

WE ALL PAY FOR LITTERING & ILLEGAL DUMPING

The cost is more than just the money we pay to have someone clean it up. Litter and dumping can increase the health and safety risks of residents through disease and hazardous objects, as well as degrade natural resources, the esthetics of a community, and the local economy.

Discarded plastic bags, bottles, wrappers, fast food packaging and tires are among the most common types of litter known to create the perfect breeding habitat for mosquitos and other vermin. These “floatables” can also clog storm drains and cause flooding. Debris such as cigarette butts, broken glass and aluminum cans create cutting and choking hazards for humans and wildlife.

Toxins from cigarette butts, oils, paints, liquid wastes and chemicals leach into and can contaminate nearby water sources and soil. The accumulation of aged food, drinks, pet waste and stagnant rain water can increase harmful, disease-spreading bacteria and other contaminants that find their way to the stream.

...these are just a few of the problems caused by littering and illegal dumping....



But the good news is...

It's easily preventable and the solution is free!

It's as simple as choosing:

- ⇒ Not to litter.
- ⇒ To reuse what we can instead of throwing it away. This prevents new natural resources from being unearthed and reduces the amount of trash that goes to the landfill.
- ⇒ To put all trash in the trash can.
- ⇒ Not to throw anything out your car window, pour, sweep or hose anything down the storm drain or in the street.
- ⇒ To call your city's hotline and report others who may have forgotten that littering is wrong.
- ⇒ To be a volunteer and help with a local cleanup event such as the "Adopt-a-Highway" program or other non-profit.
- ⇒ To be an example for others and pick up that plastic bag that is tumbling its way across the parking lot.
- ⇒ To use sturdy reusable bottles, grocery bags, plates etc. instead of the disposables. Disposables, especially plastic water bottles, have become a very large litter problem.

A nation-wide study done by Keep America Beautiful discovered that litter clean up costs the U.S. an estimated \$11.5 billion each year.

Your actions say a lot to others, make a big difference and can save all of us money!