

Environmental Report May 2020
Environmental Manager
Teresa Sidwell



The first annual NWA EcoFest is scheduled for November 6-7. It will be held indoors at the Benton County fairgrounds from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. Friday will be a Free Field Trip day for area schools and Saturday will be open to all of the public. Area agencies, businesses and groups will share their message of environmental protection in an interactive way that excites the public about caring for our environment. **Share with potential exhibitors and the public.**



[@nwaecofest](#) on Instagram has a link in the bio to the event [website](#). Follow, like, and comment on the NWA EcoFest social media accounts.

Nuisance Cases - The Environmental Division’s nuisance cases are the worst of the worst. Cleaning up these properties take a long time, a lot of work, and sometimes county funding. Ordinance 2007-28 authorizes Benton County Environmental to regulate unsanitary conditions that pose a threat to the health, safety and welfare of our citizens.

Status of Nuisance Properties in Benton County

Case opened	Location	Status
2011	Plank Rd., Rogers	Scheduled for cleanup in June
2012	High Meadows Rd., Rogers	Dismissed by Rogers District Court Judge
2013	Mulberry Ln., Rogers	Court
2018	Rhoden Ln., Lowell	Recent drug activity discovered/ cleanup on hold
2019	Shortcut Rd., Decatur	Scheduled for cleanup in June
2019	Lakeside Dr., Rogers	Working with new property owner to remediate property
2019	Bonnabel Rd., Monte Ne	Working with property owner to remediate property
2019	Cloverdale Rd., Rogers	Scheduled for cleanup in July
2019	Taylor Barnett Rd., Garfield	Road Department assisted with the removal of vehicle in May
2020	Phillips Rd., Lowell	Still trying to locate heir
2020	Mtn. Crest Loop, Bella Vista	2 properties/both owners notified/received response from one owner
2020	Ridgeway Dr., Siloam Springs	Case opened in May / property taken over by mortgage holder

Staff Training – I took 6 hours of training online through the Criminal Justice Institute at the U of A for Local Agency Security Officer and Racial Profiling. I also utilized ThinBlueOnline.com and took 10 law enforcement scenario training courses. Officer Cervantes took a 12 hour course for Crime Scene Investigations through CJI online.

In-House Recycling – I packaged and brought 8 boxes of batteries to Battery Outfitters on Hudson Road in Rogers and shipped 4 boxes of used toner cartridges to be recycled.

Extra Patrols – Officer Cervantes and I stepped up extra patrols this month in areas of the county where repeated dumping and littering is occurring. I have been making weekly trips to Siloam Springs to Yell Cemetery and Littrell Roads. Over the years a lot of littering has been occurring on these intersecting roads. We have recently installed a “No Littering” sign and camera. Frequent visits to the area seems to be slowing the littering. Officer Cervantes assisted with installation of a sign and 55-gallon barrel near the Snavely Road Bridge. We have had several reports of large amounts of litter in this popular fishing area. A week after the litter collection barrel was installed I found that the barrel was full and no litter was on the ground. Officer Cervantes has also been doing extra patrols on Canal Street, Frisco Springs Road, and Stoney Point Road.

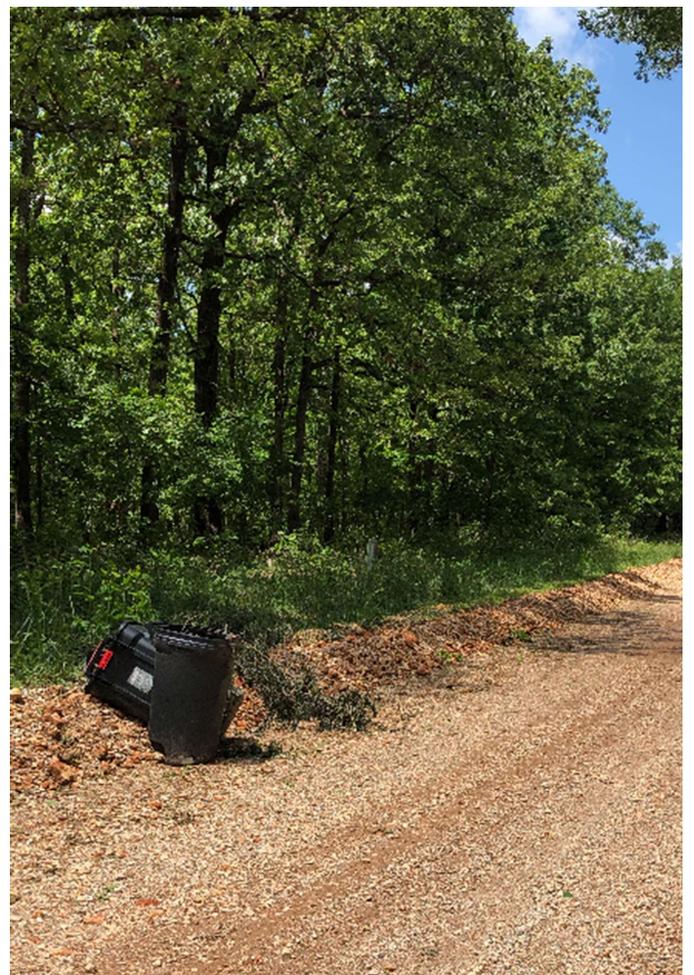
County Teaching Garden - The county teaching garden located at the Benton County Road Department, 1206 SW 14th Street in Bentonville is looking good. The inmate crew has been able to assist with weeding the area surrounding the garden. This garden is an alternative storm water management system called a rain garden. When it rains surfaces such as driveways prevent water from soaking into the ground. Stormwater enters into storm drains carrying with it fertilizers, solid waste, hazardous chemicals from vehicles, and bacteria from pet waste. This stormwater dumps directly back into our waterways untreated. Rain gardens allow the water to soak into the ground removing impurities.



Sign and Camera Installations – It has been estimated that nearly 100 million tons of waste is illegally dumped in the world. Americans alone are estimated to illegally dump almost 1.5 million tons of trash each year. Illegal dumping is defined as a large deposit of waste over 15 pounds in areas like woods, alleys, waterways or vacant properties. The reasons that people illegally dump their trash range from a lack of education on disposal options to simply not taking the time to drive to the local landfill. According to Sara Popescu Slavikova, co-founder of Greentumble, a lack of monitoring by authorities or a slap on the wrist help contribute to the problem. Benton County Environmental staff take dumping seriously. We installed “No Dumping” signs and cameras on Cobble Lane, Nelson Hollow and Snavelly Road this month.



Roadside Cleanups – In May Officer Cervantes and I took the grapple truck out to Rice Lane in the Bentonville area, Floyd Moore Road in the Gentry area, Robison Hollow Rd in the Siloam Springs area and Phillips Road in the Lowell area. The number of illegal roadside dump sites was greatly decreased in May. We picked up several small dump sites by hand.



Convenience Center Program

The Convenience Center program closed to the public on March 18 due to COVID19 restrictions and reopened May 1 with face coverings required by both the public and staff.

Waste Brought to Convenience Centers								
CENTERTON	# OF LOADS	HHW VISITS	APPLIANCES	ELECTRONICS	FURNITURE	METAL	PLAYGROUND	TIRES
January	767	152	149	537	793	641	50	299
February	819	168	155	493	987	733	113	211
March	475	104	104	293	626	638	27	177
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	1318	211	200	677	1980	2348	237	108
2020 YTD	3379	635	608	2000	4386	4360	427	795
ROGERS	# OF LOADS	HHW VISITS	APPLIANCES	ELECTRONICS	FURNITURE	METAL	PLAYGROUND	TIRES
January	737	126	369	563	859	966	61	347
February	854	122	288	468	804	849	107	166
March	412	77	70	245	380	421	59	296
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	1351	280	263	905	1805	1895	266	349
2020 YTD	3354	605	990	2181	3848	4131	493	1158
SILOAM SPRINGS	# OF LOADS	HHW VISITS	APPLIANCES	ELECTRONICS	FURNITURE	METAL	PLAYGROUND	TIRES
January	96	37	19	135	49	72	7	157
February	94	34	22	88	78	45	0	102
March	56	30	13	36	41	24	5	0
April	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
May	22	5	6	26	34	11	0	54
2020 YTD	268	106	60	285	202	152	12	313
SITES COMBINED 2020	7001	1346	1658	4466	8436	8643	932	2266

NOTE: # of appliances, electronics, furniture, metal, playground equipment, and tires are based on number of items collected. HHW is based on the # of visits, not the # of items brought per visit.

2020 Expenses for Waste Disposal										
2020 County Expenses	Bulky Waste Centerton	Bulky Waste Rogers	Bulky Waste Siloam Springs	Attendant's Wages**	Household Hazardous Waste	Advertising	In-house recycling	Roadside Cleanups	Nuisance Cases	TOTALS
BUDGET	\$58,739.00	\$40,380.00	\$11,000.00	\$51,598.89	\$30,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,780.00	\$6,572.11	\$34,680.00	\$ 242,750.00
ACTUAL COSTS										
JANUARY	\$ 3,253.26	\$ 4,142.04	\$ 101.19	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 68.81	\$ -	\$ 7,565.30
FEBRUARY	\$ 4,529.80	\$ 2,281.46	\$ 818.41	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18.81	\$ -	\$ 7,648.48
MARCH	\$ 2,530.76	\$ 2,583.10	\$ 101.10	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,214.96
APRIL	\$ 495.05	\$ 866.53	\$ 462.94	\$ 12,524.00	\$ -	\$ 5,294.53	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 23,193.05
MAY	\$ 6,593.48	\$ 4,782.64	\$ 104.32	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 11,480.44
SPENT Y-T-D	\$ 17,402.35	\$ 14,655.77	\$ 1,587.96	\$ 12,524.00	\$ -	\$ 5,294.53	\$ -	\$ 192.66	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 55,207.27

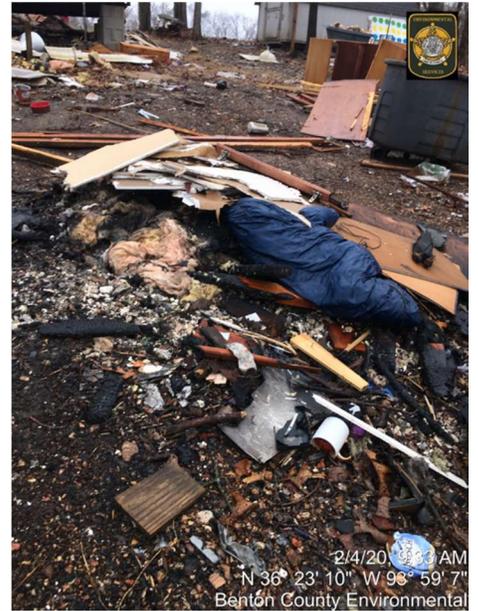
*BCSWD will use up to \$30,000 of their budget for HHW before billing the County. **Attendant's wages billed quarterly.

2020 Convenience Center Bulky Waste Disposal												
	HAULS	TONS	COST	HAULS	TONS	COST	HAULS	TONS	COST	TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	CENTERTON	ROGERS	ROGERS	ROGERS	SILOAM	SILOAM	SILOAM	HAULS	TONS	COST
JAN	16	27.36	\$3,253.26	13	17.14	\$4,142.04	0	-	\$101.19	29	44.50	\$7,496.49
FEB	20	17.38	\$4,529.80	8	20.65	\$2,281.46	2	4.10	\$818.41	30	42.13	\$7,629.67
MAR	10	17.56	\$2,530.76	10	17.14	\$2,583.10	0	-	\$101.19	20	34.70	\$5,215.05
APR	3	5.56	\$495.05	3	6.77	\$866.53	1	2.55	\$462.94	7	14.88	\$1,824.52
MAY	23	53.27	\$6,593.48	17	45.60	\$4,782.64	0	-	\$104.32	40	98.87	\$11,480.44
YTD	72	121.13	\$17,402.35	51	107.30	\$14,655.77	3	6.65	\$1,588.05	126	235.08	\$33,646.17

Merced Cervantes Environmental Enforcement Officer

This is one of many solid waste cases being investigated in the Lost Bridge area east of Garfield. A citizen reported this property owner taking down a mobile home and burning construction materials. I conducted an investigation and found that the property owner was in violation of local and state environmental laws and regulations. The property owner was unaware of Benton County's Convenience Center program and their disposal options for trash and construction material. Our staff work to educate citizens and to ensure that solid waste is handled, processed, recycled, or disposed of in ways that protect our environment and in accordance with federal and state regulations.

BEFORE:



AFTER:



ENVIRONMENTAL CASE DATA

Refer to the charts below for environmental cases received and actions initiated in May.

VIOLATION TYPE	QTY
Burn (appliances)	0
Burn (auto bodies & parts)	0
Burn (construction debris)	1
Burn (electronics)	0
Burn (furniture)	0
Burn (general waste)	0
Burn (household garbage)	0
Burn (mobile home)	0
Burn (tires)	0
Bury (auto bodies & parts)	0
Bury (construction debris)	0
Bury (electronics)	0
Bury (furniture)	0
Bury (general waste)	0
Bury (household garbage)	0
Bury (mobile home)	0
Bury (trees)	1
Dumped by others (appliances)	1
Dumped by others (auto bodies & parts)	0
Dumped by others (construction debris)	1
Dumped by others (electronics)	0
Dumped by others (furniture)	2
Dumped by others (general waste)	4
Dumped by others (household garbage)	2
Dumped by others (metal)	0
Dumped by others (mobile home)	0
Dumped by others (tires)	1
Dumped by others (trees)	0
Dumped by self (appliances)	0
Dumped by self (auto bodies & parts)	1
Dumped by self (construction debris)	1
Dumped by self (electronics)	0
Dumped by self (furniture)	0
Dumped by self (general waste)	4
Dumped by self (household garbage)	1
Dumped by self (metal)	0
Dumped by self (mobile home)	0
Dumped by self (tires)	0
Dumped by self (trees)	1
OTHER	QTY
Agency Assist	1
Camera/Sign installation	3
Extra Patrol	3
Littering	0

ACTION TAKEN	QTY.
NOTICE OF VIOLATIONS ISSUED	0
WARNINGS ISSUED	0
CITATIONS ISSUED	6
WARRANTS	0
COURT APPEARANCES	0
CASE STATUS	QTY.
CASES OPENED THIS MONTH	28
CASES CLOSED THIS MONTH	34
TOTAL NUMBER OF OPEN CASES CURRENTLY UNDER INVESTIGATION	59
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES CURRENTLY IN COURT SYSTEM	33
TOTAL NUMBER OF CASES CLOSED YTD	173

The Effects of Trash on the Environment - When trash is introduced into the environment, there are a variety of potential risks for the land and animals nearby. When a lot of waste is in one place, there is a risk to the soil and water nearby. Unlike regulated sanitary landfills which work to protect the surrounding area from contaminants, illegal dump sites left unmonitored can have runoff from hazardous waste that can work its way into streams, rivers, lakes and our drinking water.

Animals tend to feel the impact of illegal dumping first. They may get ill after eating the trash or potentially become tangled in the debris. Should runoff or the trash itself make it to a water source, fish may experience depleted oxygen supply or ingest the waste particles.

