

Adopt-A-Spot

Three different ways you can help us Keep Cass County Beautiful!

- 1.) Host a one time litter clean up in your community! Invite family, friends and coworkers to join in. With Covid-19, we are behind on our cleanups due to people not getting out as much the past two years. We need your help!
- 2.) Join our adopt a spot program. It’s as simple as signing up, committing to picking up trash in a spot of your choosing two times per year and reporting back to us when you do your cleanups.
- 3.) Take the 1 piece of litter per day challenge! Don’t have time for a litter cleanup? No problem. Commit to picking up one piece of litter per day and at the end of the year, you’ll have picked up 365 pieces of litter! Even if just a few people in our community did this, it would equate to thousands of pieces of litter per year.

****TIP:** When picking up litter, bring bags for recycling, much of the litter is recyclable!



In 1998, the GAC began as a litter cleanup initiative of Keep America Beautiful that was designed to improve communities. This year GAC events will take place from March 21—June 22.

KCCB will partner with local schools, 4-H groups, Scouts and community organizations to plan volunteer events that beautify parks, reduce waste, increase recycling and remove litter. Contact us for trash bags, safety vests, gloves and other litter cleanup supplies for a Great American Cleanup event in your neighborhood. KCCB will award organizations up to \$50 per mile and \$10 per acre for cleaning up litter in public areas along streets, curbs, alleys and sidewalks at schools, parks and in rural areas including county and country roads. Unfortunately, we cannot fund *Adopt a Highway* events.

Funding for this program is limited and provided by a small grant from the Nebraska Department of Environment & Energy. Applications and cleanup resources can be found at keepcasscountybeautiful.com/ or email director@keepcasscountybeautiful.com for details.



Close the loop...Buy recycled!



“Thank You” 2021 KCCB Partners

American Exchange Bank,
 Ash Grove Cement Company,
 Beaver Lake Association,
 Bloom Where You’re Planted,
 Corner Stone Bank
 Citizen’s State Bank,
 City of Louisville,
 City of Weeping Water,
 Steve & Julie Dodd
 Elmwood-Murdock Merchants
 Association (EMMA),
 First State Bank
 Fred Eriksen,
 Kirk & Lois Froistad,
 Frontier Cooperative,
 Dan & Dee Henry,
 John’s Appliance,
 Leibman Financial Services,
 Louisville B.U.I.L.D.,
 Janet McCartney,
 Makovicka Physical Therapy
 Melanie and Sydney Honaker
 Midwest Insurance Exchange,
 Nutrien Corporation,
 OPPD,
 Papillion Sanitation,
 Pinnacle Bank, Louisville,
 Plattsmouth Animal Hospital,
 Plattsmouth Chamber,
 Plattsmouth Hy-Vee,
 Marty & Joan Rowell,
 SCC Learning Center at
 Plattsmouth,
 Soil Dynamics Compost Farm,
 Stock Seed Farms, Inc.,
 Tangeman Appliance Repair
 T.E.A.M. CHI Health Midlands,
 Village of Cedar Creek,
 Village of Eagle,
 Village of Elmwood,
 Village of Manley,
 Village of Murray,
 Village of Union,
 Wilbur-Ellis Agribusiness
 Weeping Water Chamber

HHW COLLECTION COMING SOON TO CASS COUNTY!

Start saving your household hazardous waste materials as there will be a HHW collection event this year! The dates will be April 29 & 30, with time and locations to be announced soon. Check our website and Facebook for updates. ****There will be no used tire collection this year.**



KCCB Spring Electronic & Appliance Recycling Events

April 23 - Weeping Water; 503 West H St. (west entrance @ ballfield); from 9:00 - noon
June 11 - Elmwood; 221 South 4th St. (village office pkg. lot); from 9:00 - noon

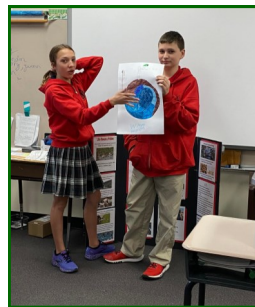
Items accepted at no charge include computers, flat screen monitors, laptops, tablets, key boards and mice, printers, copiers, fax machines, cell phones, vacuum cleaners, stereos, DVD players, microwaves, small & large appliances, power tools, and anything with a battery or cord. **Limit of 2 large appliances per household, please!**

The following items will have an environmental fee: alkaline batteries: \$1.00 per pound; all styles of Televisions (including flat screens) and CRT (Cathode Ray Tube) items: \$20 up to 20 inch; \$30 up to 30 inch; \$40 up to 40 inch, \$50 up to 50 inch, and so forth. KCCB will pay half of the environmental fee of one item per household. If you’re a KCCB member, one item with a fee is FREE.



The events are made possible by NDEE, Cass County, City of Weeping Water, Village of Elmwood, Cross Electronic Recycling and KCCB. The collections are open to Cass County residents only; no commercial quantities. Two more collection events will be held in the fall Sept 17, Beaver Lake & Oct 8 Louisville. Celebrate Earth Day and protect the environment by recycling your electronics. **Not A KCCB Member? Click [join today](#) and enjoy a savings if you have a television to recycle. The membership link can be also be found on our website. Your financial support helps fund education programs and events for Cass County residents.**

Spring litter prevention lessons are under way! This year we added three new lessons for grades 6-8 and we have been delivering lessons from prek-8th grade. Our 4-H trash to treasure workshop will be held June 7-8 at the extension office. Details TBA. In addition to our spring and fall lessons, KCCB also delivers lessons once a month to after school programs and summer school programs. Please contact us if you would like to have us out for an interactive lesson!



St John’s Middle School students display their ocean cleanup invention



Through a series of events beginning with inspiration from a church challenge in 2011, Claudia Wylie never anticipated the long-term impact a small idea would have on her community. “We were studying Romans 12 in a Bible study and each of us was tasked with the challenge of doing something for our community,” Wylie recalls. “I sat for a long time thinking of a need in the community that wasn’t currently being met. Later, I was going through a clipart book and saw a clipart ‘baby pantry.’ It was like the idea was sent from God. This was a need in our community, and I knew it was something I could do even though I was not sure where or even what it would look like.”

Yet, everything immediately started to fall into place for Wylie; a fabric store downtown went out of business and Wylie was offered the building for rent. Around the same time, Plattsmouth Middle School teacher Leigh LaRosa remarked in conversation that children in our community also needed access to affordable clothing. “That planted another seed in my mind to add a thrift

store in addition to the baby pantry. Here it is 2022 and Under His Wings has been a blessing to so many for over a decade!”

Wylie noted the importance of her volunteers not only in the day-to-day functions but also in their dedication to sustainability. “My staff really encourages sustainability in a variety of ways and keeps me honest here. Former volunteer Corky Stolp would save anything she could by reusing, recycling, or repurposing. Current volunteers Joyce Westfahl and Barb Dietrich carried on the tradition by finding a use for all that they can and hauling cardboard to a recycling center to prevent landfill waste. Fabric too worn or torn to be sold goes to Omaha to be used for insulation. We currently operate with twelve volunteers and it sure is a lot of fun working with these ladies,” she added. Though Under His Wings has been a great blessing in her life, Wylie remarked that she is not getting any younger and that in the not-too-distant future, she will be looking for someone to help operate Under His Wings, but she is not ready to give it up just yet.

In addition to providing so many needed services to the community, Under His Wings also helps families in crisis by donating profits from the thrift store to families or individuals in the community when needed. “Some people just need a little extra help at some point, and we offer that if we’re able,” comments Wylie. “The most common needs are help with water or electric bills. Generally a once-a-year limit is placed so we can help many people each year.” Under His Wings also provides financial support for Meals on Wheels, CASA, Food for the Heartland and pays tuition to send junior high kids to camp each year.

I hope you enjoyed hearing more about what Under His Wings is doing in our community. When visiting Plattsmouth, be sure to stop by Under His Wings to browse the shelves and even donate your gently used items to help their great cause.



Most Cass County communities have some type of spring clean-up day for large items that don’t fit in the trash can. Here’s a list of those scheduled as of this writing. Some events require proof of residency such as a city bill for participation. Fees apply at some collections.

Louisville – April 30; 7:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Plattsmouth – April 30-May 1; 8:00 am – 6:00 pm; for more details visit Plattsmouth.org

Weeping Water – April 23; 9:00 – noon

Union - April date TBA



This year’s Earth Day Theme is “Invest in our planet.”

Commit to making at least one small change this year to make a positive investment in our planet. Many changes will not only improve the health of the planet but improve your health and save you money, time and stress!

- 1.) Live intentionally, make it a point to ditch disposables whenever possible by being prepared with reusables.
- 2.) Commit to one small lifestyle change on Earth day and add more once it becomes a habit!

KCCB hosted our first sustainability workshop at the Plattsmouth Public Library in February. We had ten attendees who made reusable bees wax wraps and T-shirt bags out of recycled materials and learned 10 steps for



more sustainable living. A future adult workshop is being planned for fall. Details will be posted on our website and our Facebook page.

Resources of Interest:

10 tips for more Eco-friendly living: <https://www.wheelsforwishes.org/news/live-a-more-eco-friendly-lifestyle/>

Interested in living a slower paced less hectic lifestyle? Check out mamaminimalist.com for tips, join the podcast or check out eco friendly products. Blogger Stephanie Sefarian provides unlimited tips!

Did you know, nearly 40% of food in the United States is wasted each year? To read more about it and learn some tips about how to prevent food waste, check out ReFresh Nebraska <https://mailchi.mp/knb/2021-winter-refresh-11418698?e=bc7276039b> visit savethefood.com for tips on how to reduce food waste.

Ready to make the change to a more eco friendly laundry detergent? Give Tru Earth Eco-strips laundry detergent a try! We have tried and approved! <https://www.tru.earth/Store/Tru-Earth-Eco-strips-Laundry-Detergent-FL-32?>



Support KCCB While Shopping Any Time of the Year at [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Select **Keep Cass County Beautiful** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. Then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation of 0.5% to KCCB. Thanks for your support!