



LitterLess

Litter Resource Guide for Carroll County Residents



Why is Reducing Litter Important?

It threatens the health and safety of the public, wildlife, and natural resources. including:

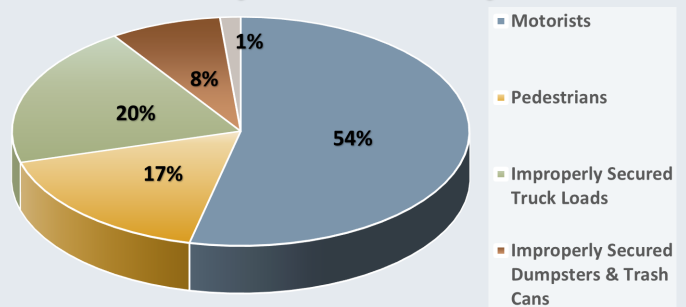
- 🗑️ Damages beauty of natural environment
- 🗑️ Threatens quality of life in Carroll County and world
- 🗑️ Costly to clean up, which is often borne by taxpayers
- 🗑️ Discarded syringes contain biological contaminants
- 🗑️ Lit cigarettes ignite forest and wildfires
- 🗑️ Plastics in waterways choke and entangle marine life
- 🗑️ Broken glass injures humans, pets, and wildlife
- 🗑️ Contains harmful contaminants to land and waterways, such as microplastics, EPS, petroleum products, chemical products, and bacteria
- 🗑️ Decrease in property values by as much as 7% (Source: *Community Appearance Index – Keep Carroll Beautiful, Georgia*) 🗑️

Top 10 Types of Litter collected in Maryland on Land and Under Water

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Plastic bottle caps | 5. Beverage cans |
| 2. Plastic beverage bottles | 6. Glass beverage bottles |
| 3. Food wrappers (candy, chips, etc.) | 7. Cigarette butts |
| 4. Straws, stirrers | 8. Other trash (Clean Swell) |
| | 9. Plastic grocery bags |
| | 10. Metal bottle caps |

Source: *Ocean Conservancy 2021 Report*

Sources of Litter Along Maryland Roadways



Source: *MDE Trashing Litter in Maryland, 2022*

Did You Know...?

- 🗑️ Nearly 26 billion pieces of litter can be found along 10.7 million miles of US *waterways*. ([Keep America Beautiful](#) (KAB), 2021)
- 🗑️ Nearly 24 billion pieces of litter can be found along 8.3 million miles of US *roadways*. (KAB, 2021)
- 🗑️ There is twice as much litter from alcoholic beverage containers as from non-alcoholic beverage containers. (KAB, 2021)
- 🗑️ On average, there are more than 2,800 pieces of litter per roadway mile and 2,400 pieces of litter per waterway mile. (KAB, 2021)
- 🗑️ In total, there were 152 items of litter for each US resident. (KAB, 2021)
- 🗑️ Plastics require 100 to 400 years to break down at the landfill, depending on the type of plastic. ([US EPA](#), 2022)
- 🗑️ The Maryland Department of Transportation State Highway Administration (MDOT SHA), removes over 2 million pounds of litter along our State-maintained roads each year at a cost of more than \$8 million in tax payer's money. (Maryland Dept of Environment, [Trashing Litter in Maryland](#), 2022)
- 🗑️ Carroll County's federal stormwater permit requires the County and its municipal co-permittees to collect 11 tons of litter and debris per year. 🗑️

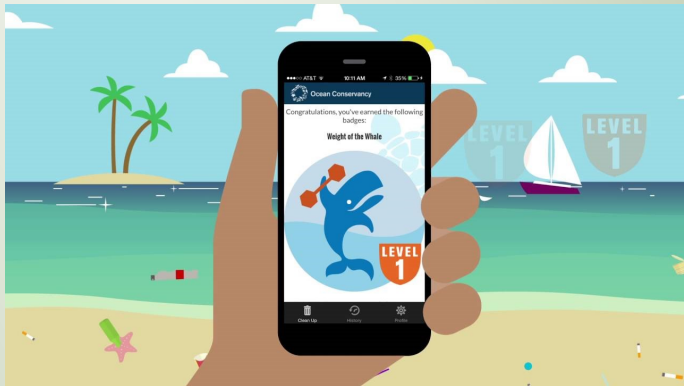


What can YOU do to Reduce Litter?

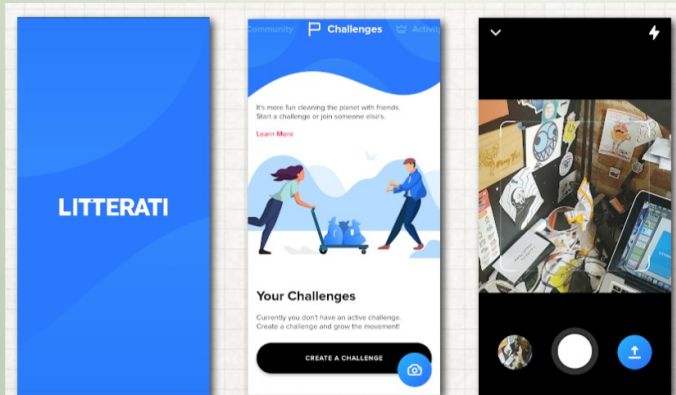
- 🗑️ Keep a trash receptacle (good reuse of a single-use plastic bag) in your vehicle so you have a place to dispose of trash
- 🗑️ Make sure the lid to your garbage cans and recycling bins are secure when you put them out for collection AND if they are normally kept outside
- 🗑️ Participate in a community clean-up day
- 🗑️ Share litter prevention and reduction information and posts on your social media
- 🗑️ Recycle everything that is acceptable for single-stream recycling or can be taken to an alternate site
- 🗑️ Adopt-a-Road
- 🗑️ Participate with local litter clean-up groups
- 🗑️ Ask local businesses to provide trash and recycling receptacles for patrons
- 🗑️ Choose reusable containers that you will want to take home and use again
- 🗑️ Clean up after your pet, and dispose of the waste properly. 🗑️

Apps for Recording Litter collected

Clean Swell® by Ocean Conservancy: Download this trash collection mobile app to record any trash you collect. To learn more about the app, visit the Ocean Conservancy website at <https://oceanconservancy.org/trash-free-seas/international-coastal-cleanup/cleanswell/>.



LITTERATI: Download this app and engage your community by starting a challenge. To learn more about the app, visit the Litterati website at <https://www.litterati.org/>.



Programs that Address Litter

There are numerous opportunities for groups, businesses, and individuals to organize or participate in litter cleanups through county, state, regional, and national programs.



- Carroll County Adopt-a-Road Program: carrollcountymd.gov/media/1910/clean-car.pdf
- Carroll County Recreation & Parks Helping Hands: carrollcountymd.gov/government/directory/recreation-parks/general-information/volunteer-opportunities/helping-hands-keep-our-parks-green/
- Friends of Liberty Reservoir: friendsoflibertyreservoir.org
- Carroll County Trash Troopers: thetrashtroopers.com/index.html
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay: allianceforthebay.org/project/project-clean-stream/
- Maryland Department of Transportation Adopt-a-Highway: roads.maryland.gov/mdotsha/pages/Index.aspx?PageId=11
- Trash Free Maryland: trashfreemaryland.org/
- Keep America Beautiful Annual Great American Cleanup: volunteer.kab.org
- Ocean Conservancy: oceanconservancy.org/

Laws & Fines for Littering

Because Maryland believes in being good stewards of its resources, Maryland statute §10-110 of the Criminal Law Article which makes it a crime to litter. Maryland's Litter Control Law imposes fees and/or imprisonment for littering. Fees and prison time range from a \$1,500 fine and possible 30 days in prison to a \$30,000 fine with possible 5 years in prison.

Maryland Litter Control Law → [MD. Criminal Law Code Ann. § 10-110 \(2020\)](#)

The statute gives counties the authority to adopt an ordinance to prohibit littering. However, the Maryland General Assembly would have to pass a bill to amend the state law to allow Carroll County to pass an anti-littering ordinance.

While Carroll County does not currently have a law specifically or explicitly for litter control, maintenance of a property is regulated under the county's Open Space Regulation in 8-104 and 3-106 Abatement of Nuisances of the County's Code of Public Local Laws. Chapter 158 Zoning enforces regulations regarding the maintenance of a property. It is also important to note that litter can impact storm drains, stormwater management facilities, and other water quality control measures and regulations. Fines may be associated with dumping and certain types of litter associated with these facilities. 🗑️



Prepared by Carroll County Environmental Advisory Council (EAC)

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