

KCB MAY 2024 MONTHLY



Embrace the beauty in Cherokee County

May brings forth a burst of vibrant colors and renewed life across Cherokee County. As nature awakens from its slumber, it's a perfect time to celebrate and embrace the beauty that surrounds us. From the vibrant towns with their festivals and shopping to our neighborhoods, farmlands and back roads, Cherokee County boasts an array of landscapes that inspire awe and appreciation.

This month, Keep Cherokee Beautiful encourages residents to take part in activities that contribute to preserving and enhancing the natural beauty of our county. Here are a few ways you can get involved:

Community Cleanups: Organize or participate in community cleanups to remove litter and debris from parks, streets, and waterways. By working together, we can keep Cherokee clean and pristine for generations to come.

Plant Native Species: May is an ideal time for gardening and landscaping. Consider planting native species in your garden to support local ecosystems and attract pollinators like bees and butterflies.

Conservation Awareness: Educate yourself and others about the importance of conservation efforts in Cherokee County. Whether it's protecting endangered species or preserving natural habitats, every action counts towards safeguarding our environment.

Outdoor Adventures: Take advantage of Cherokee County's outdoor recreational opportunities. Whether you enjoy hiking along the many trails or kayaking the river and lake, spending time in nature fosters a deeper connection to our surroundings.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle: Commit to reducing your environmental footprint by practicing the three R's: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Simple actions like using reusable water bottles and shopping bags can make a big difference in reducing waste.

As we embrace the beauty of May in Cherokee County, let's also remember our responsibility to protect and preserve our natural heritage. By working together, we can ensure that future generations inherit a county that is as breathtaking and vibrant as it is today. Join us in keeping Cherokee Beautiful, today and every day.

Refresh Your Recycling Routine



May is the perfect time to refresh our commitment to recycling and sustainability. Recycling plays a crucial role in preserving our environment, conserving resources, and reducing waste. This month, let's explore some tips and ideas to revitalize your recycling routine:

1. **Spring Cleaning:** As you embark on your spring cleaning journey, take the opportunity to declutter responsibly. Sort through items that can be recycled, such as paper, cardboard, plastics, glass, and aluminum cans. Set up designated recycling bins in your home to make the process easier and more efficient.
2. **Electronic Waste:** Electronic devices often contain valuable materials that can be recycled, such as metals and plastics. If you have old electronics lying around, consider recycling them through certified e-waste recycling programs. Many electronic retailers and recycling centers offer convenient drop-off locations for electronic recycling.
3. **Composting:** Turn your food scraps and yard waste into nutrient-rich compost for your garden. Composting not only reduces waste sent to landfills but also enriches soil and promotes healthier plant growth. If you don't have space for a backyard compost bin, explore community composting initiatives in your area.
4. **Educational Outreach:** May is an excellent time to educate others about the importance of recycling and sustainability. Organize recycling workshops or seminars in your community to share tips, best practices, and the latest developments in recycling technology. Encourage friends, family, and neighbors to join you in making a positive impact on the environment.
5. **Creative Upcycling:** Get creative with upcycling projects that give

new life to old items. Repurpose glass jars as storage containers, turn cardboard boxes into organizers, or transform plastic bottles into planters. Upcycling not only reduces waste but also unleashes your creativity and imagination.

6. Stay Informed: Stay informed about local recycling guidelines and updates. Recycling regulations may vary depending on your location, so it's essential to stay up-to-date on what materials are accepted for recycling in your area. Check with your local recycling facility or municipality for the latest information.

By incorporating these tips into your daily routine, you can make a meaningful difference in reducing waste and protecting the environment. Let's celebrate the beauty of May by renewing our commitment to recycling and sustainability. Together, we can create a cleaner, greener future for generations to come.

Upcoming Events

Save the Date

May 18 - Allatoona Lake Warriors - Adopt-A-Mile or Paddle Cleanup

June 15 - Great American Cleanup - Ball Ground Hwy

For event details, please follow our [Facebook page!](#)

Email event questions to Lisa Johnson at twinkrunner@yahoo.com

Event Recap



In celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 20, 12 volunteers cleaned

three miles of Earney Road and half a mile of Batesville Road off Hwy 140. A total of four students from Etowah High School (Eagle Service Connection) and eight adults from the community came together and collected 38 bags of litter, 17 of which were from the half-mile of Batesville Road.

On Saturday, April 27, a group of friends and neighbors of the Ball Ground Garden Club cleaned Hightower Trail. This was their first cleanup, and they are excited to adopt the road. This first "deep clean" yielded 22 bags of litter plus miscellaneous large items.

Keeping Your Adopted Mile Clean: A Guide to Responsible Maintenance

Adopting a mile for cleanup is a commendable commitment to environmental stewardship. Maintaining your adopted mile requires dedication and regular effort. Here's a guide to help you keep your adopted mile clean and beautiful:

1. **Create a Maintenance Schedule:** Establish a regular maintenance schedule to ensure that your adopted mile receives consistent care. Depending on the location and level of litter, you may need to schedule more than the minimum required 4 clean ups. Consistency is key to preventing litter accumulation and maintaining a clean environment.
2. **Recruit Volunteers:** Enlist the help of friends, family, neighbors, and community members to assist you in cleanup efforts. Organize cleanup events and invite volunteers to join you in making a positive impact on your adopted mile. Collaborative efforts not only make the task more manageable but also foster a sense of community and camaraderie.
3. **Safety First:** Prioritize safety during cleanup activities. Participants should always utilize safety vests, gloves, and other necessary equipment to protect against hazards. Familiarize yourself and your team with safety protocols and guidelines, especially while working along the roadway.
4. **Document Progress:** Keep track of your cleanup efforts by documenting before-and-after photos of your adopted mile. Share your progress on social media or community forums to raise awareness and inspire others to get involved. Celebrate milestones and recognize the contributions of volunteers who help make a difference. Submit your cleanup reports so we are able to document your work. These statistics are reported to both the state and national organizations.
5. **Report Hazardous Waste:** If you encounter hazardous waste or materials during your cleanup efforts, such as chemicals, needles, or large debris, exercise caution and report it. We discourage the handling of dead animals and any material that could be deemed a health hazard.
6. **Practice Environmental Stewardship:** In addition to picking up litter, practice environmental stewardship by adopting sustainable habits and promoting conservation efforts. Encourage responsible

waste disposal, recycling, and composting to minimize the environmental impact of your adopted mile.

7. Engage with the Community: Engage with the community to raise awareness about the importance of keeping your adopted mile clean. Host educational workshops, presentations, or outreach events to inform residents about the impact of litter on the environment and wildlife.
8. Lead by Example: Lead by example by maintaining a litter-free environment around your adopted mile. Set an example for others to follow by demonstrating respect for the environment and taking pride in keeping your community clean.

By following these guidelines and maintaining a proactive approach to cleanup and maintenance, you can make a significant difference in preserving the beauty and cleanliness of your adopted mile. Your dedication and commitment to environmental stewardship serve as a shining example of the positive impact individuals can have on their communities and the planet.

From the Recycling Center

If you are a current customer of the Cherokee County Recycling Center at some point over the past six months you have been turned away due to the center being full. This has been frustrating for us and our customers as the volume of material being brought to the center has exceeded our capacity.

Unfortunately, we have had a handful of customers who have given up on recycling due to the limited time our containers have been available for use.

We have recognized and responded to this need and now have a second compactor running at both our Blalock Road and Hobgood Park locations to accept single-stream recyclables.

This expansion will reduce the capacity closures, but it will not eliminate them. We are still dependent on a third party to haul the containers, and we estimate that the current volume of material being brought still exceeds the abilities of this expansion.

These facility upgrades are a stepping stone toward our ultimate goal of building a processing center. A processing center will give us control of the material and eliminate the need for a third party. We will actually process and market the material thus eliminating capacity closures and keeping the generated revenue in our county.

We are thankful for our customers and appreciate their patience through these growing pains. Our job at the Recycling Center is to provide a service so we share the frustrations when we are unable to do so.

We look forward to the new additions and what it will provide our customers. For those who have given up recycling we hope the added

infrastructure will bring them back again.

The reason you recycle has not changed, we are working to accommodate this.

Troy Brazie
Manager
Cherokee County Recycling Center

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