

Each year the Jackson TDEC office volunteers around Earth Day to clean up streams in neighboring counties. This year TDEC choose Chester Co. for its Earth Day project. The project each year is headed by April Caudill of the Division of Water Resources. She coordinates with Solid Waste Departments of neighboring counties to offer assistance for cleanup opportunities. Ms. Caudill contacted Amber Greene with the Chester County Solid Waste and Recycling Center and discussed what needs that Chester County might have, and the decision was made that Garland Bottoms was in dire need of assistance.

Friday, April 29, 2016, a group of volunteers from the TN Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Jackson Field Office in conjunction with the Chester Co. Solid Waste and Recycling Center (Keep Chester Co. Beautiful) spent the day cleaning a vital wetland area (Garland Bottom) on Garland Road in Henderson. Garland Road is heavily trafficked by residence of Henderson and Chester Co. and unfortunately because of the heavy traffic this area is more susceptible to littering. During the cleanup, 1.25 tons (approximately 2,500 pounds) of waste, which included soda cans, bottles, fast food containers, oil containers, tires, pool liners, a door, televisions, etc., was picked and removed from the area.

TDEC and the Chester County Solid Waste and Recycling Center members would like for the people of Chester County to think before they throw/dump their trash along road ways. Litter during rain evidents through storm water will flow downstream and cause harm to habitats for animals, reptiles and amphibians. The trash that makes it to the roadways evidentially makes its way to our streams and wetlands. The impact the trash makes on the ecosystems is horrendous to the animals that call these areas home and to us as well. Much of the pollution will evidently make it to our ground water that we use as a drinking water source for our community.

Do not treat our environment as your trash can, Chester County has numerous Convenient Centers to take your trash and also has a recycling center where they recycle everything from glass, aluminum cans, paper, etc. Visit their website ( <http://www.chestercountytn.org/solidwaste/index.html> ) for times that the Convenient Centers are open in your area and what the main center on Talley Store Road recycles. Let's Keep Our Environment Beautiful!

Special Thanks to:

April Caudill (TDEC) , Amber Greene (Chester Co. Solid Waste) , Barry Ward (Chester Co. Solid Waste), Greg Overstreet(TDEC), Bobby DePriest (TDEC) , Paul Brawley (TDEC) , Alan Dodge (TDEC) , Beverly Darnell (TDEC) , Brandy Spragins(TDEC) , Michael David (TDEC), Reese Yontz (TDEC), and Brian Wallace (TDEC).