

# Keep Texas Waterways Clean

## Litter Facts

### What Is Litter?

Litter is misplaced waste and trash. This visible form of pollution can disrupt wildlife, natural ecosystems, human health and safety, and communities.

### How Does Litter Affect Texas Waterways?

- Decreases water quality
- Blocks storm drains, which can cause flooding
- Reduces aesthetic appeal and property values
- Can kill thousands of animals when they eat it or become entangled in it
- Damages fishing and recreational boats
- Causes injury to swimmers and bathers
- Costs millions of dollars to remove

### What Can I Do?

- Bring reusable items, instead of disposable, to waterway picnics.
- Dispose of waste properly in trash cans or recycling bins.
- Discourage the release of helium balloons—they often return to water and harm wildlife.
- Cover truck beds—loose items can fly out and create litter.
- Educate others to prevent littering—many items discarded on land end up in waterways.
- Prevent yard clippings or any waste materials from entering sewers—these clog waterways and destroy aquatic habitats.



*Photo courtesy of Keep Waco Beautiful*



Central Market



**THANK YOU FOR KEEPING TEXAS WATERWAYS CLEAN!**