

Open Your Eyes to Litter - Show us what you see.

Have you ever wondered how much waste is out there along the roadways in our neighborhood? I have, it wasn't a pretty sight and it's not good. I found the waste everywhere on the streets of our neighborhood, community parks and even in the water. The waste is supposed to be placed in the dumpsters, but they're often thrown around. This makes me feel sad. If we don't dispose it in the right way, this will be hurtful for people and the animals. It will also contaminate water and spread diseases too. Like this, there are many more drawbacks to littering.

A national litter study conducted by "Keep America Beautiful" in 2020 shows the following findings:

- 1) There are nearly 50 billion pieces of litter along US roadways and waterways.
- 2) There is slightly more along waterways (25.9 billion) than roadways (23.7 billion).

The study also indicated the amount of litter for the below product categories went up from 2009 to 2020:

- Beer containers
- Food packaging film
- Sport drink containers
- Water containers
- Cardboard

Last year, I had an opportunity to participate in the community event "*Ambridge: Clean and Green, May 2023*" and I contributed my share to the Ambridge borough, PA community by picking up the litter from the streets and the community park. Some of the items I picked were,

- Soft drink cans
- Empty plastic water bottles
- Cigarette butts.
- Plastic straws, paper cups
- Beer cans
- Some metal pieces and nails

I collected almost 2 full bags of waste from 4 streets and the local community park. This made me think how much more waste was out there in every street and town/city in Pennsylvania and how much more work that we all have to do to keep Pennsylvania beautiful and clean and green. Together, we can do it!