

by providing nutrients and carbon. Leaves are critical habitat for butterfly and firefly eggs. Birds and other small wildlife feed on larvae and insects nesting in leaves, while chipmunks, toads and salamanders rest under leaves for warmth and moisture.

[Want to learn more about the benefits of leaving leaves in your yard? Click this website.](#)

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hand picking up water bottle and litter on the ground in front of a body of water



## Keep it Clean, Montgomery

Keep it Clean, Montgomery is an anti-littering campaign aimed at encouraging residents to take small actions towards creating a cleaner County – by engaging in volunteer initiatives or by simply picking it up!

*Litter (noun): trash, such as paper, cans, and bottles, that is left lying in an open or public place.*

Littering can seem like a daunting task for an individual to solve on their own. Maybe you don't litter or you don't think it's a problem in your area, however, you probably know of areas in your neighborhood or town where litter is a common sight.

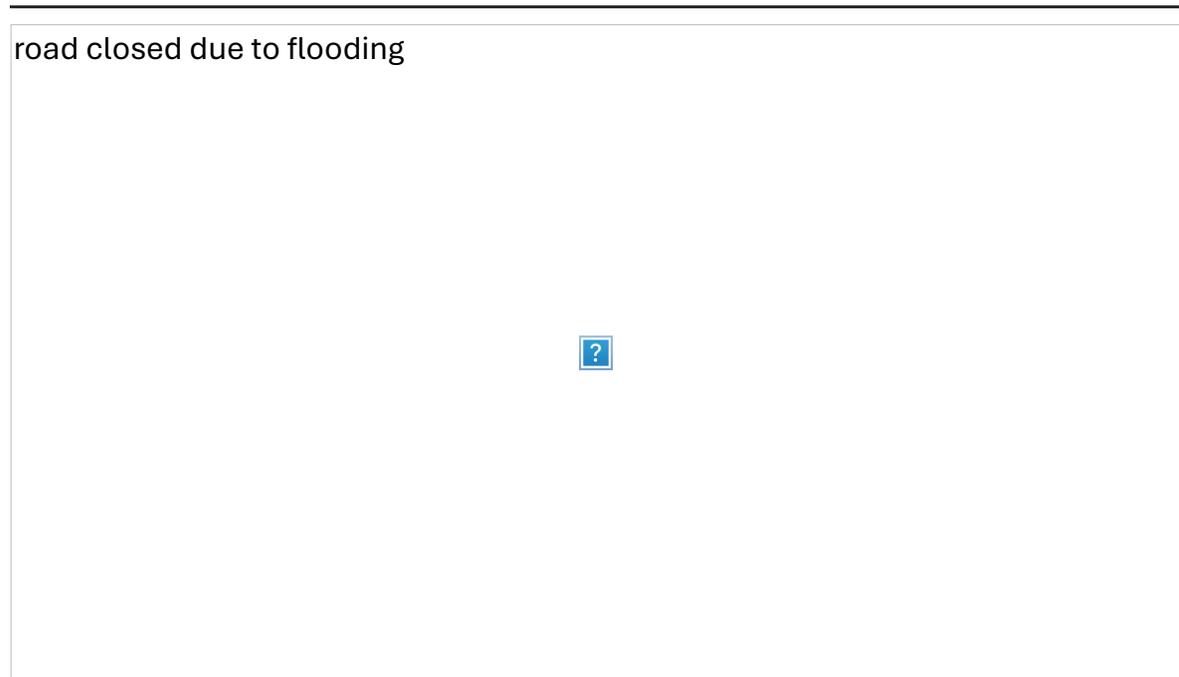
Small changes like putting trash in the proper receptacle or holding on to it instead of releasing it into the environment can make a big difference. Preventing even one piece of litter from entering the environment can

have a big impact because litter accumulates over time. One plastic bag can get caught inside your neighborhood's storm drain which can then catch leaves, papers and cans. This eventually can lead to a major blockage which could prevent stormwater and groundwater from draining properly causing flooding in your neighborhood and on surrounding roads.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that there are approximately 23,000-75,000 Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs) per year in the U.S. SSOs can cause serious property damage, damage water quality and threaten public health.

It's important to remember that litter doesn't just impact animals and ecosystems but also human health and our neighborhoods. That's why we are reminding residents to Keep it Clean and put litter in its place – before it builds up!

[Interested in learning how you can help keep Montgomery County clean? Check out our website.](#)



## Have you signed up for Alert Montgomery?

Climate change is here and we have to learn to live with more severe