

The Gainesville Zero Waste News

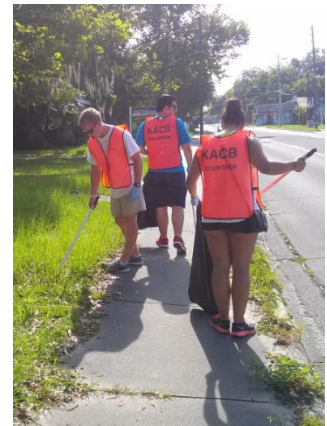
The Hidden Costs of Litter

We all know litter when we see it, but we seldom consider how it impacts our neighborhoods, environment, and the quality of our lives.

Litter can negatively influence people's perceptions of an area, leading to decreased property values and deterring new businesses from locating to a community. According to the National Association of Home Builders, the presence of litter alone lowers property values by an average of 7%.

The environmental impacts of litter include the loss of tourism and damaged ecosystems. Eventually, by wind or rain, litter often makes its way into our ecosystem through storm drains, leading to rivers and oceans. This debris can be mistaken for food by wildlife such as fish, turtles, amphibians, and birds. Once eaten by animals, this can result in significant harm or even death.

Don't forget the **Keep Alachua County Beautiful Great American Cleanup is on Saturday, April 22nd** (Earth Day). This event is a great opportunity to help reduce litter in our community. **To get signed up to participate in the 2023 Great American Cleanup, visit kacb.org/events.**



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