

IMPACT REPORT



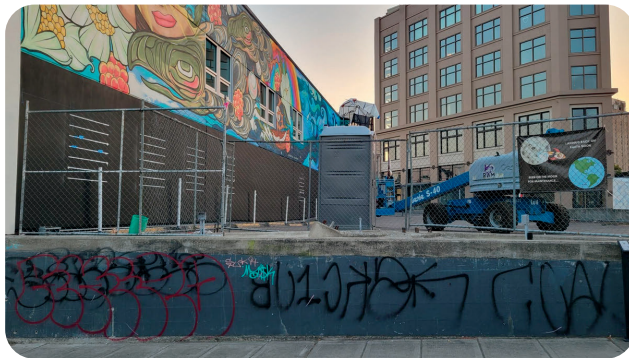
Program Overview

Graffiti contributes to reduced retail sales, a decline in property values, and citizen fear. A business littered with graffiti is less likely to be patronized. Citizens feel less safe and secure entering a storefront where graffiti is present. The Downtown Bellingham Partnership worked with the City of Bellingham, Bellingham Police Department, and neighboring community leaders to create best practices and removal programs in 2022.

Business owners and property owners are required to remove graffiti within seven days per City of Bellingham ordinance. Due to the volume of graffiti since the pandemic, the Downtown Bellingham Partnership created a waiver which allows DBP's landscaping and cleaning team to paint, buff, or chemically remove tags on behalf of the building. The City of Bellingham funded a \$30K contract to DBP to pilot this program from June 2022 to December 2023.

A Message From The Program Manager

"The amount of taggers has been reduced greatly since we started this program. Many of the vandals are discouraged by the speed in which we remove their tags within our service area. We are hoping as some of these offenders are charged, we will see even more reductions in tagging," Kenny Austin, DBP's Landscaping and Maintenance Supervisor.



300 BLOCK W HOLLY



IMPACT SNAPSHOT

All metrics are based on data from June 2022 - March 2023

2,638	351	88	271	\$389,138
Tags* Removed	Paint Overs*	Building Waivers	Charges Issued	Estimated property damage value

1,262

Additional Slaps* Removed

*Definitions:

- Tags = spray paint and paint pen graffiti
- Slaps - stickers and decals
- Paint overs = graffiti covered, rather than removed, by new paint

BEFORE & AFTER



PUBLIC & PRIVATE SPACES

41% of abatement to date was performed on city-owned property

VARIETY OF MATERIALS & SURFACES

Pressure washing, chemical removal, physical buffing, and other techniques are all employed



WHAT'S AHEAD



DOWNTOWN
BELLINGHAM
PARTNERSHIP



A Valuable and Necessary Program

Since the graffiti abatement program's inception in June 2022, vandalism on public and private surfaces has been removed thousands of times and hundreds of charges have been filed in cooperation with the Bellingham Police Department. The community has been spared visual blight, nearly \$400K in property damage has been amended, and offenders are being charged in cooperation with the Bellingham Police Department.



In addition to the annual cleaning and landscaping contracts the City of Bellingham trusts the Downtown Bellingham Partnership with to maintain Downtown's curb appeal, graffiti removal is proving to be a necessary use of resources.



We hope this report helps demonstrate the overwhelming impact and need this program has provided in just 10 months. We welcome discussions about not only continued, but expanded resources to support this cross-functional effort to quickly remove graffiti, hold offenders accountable, and make our Downtown look welcoming.

1300 BLOCK COMMERCIAL

TESTIMONIALS

"We have been involved with the graffiti removal program with the downtown Bellingham partnership and have been extremely satisfied with how our building looks since joining. Kenny has done a fantastic job of keeping our building as well as all the other buildings who are involved in the program, looking so much better. He usually has the graffiti covered up before most of us get to work. We've also been surprised at how much less graffiti we have seen since painting are large wall black."

"We have really noticed a huge difference in the appearance of our building in the amount of graffiti that we incur since joining (the graffiti abatement program). Kenny has done a great job with the initial paint job as well as being very prompt at covering up any new graffiti that may appear."