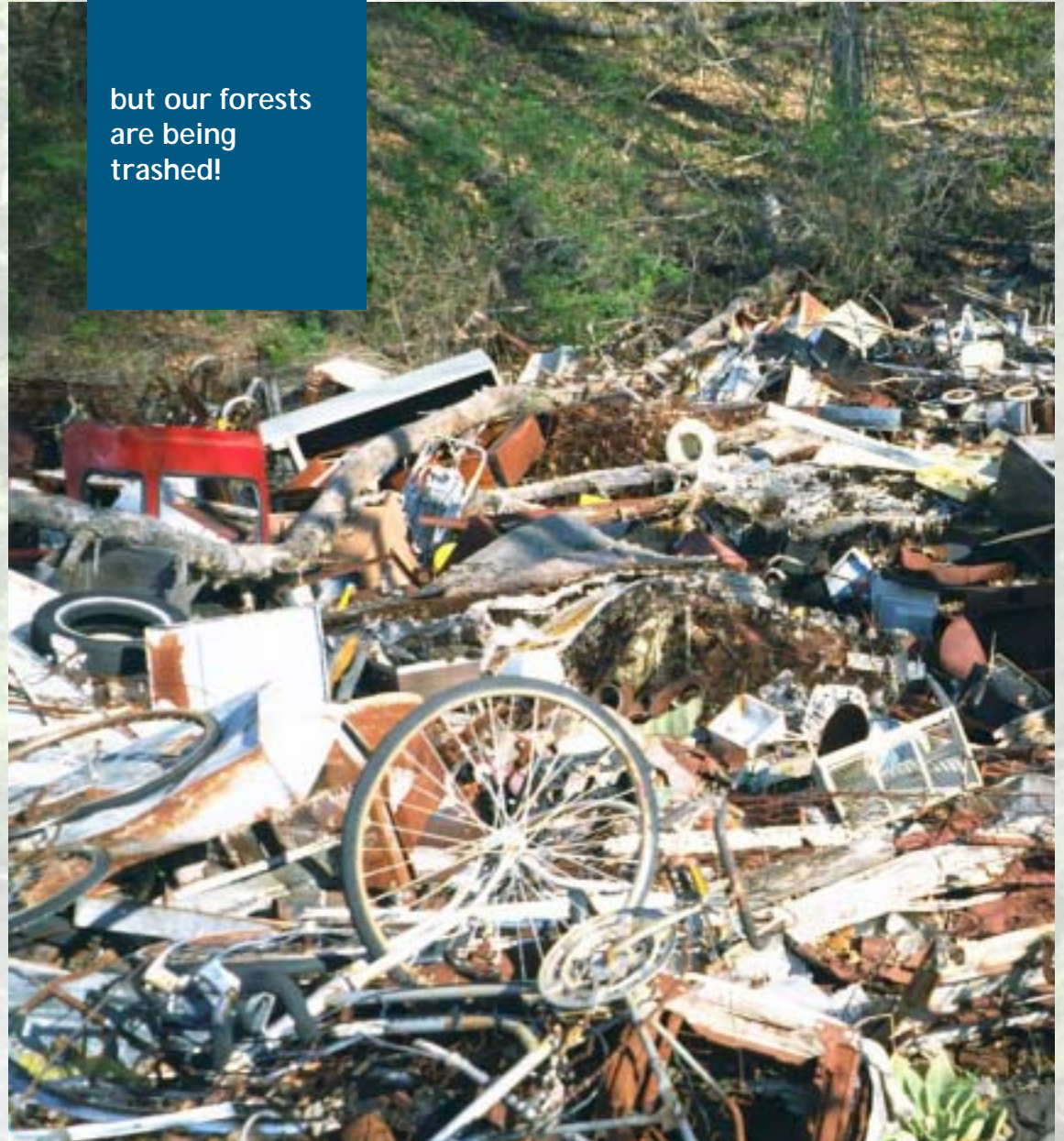




*"When you're out hiking or hunting and run across trash, it makes you sick to look at it. Somebody has to pick it up and dispose of it because it will never go away."*  
John Sheaffer  
Volunteer Monitor

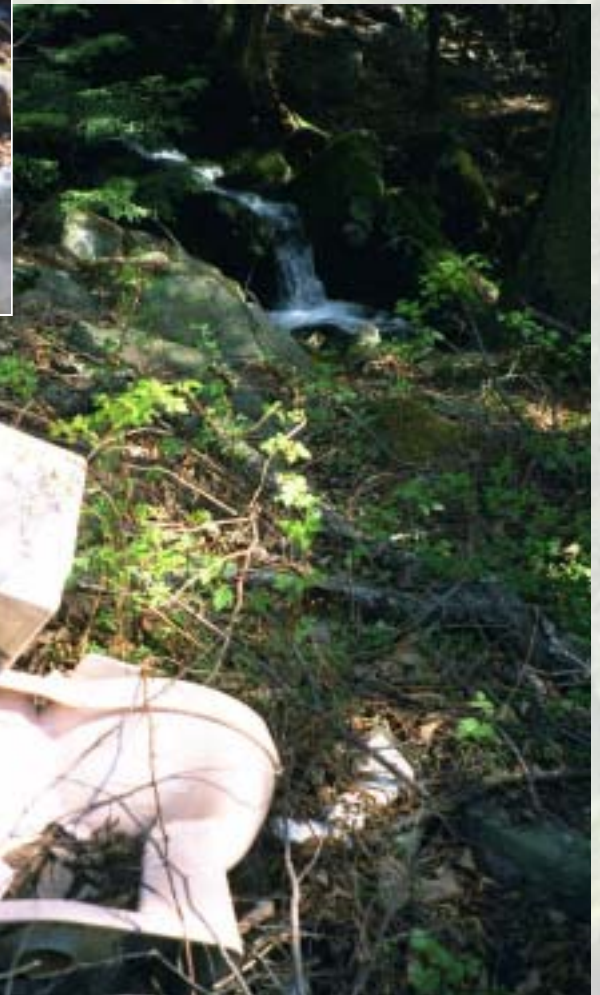


but our forests  
are being  
trashed!





Large, bulky items (mattresses, furniture) are found in the highest percentage of the sites, followed by tires, appliances, construction and remodeling materials, daily trash, yard wastes (grass, shrubbery), and vehicle parts.







The Department of Conservation and Natural Resources formed a strategic partnership with PA CleanWays to evaluate dumpsites, to form community volunteer teams to help remove debris, and to reclaim the sites.

Volunteers helped retrieve over 30,000 tires...

There is a direct correlation between available solid waste services – or lack of them – and the type of trash dumped.

*PROFESSIONAL RECYCLERS OF PENNSYLVANIA (PROP) 2001 SURVEY*





and removed  
over 3,400 tons  
of household  
trash from road-  
sides and forests.



Illegally dumped trash  
pollutes ground and  
surface waters, diminishes  
the beauty of our lands  
and communities, is a  
hazard to people and  
wildlife, helps spread  
disease, decreases  
property values, attracts  
other crime, and drains  
resources.





Hard-working teams salvaged over 500 tons of scrap metal to be recycled. . .



The safety of volunteers was of utmost concern to PA CleanWays because illegal dumpsites often included steep slopes, rocky terrain, rattlesnake habitats, broken glass, rusted metal, animal carcasses, layered and buried trash, unstable footing, heavy and bulky items, and busy roadways.



and collected over  
145 tons of furni-  
ture and wood.



*"I grew up in Penn's  
Woods and just loved it.  
But when I tried to share  
that experience with my  
children, we came  
across illegal dumpsites  
and litter in the forest!  
I became a cleanup  
volunteer because this is  
a way of giving back to  
the community - and it's  
very satisfying."  
Sylvia Hardman,  
Volunteer*





Contractors helped to recover more than 660 tons of concrete.





Through the Forest Lands Beautification Program, trails and roadways were cleaned.





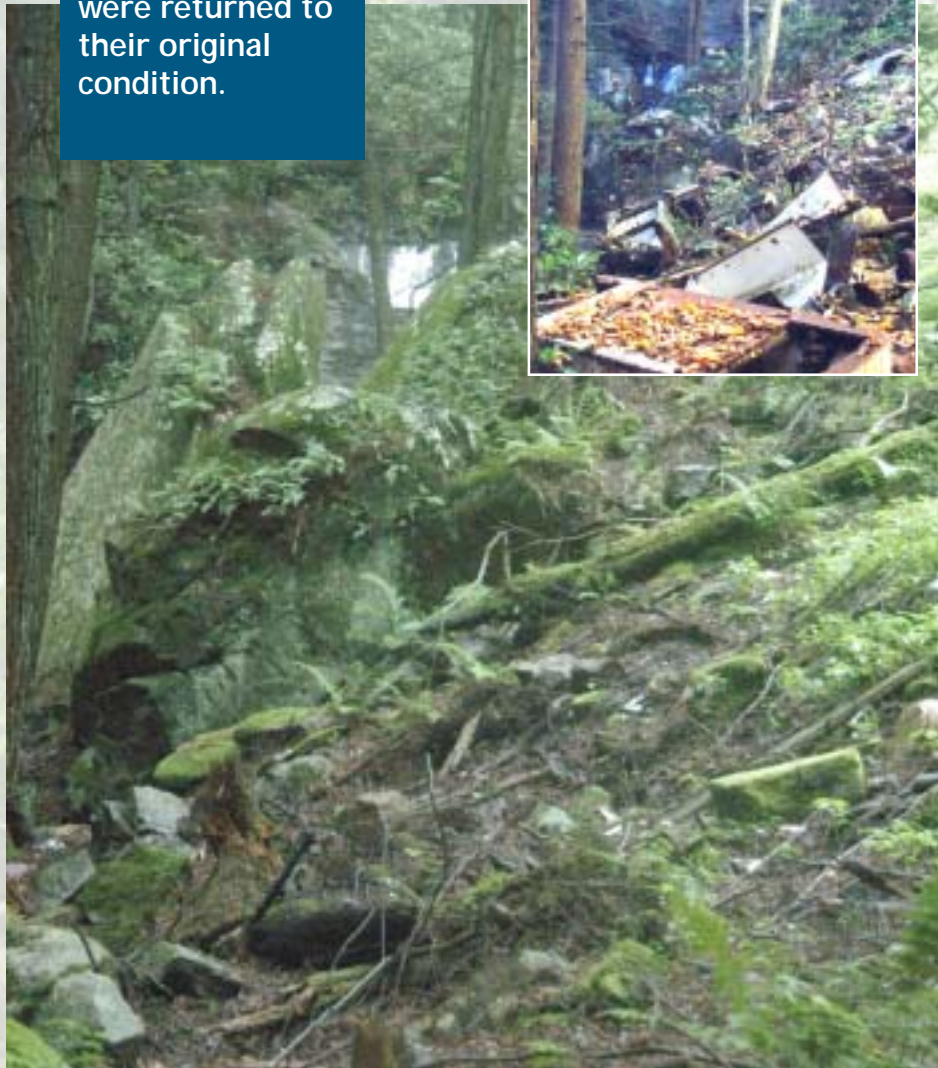
Hillsides and  
vistas. . .

Visitors remember the trash,  
not the vista.





streams, wetlands,  
and waterfalls,  
were returned to  
their original  
condition.





Natural habitats  
were restored.



Rocks, signs, gates, soil berms, and  
fences were erected at some of the  
cleaned sites to protect them from  
future dumping.





The Forest Lands Beautification Program worked to rid the state's public lands of illegally dumped trash...

to inform and educate residents about proper disposal and recycling options...

to prosecute offenders...

and to form partnerships to help combat the problem.



*"People are aware we have surveillance cameras, which makes them think twice before they dump their trash in our forests."*  
Gary Zimmerman  
Asst. District Forester  
Michaux State Forest



Involving local people in solving community issues is critical to ending the cycle of illegal dumping and, at the same time, empowering them to assume a greater stewardship role.



Cleaning up the dumpsites has made it easier to identify dumpers and prosecute them.





Volunteers are key to keeping areas cleaned across the state.







2,518 volunteers worked for a combined 11,221 hours to clean Pennsylvania's state parks and forests.





Working together we can put an end to illegal dumping.

It takes involvement at all levels.



When people have to pay for regular trash removal, they're less likely to dump their trash.



*"One of our local townships pays the garbage hauling fees directly—residents pay a little more in taxes, but there are no problems with dumping in that area."  
District Forester*



Stronger laws,  
local ordinances,  
and proper  
disposal options  
need to be put  
in place to deter  
future dumping.



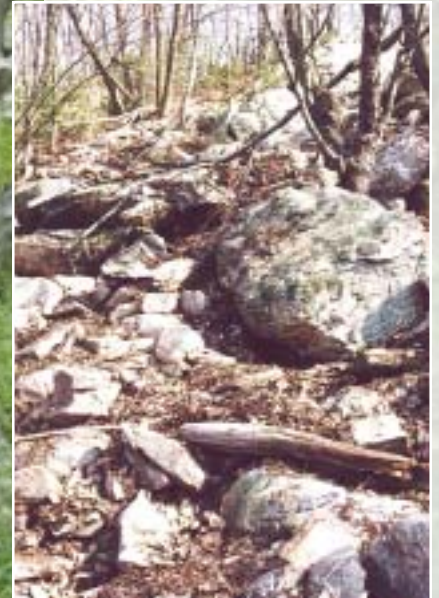
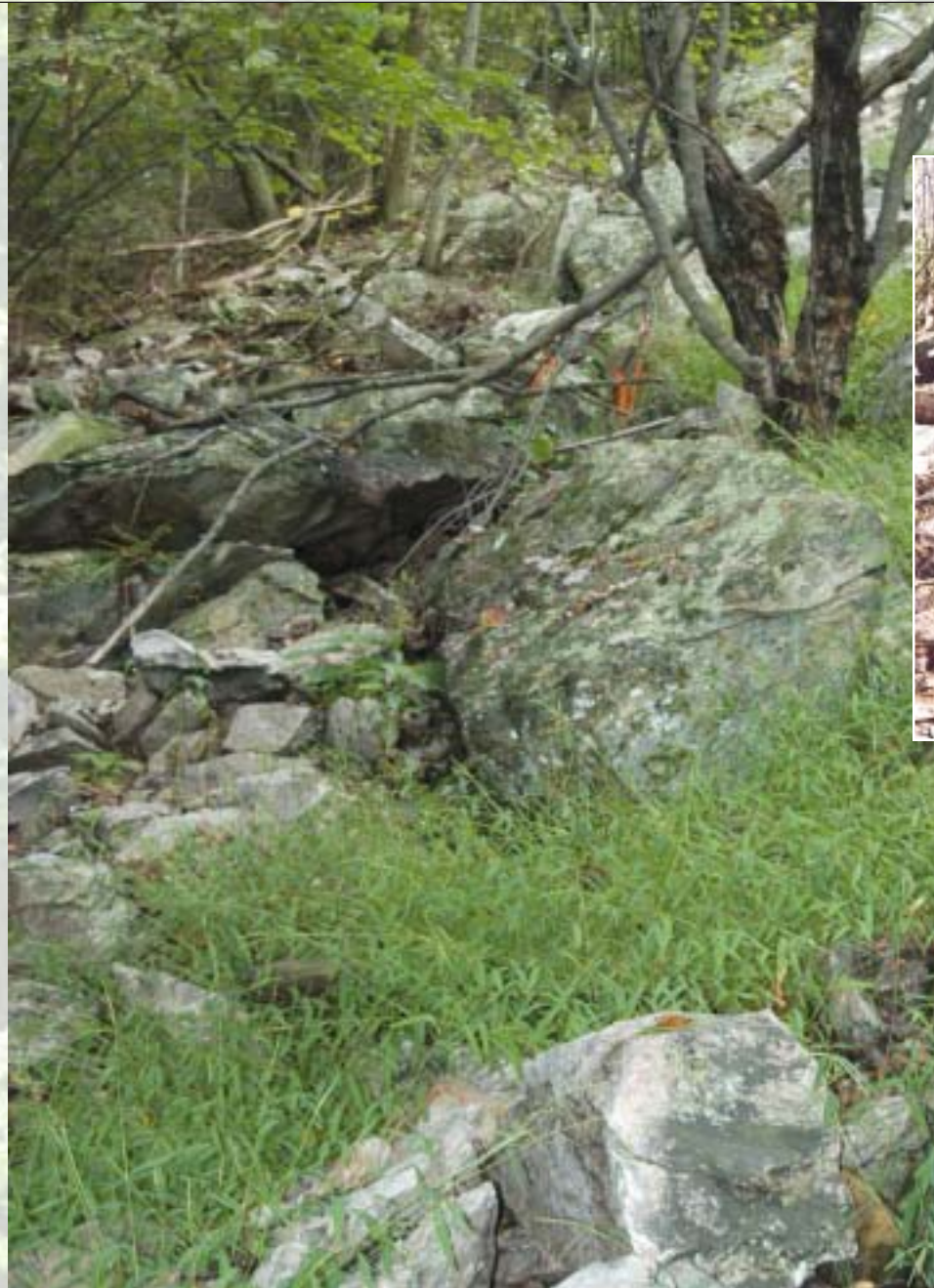


By combining  
our time, our  
energy, and our  
resources, we  
can make a real  
difference in  
removing the  
trash. . .





eliminating  
illegal  
dumping. . .



*"We're saving hundreds of thousands of dollars just at our park by actively discouraging dumping."*  
State Park Manager





It costs an average of \$850 per ton to clean up illegally dumped trash – more than ten times the cost of proper disposal in most municipalities.



*"This is another example of what can be accomplished when state government teams up with a non-profit group to bring about positive change."*  
Kevin Fazzini  
Manager,  
State Park Region 4






and returning  
Pennsylvania's  
forests to their  
natural state.







*"I've been around a long time  
and I've seen a multitude of  
programs. This is the most  
successful...it works!"  
Park Manager*









Trash, by its nature, is a man-made phenomenon.