



Pennsylvania  
Department of Transportation

Pennsylvania  
Department of Environmental Protection

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Shapiro Administration, Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Work Together  
to Pick Up PA, Celebrate 2024 Achievements**

*Over 3.2 million pounds of litter and trash picked up in 2024 by more than 77,000  
volunteers*

**Harrisburg, PA** – The Pennsylvania Departments of Transportation (PennDOT), and Environmental Protection (DEP), along with Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful, have announced that registration is open for the [2025 Pick Up Pennsylvania litter cleanup initiative](#).

In 2024, more than **77,000 volunteers** participated in Pick Up Pennsylvania. Over **3.2 million pounds of litter and trash** were picked up, **4.5 million pounds of materials recycled**, and **more than 14,000 trees, flowers and other greens** were planted.

Also, in 2024, PennDOT’s Adopt-A-Highway program hosted nearly **23,000 volunteers** belonging to **4,600 groups** and supported the collection of more than **39,000 bags of trash** from PA roadways.

“Last fiscal year, PennDOT spent \$18 million picking up litter along the 40,000 miles of state-owned roadways. The Shapiro Administration has made protecting the Commonwealth’s environment a key focus, and we’re proud to continue that work,” said **PennDOT Secretary Mike Carroll**. “The thousands of Pennsylvanians who volunteer their time to keeping litter out of our roads, parks and waterways are a key component to keeping PA beautiful, and there is always more work to be done.”

DEP and Pennsylvania Waste Industries Association are sponsoring trash disposal, free of charge or at a reduced rate for registered program participants, at participating landfills from April 1 through April 30, with prior approval. Events scheduled through May 31 are eligible to receive free trash bags, gloves, and safety vests provided by support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and PennDOT, as supplies last.

"Litter is a problem that affects all of us - it pollutes streams, dirties our parks and highways, and is just gross," said **Acting DEP Secretary Jessica Shirley**. "When people see an area with litter, it's a signal that they can also just toss their trash – so it is important to keep Pennsylvania litter-free. Joining a pickup event, or organizing your own, is a great way to keep Pennsylvania beautiful."

"We are incredibly grateful to our volunteers, local officials, and sponsors who make Pick Up Pennsylvania, the state's largest community improvement program, possible," said **Shannon Reiter, President of Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**. "As we drive along the highways and back roads of Pennsylvania, it's easy to see the impact of litter. Litter affects our quality of life, the natural environment, and economic development in communities across the state."

Registered litter cleanups, illegal dump cleanups, community greening and beautification, special collections and education events are eligible for free cleanup supplies. To host, register or join an event near you or to inquire about free supplies and trash disposal, visit [keepbeautiful.org](http://keepbeautiful.org), choose "Programs," then "Pick Up PA" or contact Michelle Dunn, Pick Up Pennsylvania Program Coordinator, at 877-772-3673 ext. 113 or [mdunn@keepbeautiful.org](mailto:mdunn@keepbeautiful.org).

"After the long winter, we hope residents are ready to get outside, roll up their sleeves, and pick up the trash left behind as the snow melts," said **Reiter**. "Enhancing an area with plants, flowers, or a fresh coat of paint can also help keep it litter-free. Anyone can participate in Pick Up PA by visiting our website."

Information about the state's infrastructure and results the department is delivering for Pennsylvanians can be found at [www.penndot.pa.gov/results](http://www.penndot.pa.gov/results). Find PennDOT's planned and active construction projects at [www.projects.penndot.gov](http://www.projects.penndot.gov).

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