

Engage, Empower, Elevate: 2025 Impact Report

Annual Update
Steven Thompson & Pam Jensen
December 2, 2025





Today's Agenda



1. Brief Overview of the Engage, Empower, and Elevate (E3) program
2. Update from the Community Assistance Team (CATs)





E3 Initiative



The Evolution of E3

1. E3 was created as a pilot initiative in FY23 in response to a twofold challenge in Flagstaff:

- The increase in the number of unsheltered community members who are looking for work opportunities and ways to engage with the community
- The increase in litter accumulation

2. Due to the success of the pilot year, staff conducted a formal procurement process for a three-year contract with a community-based organization at \$30,000 annually

3. Funding became ongoing – THANK YOU, Economic Vitality

Community Assistance Teams of Flagstaff (CATs)

CATs—People at Work (P@W) Program

2025 Impact Report



CAT's Mission

Our mission is to transform lives by empowering people with the tools to survive and thrive through the creation of community. We use the Diné term k'é to express our belief that we are ALL part of the community and responsible for each other's well-being- regardless of housing status. We reach out to engage unsheltered and disenfranchised relatives where they are and accept them without judgment. We strive to reduce the stigma and humiliation that unsheltered relatives suffer on a daily basis.

Lost Human Potential

- 653,104 people experienced homelessness in the United States on a single night in January 2023, a 12% increase from 2022 and the highest number since 2007.
- Homelessness amongst Native Americans increased by an astonishing 18% in the same one-year period.
- One in every 500 Americans is without housing, and many more live in substandard conditions.
- Unsheltered community members face significant barriers to housing and employment, including the stigma of being homeless.
- Stigma and community bias force them into the shadows, creating a cycle of resentment, distrust and even hatred.
- Communities that use criminal penalties, restrictive zoning and neighborhood associations to cast out people without housing only worsen the crisis of unaffordable housing and increase the loss of human potential.

CATs of Flagstaff

- The Community Assistance Teams (CATs) of Flagstaff was getting ready to provide mobile services to reach unsheltered relatives on Flagstaff's streets. Coincidentally, C.A.T's motto is to "Reach out. Engage. Empower. Transform."
- Philosophy-how to help unsheltered people reengage with the larger community and address the growing litter problems.



CATs Outreach



Unsheltered People WANT to WORK – But the Barriers are Real

BARRIERS TO EMPLOYMENT

- Stigma
- Disability or Poor health
- Lack of Training/Education
- Loss of identification documents
- No housing
- No transportation
- No contact information
- Age
- Lack of hygiene and adequate
- Clothing



Annual Overview

The Numbers

- 1,080 bags of litter collected
- 29,505 lbs. of litter removed from our community
- 1,700 of service

The People

- 14 participants employed
 - 5 obtained full time employment
 - 2 regained drivers' license
 - 2 obtained regular employment
- All participants reported a greater sense of dignity
- 1 program coordinator



"The compassion and support this program offers have made an incredible difference...it's been a meaningful part of my recovery and growth."

PAW has not only helped me find stability but also renewed my sense of purpose and hope for the future."

Keeping Flagstaff Beautiful

Sunnyside Neighborhood

- Residents regularly thanked crews with snacks, water, and appreciation – showing strong community partnership.

Southside Neighborhood

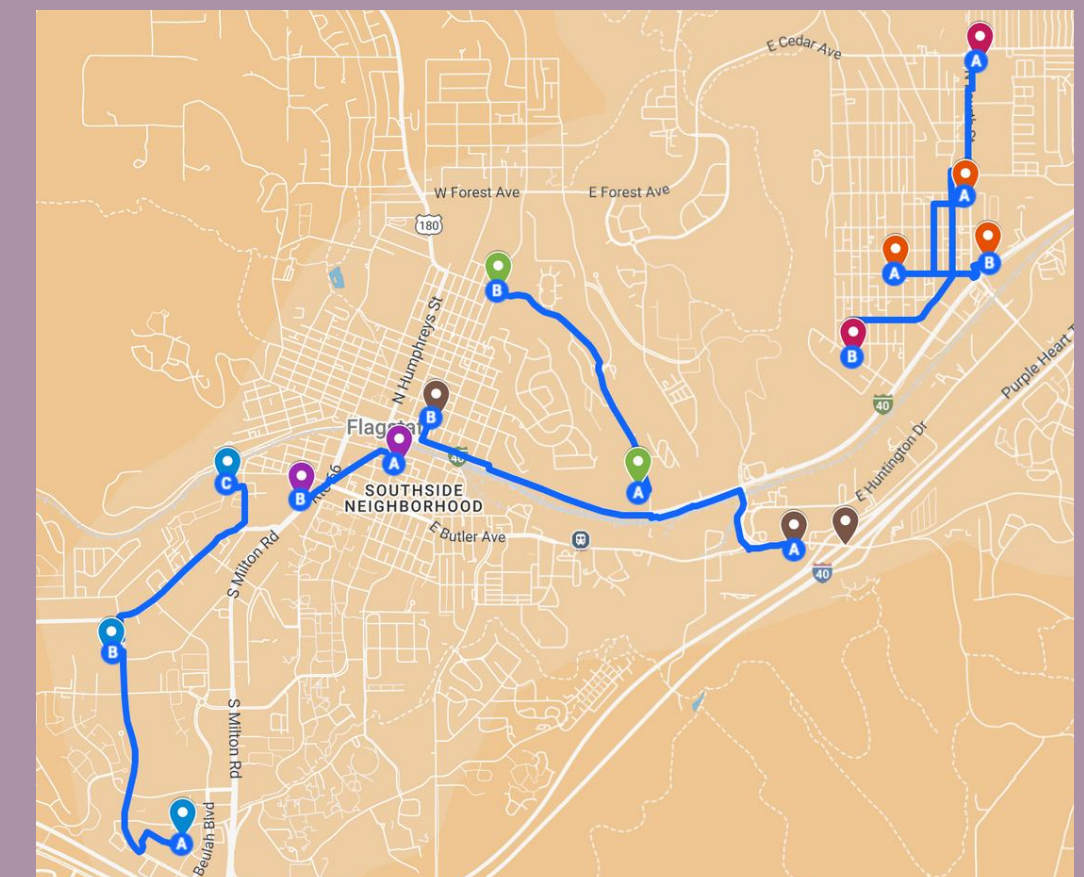
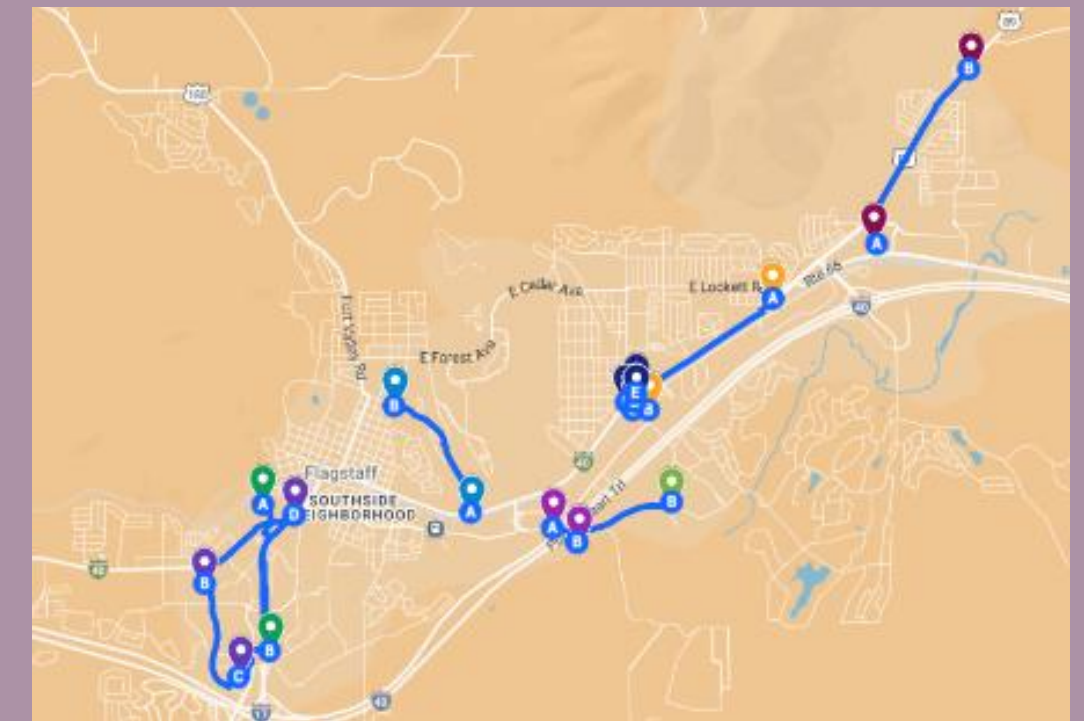
- The dense pedestrian traffic and nearby commercial corridors made Southside a continuing focus.

Route 66 / Downtown Corridors

- Frequent cleanups kept downtown walkways, underpasses, and medians safe and appealing for residents and visitors.

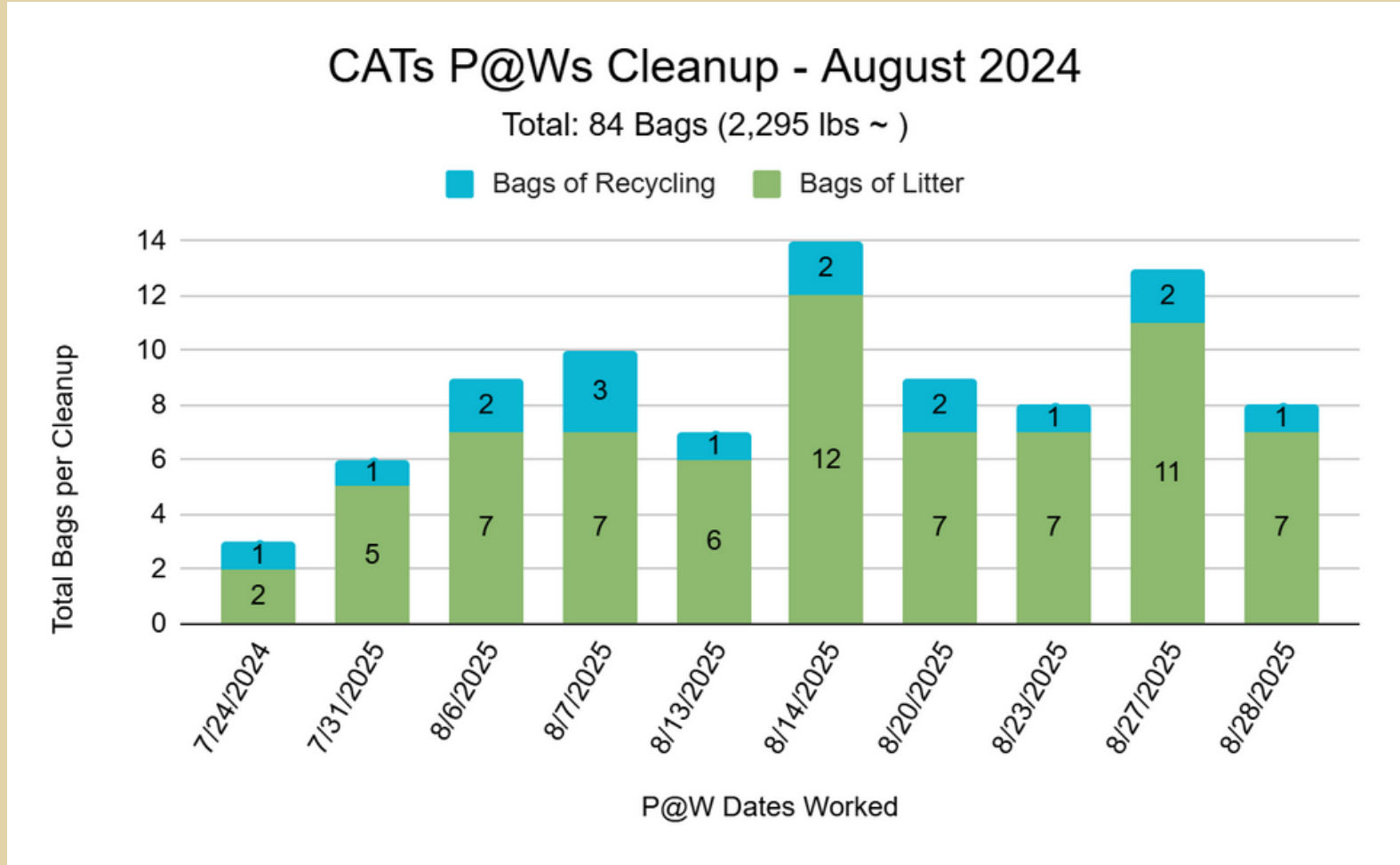
East Butler & Park Areas

- Focused on maintaining storm-water channels and greenway edges clear of debris.



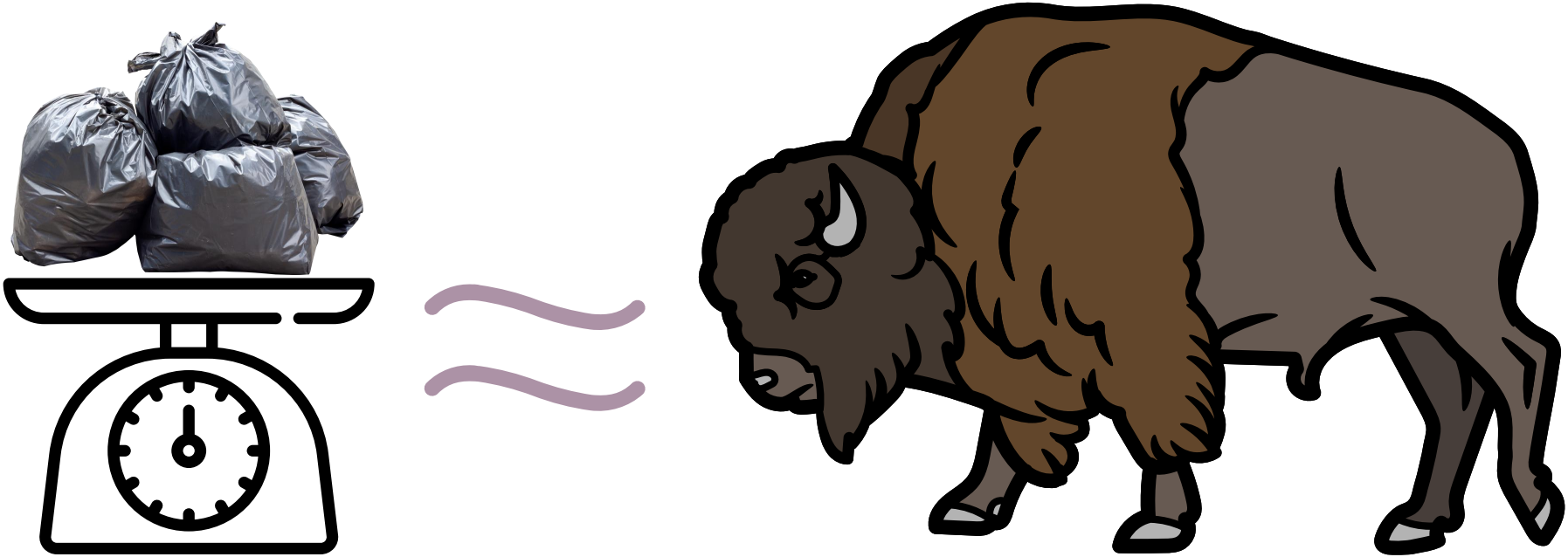
August 2024

DATA



EQUIVALENCE

A total of 84 bags (2,295 lbs) of trash were picked up by our PAW crew.



This is equivalent to the weight of an adult American Bison!!!

PAW Crew Service Locations: August 2024

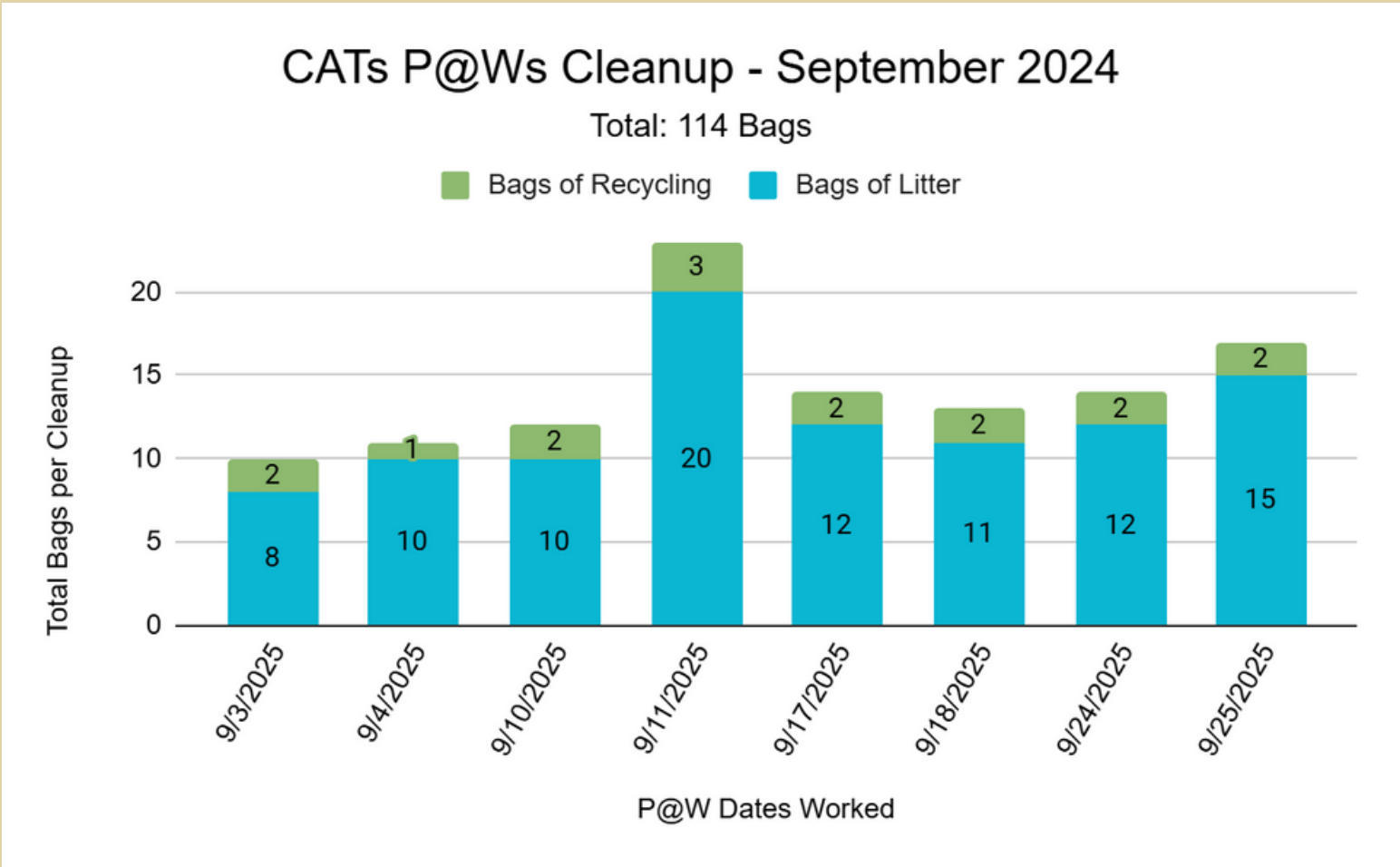
A total of 84 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew

We saw the most bags of litter picked up from the Underpass to Lucky Lane and Butler



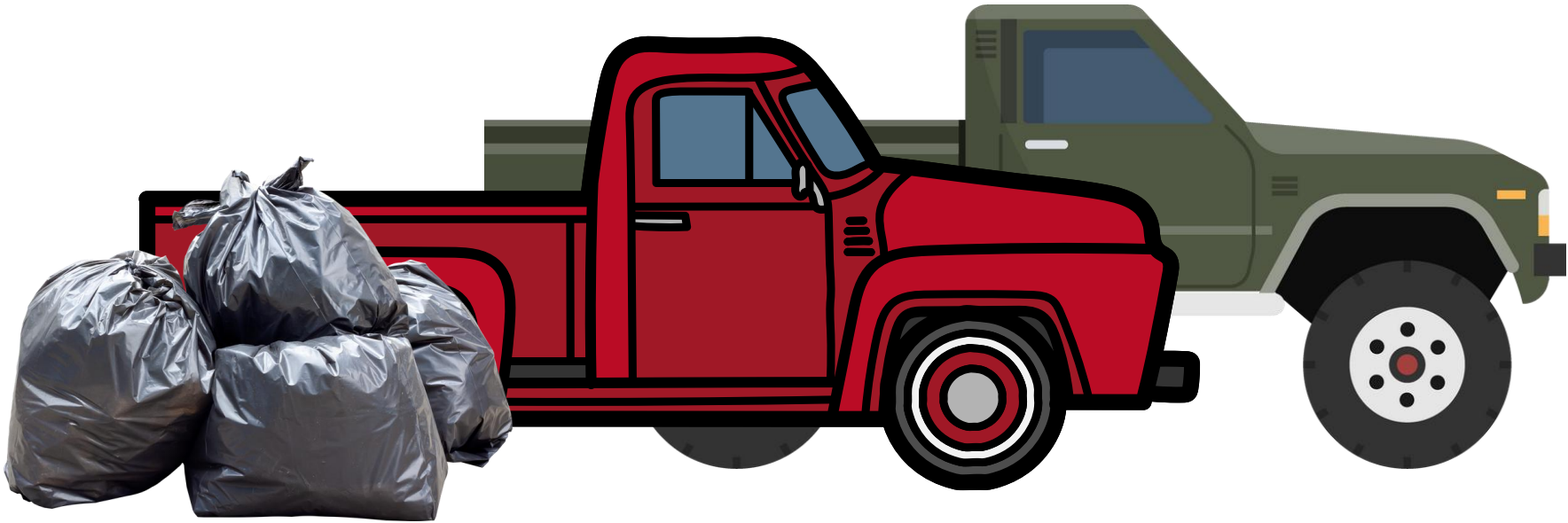
September 2024

DATA



EQUIVALENCE

A total of 114 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew in the month of September

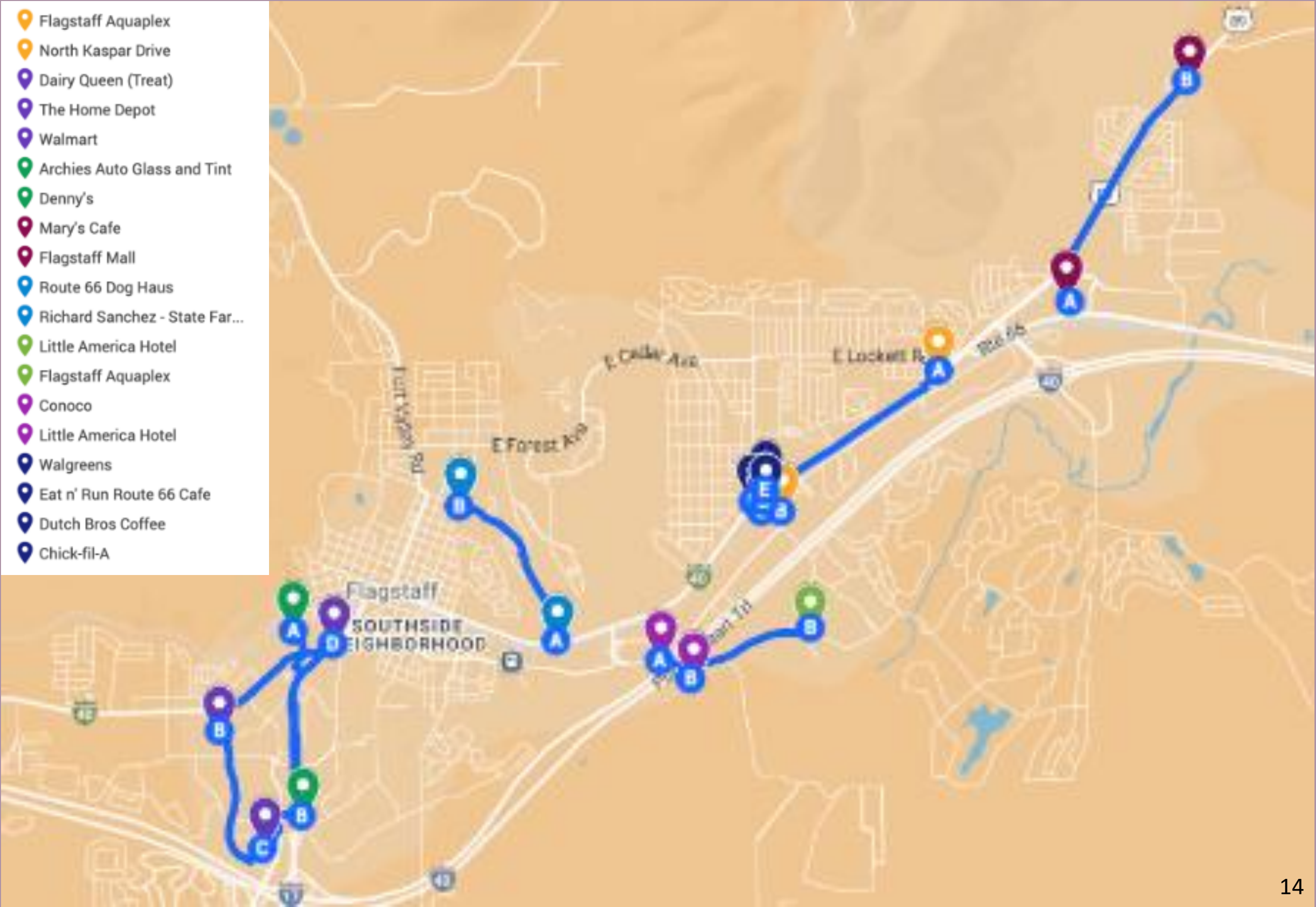


114 bags is equivalent to filling up SIX WHOLE PICKUP TRUCKS!!!

PAW Crew Service Locations: September 2024

A total of 114 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew

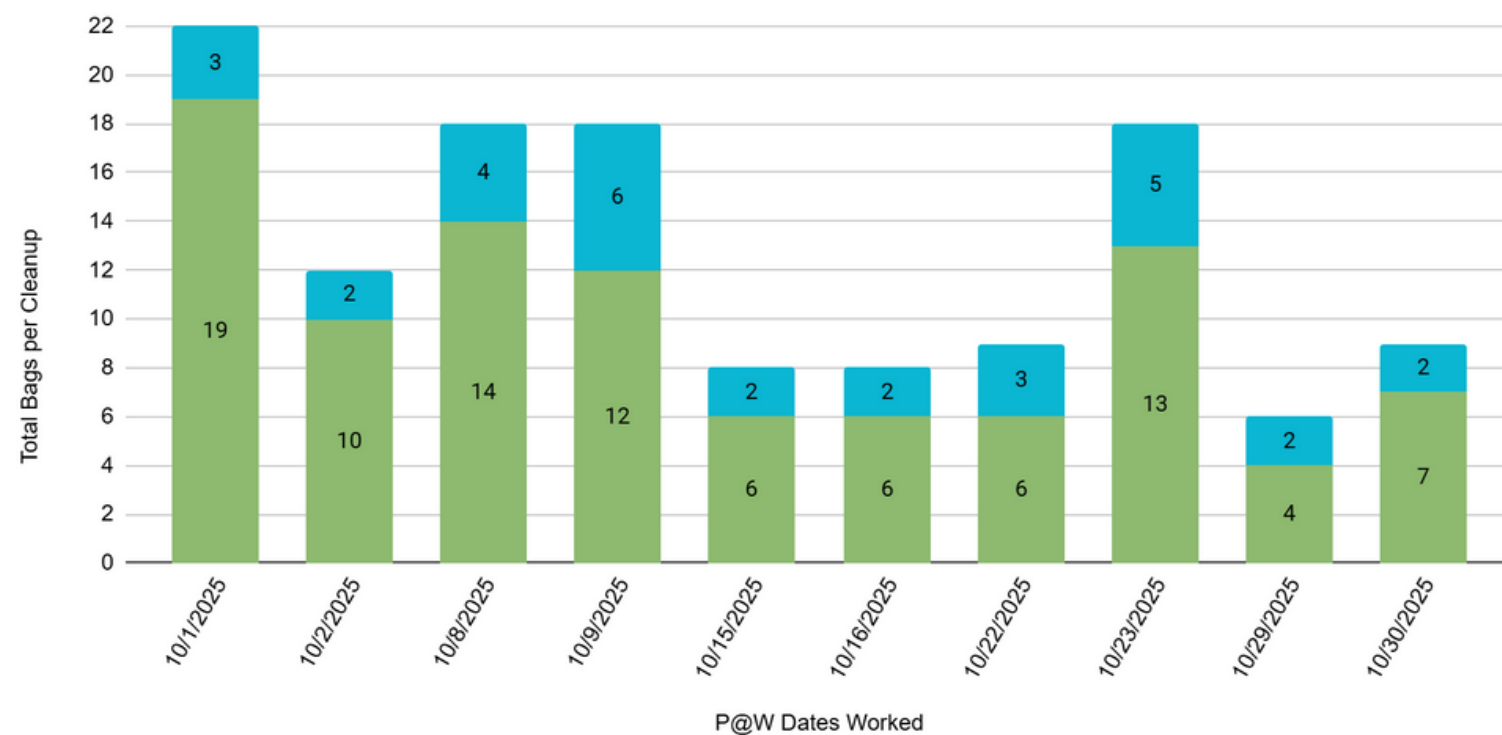
We saw the most bags off 89A from Mary's Cafe area to the Mall



October 2024

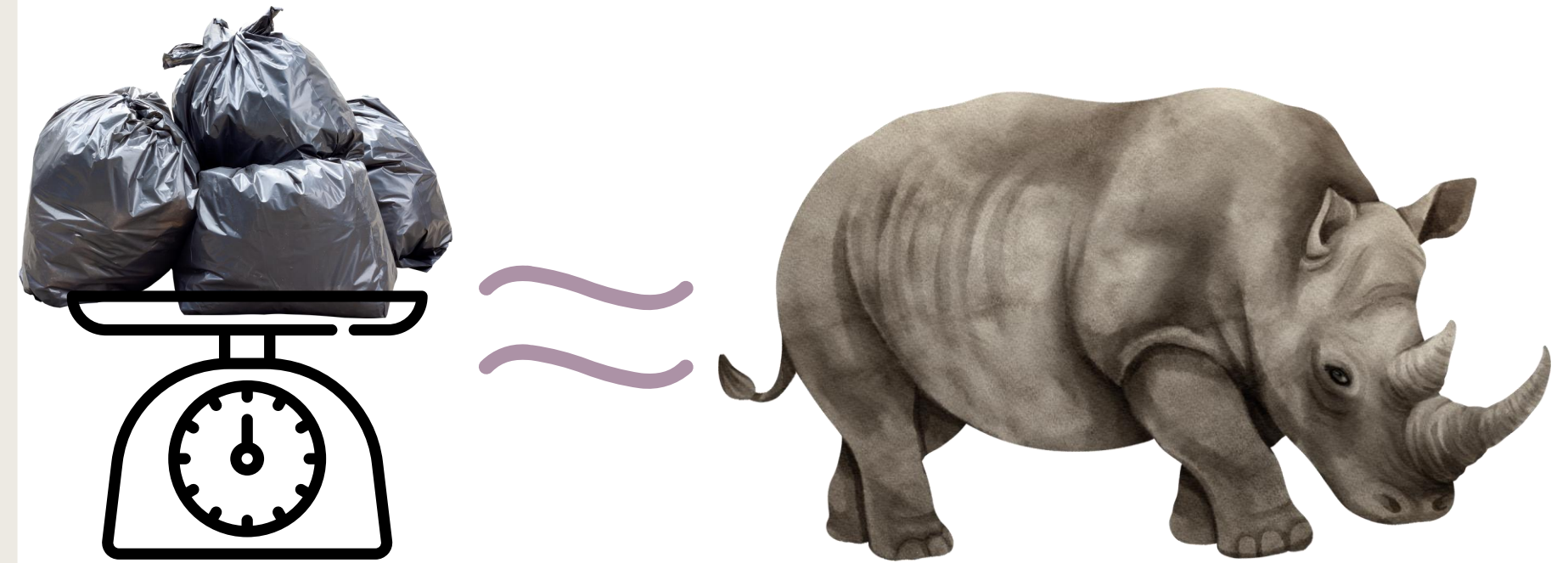
DATA

CATs P@Ws Cleanup - October 2024
Total: 128 Bags \approx 3,494 lbs (~1.75 tons)



EQUIVALENCE

A total of 128 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew in the month of October

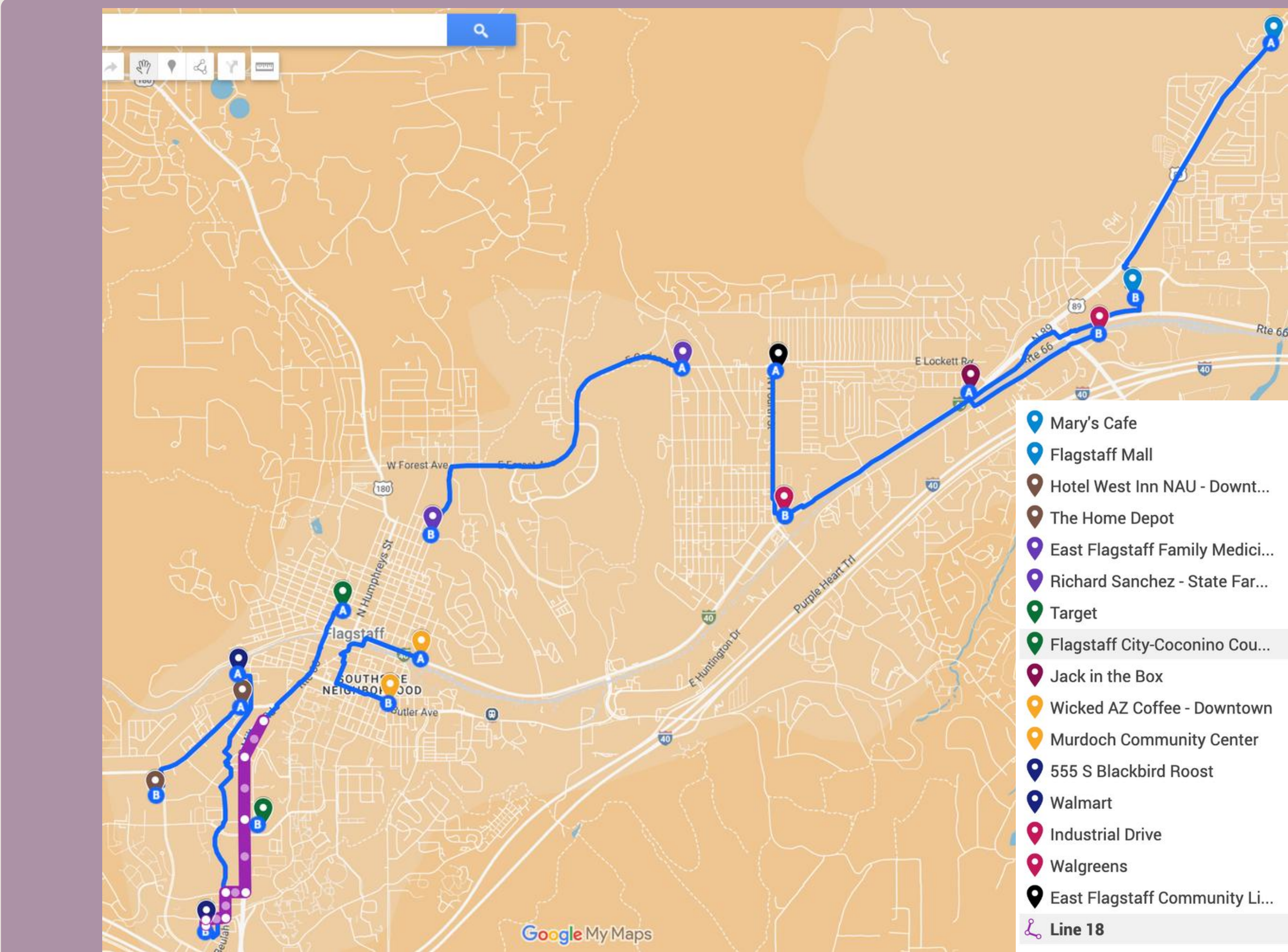


128 bags (3,496 lbs.) is equivalent to the weight of an adult Javan rhinoceros!!!

PAW Crew Service Locations: October 2024

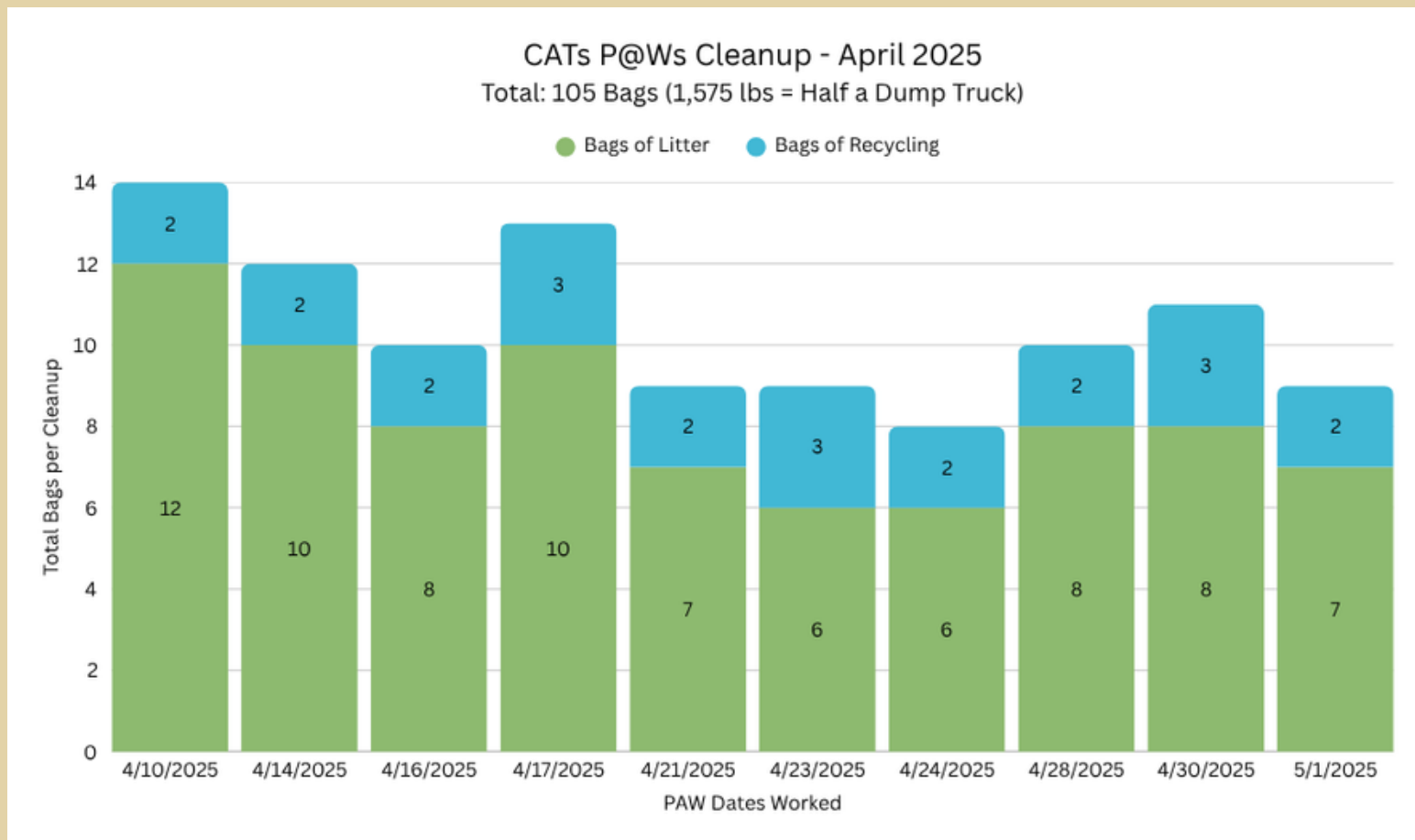
A total of 128 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew

We saw the most bags of litter picked up was from Mary's Cafe towards the Mall.



April 2025

DATA



EQUIVALENCE

A total of 105 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew in the month of April

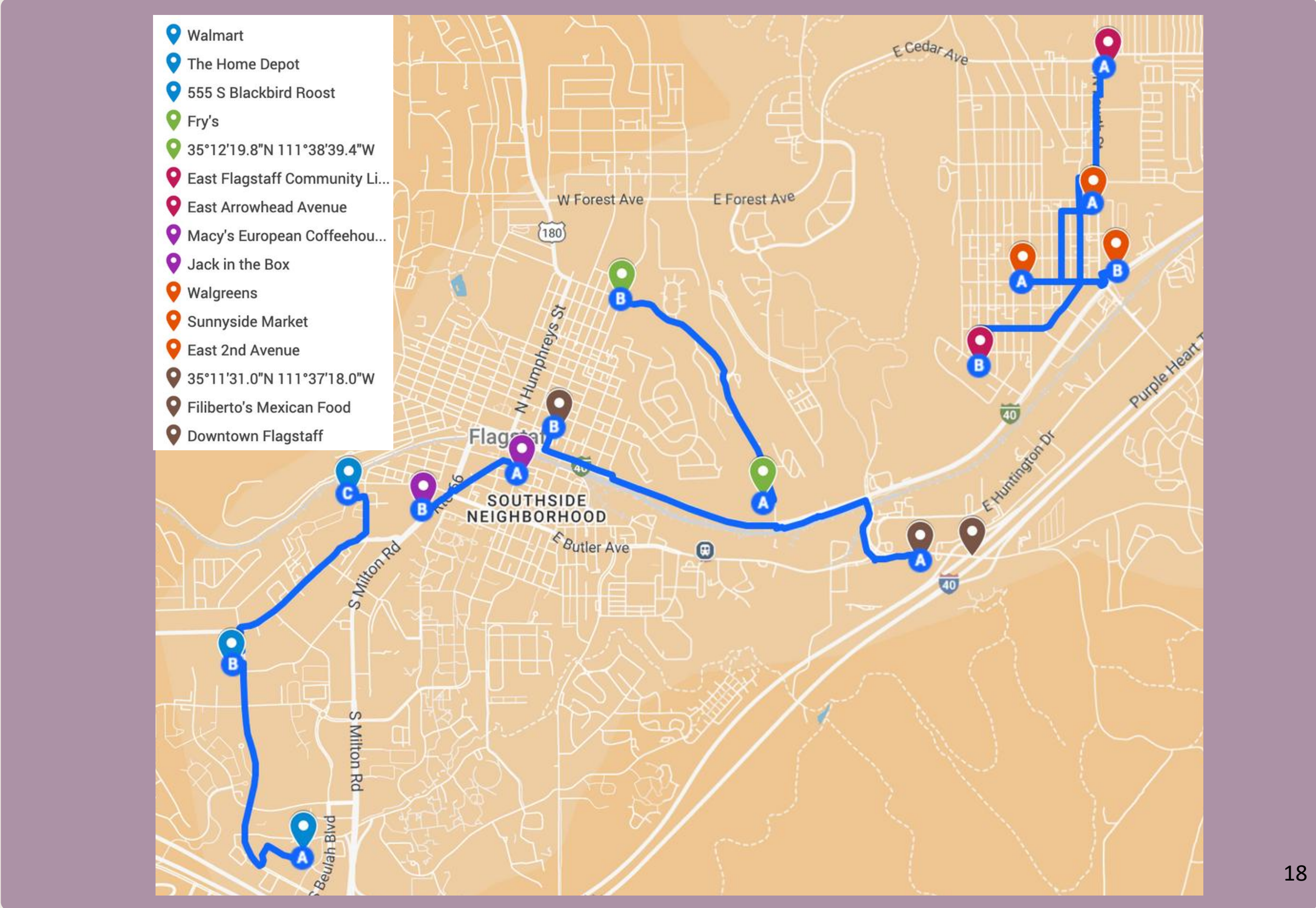


105 bags is equivalent to filling up a whole DUMP TRUCK!!!

PAW Crew Service Locations: April 2025

A total of 105 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew

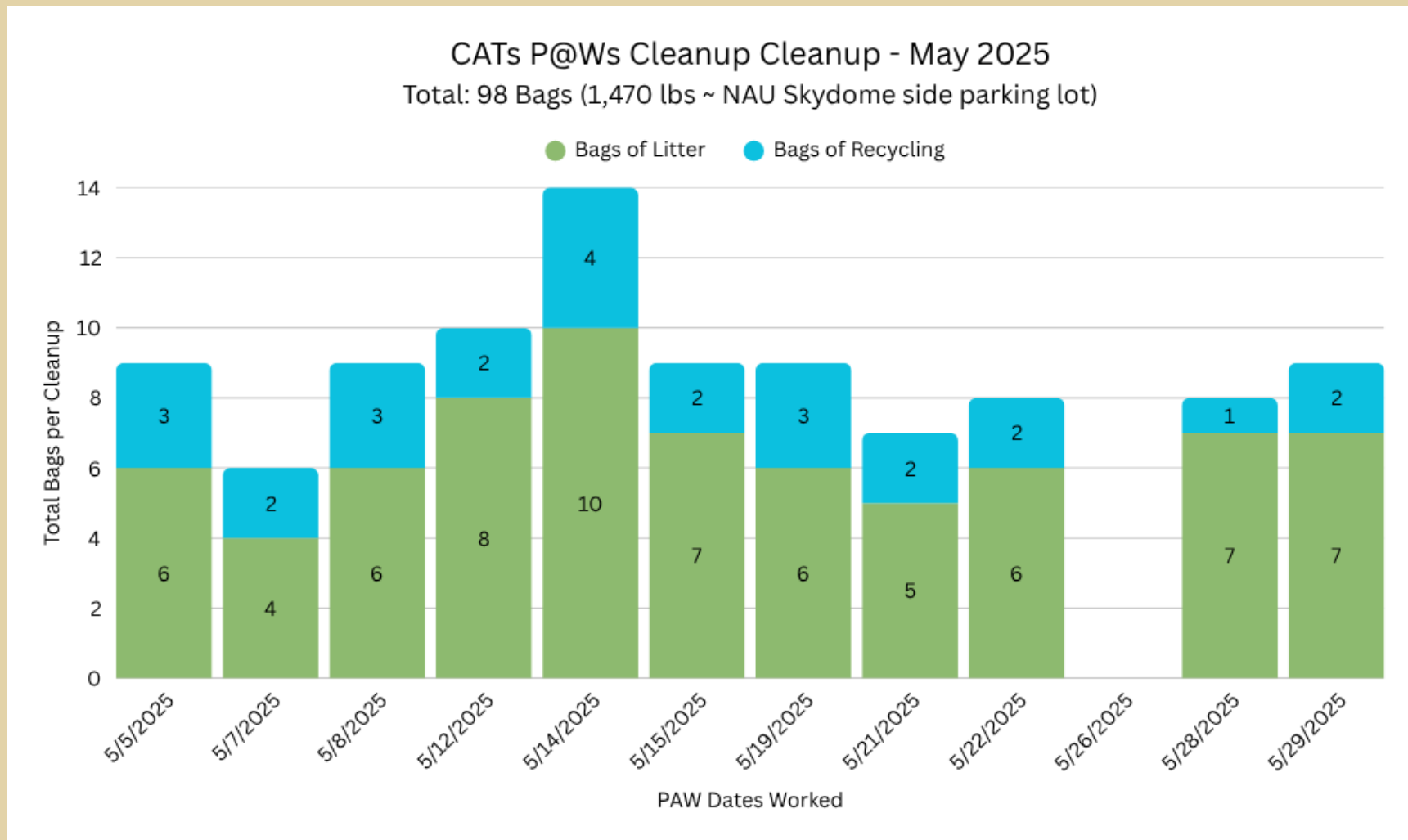
We saw the most bags of litter picked up from Walmart to Home Depot and back to the site



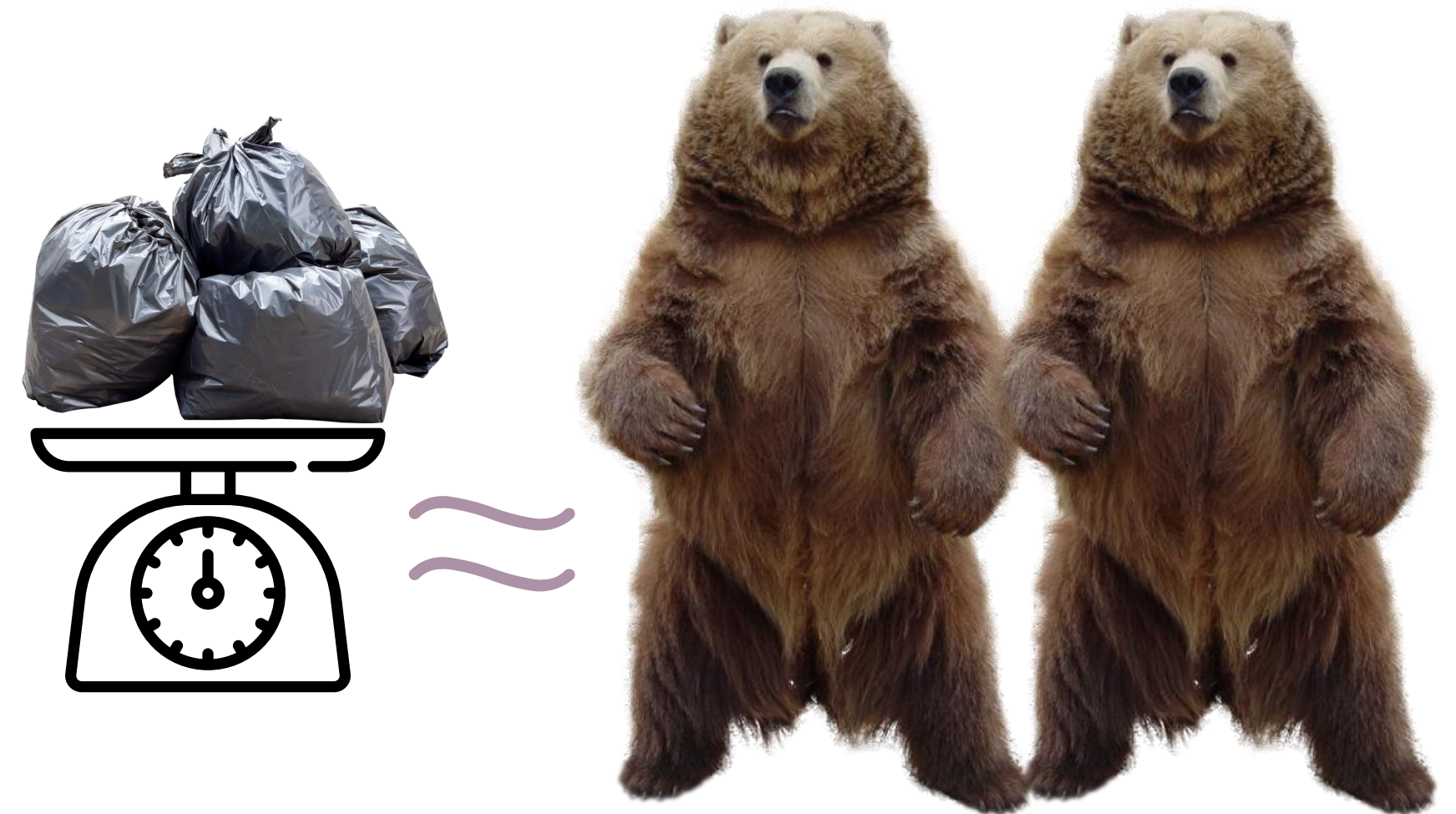
May 2025

EQUIVALENCE

DATA



A total of 98 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew in the month of May

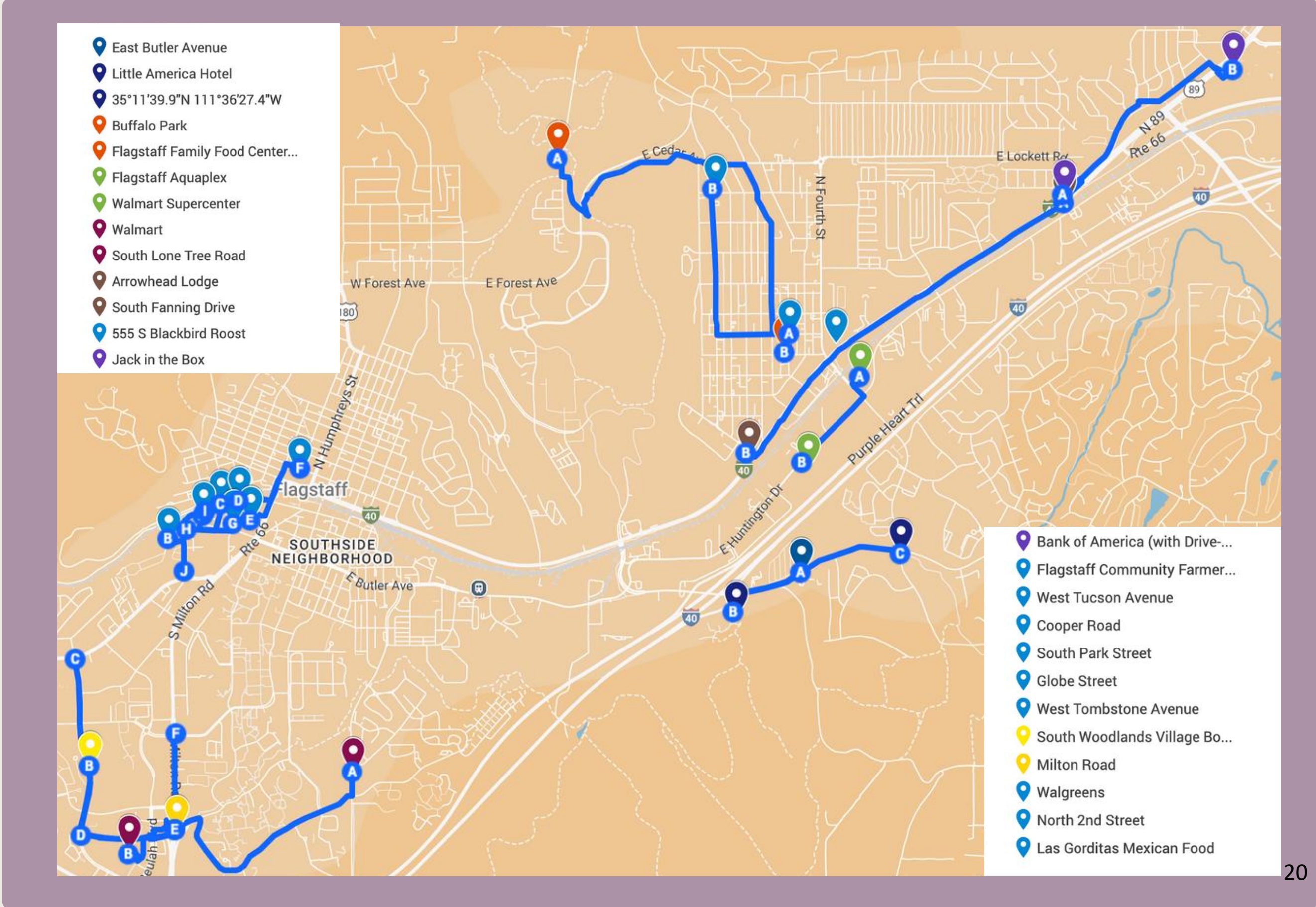


98 bags (2,677 lbs.) is equivalent to the weight of more than TWO KODIAK BEARS!!!

PAW Crew Service Locations: May 2025

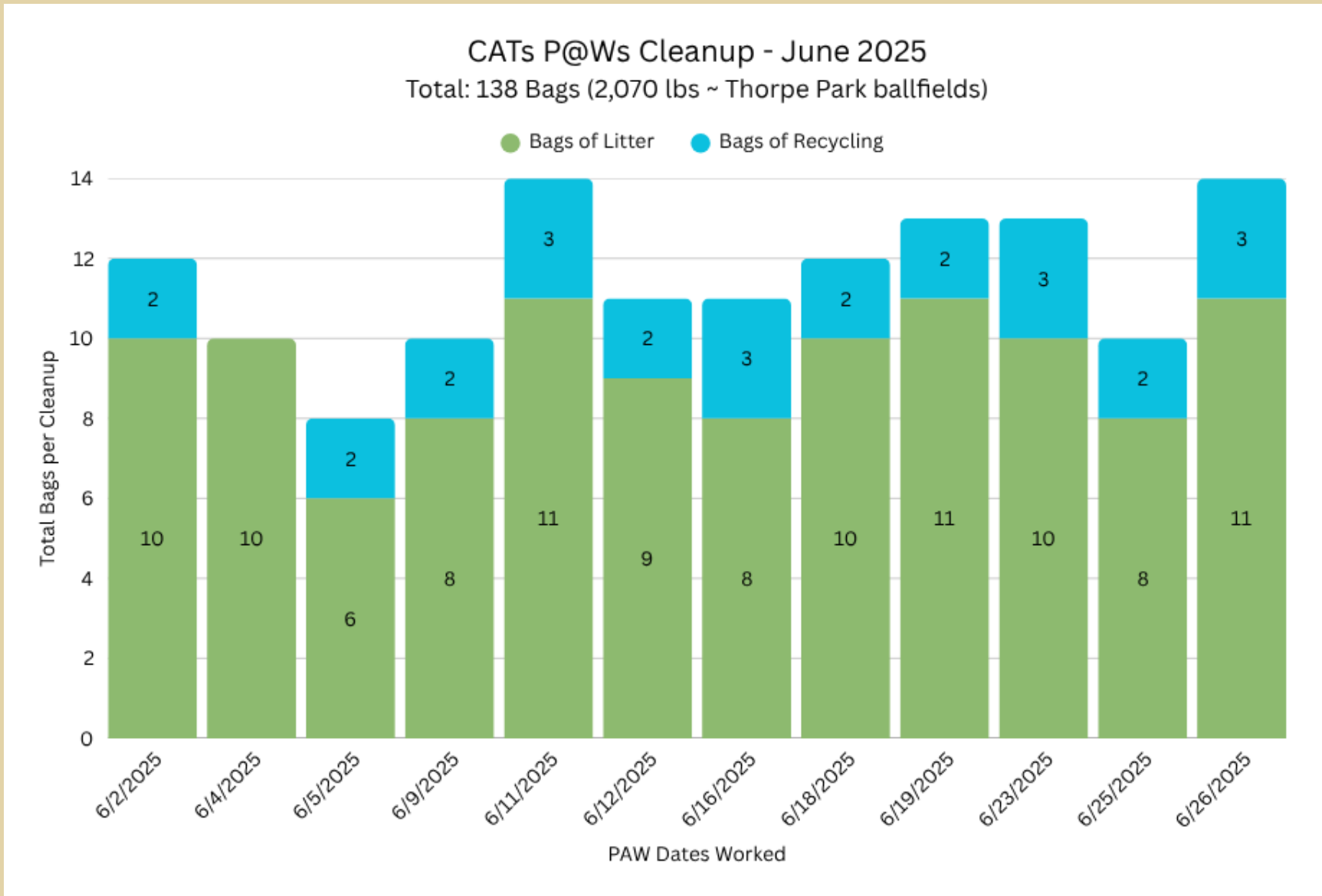
A total of 98 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew

We saw the most bags of litter picked up from the Mall Bike path and sidewalk from Fanning Dr. to Arrowhead



June 2025

DATA



EQUIVALENCE

A total of 138 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew in the month of June

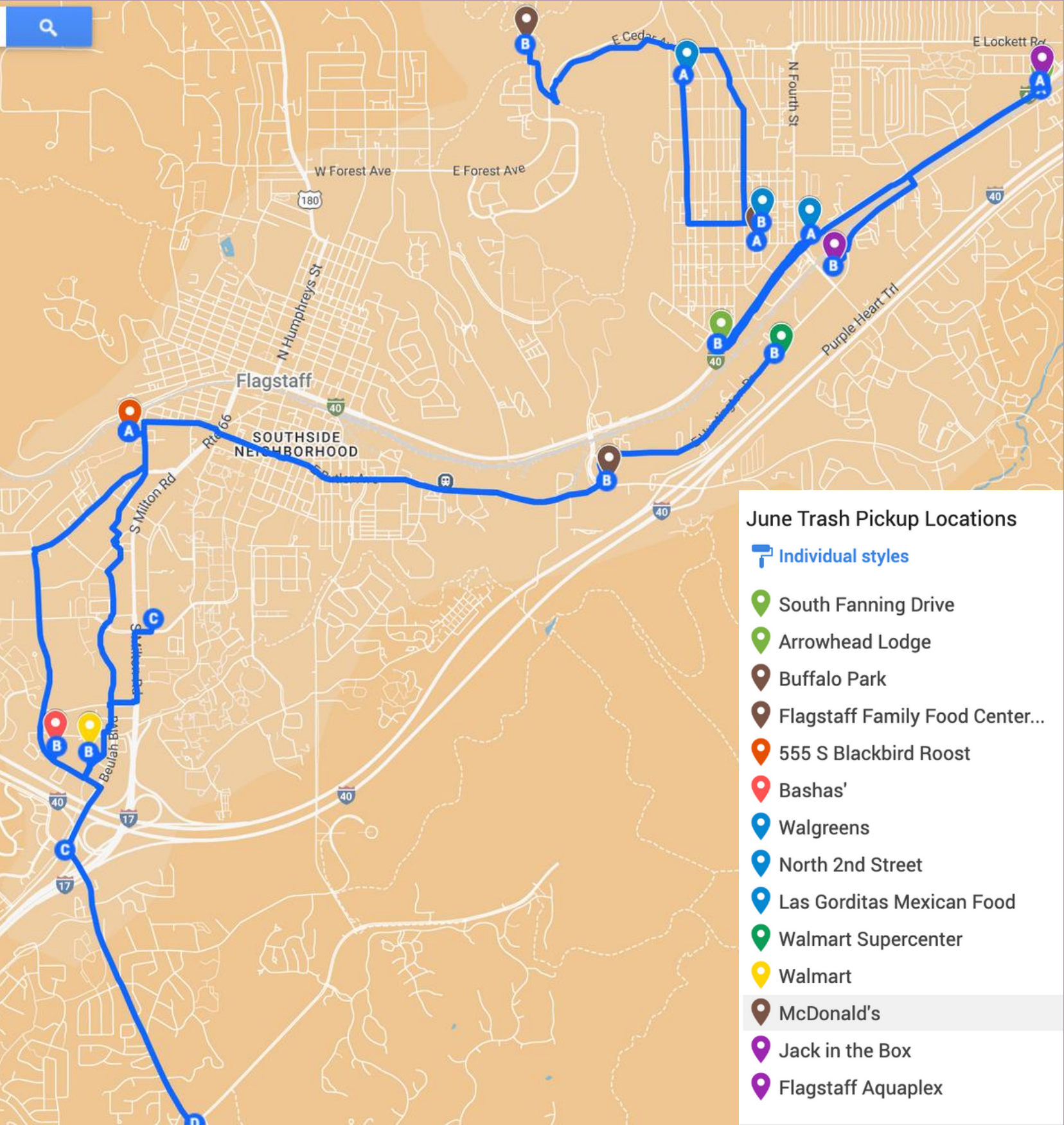


138 bags is equivalent to filling up 23 DUMPSTERS!

PAW Crew Service Locations: June 2025

A total of 138 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew

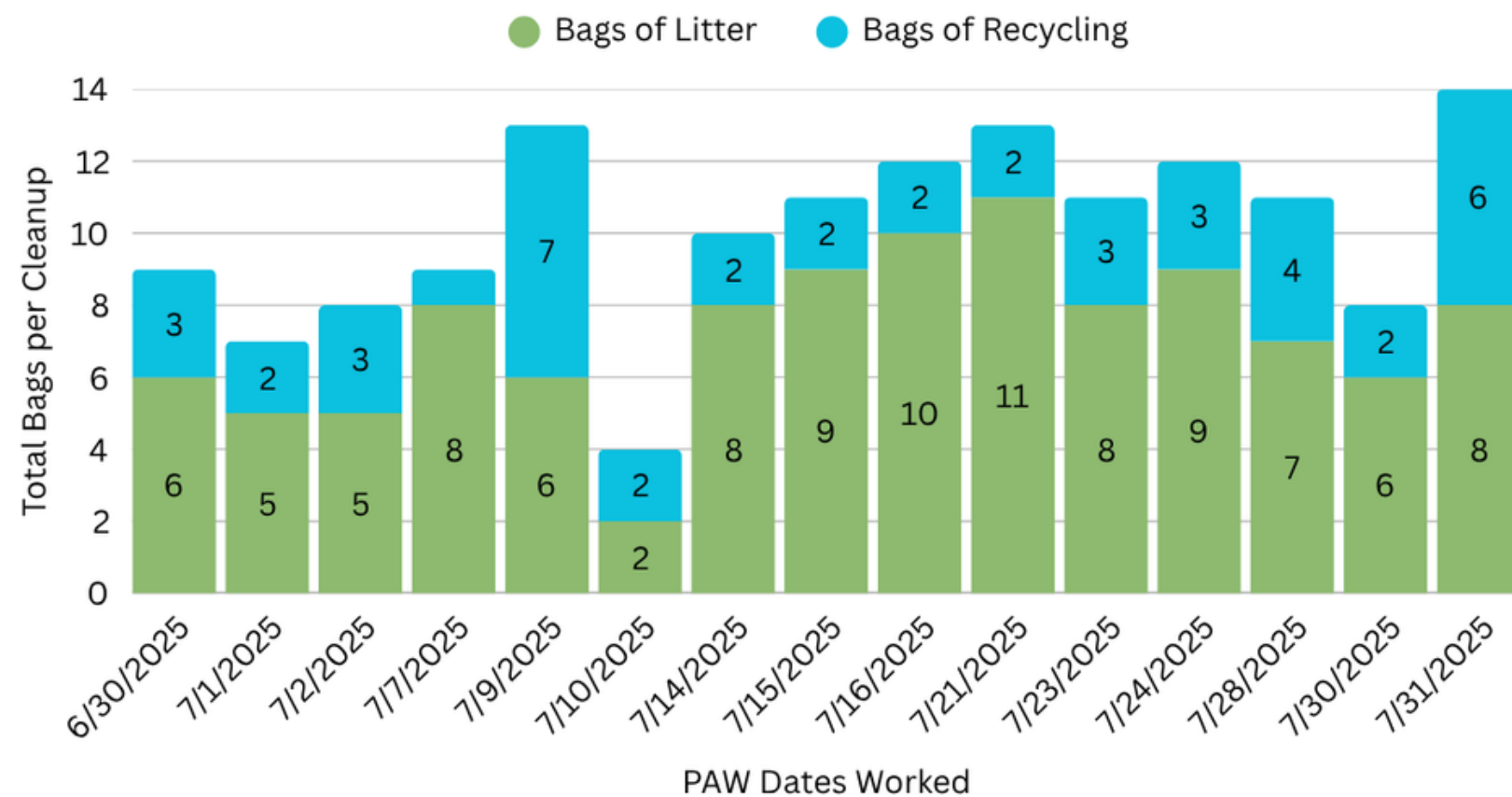
We saw the most bags of litter picked up from Gemini Park to FFFS, the office to bashas, and the West Side, Woodlands



July 2025

DATA

CATs P@Ws Cleanup - July 2025
Total: 152 Bags (2,280 lbs = Dump truck + pickup bed)



EQUIVALENCE

A total of 152 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew in the month of July

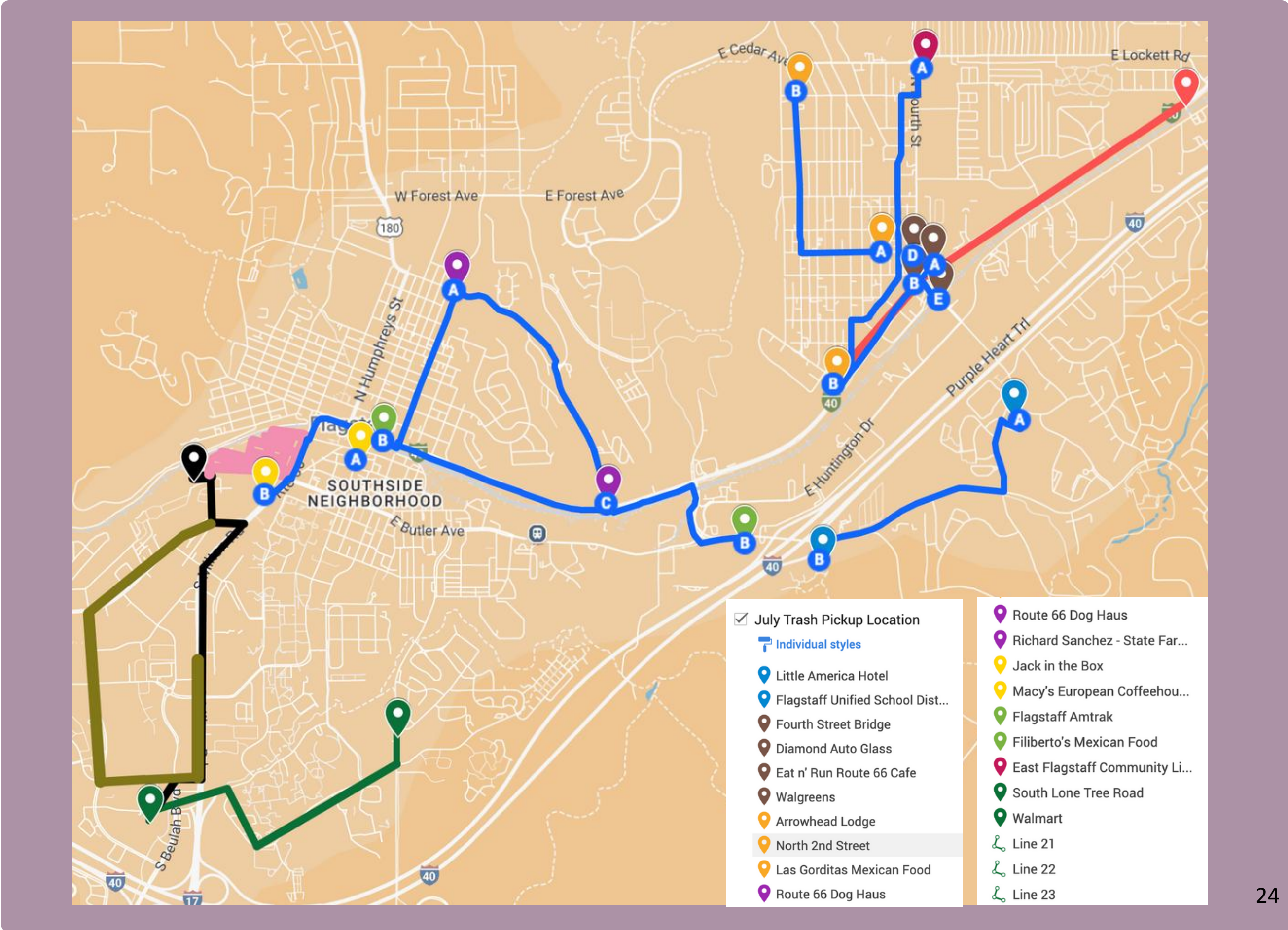


152 bags is equivalent to filling up an entire DUMP TRUCK and PICKUP TRUCK!!!

PAW Crew Service Locations: July 2025

A total of 152 bags of trash were picked up by our PAW crew

We saw the most bags of litter picked up from Lonetree to Walmart on Woodland Blvd.



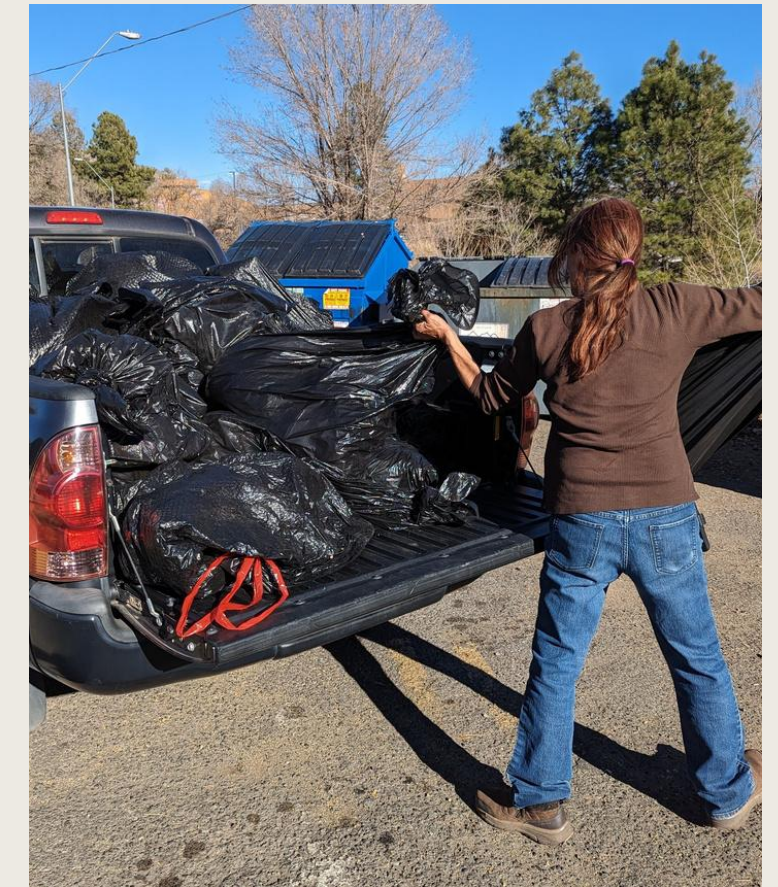
Recap

Beyond Numbers

The PAW program has fostered a growing sense of community respect and collaboration. Residents offered water, snacks, and words of encouragement – a reminder that sustainability thrives when people and place come together.

The People

- 14 participants
- Valuable skill development
- Renewed sense of pride
- Sense of purpose, stability, and connections for transitioning out of homelessness.



“I am so deeply grateful for the PAW program. It has given me the opportunity to transition into a halfway home, contribute toward my rent, and start laying the foundation for my next steps in life.

Most importantly, it has given me the chance to get sober and begin truly rebuilding myself.”

people CARING
hope felt life GAVE reclaim
chance SUPPORT forward
judgment judgement
community PAW PROGRAM
reclaim HELPED
grounded héipe
RECOVERY EVED RECOVERY
moving forward HUMAN real
forward GAVE confidence
stable GAVE reclaim
finding START finding
real community listen
judgement felt
grounded
lining
time