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Improving My Hometown

Cove, Arkansas, is a small town with the population of three hundred and eighty-two with many things to love a few things that could be improved to make it even better. There is something about hometowns that is cheerful, and it gives people somewhere to belong. Cove is no exception to this. The people of Cove are friendly and understanding. There are hardly any strangers, even newcomers are treated as friends and neighbors. While the people of Cove are inviting and kind, the county roads are not. The roads are curvy and narrow like a snake. The roads of Cove are filled with bumps and chips that can cause serious damage. Many times, there is debris, trash, and even tree limbs covering the roads. This is not conducive to safe driving conditions. Repairing county roads can improve driving conditions, upkeep vehicle maintenance and longevity, and allow for safer and more timely travel.

Firstly, repairing the county roads of Cove, Arkansas can lead to improved driving conditions. Filling in the countless potholes is a very simple way to improve these conditions. Potholes can be very detrimental and dangerous to safe driving. Whether it be by hitting one or swerving to miss one and hitting an oncoming vehicle. It is nearly impossible to drive on these county roads without hitting at least one. “Experts say damaged roads lead to damaged cars, so motorists collectively end up paying

millions of dollar to repair their cars, all because some cities aren't spending the money to repair their roads" (Leamy and Weber, Par. 15). Hitting a pothole can cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle which can cause an accident. Weather and heavy traffic cause wear and tear on the surfaces of the roads. The county roads of Cove are known to have log trucks and other large eighteen wheelers on them. These trucks plain a main role in the cause of potholes. The constant traveling of these trucks causes wear and tear on roads, and the more they are driven on, the worse the holes get. Resurfacing the road with new asphalt or chip and seal regularly can improve the conditions of the road tremendously. Maintaining the surface can save an abundance of taxpayer's money as well as keep the roads safe.

Repairing the roads of Cove can also help to upkeep vehicle maintenance and keep vehicles working longer. Maintaining the roads and filling in potholes will significantly reduce damage to vehicles. "Poor conditions make roads difficult to navigate for drivers, leading to increased vehicle operating costs (including constant repairs and greater fuel use)" (Elswick). Possible outcomes could include, tire and rim damage, shocks and struts weakening, and front-end damage. Hitting a pothole can cause vehicles to bottom out. This means that the front end of the automobile impacts the surface of the road, causing damage to the under carriage of the vehicle which can crack the oil pan. Upkeeping road conditions can also increase the longevity of the vehicle's use. Less maintenance would be required, and there would be a decrease in the frequency of needing new parts. The decline of care needed would lessen the amount of money and time spent to repair an automobile.

Lastly, a well-maintained road can allow for safer and faster travel. There would

be less accidents if the roads had better conditions and were maintained more frequently. Swerving to avoid potholes, animals, or tree limbs increases the likelihood of automobile accidents. Weather plays a huge role in the amount of debris and potholes in the road. Many times, in Cove, Arkansas, drivers come across limbs, sticks, or animal carcasses in the road. “State transportation departments could greatly reduce accidents by improving crumbling and pot-holed roads and clearing roads of debris, snow, and ice more efficiently” (Jensen). Removal of these things is an effective way to prevent accidents. Not having to swerve to avoid a collision also allows drivers to get to their destination faster and safer. The county roads of Cove are not always wide enough to allow two vehicles to pass each other safely. Widening the roads would lead to less head on collisions and a safer way of driving. “Widening the lanes on a bend can reduce the risk of head-on crashes by giving drivers more room to get around the bend without crossing into the opposing lane” (Road Safety Toolkit).

In conclusion, one of the best ways to improve the town of Cove, Arkansas would be to upkeep better road conditions. Improving the county roads can help to better driving conditions, keep cars driving longer, and make travels safer and easier. While the people of Cove are inviting, the roads are one thing that could keep this beautiful town from being inhabited.

## Works Cited


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