



# RECYCLES



## Cleanup Recycling Guide

We've all spotted litter along paths and creeks, and besides harming wildlife, water quality and outdoor recreation, much of that material could be recycled. Trash cleanups are a simple way to make a real difference and have fun doing it. That's why NWA Recycles put together this guide to help Northwest Arkansas residents protect our natural resources.

Read on for tips on holding cleanup events and recycling what you pick up.

### Planning your cleanup event

There are two easy ways to hold a cleanup: Organize your own or join an existing event.

#### Organize your own cleanup

Whether it involves one person or large groups of people, a cleanup plan has five essential components: location, time, people, a destination for the litter, and equipment.

##### Location

- ❑ Creeks and streams, paths or grassy areas and ditches near roads are good places to look for litter.
- ❑ Stick to public property, such as parks and trails, unless you're cleaning up your own or have landowner permission.
- ❑ Litter can be an issue nearby or miles away, in every community.

##### Time

- ❑ The cool seasons can be good times for cleanups, since there's less foliage and more comfortable temperatures. But any time of the year can work.
- ❑ In warmer months, stick to mornings before the heat of the day arrives.

#### Join nearby cleanup efforts

Multiple local governments, nonprofits and other groups are always looking for volunteers to join events throughout the region. Check with organizations like those linked below to find upcoming cleanups near you.

State-wide:

[Keep Arkansas Beautiful](#)

Regional:

[Beaver Watershed Alliance](#)

[Illinois River Watershed Partnership](#)

[NWA Stormwater Program](#)

[Wonderful Waterways](#)

Local government:

[Benton County Environmental Division](#)

[Boston Mountain Solid Waste District](#)

(in Washington and Madison counties)

[Bentonville Volunteer Program](#)

[Fayetteville Parks and Recreation](#)

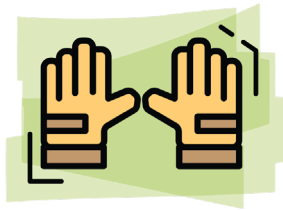


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## Equipment

□ Cleanup essentials include:



### GOOD GLOVES

Latex is helpful but can tear; try work or garden gloves.



### GOOD SHOES

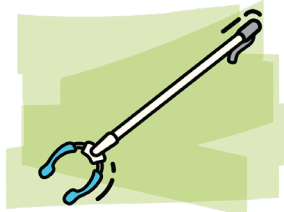
Tough, closed-toed shoes that you don't mind getting dirty.



### TRASH BAGS

Make sure you have plenty to go around.

□ This equipment also can be helpful:



### GRABBERS

Available at grocery or hardware stores, these help avoid strained backs.



### SAFETY VESTS

Especially if you're working along a road.

□ Organizations like these can provide your cleanup with many of the needed items:

### State-wide

- » **Keep Arkansas Beautiful** (state-wide): Visit [their website](#) for cleanup kits.

### Across Northwest Arkansas

- » **NWA Stormwater Program:** Email [jmaginot@uada.edu](mailto:jmaginot@uada.edu) or call 479-444-1755.
- » **Beaver Watershed Alliance** (along waterways that flow to Beaver Lake): Call 479-750-8007 or email [info@beaverwatershedalliance.org](mailto:info@beaverwatershedalliance.org).

### Local government

- » **Benton County Environmental Division:** [On Instagram](#), call 479-271-1083 or email [Teresa.sidwell@bentoncountyar.gov](mailto:Teresa.sidwell@bentoncountyar.gov).
- » **Benton County Solid Waste District:** Call 479-795-0751 or email [clerk@bentoncountyclecycling.org](mailto:clerk@bentoncountyclecycling.org).
- » **Boston Mountain Solid Waste District** (Washington and Madison counties): Call 479-846-3005 or email [recycle@bmswd.com](mailto:recycle@bmswd.com).
- » **Bentonville Great Neighborhoods Partnership:** Visit [the city website](#) or call 479-271-3122.
- » **Fayetteville Parks and Recreation:** Call 479-444-3467 or email [parksvolunteer@fayetteville-ar.gov](mailto:parksvolunteer@fayetteville-ar.gov).
- » **Rogers Parks and Recreation:** Visit the office at 315 W. Olive St. or call 479-631-3350.
- » **Springdale Parks and Recreation:** Call 479-750-8185.



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## People

❑ Who are you inviting? It could be your family and friends or a club, team, office or entire community. Plan for who's coming — students, young families, a mix of ages and physical abilities — and for how many you expect.

## Destination

❑ If what you pick up will fit in your own cart or dumpster, it can go there. Otherwise, you may need to make special arrangements for filled trash bags. Reach out to your city's parks and recreation department or to your solid waste district (see the list on the previous page).

## Other tips

- ❑ Be mindful of your surroundings and hazards during your cleanup, including brambles, traffic, severe weather and slick or steep ground.
- ❑ Leave alone broken glass, sharp metal, objects too heavy to carry, bottles with unknown substances inside and other dangerous materials, and tell your city or waste district where you found them.
- ❑ Consider having your participants check in at the start of your cleanup and spreading them out among different zones of your cleanup area.



*Volunteers for a fall 2021 cleanup near Devil's Den State Park check in with organizers and receive supplies, including reusable tote bags for recyclables and free T-shirts. Preparations like these can help draw volunteers to your own cleanup and encourage a sense of community and teamwork.*



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## Recycling at your cleanup

❑ Litter can be recyclable as long as it meets certain conditions: It's the **right thing**, it's **empty** and it's **clean**.

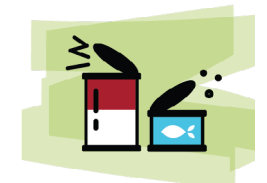


» The recyclables you'll find most often will be **aluminum cans** and **plastic bottles** – think water and soda bottles or jugs marked #1 or #2. Other plastics should be put in the garbage.



» Less common but still recyclable are **steel cans** and **unbroken glass bottles**.

» Paper, cardboard and some other recyclable materials are easily ruined outdoors, so don't worry about recycling them.



Almost like new?  
Recycle it!



Dusty or damaged? That's OK.  
Pour out water or any dry debris.

- » Non-bottle plastics (such as cups or toys).
- » Recyclables that can't be emptied and handled easily or safely (e.g., shattered or muddy bottles).
- » Anything that you're unsure about.

Muddy or wrong?  
Put it with the garbage.

## Collecting and turning in your recycling

❑ Keep recyclables separated from other trash during your cleanup, such as by collecting them in their own bags or bins.

❑ If it's a small amount of recyclables and you have access to a curbside recycling pickup service, add your collections to your curbside cart, and you're done (make sure the lid can close). Note: Most curbside recycling programs don't take glass.

❑ For larger amounts or when curbside won't do the trick, community drop-offs are available throughout the region and are listed in this guide. Leave only what the center accepts, empty the recyclables out of their bags, and don't overfill the drop-off containers.





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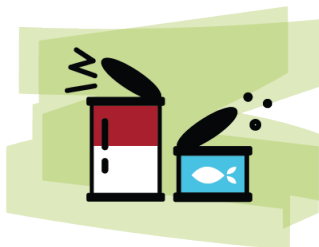
## Making a difference

To borrow from the city of Fayetteville's recent "Recycle Something" campaign, you don't have to run a perfect cleanup or grab every scrap of litter around town to make a genuine and worthwhile difference. Every effort helps. Just clean up something.

In doing so, you're saving materials and energy and protecting yourself and your neighbors, both human and non-human alike. You're protecting the neighborhoods, trails and streams that we love and that make Northwest Arkansas our favorite corner of the Natural State.

## Thank you for using this toolkit!

Tell us about your experience with our [online contact form](#).



NWA Recycles is a program of the Northwest Arkansas Council dedicated to improving recycling in the region and made possible through support from Walmart. Thanks also to Beaver Watershed Alliance; Benton County Environmental Division; Benton County Solid Waste District; Boston Mountain Solid Waste District; the cities of Bentonville, Fayetteville, Rogers and Springdale; Illinois River Watershed Partnership; and the NWA Stormwater Program for helping create this toolkit.



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## Drop-off Guide: Standard recyclables

This guide is for the basics, the public drop-off locations that take the typical set of recyclables:

- Aluminum or steel cans
- Plastic bottles and jugs (stamped #1 or #2)
- Cardboard and paper
- Glass jars and bottles

Some locations may take additional materials as well; consult the NWA Recycles drop-off guides for electronics and household chemicals.

Drop-offs are open to everyone, even residents of other cities, and are ordered here approximately north to south.

### Benton County

City	Location and contact	Hours
Bella Vista	400 Pinion Bluff Drive, 479-876-5343	24-6, closed Sunday
Garfield (no paper accepted)	14639 S. Wimpy Jones Road	24-7
Gravette (no paper accepted)	800 Plant Access Road	24-7
Bentonville	2000 NW A St., 479-271-5954	Monday-Saturday 8AM-4PM
Centerton (no paper accepted)	5702 Brookside Drive, 479-795-0751	24-7
Decatur (no paper accepted)	310 Maple Ave.	24-7
Rogers (also takes polystyrene)	2300 N. Arkansas Ave., 479-621-1185	24-7
Gentry (no paper accepted)	413 W. Main St.	24-7
Siloam Springs	1108 E. Ashley	M-F 8AM-3PM, Sat. 9AM-noon

### Washington County

City	Location and contact	Hours
Springdale	1809 Lowell Road, 479-249-4558	Mon., Wed., Fri. 8AM-4PM
Goshen (monthly)	244 Clark St.	3rd Saturday 9AM-noon
Elm Springs (cardboard only)	289 Jayroe Ave.	24-7
Fayetteville	735 W. North St. or 1420 S. Happy Hollow Road, 479-575-8398	24-7
Elkins (monthly)	2030 Arkansas 74	3rd Monday 10AM-3PM



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## Washington County, continued

City	Location and contact	Hours
Greenland	170 N. Letitia Ave.	M-F 8AM-4PM, Sat. 8AM-noon
Prairie Grove	11398 Bond Road, 479-846-3005	M-F 7AM-3PM, Sat. 8-11AM
West Fork	134 N. Campbell Ave.	24-7
Winslow	108 N. Winslow Blvd.	24-7 for cardboard; otherwise the first Saturday 9AM-noon

## Madison County

City	Location and contact	Hours
Huntsville	173 Madison 6553, 479-738-6351	T-F 8AM-3:30PM, Sat. 9AM-noon
St. Paul	17669 Arkansas 16, 479-677-2036	Wednesday, Saturday 9AM-1PM