



TDOT
Department of
Transportation

2021



Annual Litter Grant Report



**TENNESSEE
TARP LAW**

**LOCK DOWN
YOUR LOAD**

Tennessee 2007 Litter Law
TCA 39-14-6
Section 39-14-607; Secured Load Law

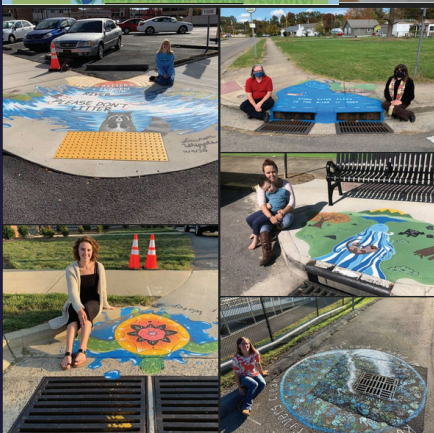
Class B Misdemeanor

*Motor Vehicle- Shall be required to have such materials in and enclosed space or fully covered by a tarpaulin.

*Private Pickup Truck- Load must be secured to reasonably ensure not to fall or blow off.

If convicted, pay \$500 fine, court cost and shall do public service pickup for up to 40 hours and may do work in Recycling Center up to eight hours.

Keep Our State Beautiful





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Transportation

Annual Litter Grant Report

March 31, 2021

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Program Overview

In Tennessee, there are 96,167 miles of public roads in Tennessee; 14,110 miles are maintained by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) and 4,022 of these miles are classified as scenic.

Litter prevention and pickup efforts are critical to keeping roadways safe and maintaining the natural beauty of Tennessee. TDOT spends approximately \$19 million annually on the programs described in this report and right-of-way litter pickup contracts.

In 1981, the Soft Drink and Malt Beverage Industries took a comprehensive, proactive approach to prevent their bottles and other trash from becoming litter along Tennessee roadways. As good corporate citizens, the industry lobbied to establish a tax on their products to help fund litter prevention in Tennessee.

Since 1983, the tax revenues from TCA § 67-4-402 and TCA § 57-5-201 have funded the TDOT Highway Beautification Office's Litter Grant Program. The law gives TDOT discretion on how to best use the funds to clean up and prevent litter, and matters related to litter, such as recycling or litter in stormwater runoff.

Litter Grants are available to all 95 counties. Funding is allocated to each county by a formula based on population and road miles. The Litter Grant Program supports a variety of programs and activities that help reduce litter throughout Tennessee. Through the efforts of collaborative county partners, the Litter Grant Program is responsible for removing an average of 11,573 tons of litter each year. Over the 37-year history of the program (1983 to 2020), this equates to the removal of more than 428,200 tons of litter from our roadways.

This is the annual report, required by law, regarding the collection and use of funds under the TDOT Litter Grant Program for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020 (FY 2020).

Litter Grants are available to all 95 counties. The amount of funding a county receives is determined by a formula based on population and road miles.



Accounting

In Fiscal Year 2020, TDOT awarded Litter Grant contracts to county governments totaling \$5,500,000 for programs encompassing litter pickup and recycling activities, along with those that educate Tennesseans concerning the importance of keeping our state clean and litter free. Of that total, \$3,806,819 was dedicated for local litter pickup operations, the largest such total in Litter Grant program history.

County Litter Grant contracts require that 20-35% of the total funding is budgeted for litter prevention education. In FY 2020, \$1,693,181 was dedicated to those education activities. Counties are required to provide litter prevention education in three of five designated categories: students, public, media, government, and business. The fact that 83% of the funds in this category were spent means that citizens across Tennessee gained valuable knowledge about how litter impacts our quality of life, economic development, and the environment.

An additional \$1,278,432 was awarded as a grant contract to Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTnB), an adjunct service of the University of Memphis. Keep Tennessee Beautiful is an affiliate of the country's nonprofit steward of litter prevention, Keep America Beautiful. Please see page 13 for more information about Keep Tennessee Beautiful.

FY 2020 Litter Grant Distribution		
COUNTY PICKUP \$3,806,819	COUNTY EDUCATION \$1,693,181	KTNB OUTREACH \$1,278,432
Total: \$6,778,432		

FY 2020 Litter Funding Distribution by County

FY 2020 Litter Funding Distribution by County					
Anderson	\$53,000.00	Hamilton	\$127,000.00	Morgan	\$44,200.00
Bedford	\$51,600.00	Hancock	\$44,200.00	Obion	\$49,700.00
Benton	\$44,200.00	Hardeman	\$46,400.00	Overton	\$44,800.00
Bledsoe	\$44,200.00	Hardin	\$48,600.00	Perry	\$44,200.00
Blount	\$74,300.00	Hawkins	\$56,700.00	Pickett	\$44,200.00
Bradley	\$64,900.00	Haywood	\$44,200.00	Polk	\$44,200.00
Campbell	\$48,700.00	Henderson	\$49,200.00	Putnam	\$59,200.00
Cannon	\$44,200.00	Henry	\$52,100.00	Rhea	\$44,200.00
Carroll	\$49,300.00	Hickman	\$49,300.00	Roane	\$52,900.00
Carter	\$50,800.00	Houston	\$44,200.00	Robertson	\$56,400.00
Cheatham	\$44,200.00	Humphreys	\$44,200.00	Rutherford	\$112,900.00
Chester	\$44,200.00	Jackson	\$44,200.00	Scott	\$44,200.00
Claiborne	\$49,100.00	Jefferson	\$52,900.00	Sequatchie	\$44,200.00
Clay	\$44,200.00	Johnson	\$44,200.00	Sevier	\$69,300.00
Cocke	\$49,400.00	Knox	\$168,600.00	Shelby	\$269,200.00
Coffee	\$52,300.00	Lake	\$44,200.00	Smith	\$44,200.00
Crockett	\$44,200.00	Lauderdale	\$44,200.00	Stewart	\$44,200.00
Cumberland	\$63,000.00	Lawrence	\$58,600.00	Sullivan	\$84,900.00
Davidson	\$179,800.00	Lewis	\$44,200.00	Sumner	\$84,000.00
Decatur	\$44,200.00	Lincoln	\$52,200.00	Tipton	\$53,600.00
DeKalb	\$44,200.00	Loudon	\$49,100.00	Trousdale	\$44,200.00
Dickson	\$54,300.00	Macon	\$44,200.00	Unicoi	\$44,200.00
Dyer	\$48,300.00	Madison	\$64,800.00	Union	\$44,200.00
Fayette	\$51,600.00	Marion	\$44,200.00	Van Buren	\$44,200.00
Fentress	\$44,200.00	Marshall	\$44,800.00	Warren	\$50,300.00
Franklin	\$50,500.00	Maury	\$67,200.00	Washington	\$72,100.00
Gibson	\$58,800.00	McMinn	\$55,800.00	Wayne	\$46,000.00
Giles	\$52,600.00	McNairy	\$47,900.00	Weakley	\$53,900.00
Grainger	\$44,200.00	Meigs	\$44,200.00	White	\$44,200.00
Greene	\$68,400.00	Monroe	\$53,600.00	Williamson	\$93,500.00
Grundy	\$44,200.00	Montgomery	\$83,700.00	Wilson	\$75,900.00
Hamblen	\$48,200.00	Moore	\$44,200.00	TOTAL	\$5,500,000.00



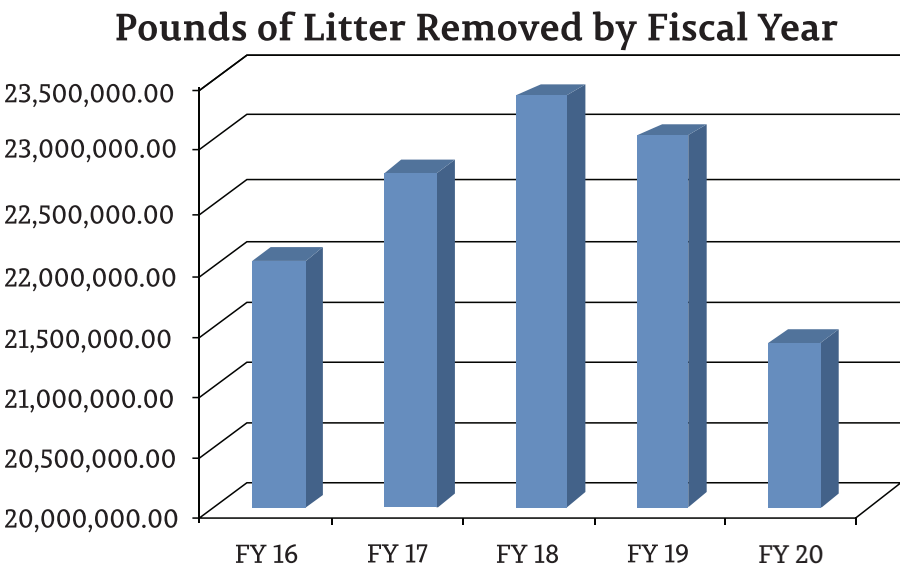
Pounds of Litter Removed by Fiscal Year

Dedicated county governments are on the frontline of litter cleanup and litter prevention. The positive impact of the Litter Grant Program is amplified because local government partners invest additional resources and citizens contribute tens of thousands of volunteer hours to promote these efforts.

Through the FY 2020 Litter Grant Program, county governments removed over 21 million pounds of litter from 450,362 miles of Tennessee roadways. 7.5 million pounds, or 35.7%, of that statewide total was recycled. Both of these totals were lower than the previous fiscal year due to COVID restrictions. Between April 2020 and July 2020, physical litter pickups were limited statewide due to the spread of COVID-19. Also, county governments used funding from the Litter Grant Program to clean-up 4,023 illegal roadside dumps statewide during FY 2020, an increase of nearly 400 dump sites.¹

Litter Removal by Fiscal Year		
Fiscal Year	Pounds	US Tons
FY 16	22,064,623.83	11,032.31
FY 17	22,724,846.40	11,362.43
FY 18	23,358,360.09	11,679.18
FY 19	22,987,734.31	11,493.87
FY 20	21,232,819.41	10,616.41

The volume of litter removal in FY 2020 and previous years, as illustrated by the graph below, demonstrates the power of partnerships and the year-after-year success of these joint endeavors.



¹ End of Year Litter Grant Performance Summary



Litter Hotline



Tennesseans care about preserving the scenic beauty of their communities. TCA § 54-1-401 authorizes TDOT to establish a system for citizens to report acts of littering from motor vehicles.

When citizens notify TDOT of a littering incident, a letter is mailed to the registered owner of the

vehicle along with a Nobody Trashes Tennessee car trash bag or portable ashtray and other anti-litter information. The letter gently reprimands offenders by discouraging litter behavior and informing them that littering is against the law and punishable by a fine.

The entire program is anonymous. Records are not kept regarding individuals who make the report or those receiving a letter. The Citizens Litter Prevention Hotline is an educational tool to remind those who engage in littering that their actions are hurtful to the state and to their community.

TDOT maintains the toll-free hotline at 1-877-8-LITTER (877-854-8837).

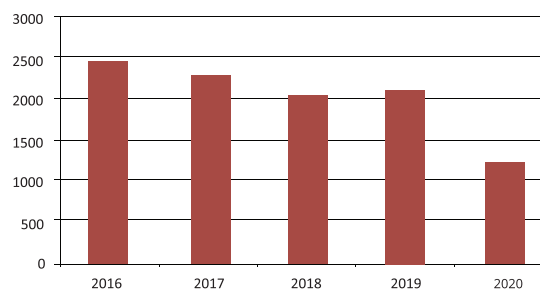
Citizens can also report a littering incident online at www.tn.gov/tdot/environmental-home/environmental-highway-beautification-office/litter.html

The information that is necessary to report a littering incident includes:

- License plate number (Tennessee plate only)
- Type and make of the vehicle
- Date and time the incident occurred
- Location where the incident occurred
- Type of item tossed or blown from the vehicle

Litter Hotline Reports by Fiscal Year	
Year	Reports
2016	2,460
2017	2,272
2018	2,051
2019	2,137
2020	1,251

Litter Hotline Reports by Fiscal Year



*1,251 reports
to the Litter
Hotline in 2020.*

Impacts from COVID-19

The global spread of COVID-19 has had widespread impacts, including in every corner of the Volunteer State. These impacts have made it more difficult for both the delivery of litter prevention education programming, and the capacity for agencies and individuals to pick up roadside litter in their communities. As 2020 continued, local partners and TDOT worked closer than ever to find unique ways for communities to continue litter education and picking up litter, and how Litter Grant funding could be a solution to an important problem.

Initially, TDOT viewed COVID-19 as a serious hurdle to overcome in administration of the Litter Grant and in delivering statewide beautification services. The FY21 Litter Grant contract process was made electronic, as was annual grantee training. TDOT and Keep Tennessee Beautiful became increasingly concerned about a rise in illegal dumping, especially in communities that had cut solid waste services. A tips and tactics manual was created that was subsequently shared statewide through the Tennessee Sheriffs' Association. As summer approached, COVID-19 began to have a definite impact on programming. Citizens who were quarantined used the Litter Hotline less. In-person cleanups for the Great American Cleanup and 50th anniversary of Earth Day were cancelled, and between April 1, 2020 and July 31, 2020, 42 of 95 Tennessee counties either paused or halted altogether their litter cleanup operations. TDOT's local partners also had to clear hurdles, such as closed or remote schools, a lack of offenders being sentenced to community service and other significant challenges.

Despite these hurdles and challenges, innovative practices and partnerships have helped local litter prevention programs to rise to the challenge. TDOT, Keep Tennessee Beautiful and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC), joined forces to share traditional and social media messaging about personal protective equipment (PPE) litter. Adopt-A-Highway cleanups resumed with a new bevy of COVID-19 safety proposals in place. Counties were allowed to request reimbursement for new, expanded services being offered at convenience centers. Litter prevention education programs were developed for a remote-learning audience, and multiple counties moved to a "micro-cleanup" approach with only a few individuals involved, wearing proper PPE and being socially distanced. Litter pickups and litter prevention education programs were severely impacted by the spread of COVID-19, but innovated to rise to the challenge.

Distressed Counties

The Litter Grant Program has provided funding for communities in all 95 Tennessee counties to perform neighborhood and highway litter pickups, litter prevention education and beautification. Tennessee has invested in the Litter Grant since 1983 because the program directly impacts local economies, including economic and tourist development, and business recruitment. These impacts are particularly important for the 11 counties in the state that are identified as “economically distressed.”

Economically distressed counties received a total of \$495,400 in TDOT Litter Grant funding during the FY 2020. Communities in these counties removed a total of 1,042,447 pounds of litter from Tennessee roadways and contributed vital volunteer hours to improve their local economy.

TDOT is proud of all its local partners in the statewide Litter Grant. The highlights listed below are in specific recognition of the economically distressed counties working to both beautify their communities and spark economic investment to improve the lives of Tennesseans.

Bledsoe County

- Bledsoe County expended all their Litter Grant funds in FY 2020, as 63,040 pounds of litter were picked up from roadsides. 11.6%, or 7,342 pounds of this litter was recycled.

Clay County

- All Litter Grant funds were expended in FY 2020, as 9,475 pounds of litter was collected from roadsides in Clay County. 29.5%, or 2,797 pounds of litter was recycled. Clay County has an active litter prevention education program. They distributed seasonal Halloween goodie bags that displayed a litter prevention message. The Clay County Sanitation Dept. hosted a “Snowflakes are Falling” recycled ornament contest among local school-aged children. Also, litter magician Barry Mitchell dazzled elementary schools across Clay County by bringing his magic show.

Cocke County

- 310,560 pounds of litter was removed from roadsides in Cocke County, and 57.8%, or 179,600 pounds of litter was recycled. Additionally, 18 illegal dump sites were cleaned up. Litter Grant education funds went to Cocke County's Keep America Beautiful affiliate, Keep Cocke County Beautiful, which visited schools to discuss litter with students, aged preschool through elementary school. Keep Cocke County Beautiful also worked with multiple local partners to host events and deliver programs that raised litter awareness in the community.

Distressed Counties (continued)

Grundy County

- 102,650 pounds of litter was removed from 1,034 miles of roadways in Grundy County. The county's litter prevention education efforts were highlighted by Keep Tennessee Beautiful during a Great American Cleanup kickoff event, held at "The Caverns" in Pelham, Tennessee on March 5, 2020. Grundy County has worked closely with Keep Tennessee Beautiful to become the first state-level Keep America Beautiful affiliate in the country.

Hancock County

- 89,265 pounds of litter were removed from roadsides in Hancock County. One illegal dumpsite was also cleaned up.

Hardeman County

- Hardeman County picked up litter on 7,860 miles of roadsides throughout their county. The county has expanded use of hidden cameras to monitor illegal dumpsites in enforcing Tennessee's litter law. Hardeman County also hosted a successful, safe community-wide cleanup event in June 2020.

Lake County

- 104,740 pounds of litter was collected from 534 miles of Tennessee roadsides in Lake County. Of that total, 64.3%, or 67,370 was recycled.

Lauderdale County

- Lauderdale County collected 166,211 pounds of litter from 8,996 miles of roadsides in FY 2020. Of that total 6,481 pounds, or 3.9%, was recycled. The county also cleaned up 44 illegal dump sites.

Perry County

- 15,704 pounds of litter was collected from Tennessee roadsides in Perry County. Of that total, 47.5%, or 7,452 pounds, was recycled. This total was collected from 19,440 miles of roadsides within the county.

Scott County

- Scott County removed 38,625 pounds of litter from roadsides in FY 2020. The county also removed 2 illegal dump sites.

Wayne County

- 65,763 pounds of litter were removed from roadsides in Wayne County. Of that total 24,392 pounds, or 37.1%, was recycled. The county also removed 82 illegal dumpsites.



Keep Tennessee Beautiful

3d · 🌐

Happy Friday! Check out this Tarp event hosted by Wayne County Solid Waste/ Recycling in Clifton, Tn last month. KTNB encourages everyone to be safe and practice social distancing rules while out keeping our state beautiful! Thank you Lindsay Ross of Wayne County for the pictures! ❤️

[#DoBeautifulThings](#)
[#socialdistancing](#)
[#keeptennesseebautiful](#)



Keep Tennessee Beautiful

Keep Tennessee Beautiful (KTnB) is an adjunct service of the University of Memphis and provides expertise in litter prevention education, litter law enforcement, community enhancement through beautification, and volunteer

recruitment and management. TDOT spends a significant amount of money each year on litter pickup and prevention activities. In order to reduce those costs over time, Tennesseans must recognize the negative impacts on the scenic beauty of Tennessee, and the financial costs associated with litter.



The KTnB Advisory Council was established under Governor McWherter's Executive Order #18 in September 1989. The Council is comprised of 14 citizen appointees and ex-officio members from Tennessee State Departments. Appointed by the Governor, citizen members serve rotating terms and follow their by-laws for the betterment of Tennessee as an attractive, safe and healthy place to live and visit. Through policy advisement, the Council sets direction for KTnB and local Keep Tennessee Beautiful affiliates.

Highlights of KTnB activities during Fiscal Year 2020 include:

A biennial retreat and training for Keep Tennessee Beautiful affiliate coordinators was held September 16, 2019, in Nashville. The one-day retreat featured both sessions requested by coordinators and those that build competencies and professional development among the coordinators.



KTnB and TDOT hosted a biennial state conference in Nashville on September 17, 2019. The conference was highlighted by the Awards of Excellence luncheon, a recognition of valuable beautification work being conducted by environmental leaders throughout Tennessee. First Lady Maria Lee served as the keynote speaker and over \$46,000 in cash prizes were given away to award winners.

Keep Tennessee Beautiful (continued)

KTnB contracted with Ms. Cecile Carson to develop a new network of state-level Keep America Beautiful affiliates, focusing on the economically distressed counties throughout Tennessee. KTnB's Pamela Willingham served as a staff lead on this effort, alongside Ms. Carson, and an initial meeting with county leaders was held on September 17, 2019.



In October 2019, KTnB partnered with the Tennessee Department of Tourism (TDTD) to host “Paint Tennessee Pink”, events in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. KTnB staff attended events at multiple Welcome Centers and distributed 2,000 branded reusable car litter bags. The events gave travelers an in-vehicle reminder not to litter and raised breast cancer awareness.

KTnB conducted several events in November 2019 in support of America Recycles Day. Denim drives were held on the campuses of the University of Memphis, LeMoyne Owens, and other Memphis-area universities. Memphis City Beautiful and other Memphis-area YMCAs also joined in the effort. KTnB provided each event with recycling bins to collect and repurpose their denim. In all 80 pieces of denim were repurposed into “UltraTouch” insulation.

In November 2019, KTnB also partnered with multiple local affiliates on “Can You Dig It” events which encourage residents to plant native trees and plants in their communities. During these events, plants were frequently placed in repurposed tires. These events not only promote the importance of planting native species but provide for a beneficial end use for used tires. Local affiliates hosting a “Can You Dig It” event include Keep Chester County Beautiful, Keep Tipton Beautiful, Keep Knoxville Beautiful, and Keep Maury Beautiful. Overall, 182 volunteers planted 247 individual trees and native plants in their communities. In this effort, 61 tires were repurposed and reused in this effort.



Keep Tennessee Beautiful (continued)

From February 12-14, 2020, KTnB and partners hosted the 2020 Keep America Beautiful National Conference at the historic Peabody Hotel in downtown Memphis. Hosting the event gave Tennessee the unique opportunity to demonstrate the valuable partnerships and creative programming which help to keep Tennessee clean and green.

KTnB staff and programming were recognized at the 2020 Keep America Beautiful National Conference in Memphis, Tennessee. Among the honors presented to KTnB were Director Missy Marshall's receipt of the Sue Smith Leadership Award and a Diamond Recognition for her 10 years or more being in good standing as a state leader. KTnB was also recognized with two State Affiliate Partnership Awards for their close work with TDOT and TDTD.



A Great American Cleanup kickoff event was held on March 5, 2020 at "The Caverns" in Pelham, Tennessee. Governor Bill Lee proclaimed March 2020 as "Keep Tennessee Beautiful Month" and the annual "Love Where You Live Award" was bestowed upon Anderson County resident Julie Graham for her commitment to local beautification and litter prevention. The kickoff event is intended to inspire Tennesseans to take part in local cleanups. Cocke County Sheriff Armondo Fontes served as keynote speaker for the event and delivered a message on the Tennessee litter and covered loads laws.

KTnB received a Cigarette Litter Prevention Program grant from Keep America Beautiful. This \$20,000 grant was used in partnership with TDTD, Keep McMinn Beautiful and the Keep Putnam County Beautiful Clean Commission to install cigarette receptacles and instructional signage. These partners also began working with the company TerraCycle to recycle cigarette litter collected in the receptacles and turn them into a beneficial end use.

Keep Tennessee Beautiful (continued)

Last spring, as Covid-19 took hold of the country, KTnB encouraged Tennessee residents to work independently to fight litter, and to do so in a safe manner. KTnB encouraged Tennesseans to gather in very small groups or for micro cleanups and to utilize social distancing and the wearing of face masks. KTnB also used social media marketing to encourage the proper disposal of PPE. KTnB stayed connected to its network of affiliates by conducting biweekly Zoom calls. Lastly, KTnB mailed out reusable, branded face masks to Tennessee residents to discourage single use masks, and to curb the littering of single use masks and other PPE litter.



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

30 YEARS ANNIVERSARY

In addition to partnerships and grant programs, TDOT has administered the all-free, all-volunteer Adopt-A-Highway program since 1989 to combat litter along state routes. In October 2019, the program reached its 30th anniversary and TDOT staff planned a fitting celebration. During the week of the anniversary, 30 groups conducted cleanups statewide and received special long-sleeve t-shirts in appreciation of their efforts. Nobody Trashes Tennessee and TDOT social media channels joined forces to celebrate and thank Adopt-A-Highway groups, and a media release announcing the program's anniversary was carried by traditional media outlets in all major markets across the state. TDOT used the milestone to promote the program through January 2020 feature articles in "Tennessee" magazine, "Tennessee Conservationist" magazine, and "Tennessee Home and Garden" magazine.



Adopt-A-Highway is a volunteer program that is completely free for those who commit to cleaning up a TDOT-approved 2 mile stretch of roadside each quarter. Volunteers must be at least 12 years old and sign a waiver, at which point they are given plastic bags, caution signs and safety vests by the nearest TDOT district office. Participants in the program are rewarded with a free recognition panel displaying their chosen name along the adopted route. The program is not only an excellent way to boost litter prevention awareness and promote community engagement, but it also reduces the millions of dollars TDOT spends on litter removal each year.

Businesses, groups or individuals are eligible to participate in the free program. For more information, please visit <https://www.tn.gov/tdot/environmental-home/environmental-highway-beautification-office/adopt-a-highway.html>, or by contacting TDOT's Highway Beautification Office at (615) 741-2877.

Adopt-A-Highway Fiscal Year 2020			
Bags of Litter Picked up	Pounds of Litter Removed	Volunteer Hours	Cleanup Volunteers
1,303	19,545 lbs	350	693

Nobody Trashes Tennessee

Spreading the word about the importance of litter prevention and creating brand awareness are critical to the success of the Nobody Trashes Tennessee campaign. One meaningful way to spread the word and make a difference is in building partnerships with local stakeholders that bring messaging to different communities across the state.

On July 17, 2019, TDOT partnered with multiple agencies; namely: the City of Memphis, Shelby County Sheriff's Department, Memphis City Beautiful, Clean Memphis and Keep Tennessee Beautiful to host a 1 day "Ramp It Up" series of physical litter pickups in Shelby County. The pickups were aimed at cleaning up highly visible interstate interchanges and exit/entry ramps around the City of Memphis and Shelby County. In addition to the partnering agencies, over 250 employees from private-sector firms, such as: FedEx, Highwoods Properties, Boyle Investments, Olymbec, Graceland, and St. Jude volunteered to assist with the pickup. "Ramp It Up" cleanups occurred at the interchanges of I-40 at Danny Tomas Boulevard, I-240 at Airways Boulevard, I-55 at Brooks Road and I-240 at Poplar Avenue. Media coverage of the event was garnered, and parts of Memphis received a much-needed cleaning up ahead of the internationally televised FedEx St. Jude Invitational golf tournament.



Nobody Trashes Tennessee (continued)

The Nobody Trashes Tennessee team also partnered with Tiger Sports Property to advertise the campaign in connection with the highly successful University of Memphis basketball programs. This partnership connected the campaign to legendary player, coach and campaign celebrity spokesperson Penny Hardaway and allowed for the filming of co-branded PSAs. Litter prevention messaging was displayed at basketball games, weekly television and radio shows, and other fan events connected to the program. This partnership expanded in 2020 to include advertising connected to the University of Memphis football program.

Numerous additional partnerships helped to further the success of Nobody Trashes Tennessee during FY 2020. Grantees and non-profits used Litter Grant and Special Litter Grant funds to bring Nobody Trashes Tennessee images and messaging to their communities.



Special Litter Grants



In December 2020, TDOT closed out a round of one-time grants for community-based special litter projects. The 15 grantees included county, municipal, nonprofit and civic partners whose projects extended the reach of TDOT's Litter Grant programming. These multi-year projects were extended for an additional 6 months due to impacts from the spread of COVID-19.

Deliverables from these projects

empowered local litter and covered load law enforcement, created a greater connection between litter abatement and water quality, provided much needed cleanup resources and furthered the department's Nobody Trashes Tennessee litter prevention campaign.

In total, \$1,975,354.28 was awarded for projects beginning July 1, 2018 and ending December 30, 2020 (Fiscal Years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020.) A brief description of the 15 projects funded are listed below.

Special Litter Grant Projects	
Cumberland River Compact	Conducted a 'Clean Streams Initiative' consisting of litter pickups and public education around littering near tributaries throughout the Cumberland River basin. (\$124,600)
Clean Memphis	Community cleanup efforts by neighborhood in the City of Memphis. (\$150,000)
Lawrence County Government	Monitor and cleaned up illegal dumpsites in Lawrence County. Hire a litter enforcement officer with the Lawrence County Sheriff's Office to investigate littering and prosecute cases. (\$123,317)
Urban Green Lab	Piloted a science-based curriculum emphasizing sustainability and waste reduction in Davidson, Hamilton, Knox and Shelby counties. (\$200,000)
Shelby County Government	Supported a summer 'Flight Blight Team' youth employment initiative. (\$200,000)

Special Litter Grant Projects (cont.)	
Metro Nashville Public Works	Conducted a community appearance inventory and engage neighborhoods in a litter prevention education and removal program. (\$200,000)
Keep the Tennessee River Beautiful	Coordinated with 'Living Lands & Waters' for 8 river cleanups, and partnership with marinas for marine debris tracking and dissemination of litter prevention educational materials for boaters. (\$71,393)
Town of Tellico Plains	Hired (2) two litter enforcement officers with the Town of Tellico Plains Police Department to investigate illegal dumpsites, prosecute litter offenders and lead cleanup efforts. (\$65,160)
City of Chattanooga	Purchased and installation of a litter trap on a stormwater retention basin at Citico Creek. Interpretive signage. (\$125,000)
Chester County Government	Installed a litter and recycling classroom for school-aged children above a regional recycling facility in Henderson. (\$181,693)
Boone Watershed Partnership	Partnered with the City of Johnson City and a local non-profit for tire and debris pickups for Mill Creek, a tributary of Boone Lake. (\$27,715)
Friends of City Beautiful	Installed litter prevention signage and produce an anti-litter instructional video for Driver's Education students. (\$20,000)

Conclusion

Tennessee's transportation system is recognized as one of the best in the nation. Our roads connect neighbors to neighbors, connect families, and connect workers with employers. Litter abatement is just one way that TDOT is focused on stewardship and sustainability efforts to protect the drivers, natural beauty, and cultural resources of this great state.

Litter Hurts Our Quality of Life.

Litter impacts roadway safety. Not only is litter a hazard to drivers, it also presents a danger when mowing the right-of-way.

Litter impacts community image and criminal activity. Litter can send an unintentional message that citizens do not care about their community, which could foster criminal activity that endangers public safety and property value.

Litter impacts the health of the environment and water quality. Paper, plastic, and aluminum pose a threat to the health of wildlife, and quality of soil and water. Trash travels into storm drains with each rain event and flushes into local waterways. In fact, 18% of litter ends up in streams and waterways as pollution. Accumulated trash results in serious environmental and health contamination and can cause blockages that create hazardous flooding conditions and unsanitary situations.

Litter impacts potential income through tourism and business recruitment. Tennessee is a tourism-friendly state and litter detracts from its scenic beauty, which can have negative financial consequences for private enterprises and the state. A community with excessive litter may have a more difficult time recruiting new business and industry.

TDOT's Litter Grant Program works with all 95 counties in Tennessee. The program is an outstanding example of working with citizens, communities, businesses and government partners for the good of Tennessee. TDOT's Highway Beautification Office is continually working to build new partnerships and initiate new outreach to educate motorists that littering is an important and preventable problem in Tennessee.

Follow Us

Be sure to follow us on our social media pages!



Nobody Trashes Tennessee



@NobodyTrashesTN
@TDOT_Beautify



@nobodytrashestn



Tennessee Department of Transportation
Highway Beautification Office
James K. Polk Building, Suite 400
505 Deaderick Street
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: 615-741-2877 • Fax: 615-532-5995
Litter Hotline: 1-877-8-LITTER



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