



MAYOR  
**WILLIAM R. WILD**



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For Immediate Release  
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## Westland "Feet on the Street" Program Helps Residents Clean Up Recycling Efforts

**Westland, MI – (September 21, 2022)** The City of Westland, with the support of grant funding from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and technical assistance from The Recycling Partnership, recently performed an eight week curbside audit of residents recycling bins to determine if residents were recycling the proper materials and to determine the level of contamination. After the initial audit, educational materials, social media posts and tagging stickers were utilized to assure residents understand the city's recycling guidelines.

"The "Feet on the Street" plan went into action with volunteers observing the contents of recycling bins over an eight week period, four times per home. If items were found in the bins that were not recycled under the city's program or contaminated, a sticker was placed on the bin for the resident to know what they could do to improve their recyclable materials, " remarked Mayor William R. Wild.

The program proved to be very successful. 917 contaminated bins were identified in the first sweep, and the number decreased to 274 in the final sweep. Throughout the program 617,292 individual bins were viewed between May and July. The city also audited the combined material at the Recycling Center in Southfield at the beginning of the program and the conclusion. The results shows an original contamination rate of 34% and a drop to 23% at the end of the program.

From a historical perspective, since the city's curbside recycling program was launched in July of 2009, residents have recycled over 105 million pounds to date (52,735 tons). In response to changing market conditions, the City temporarily suspended the curbside recycling program February of 2019 and was reinstated in July of 2020. The city had 145.3 tons of contaminated materials rejected at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) in the first month. The last delivery month indicated a dramatic reduction to only 4.7 tons of contaminated material rejected. Cleaner loads mean a cleaner earth and increased revenue to enhance the program.

"We were very pleased with the results of our "Feet on the Street Program", and just as importantly, it gives us tangible data to focus our education efforts to continue lowering our contamination rate and raise our participation rate in our Recycling Program," stated Westland Mayor, William R. Wild.



For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at (734) 467-3200

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The City of Westland, Michigan's 10<sup>th</sup> largest city, has a population of more than 85,000 residents and is located in western Wayne County; just minutes from downtown Detroit, 2 airports and major freeways. The City of Westland's Executive Branch is led by full-time Mayor William R. Wild, who was just re-elected to serve a four-year term in 2022. First elected in 2007, Mayor Wild is the City's longest serving Mayor. The Legislative Branch consists of seven City Council members.