

Community Focus Statement D: Preserve the unique natural environment.

Action Statements D.3: Establish targeted clean-ups within less urbanized/forest areas at least two times per year.

D3

Benchmark: Partnership established between youth groups, nonprofits, and local businesses to host at least two cleanup events per year

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$4,000 per event



Through volunteer programs, the National Children's Forest provides opportunities for youth to take a leadership role in forest management and environmental stewardship. Photo source: Southern California Mountains Foundation

In mountainous communities like the Hilltop communities, it is often difficult to control the buildup of trash and maintain the communities' natural beauty. In order to maintain and clean up the physical community, a partnership could be created that consists of interested member businesses, associations (primarily those focused on nature preservation or outdoor recreation), and individuals who would have the most impact in the continued care and cleanliness in the Hilltop communities. This partnership could host a fundraiser to gather needed funds for targeted forested areas. These funds could cover cleanup supplies, trail restoration, trash and debris removal, and forest maintenance. The communities could also partner with appropriate local businesses to supply transportation vehicles, trash receptacles, equipment, tools, gloves, snacks, and refreshments.

This partnership or beautification committee could work with youth groups (for example, Boy/Girl Scouts, the Rim Communities for Youth Coalition, or the Mountain High Care Club) and/or nonprofits (for example, the Southern California Mountains Foundation Children's Forest) dedicated to trail restoration or outdoor recreation at least two times a year. These cleanup events would be organized and publicized by the beautification committee and could be organized to occur on national days of service such as National Trails Day. Additionally, to make the cleanup day events easily accessible to all Hilltop communities residents, the events would be scheduled in different areas of the communities.

Action	Action Leader	Timeline	Resources
1. Create a partnership of businesses, associations, and individuals to create a community beautification committee.	Champion	Month 1	How to Organize a Successful Cleanup http://www.cleanforests.org/aaf-guide-success
2. Select an adult leader to serve as chair who would provide leadership and champion the committee. Identify youth leaders to serve as coordinators.	Community beautification committee	Month 2	San Bernardino Solid Waste Management Department http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/SolidWasteManagement/ReductionRecycling.aspx
3. Identify forest areas within the Hilltop communities that could benefit from a targeted cleanup.	Community beautification committee	Month 3	ROTWEWS, Forest Festival Hits the Trails http://rotwnews.com/2013/05/31/forest-festival-hits-the-trails/
4. Coordinate with the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Works Solid Waste Management program.	Coordinate beautification committee	Month 3	
5. Host a fundraiser to gather funds for cleanup activities.	Community beautification committee	Biannually, on-going	Southern California Mountains Foundation, The National Children's Forest http://www.mountainsfoundation.org/programs/children-s-forest
6. Partner with local businesses to supply transportation vehicles, trash receptacles, equipment, tools, gloves, snacks, and refreshments.	Community beautification committee, with support from local businesses	On-going	
7. Select dates for community cleanups, and have youth coordinators publicize and market the events.	Community beautification committee	Months 3 – 4	Building Communities Through Committees http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Building_Communities_Through_Committees
8. Host cleanups. Track participation at each event, and note which events attract the most participants and sponsors. Be sure to thank volunteers and publicize sponsors as a thank you.	Community beautification committee	Biannually, on-going	Waste management education posters http://www.stopwaste.org/resource-library/type/posters Clean Trails http://cleantrails.org/ Trail Cleanup Hikes https://hikeitbaby.com/giving-back-trail-clean-up-hikes/



Commerce could partner with other groups including the nonprofit organization Rebuilding Together Mountain Communities, which provides labor services to property owners for improvements and trash removal. Funding could be provided by the County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), which is administered by the San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency's Community Development Division.

The Chamber of Commerce could also consider offering financial assistance to full-time residents for residential properties. Improving the appearance of the residential neighborhoods will have a number of positive and immediate benefits, such as beautifying the area, raising property values, enhancing the sense of community pride, and increasing public safety. A common tool is the creation of a matching revolving loan program for residential buildings to help private property owners complete rehabilitation projects that alleviate blight and enhance building safety. Examples of common projects include bringing buildings up to code or replacing a deteriorating foundation or roof.