Trash Service for the Homeless

Presented by Luca Szabo and Chris Brokate of Clean River Alliance

History of Clean River Alliance

- Founded by Chris Brokate in December 2014
  - Wanted to clean up the Russian River after seeing effects of heavy rain bringing trash downstream
- Organizes trash cleanups, teaches homeless clean camp habits, and operates the homeless trash program in Guerneville, Santa Rosa, Healdsburg, Cloverdale, Hopland, and now Ukiah
- “Clean camps=clean river. Positively engaging the homeless leads to behavior changes and accountability, evictions will not change behavior.”
- Hundreds of thousands of pounds of trash

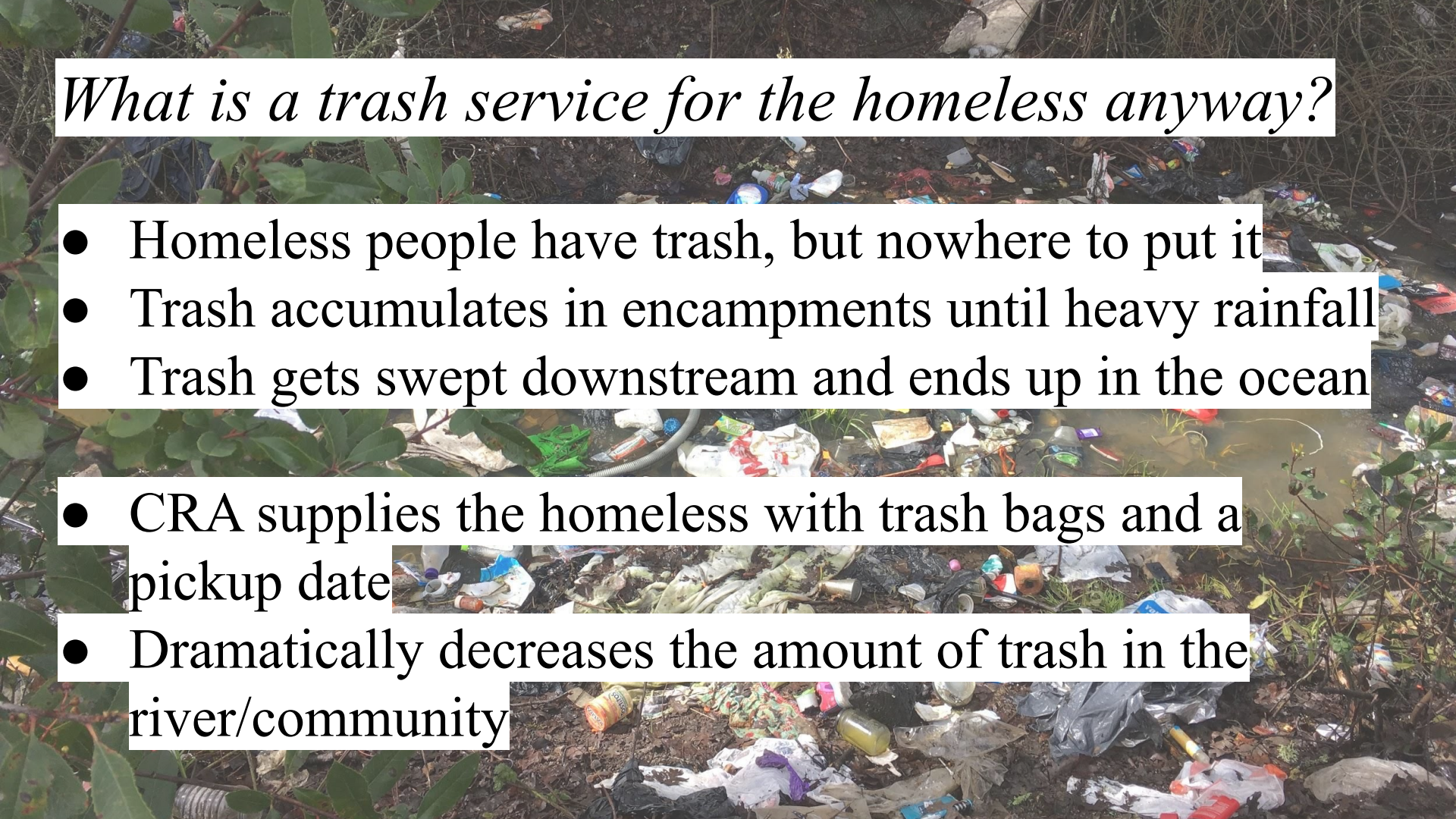
https://cleanriveralliance.org/

CRA Mission:
To remove trash from the Russian River watershed and to educate citizens about the problem of trash in our waters by creating more public clean-up events.

Why This Project?

- Senior Project for high school
- Living in Ukiah
  - We see the homeless problem every day
  - We see environmental degradation, littering, etc.
- Luca's childhood experience with homelessness

Clean River
ALLIANCE
Russian River



What is a trash service for the homeless anyway?

- Homeless people have trash, but nowhere to put it
- Trash accumulates in encampments until heavy rainfall
- Trash gets swept downstream and ends up in the ocean

- CRA supplies the homeless with trash bags and a pickup date
- Dramatically decreases the amount of trash in the river/community

Black Oak Meetups

- Meetings with Chris Brokate, Mayor Maureen Mulheren, Deborah Edelman, Chris Ostrom, Salvador Rico, a journalist from the Ukiah Daily Journal
  - Planning for what to do, who to contact, etc

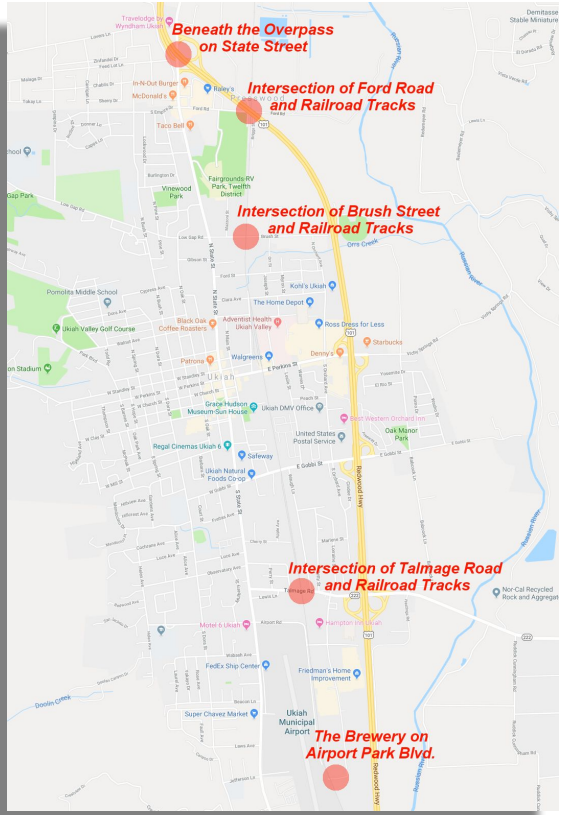
Orange trash bags

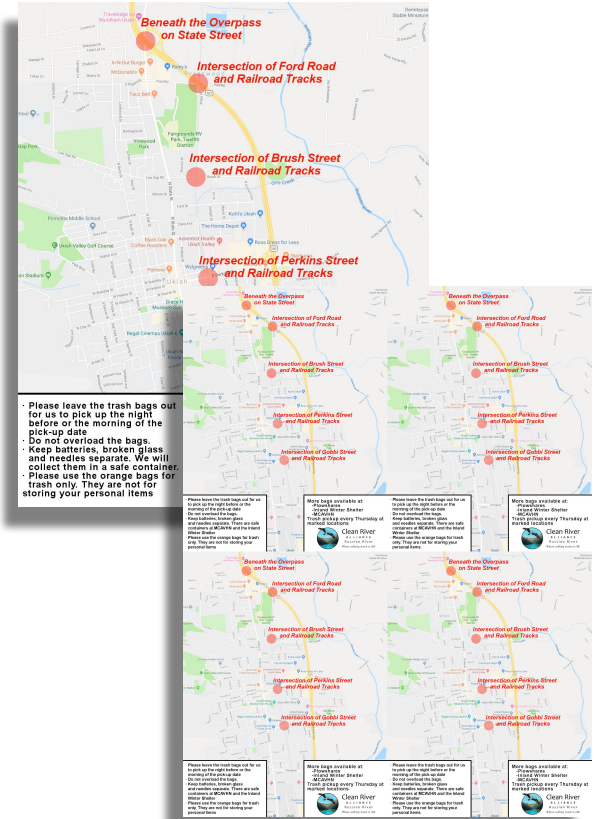
- Our way of differentiating between our bags and random trash bags
- Bright orange and labelled
- Brought with maps to Mcavhn, Inland Winter Shelter, and Plowshares
- Over 200+ bags have been given out

Packing and labelling trash bags

Finding bags in Ukiah

Map of Pickup Locations + Info





Luca and Chris Recon

Ours to protect
Orr Creek

CROSS ROAD