



The Research Bureau

Main Middle Spring 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

Abandoned vehicles

Buildings- window boarded/broken

Clogged sewers

Crosswalks- fading lines

Curbs- broken

Curbs- not level with street

Dumpster- overflowing

Graffiti

Institutions

Lampposts- bulb out

Litter/Dumping

Sidewalk- encroachment

Street- dirt/sand

Street Sign- missing

Street- under construction/repairs

Street- patching uneven

Traffic Lights- operating

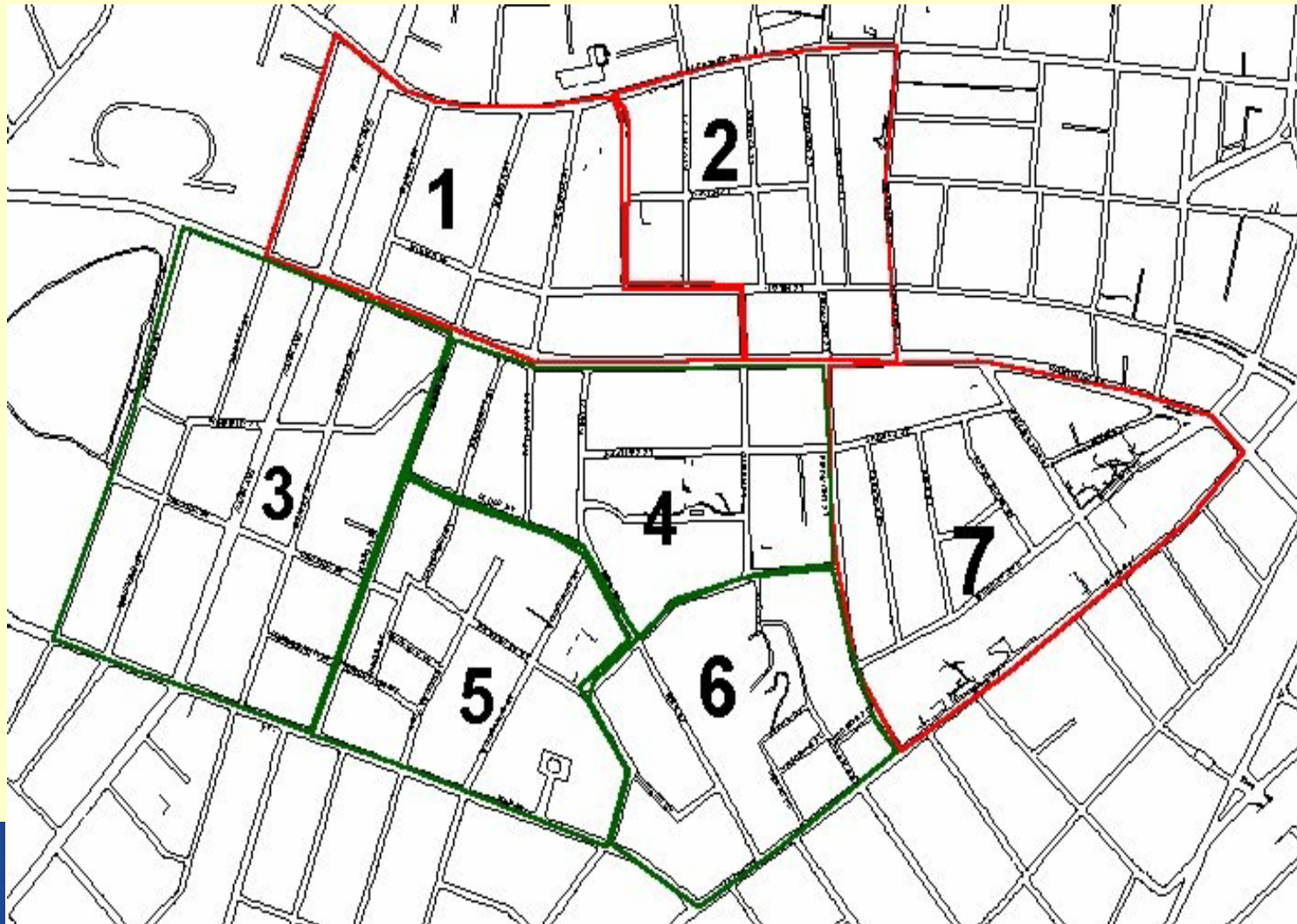
Trees- Dead

Utility Covers missing

Vegetation/weeds- overgrown



Survey Area



ComNET Results: Main Middle

- ❖ **Initial survey conducted in 2001**
- ❖ **Follow-up surveys conducted in 2002, 2003, 2004, & 2006**
- ❖ **Surveys track status of previously identified problems as well as noting new problems**



Main Middle Overall Results

- ❖ **1381 problem conditions have been identified since 2001**
- ❖ **More than half (57%) of all problems were street and sidewalk issues**
- ❖ **Problems are grouped according to whose responsibility it is to address the issue**
 - **60% of the problems identified are the responsibility of the Department of Public Works + Parks**
 - **21% of problems are “community issues”**



Main Middle Overall Results Cont'd

❖ About 3/4 (967) of previously identified problems have been resolved

- 236 Sites with litter**
- 97 Sites with overgrown weeds/vegetation**
- 26 Dumping sites**
- 103 Trip hazards**
- 39 Abandoned vehicles**



164 Problems Resolved Recently

❖ Problems resolved since last survey in 2004:

- 19 Sites with litter
- 27 Sidewalk trip hazards
- 14 Abandoned vehicles
- 5 Abandoned buildings
- 22 Locations where weeds/vegetation overgrown
- 17 Street issues (crosswalks, clogged catch basins)



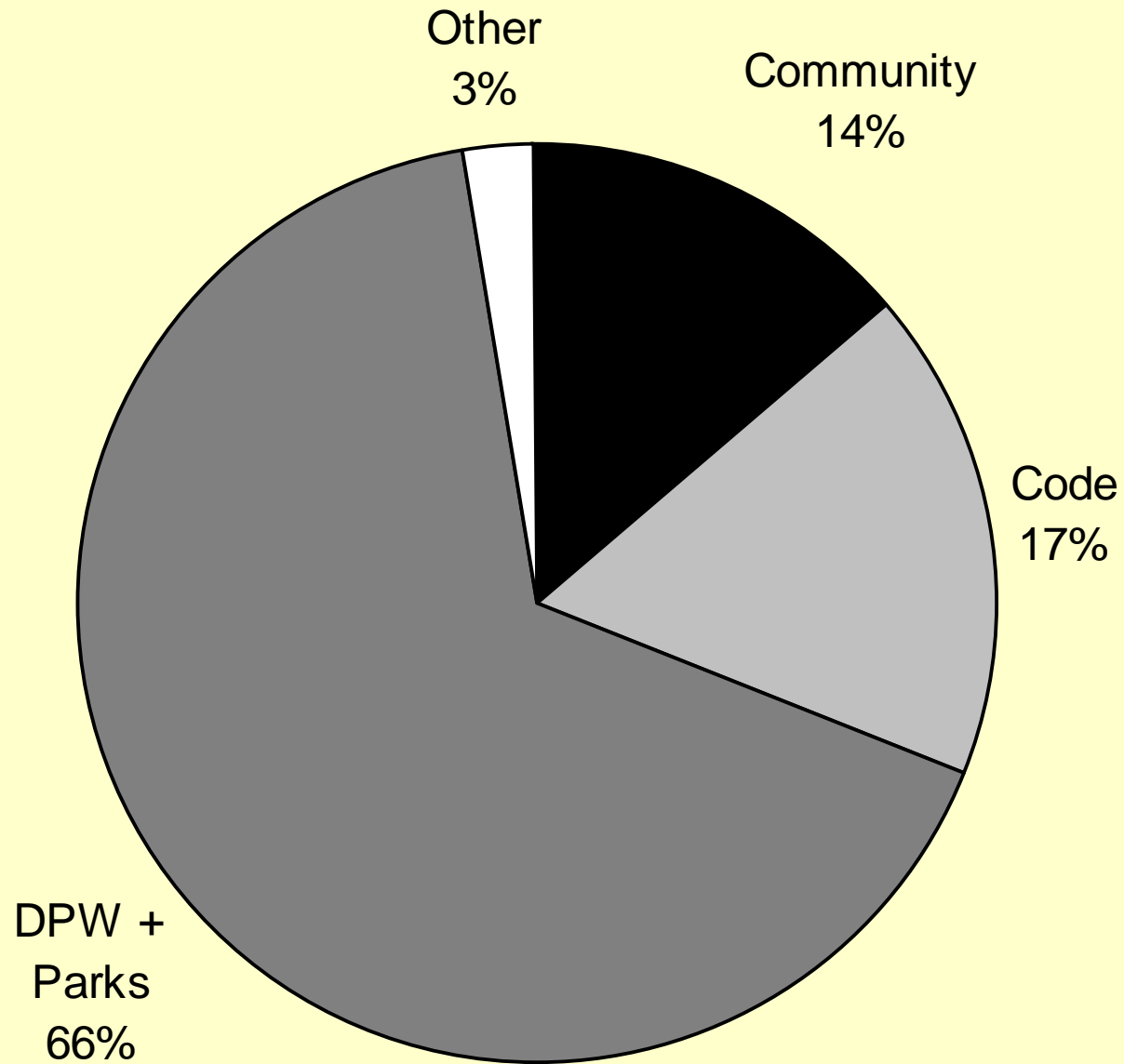
414 Problems Remain

❖ Examples include:

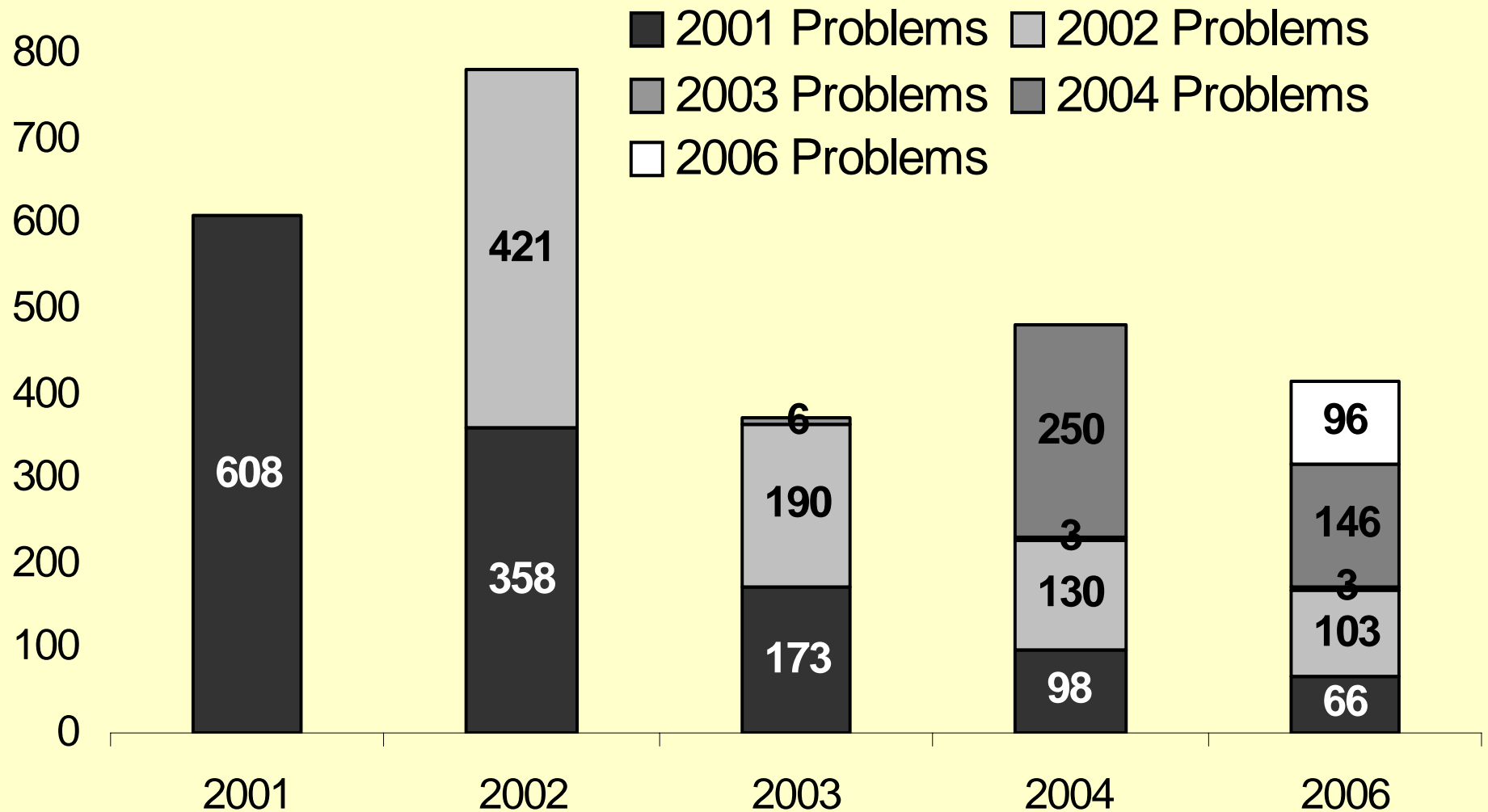
- 76 locations with litter
- 16 dumping sites
- 11 sites with graffiti
- 43 sites with overgrown weeds/vegetation
- 23 potholes/ uneven road
- 71 sidewalk trip hazards



414 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.**

