The Research Bureau

Bell Hill Fall 2006 ComNET Review

Independent Research in the Public Interest
www.wrrb.org

What is ComNET?

Computerized Neighborhood Environment Tracking

A systematic process to record the physical conditions in your neighborhood that may require attention.

What's changed since ComNET began?

- Citywide, more than 12,700 problem conditions documented since 2001
  - 57 surveys in 13 neighborhoods
- Seven out of 10 (69%) of previously documented problems have been resolved
- City and community use data to identify and quantify problems
- Developed proactive approaches to dealing with problems- something gets done

What Types of Conditions are Tracked?

Abandoned buildings

Boarded/broken windows

Clogged catchbasins

Faded crosswalk lines

Broken curbs

Overflowing dumpsters

Graffiti

Lampposts- bulb out

Litter

Illegal dumping

Crumbling sidewalks

Sidewalk trip hazards

Uneven/crumbling roads

Potholes

Street sign- missing

Street- patching uneven

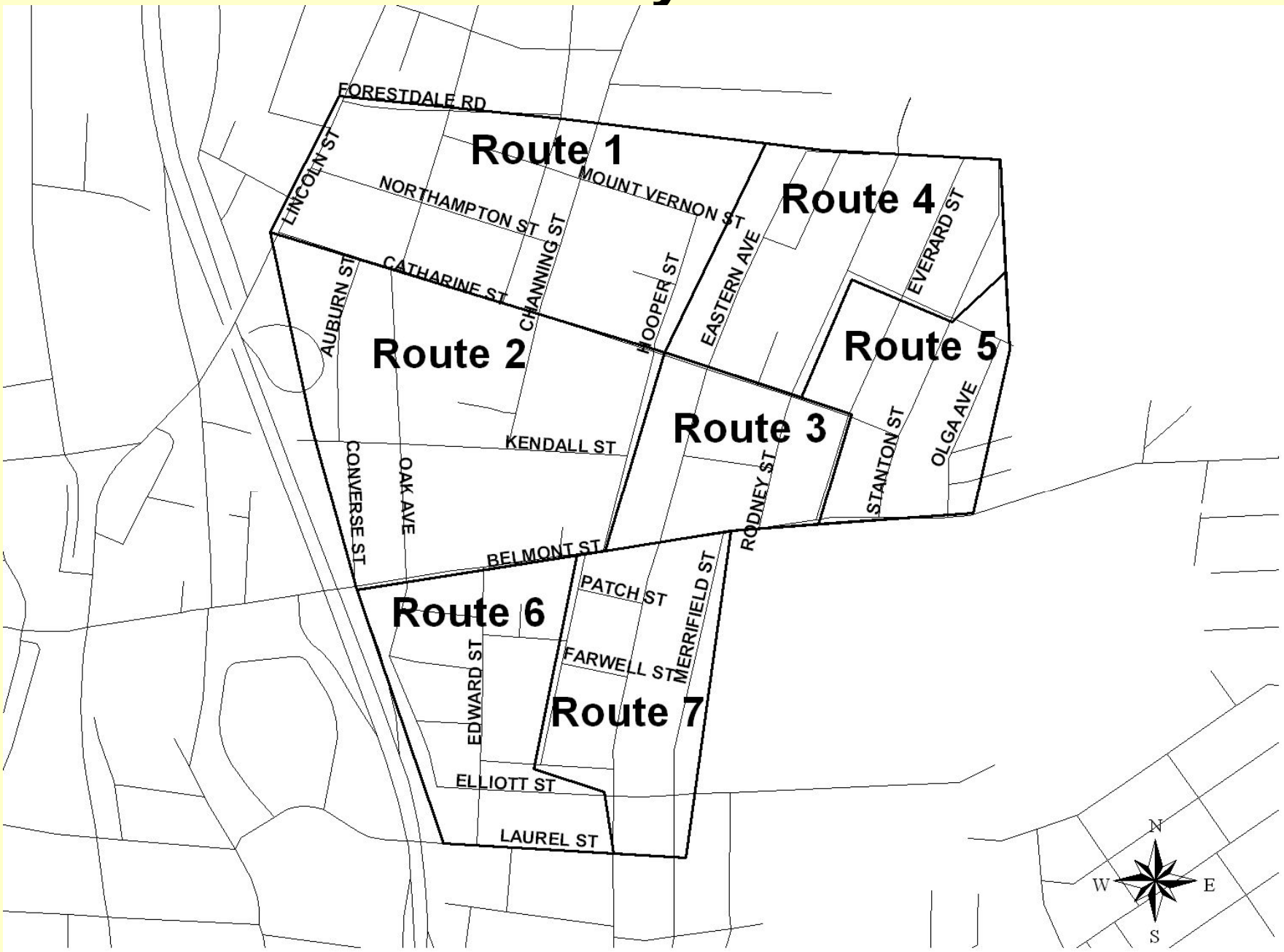
Dead trees

Utility covers missing

Overgrown vegetation

Abandoned & unregistered vehicles

Survey Area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LINCOLN ST
Route 1
NORTHAMPTON ST
MOUNT VERNON ST
Route 4
CATHARINE ST
CHANNING ST
HOOPER ST
EASTERN AVE
EVERARD ST
AUBURN ST
Route 2
Route 5
Route 3
KENDALL ST
STANTON ST
OLGA AVE
CONVERSE ST
OAK AVE
RODNEY ST
BELMONT ST
PATCH ST
MERRIFIELD ST
Route 6
FARWELL ST
EDWARD ST
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ELLIOTT ST
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ComNET Results: Bell Hill

- Initial survey conducted in 2001
- Surveys track status of previously identified problems as well as noting new problems
- Follow-up surveys conducted in 2002, 2003, 2005, & 2006

Bell Hill Overall Results

- 1,734 problem conditions have been identified since 2001
- Half (50%) of all problems were street and sidewalk issues
- Problems are grouped according to whose responsibility it is to address the issue
  - 50% of the problems identified are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works + Parks
  - 30% of problems are “community issues”

Bell Hill Overall Results Cont'd

- **About 3/4 (1,017) of previously identified problems have been resolved**
  - **186 Sites with litter**
  - **148 Sites with overgrown weeds/vegetation**
  - **54 Dumping sites**
  - **80 Trip hazards**
  - **46 Abandoned vehicles**

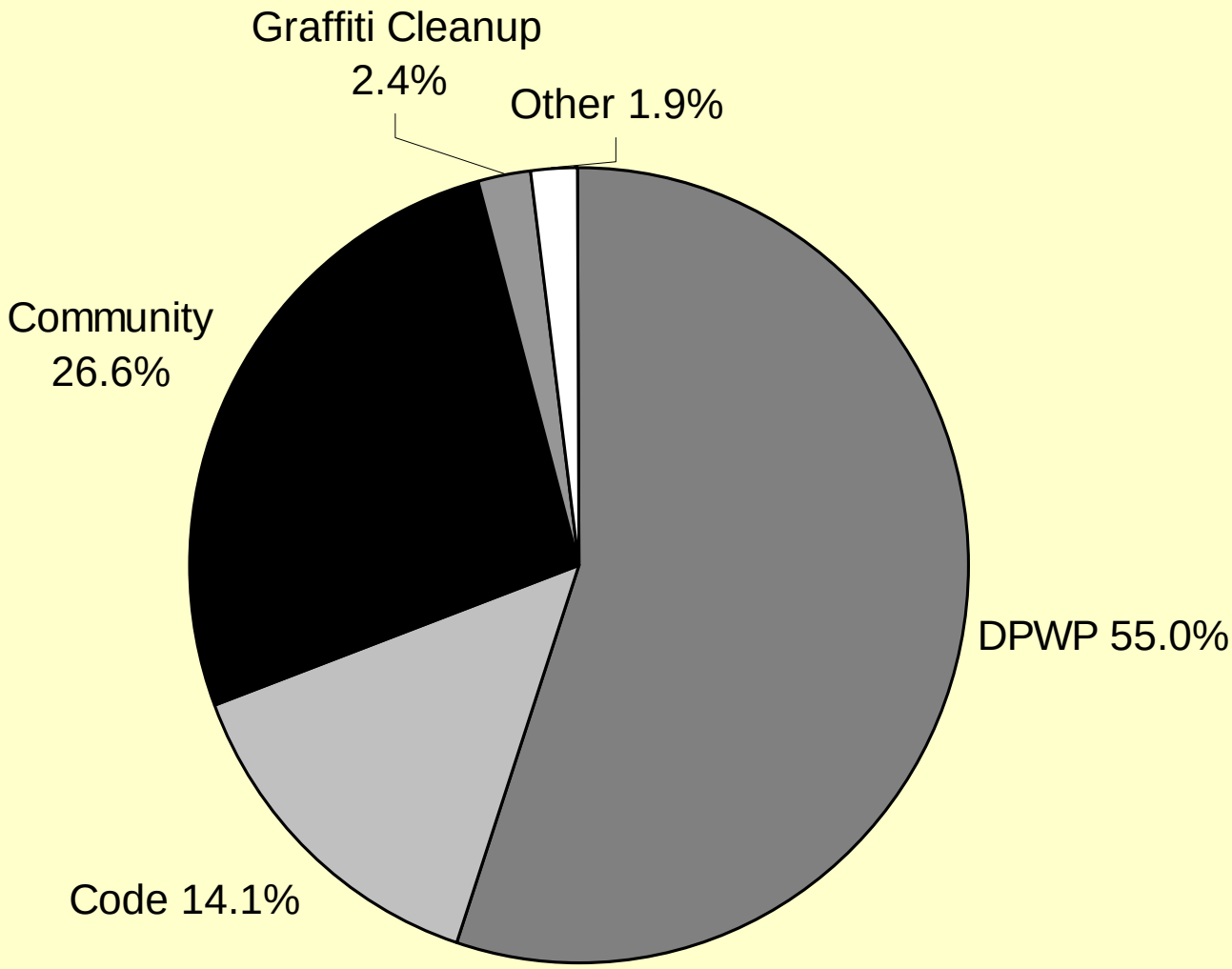
306 Problems Resolved Recently

- **Problems resolved since last survey in 2005:**
  - **59 Sites with litter**
  - **36 Sidewalk trip hazards**
  - **11 Abandoned vehicles**
  - **4 Vacant/Abandoned Buildings**
  - **12 Locations with overgrown weeds/vegetation**
  - **16 Sites with potholes/uneven road**

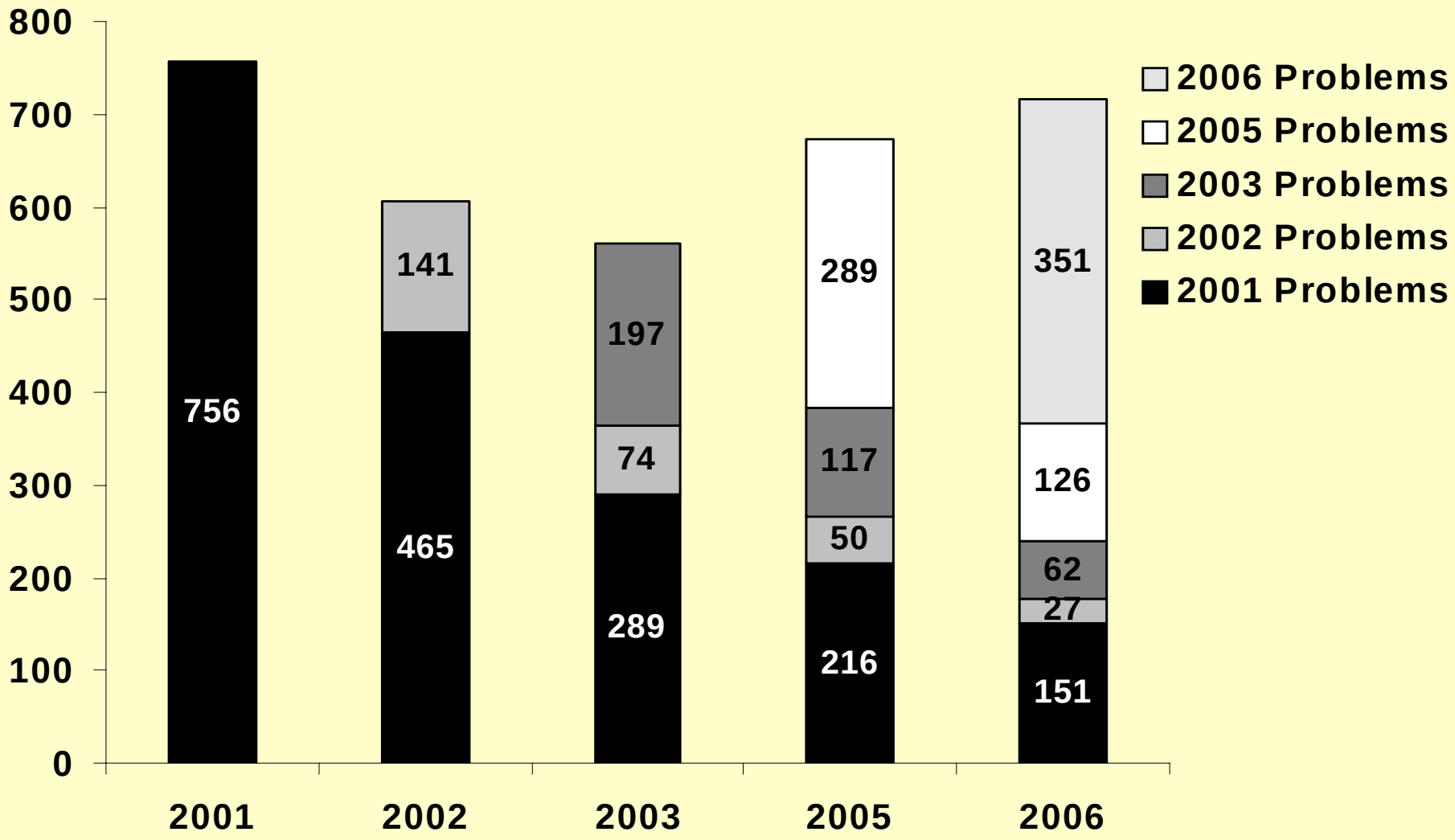
717 Problems Remain

- **Examples include:**
  - **114 Locations with litter**
  - **32 Dumping sites**
  - **18 Sites with graffiti**
  - **107 Sites with overgrown weeds/vegetation**
  - **19 Abandoned vehicles**
  - **29 Sites with potholes/uneven road**
  - **104 Sidewalk trip hazards**

717 Remaining Problems: Who Is Responsible?



Tracking Problems Over Time



What Happens Next?

- All of the problems recorded that are the responsibility of a City agency will be shared with the appropriate agency, including specific details about each problem and its location.
- The City then determines how the problems will be addressed. Some of these problems will be addressed more quickly than others.

Addressing neighborhood problems: Where do we begin?

- **Prioritize problems and be realistic – you won't solve everything at once!**
  - **What's most important to residents?**
  - **What resources are necessary to resolve problems?**
  - **Who else do you need to engage? How?**
  - **Map out a plan assigning roles, responsibilities, timeline, etc. and keep track of progress.**