

Keep Blanco Beautiful Newsletter

Issue VII



Social Media Pages

Follow us on our new social media pages!

Did you know that KBB has several new social media pages? We have had a [Facebook](#) page for many years, but recently decided to connect with others. These include a [Twitter](#) account and an [Instagram](#) account. We would love for you to follow us on those new social media pages! Here are a few of our favorite hashtags: #KeepBlancoBeautiful #BlancoCLPP #Dontleaveyourbuttsbehind #DoBeautifulThings #BeautifyTx and we encourage you to use them. Our Twitter account is @BlancoBeautiful and keepblancobeautiful is our Instagram account.

The Blanco Countywide Cleanup Event has been rescheduled for Saturday, Oct. 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 377 Transfer Road Johnson City, Tx 78636.

Host an Individual Cleanup

The world might be different, but it's still illegal to litter. According to [Don't Mess with Texas](#)'s website you "can be fined \$500 every time you litter in Texas. And, if what you toss weighs more than five pounds, you may have to pay up to \$2,000." Litter includes (but is not limited to): cigarette butts, styrofoam containers, apple core, disposable wipes, receipts, and gum wrappers. Decreasing the amount of litter along the streets is

beneficial to the environment and economy. KBB had to cancel the spring cleanup event, however, this should not stop citizens from participating in individual cleanups. KBB would be happy to supply trash bags, gloves, safety vests, vests and grabbers. Simply contact KBB and to wear a mask.



environment and cancel the spring however, this should participating in KBB would be happy to gloves, safety vests, vests and grabbers Simply contact KBB these supplies or fill encourages citizens to distancing guidelines After collecting litter,

be sure to wash your hands thoroughly and dispose of your litter and disposal gloves properly. Plogging is another great and fun way to collect litter; the definition of plogging is "a recreational activity, originating in Sweden, that combines jogging with picking up litter." Just imagine how clean Blanco could be if everyone picked up two pieces of trash a month! If a person is unable to participate in an individual cleanup or plog, there are many other ways citizens can prevent littering. One tip is to keep a litter bag in vehicles; this way a person can have somewhere to put their trash while in the car instead of throwing it out the window. Securing trash can and dumpster lids to prevent the trash from spilling on the ground from a gust of wind can help too. Report litterers to the confidential Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT)'s [Report a Litter Program](#). Maintaining vehicle tires can prevent roadside blowouts which often result in debris all over the road. Pocket and car ashtrays can hold cigarette butts for smokers and KBB has pocket ashtrays for free if citizens need one. Lastly, encourage others to dispose of

their litter properly and set the example. Let's make and keep Blanco beautiful while staying safe!

Riparian Restoration Presentation

Daniel Oppenheimer, [Hill Country Alliance](#) (HCA) Land Program Manager, came to Blanco on Tues., Sept. 15 to give a presentation regarding riparians to the [Blanco County Master Gardeners](#).

The presentation took place at the amphitheater in Bindseil Park which provided an opportunity to view the [Town Creek Riparian Restoration project](#). KBB members also provided helpful information during the presentation regarding the history of the park and about the riparian project. Oppenheimer introduced Retta Martin, KBB executive director/long time Blanco citizen, to speak first. Native Americans first occupied the area along with wildlife. Blanco County was formed in 1858 from portions of Burnet, Comal, Gillespie and Hays counties. In 1867, the first house was built near where



the amphitheater is located now by the Bindseil family. There was a natural bowl which was part of the creek where horses often drank from. In the 1980s, the Bindseil boys

donated the land to the city. KBB was formed in 1999 and has taken care of Bindseil Park since 2005. There are nine committees within KBB and the beautification committee is the most busy and focuses on maintaining the park. Next, Oppenheimer discussed HCA and the importance of riparians. HCA is a regional nonprofit organization that works throughout central Texas on issues such as land, water, and night skies. "A riparian area is that transitional zone between when you're down in the creek or the river and it's



that area adjacent to the creek or the river before you get up into the drier uplands..it can be along a great river or even a lake. They're small..only about one to three percent of the landscape," said the HCA land program manager. Riparians are beneficial in many ways including erosion control, stabilizes land, flood mitigations, creating floodplains, wildlife habitat, and water quality. A grow zone is an effort to stop mowing along rivers or streams and allow the growth of more dense, diverse riparian vegetation. A healthy functioning riparian area has a variety of plants including grasses, trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and sages all with diverse qualities such as root diversity, age, and growing seasons. Wood is also good and enjoyed by lightning bugs. Grazing in moderation is also fine. Excessive mowing loosens the root systems too much so it is best to avoid. Invasive animals such as axis deer and feral hogs can also cause issues for a riparian zone, but using cages for saplings/seedlings will increase the chance of survival for the plant. Before removing an invasive plant, one should understand how to control it in safe, effective ways. Oppenheimer explained that once a stressor has been identified and removed, the riparian will come back. Droughts are not necessarily a bad thing for riparians because the plants tend to push their roots deeper; native plants are used to the climate and provide resources to pollinators. Next, Pete Powell, KBB co-chair of the [Town Creek Riparian Restoration Project](#), spoke briefly about the project and explained the city mows the park and KBB maintains the plants. There are cedar logs that line the grow zone and prevent mowing. When it rains, the water goes over the logs, but the logs remain in place. Many plants were planted and these are all growing well. The Johnsongrasses are removed periodically. Rocks were placed around the culvert to help slow down stuff; the culvert is cleaned after storms. Only one log was stuck after the last three inch rain storm. KBB waters the riparian zone plants once a week. There are access points along the logs for people to walk up to the creek. Powell expressed appreciation towards Martin and Judy Dorsett, KBB beautification chair, for their dedication and hard work to the park. Additional information regarding the project



can be found on our [website](#). After the presentation, everyone was encouraged to help spread seed.

KBB hopes that everyone stays safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. Make sure to dispose of used masks, gloves, tissues/paper towels, etc. properly.
#SafetyisBeautiful #FightCOVID19

Blanco CLPP Updates

KBB's [Cigarette Litter Prevention Program](#) (CLPP) still has pocket ashtrays, cigarette litter brochures, and "Don't Leave Your Butts Behind" window decals available. A pocket ashtray is a small anti litter device designed to store cigarette butts until they can be disposed of properly. The brochures have helpful tips on how to reduce cigarette litter along with other helpful information. [Contact](#) us if you are interested in any of the above. If you are interested in joining the CLPP, contact Retta Martin at (830) 833-4720 or send us an email at keepblancobeautiful@gmail.com. Volunteers must be at least 18 years old. A page on our website is dedicated to our CLPP and contains lots of facts and information. Don't leave your butts behind and let's keep Blanco beautiful!



Celebrate the Fall Holidays

The fall holiday season is already almost here! This year, KBB has purchased a [“Candy & Snack Wrappers Zero Waste Box”](#) from [Terracycle](#) which will be used to recycle wrappers from candy, chips, granola bars and other snacks at the [First Baptist Church’s](#) Light Night event on Oct. 31. After the box is full, KBB will send it to Terracycle for recycling. Here are a few tips on how to have green fall holidays. Encourage trick-or-treaters to collect treats in a reusable or durable container such as a reusable cloth bag, pillow case, or wicker basket; sometimes these options hold even more candy so kids will love it. Consider using a secondhand costume this year which includes borrowing a friend’s uniform, hitting the local resale shop, or reusing an old costume. Host a costume swap party with friends and family (while following social distancing guidelines). When selecting treats to hand out to trick-or-treaters, consider candy options with less packaging. Another option is purchasing treats that are made from organic ingredients, and are naturally colored and flavored. Other treats such as pencils, biodegradable seed papers, bubbles, crayon rocks, and erasers are great alternatives. Durable decorations that can be reused year after year along with recyclable

decorations are great options. Fallen leaves, pumpkins, gourds, corn husks, and straw bales also make beautiful decorations and are au natural. Purchase pumpkins and gourds from local farms. If you plan on hosting a holiday party (following Covid-19 guidelines) use reusable dishes and utensils. Send out e-invitations or make your own from reused, recycled, or tree-free sources. Having a recycling bin at the party will encourage guests to dispose of their litter properly. After Halloween and Thanksgiving have passed, pumpkins and gourds do not have to be thrown in the garbage can. Instead, consider placing the pumpkin and/or gourds in a compost or organics container. Let's all take a few steps to go green for the Fall holidays!

National Recycling Day is Nov. 15!
The Blanco County Recycling Center is located at 425 Jones Street.
#RecycleRight

KBB, Inc.
830-833-4720
keepblancobeautiful@gmail.com
<https://keepblancobeautiful.org/>

