

Keep Blanco Beautiful Newsletter

Issue III



Texas Adopt-a-Highway Program

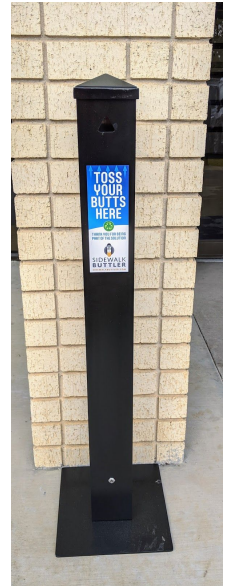
Are you tired of seeing trash along HWY-281 and want to do something about it? More and more people are in cars on the roadway which unfortunately means more trash on the ground. KBB encourages businesses, organizations, and individuals to look into the Adopt-a-Highway program. The Adopt-a-Highway program is "a Texas-born program that allows volunteers to adopt stretches of state-maintained roadway to conduct litter pickups" that began in 1985. There are over 3,500 groups participating in the program across the state covering over 7,000 miles. Become a participant today by adopting a two mile stretch of highway for a minimum of two years and agreeing to pick up litter at least four times per year. One volunteer within the organization must live in the county. It's free and a great way to help keep Blanco beautiful. Safety training and supplies will be provided by Adopt-a-Highway; an Adopt-a-Highway sign will also be posted with the name of the organization. Memorial adoptions are available to honor those who died from a collision on the state highway system as well. If you are interested in adopting a highway, there is an application available at <https://www.dot.state.tx.us/apps-cg/aah/contact.htm> to fill out. Additional information can be found at <https://www.txdot.gov/inside-txdot/get-involved/volunteer/adopt-a-highway.html> or call (800) 200-0003.



Blanco CLPP Updates

The Keep Blanco Beautiful (KBB) Cigarette Litter Prevention Program (CLPP) is in full swing! Cigarette litter is the number one item littered which is why KBB is trying to eliminate all cigarette litter in Blanco. The overall littering rate for cigarette butts is over sixty percent. “Most cigarette butts are littered on the ground (85 percent), 37 percent into bushes/shrubbery, 25 percent on or around trash receptacles, and 15 percent into planters,” says [Keep America Beautiful](#) (KAB)’s website. Because of this high percentage of cigarette litter, KBB has purchased more standing receptacles that have been placed around the historic district. These new standing receptacles from [Sidewalk Buttler](#) are forty inches tall and can hold upwards of 1,800 butts. There are over thirty receptacles around Blanco. KBB is working on creating a map of all the receptacles around town to make it even easier for smokers to locate. It will be posted on KBB’s website when completed. According to KAB’s website, “For every additional ash receptacle, the littering rate for cigarette butts decreases by 9 percent.” A month after the new receptacles are installed, another cigarette butt litter scan will take place.

Another way to help reduce cigarette litter is by carrying pocket ashtrays. A pocket ashtray is a device designed to store cigarette butts until they can be disposed of properly. Less than 15 percent of smokers say they own a pocket ashtray which is why KBB has purchased 400 to pass out. KBB will be distributing pocket ashtrays to the local restaurants and businesses as well. On Oct. 19, KBB had a market day booth and promoted the KBB CLPP at the Blanco Market Days. Pocket ashtrays, brochures, business cards, stickers, buttons, and pencils were handed out. The brochures contained facts about cigarette butt litter. Don’t Mess with Texas generously donated “Darrell the Barrel” stickers, “Don’t Mess with Texas” bumper stickers, and small car trash bags with the sayings “Don’t Mess with Texas” and “Real Texans Don’t Litter.” This was a successful PR event for KBB with over 100 pocket ashtrays distributed and the message “Don’t Leave Your Butts Behind” was spread to many. If you are a smoker and would like a free pocket ashtray, there is a link to the form on KBB’s website at <https://keepblancobeautiful.org/clpp/> along with additional information. If you know other Blanco citizens who smoke, share this opportunity with them.





KBB has also recently teamed up with [TerraCycle](#) to recycle cigarette litter. This program is completely free too. When you dispose of your butts properly in the receptacles around town, you will be helping us recycle. "Once collected, the cigarettes and packaging are separated by composition and melted into hard plastic that can be remodeled to make new recycled industrial products, such as plastic pallets. The ash and tobacco are separated out and composted in a specialized process," according to TerraCycle's website. Santa Fe Natural Tobacco Company donates a dollar towards the KAB CLPP for every pound collected. KBB volunteers have recently emptied and mailed the first box of cigarette litter to TerraCycle.

The overall goal is to have zero cigarette butts on the ground. If you are interested in joining the KBB CLPP, contact Retta Martin at (830) 833-4720 or visit KBB's [website](#). Must be 18 or older. Don't leave your butts behind and let's keep Blanco beautiful!

First Annual Fall Sweep



[Fall Sweep](#) was created by [Keep Texas Beautiful](#) (KTB) with help from HEB in 2015 during KTB's 50th anniversary and runs from September 3 through November 15. This year, KBB has decided to host the 1st Fall Sweep event in Blanco. Over 50 people (including over 30 youths) gathered on Sat. Sept. 28 to volunteer to clean up the town. This year KBB has had over 100 volunteers help out with their events and projects and there's still a few months left! Volunteers met at 9 a.m. at the pergola in Bindseil Park and collected their supplies before heading to their designated areas. Supplies included a map of town,

gloves, plastic bags (black for trash, clear for recycling), and yellow safety vests. Adults were offered tongs to help pick up litter as well. The vests and tongs were recently purchased by KBB and it was the first usage of the new items. For our first Fall Sweep event, we had three teams (Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and FFA) sign up and other individual volunteers. The Boy Scouts cleaned the banks of the Blanco River while the Girl Scouts cleaned the historic district. This included Bindseil Park. The FFA students broke into smaller groups and tackled the schools and around the town. Other volunteers joined the FFA groups or helped with the food. Groups made their way back to the pergola for hotdogs, chili, chips and water. Everyone was provided a 2019 KBB t-shirt and a 20th anniversary sticker as well. Over 145 volunteer hours were logged along with 265 pounds of litter collected. KBB is very pleased with the first year results and can't wait to host another one next fall!

[Click here to view pictures from KBB's 1st Fall Sweep!](#)

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