



# OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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## Ohio Department of Transportation • News Release

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### **Gator Getter is tearing through Stark County litter** *(Tuesday, November 14)*

ODOT District 4 proudly introduces the Gator Getter, the latest technology in the fight against roadway litter. ODOT District 4 is always on the lookout to increase the safety of our highway technicians (HT's). The "Gator" takes the once dangerous act of picking up litter on the highway and makes it much safer by keeping the HT in the truck while keeping the highways clean. This past November, Stark County ODOT received the "Gator" which is a new truck attachment that looks like a cross between a snow plow and round tube that is painted yellow.

The "Gator" attaches to the front of any ODOT tandem truck and cost around \$22,000. The driver, when called to pick up litter drives at normal highway speeds, lowers the attachment and through centrifugal force picks up the litter which is held in a basket to be unloaded at a later time. The Stark County "Gator" is the first one used at ODOT and has the potential to revolutionize the way road maintenance crews remove litter from the highways.

Safety is the key component that the "Gator" brings to the table. Before, highway workers needed to pull their vehicle over the side of the road, wait for a break in traffic, then run out into the road and pick up the litter and run back to the berm. It also increases the safety for the motoring public, no more lane closures for litter removal or slamming on your brakes to avoid the workers

"Stark County HT's will no longer be put into danger while picking up litter on the highways in Stark County. I have been impressed with "Gator's" performance and I know it will become a well-used piece of equipment by the county," Mark Griffiths, Stark County Manager said. Motorist can see the "gator" in action throughout Stark County attacking litter whenever it decides to show itself. Please click on the picture below to view a **video** of the Gator Getter in action.

**For more information contact:**

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