

Keep Blanco Beautiful Newsletter

Issue XII



2022 Blanco County HHWC Event

The Blanco County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event will take place on **Sept. 24, 2022** at the [Blanco County/Waste Connections Transfer Station](#), located at 377 Transfer Road in Johnson City. The station will be open for Blanco County citizens from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. or until the collection capacity has been met. Items must be in household quantities. Examples of hazardous waste accepted includes: paints, cleaning products, used oils under 5 gallons, mercury, fluorescent light bulbs, and antifreeze. The county reserves the right to refuse any load that may be harmful or unsafe to persons or property, and is not responsible for any accidents, or damage, to personal property while participating in the Blanco County Household Hazardous Waste Collection event. For additional information or questions, please contact Pct. 4 Commissioner Paul Granberg at (830) 385-4195. Don't forget to take your household hazardous waste to the Transfer Station on Saturday, Sept. 24!

Dos Equis Waterway Cleanup Month Grant

In March 2022, KBB received the [Dos Equis Waterway Cleanup](#) Month Grant. Every April,

KBB hosts its annual [Don't Mess with Texas Trash-off and Blanco River Cleanup event](#). The focus is more on Trash-Off and less on the Blanco River. However, every year, the Boy Scouts clean the river on kayaks and canoes. We thought it would be nice to expand the river cleanup and with the help of [Dos Equis](#), we are able to make that dream a reality. With

these funds, KBB was able to purchase three inflatable double kayaks and four inflatable single kayaks to have a total of ten people on the river. Because this is a grant that is funded by Dos Equis, volunteers must be 21 years of age or older; there will not be any social media or promotion around this program that contains any reference to children, schools, or underage. There are several dams along the Blanco River and having more volunteers will allow us to be able to tackle the trash in different sections of the river.

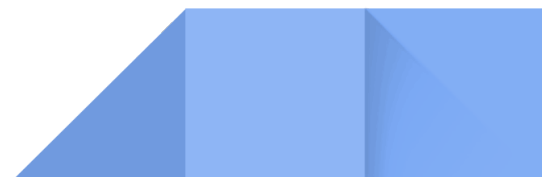


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These inflatable kayaks will be lent out to volunteers (over the age of 21) who want to clean the river along with a life jacket, a litter grabber, and a mesh bag. All items must be returned to KBB and a wrap-up report (how many bags of trash collected) must be submitted to KBB after your event is completed. To sign up to rent a kayak please visit [here](#). For any other questions, please contact us at keepblancobeautiful@gmail.com. Thank you to Dos Equis and [Keep Texas Beautiful](#) for helping us expand our river cleanup program!

Seeking Volunteers

KBB is always looking for volunteers. Join our Beautification Committee on Tuesday mornings in front of City Hall at 9 a.m. weather permitting. We are also always looking for new members to join the other committees as well. Our committees include Education, Civic/Neighborhood, Education/ Schools, Fundraising/Finance, Law enforcement/Municipal, Public Awareness, and Recycling. We are currently looking for a new board member for Secretary and a new chair for the Business/Industry, Civic/Neighborhood, and Law enforcement/Municipal committees. You don't have to live in Blanco to be a part of this wonderful organization. All are welcomed!



Earth Day Celebration

KBB's celebrated Earth Day at Bindseil Park on Friday, April 22, 2022! The main event was placing plant labels in the grow zone of the [Town Creek Riparian Restoration Project](#). The project began back in 2018 and KBB partnered with the Hill Country Alliance (HCA), Nature Conservancy, and Texas Parks and Wildlife. The goal of the Town Creek Riparian Restoration project is to restore and beautify the native riparian corridor along Town Creek in downtown Blanco in a



manner that provides for both recreational uses and ecological functions, including stream stability, erosion control, flood mitigations, wildlife habitat, and water quality. Many native plants have been planted in the grow zone area to help prevent future erosion in the area. With the funds received from the 2021 HEB Greenbag Grant, we were able to purchase educational plant labels to put in the riparian area. This will help citizens/visitors learn what they are looking at while viewing the grow zone. The labels are stainless steel and 2 inches by 4 inches on a 10-inch stand and each has the plant's common name, a brief description, and the Latin scientific

name. Daniel Oppenheimer, HCA Land Program Manager, explained what riparians were and why they matter; afterwards participants took a tour of the riparian with Mr. Oppenheimer leading. This is the time the new plant labels were placed as well. Also at the Earth Day celebration, KBB had table set up has information about



[Blanco's Cigarette Litter Prevention Program](#). The program's goal is to decrease the amount of cigarette butts around town by providing more receptacles/personal ashtrays and to educate community members. We have pocket ashtrays, cigarette litter brochures, and "Don't Leave Your Butts Behind" window decals available. There was also a ["Don't Mess with Texas"](#) area that day and handed out stickers and other fun trinkets. Thanks to Mr. Oppenheimer, Blanco Chamber of Commerce, Texas Regional Bank and all those who came out to our event. **We look forward to celebrating Earth Day again next year on April 26, 2023 with the community!**

Lights Out, Texas!

Turn off non-essential lights at night from 11 pm - 6 am during critical bird migration periods (August 15 - November 30, 2022).

Trash-Up Report

Thank you so much for all those who volunteered at our 22nd Annual Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off and 15th Annual Blanco River Cleanup event that occurred on April 2, 2022. At the City Yard, 22 trash bins and 8 metal bins were filled this year- shout out to [Inframark](#) for helping us at the City Yard all week. About a 1/3 of 25 yard dumpster that was graciously donated by [Hill Country Junk](#) was also filled. Thanks again for making and keeping Blanco beautiful!





Adopt-a-Highway Program Overview

Are you tired of seeing trash along 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 [here](#) or call (800) 200-0003.

**Did you know that October is Hill Country
Night Sky Month?**

Click a link below to learn more:
[Blanco Friends of the Night Sky](#)
[Hill Country Alliance Night Sky](#)

KBB, Inc.

keepblancobeautiful@gmail.com

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