



Litter Letters
Pine Bluff, Arkansas

OVERVIEW

Arkansas maintains the 12th largest highway system in the United States, spanning nearly 16,400 miles of roadway. Keeping this system litter-free supports ARDOT's commitment to protect the Natural State. Through staff efforts, volunteer programs, and contracted services, ARDOT works year-round to reduce litter and preserve the safety and appearance of Arkansas highways.

LITTER CLEANUP OPERATIONS

Contract Mowing

During mowing season (April–November), contract crews pick up litter prior to mowing. This occurs three to five times per season, depending on location.

- Annual contract spending: \$2,250,000

Work Center Service Contracts

ARDOT partners with nonprofit organizations that employ individuals with disabilities to provide routine litter pickup across several highway districts. These partnerships keep highways clean while creating inclusive employment opportunities.

- Annual contract spending: \$392,000

County Correctional Litter Pickup

ARDOT reimburses participating counties for the use of inmates assigned to litter removal activities along state highways. This provides a cost-effective approach to reducing litter while supporting county operations.

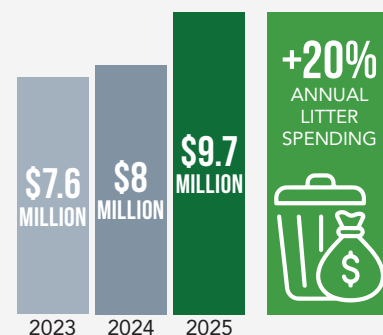
- Total payments to counties: \$19,000
- Equipment costs and disposal: \$50,000

ARDOT Activities

Maintenance crews use street sweepers and manual litter collection throughout the year to remove trash and debris from roadways and roadsides, improving safety and appearance while helping prevent litter from entering drainage systems. These efforts require significant staff time and equipment resources across the state each year.

- Annual cost: \$6,950,000

LITTER EXPENDITURES



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

Volunteer groups help fight roadside litter by adopting stretches of highway and keeping them clean. ARDOT provides safety vests and trash bags, while maintenance crews collect the filled bags after each cleanup. A new interactive website makes it easier to get involved by allowing users to view current volunteer locations, find available routes, and request a highway segment online.

2025 Impact

- 642 Volunteer Groups
- 2,786 Participants
- 2,041 Cleanup Hours
- 4,363 Bags Removed



Want to Help?

Scan the QR code to find a route or email adopt@ardot.gov.



Communications Division
501-569-2227
ARDOT.GOV



LITTER PREVENTION & AWARENESS

Litter Letters

ARDOT's five-foot-tall "Litter Letters" turn roadside trash into a visible reminder of the impact of littering. Each wire-mesh letter holds about one cubic yard of litter, with the full display containing nearly eight cubic yards collected from Arkansas highways. Introduced in December 2025, the traveling exhibit rotates to communities across the state to raise awareness and encourage Arkansans to help keep roadways clean.

Litter Hotline

Since launching in 2004, ARDOT's Litter Hotline has received more than 78,000 reports by phone and online, resulting in more than 76,000 educational letters. Reports commonly involve bottles, cans, tobacco products, food wrappers, and construction debris.

Litter can be reported at ardot.gov/ReportLitter or by calling 866-811-1222.

Keep Arkansas Beautiful

Each year between March 1 and May 31, more than 300,000 volunteers nationwide participate in a coordinated effort to reduce litter. ARDOT supports this initiative by encouraging community participation and dedicating staff time to cleanup efforts along ARDOT rights of way.

ARDOT Spring Clean-Up Day

During ARDOT's annual Spring Clean-Up Day, employees statewide join maintenance crews for a focused litter removal effort that coincides with Spring Clean-Up Week. Teams pause routine duties to help clear trash from roadsides and rights of way, highlighting ARDOT's statewide commitment to cleaner highways and community pride.

DO YOUR PART — KEEP ARKANSAS CLEAN

Everyone can help keep Arkansas highways clean:

- Dispose of trash properly.
- Secure or tarp loads while traveling.
- Recycle when possible.
- Participate in local cleanup efforts.
- Adopt a portion of highway through ARDOT's Adopt-A-Highway Program.

Keeping Arkansas clean benefits everyone.

2026 ARDOT SPRING CLEAN-UP

