



Situated between 61st Street and the Schuylkill waterfront, this growing mound of dirt can be seen from miles away.



Several waste and recycling businesses are located on prime redevelopment parcels.

Waste & Recycling Business Zoning

The Southwest Economic Conference will initiate efforts to address the increasing presence of waste and recycling businesses in Southwest Philadelphia. Residents, businesses, and non-profits have expressed concern about the location of these businesses within the community. Specific activities will include:

- 1. Review, update and enforce zoning.** Through a thorough inventory process and zoning code check for each waste and recycling business, the Southwest Economic Conference will examine the placement of existing waste and recycling businesses in relation to the predominant nature of surrounding land uses. Zoning for undeveloped or under-developed tracts of land in or near residential and commercial areas and along the Schuylkill River waterfront should be changed to prohibit the addition of more recycling businesses.
- 2. Encourage designation of waste and recycling business zone.** Based on findings from the zoning review, the Southwest Economic Conference will engage local area politicians in an effort to encourage the Philadelphia City Planning Commission to undertake the process of designating an area within Southwest Philadelphia for the location of waste and recycling business activity. This zone will be located in a non-residential area away from valuable waterfront development sites.
- 3. Establish screening and signage guidelines.** The Southwest Economic Conference will encourage the City Planning Commission to establish screening and signage guidelines to improve the appearance of existing waste and recycling businesses. Business owners will be encouraged through community pressure and City Licenses & Inspection enforcement to participate in the proposed screening and signage program.



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In large part, Southwest Philadelphia is characterized by the inappropriate location of recycling and waste facilities throughout the community. The BFI transfer station at 58th and Woodland Avenue draws dump trucks through residential blocks. American Waste Services and the City of Philadelphia Recycling Station adjacent to Historic Bartram's Garden limit potential waterfront development. Delaware Valley Recycling on the Schuylkill waterfront at S. 61st Street features a rapidly growing hill of dirt and trash that is visible from miles around. Available land, permissive zoning uses, and proximity to area highways have made Southwest Philadelphia a desirable location for waste and recycling businesses. While these businesses are an essential component of the City's waste handling infrastructure, their placement within the community and appearance should be planned and controlled to limit their cumulative negative effect.

A designated industrial zone for the location of recycling and waste facilities will improve the appearance and quality of life in Southwest Philadelphia. A Southwest Philadelphia zoning review and update will examine the location of existing waste and recycling facilities and prohibit the establishment of additional facilities within Southwest's residential neighborhoods and on prime redevelopment sites. Existing businesses will be more attractively screened in order to minimize their negative impact on the surrounding community.

The Southwest Economic Conference will encourage City agencies to undertake appropriate Waste & Recycling Business Zoning Initiative actions including the zoning review, designation of a waste and recycling zone, and establishment and enforcement of screening and signage guidelines.



A waste facility located on 58th Street, just off Woodland Avenue, draws heavy truck traffic through the surrounding residential neighborhoods and commercial district.