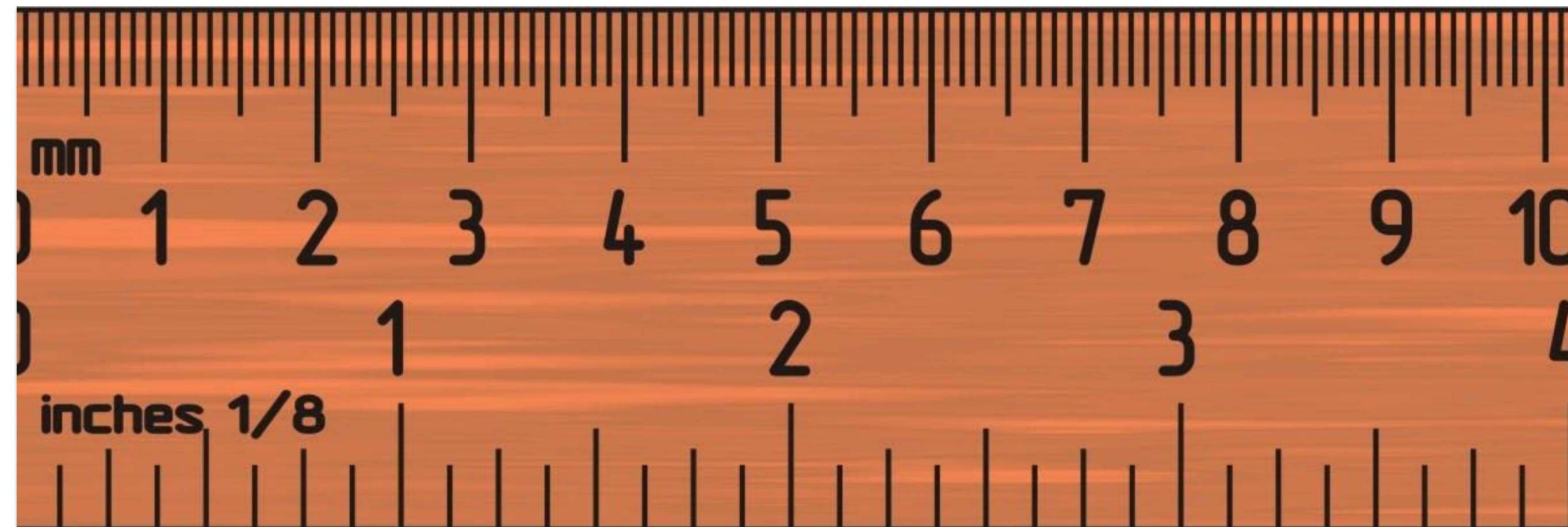


# The Perception of Littering within the Cudell Neighborhood

Ben Mullin-Vanneste and Devon Orr

## Intro

Our YPAR project focuses on littering and reducing the amount of litter in a specific neighborhood. The neighborhood we chose to focus on was the Cudell neighborhood. The research question we made was “How can we bring attention to and mitigate the litter issue around the Cudell neighborhood? We did background research on this topic, observed the area, and surveyed students that go to school in the Cudell Neighborhood.



## Facts

- The average piece of litter is less than four inches long.
- Litter cleanup in the U.S. costs almost \$11.5 billion each year (\$4.5 million in Ohio)
  - Businesses paying \$9.1 billion.
  - Governments, schools, and other organizations pick up the remainder.
- Litter in a community decreases property values 7%.

## Observation

Our group conducted two observations around the Cudell neighborhood. We saw people throwing trash on the ground. We saw a fast food bag being thrown out a car window. We also noticed that there were not many trash cans around the park and only a couple more near the school.

**“Littering makes my neighborhood look bad. My neighborhood doesn’t look like somewhere you want to live”**

-Student from Marion C. Seltzer

## Survey

We wrote a survey and sent it to 6, 7 and 8 th graders at Marion C. Seltzer Middle School between Madison and Detroit, right near the Recreation Center where we did our observations. We received 58 responses. We had a young and very diverse group of people take the survey, and also about a 50/50 split of males and females. We were shocked to learn that most people say they use a trash can and not throw trash on the ground. 88% said they throw trash in the trash can. If this really is happening, this is great, but this finding from our survey did not support our field observations so we are not sure it is happening.

## Recommendations

Our solution for this problem is to try and get the city to start putting in more trash can where people are so they can be more encouraged to throw things in the garbage can instead of the ground. We can tell the city officials that this is a real problem, and it is actually possible for it to get fixed.



## Main References

- Carillio, Robert. CoolCleveland.com, 2011.
- Philadelphia.cbslocal.com, 2012.