



Walter Lyon

**2019
Walter Lyon Award**

**Allegheny
CleanWays,
Myrna Newman,
Executive Director**



Allegheny CleanWays is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization formed in 2000 to "engage and empower people to eliminate illegal dumping and littering in Allegheny County." An early goal of the organization was to assess the extent of illegal dumping in the Pittsburgh area. A survey of illegal dump sites within the City of Pittsburgh was published in 2002 and a similar survey of the rest of Allegheny County was then completed and published in 2005. Over the years, Allegheny CleanWays has been instrumental in engaging and partnering with community groups to remove dumps and debris from vacant lots, greenways, streets, and riverbanks. Each year hundreds of volunteers work with them to remove tons of debris from the landscape to improve local viewsapes, as well as enhance community health and vitality. Their focus has evolved as the public has become increasingly aware of and involved in the issues of litter and illegal dumping. From the early focus on conducting illegal dump assessments we have grown to conducting cleanup coordinator workshops and working on litter and illegal dumping prevention, all the while partnering with an expanding list of organizations to do the work on the streets. They have accomplished great things but still have a great deal more to do.