



WASHINGTON COUNTY ADOPT-A-ROAD PROGRAM

PROGRAM PURPOSE

The Adopt-a-Road Program provides for public involvement in controlling litter along selected sections of county roads. Businesses, individuals, and other groups are permitted to adopt a section of road for the purpose of litter control and to receive Departmental recognition for their participation in the program. The County Road Department and the County Environmental Affairs Department will administer this program jointly and are collectively referred to as the Department.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

- The Department will coordinate the litter cleanup activities with an adopting organization and monitor the organization's activities relative to safety.
- The Department will furnish the adopting organization with safety vests, gloves, advance warning signs, litter bags, and cleanup report forms.
- The Department will properly dispose of the bagged litter and bulky items.
- The section of a county road to be adopted will generally be from one to three miles in length, but can be of any length subject to Department approval. Eligible sections will be selected by the adopting group, in cooperation with the Department.
- Consideration will be given to traffic volumes, types and speed and to the geometrics of the road in selecting appropriate program sites. Those sections determined unsafe or inappropriate by the Department will not be eligible for adoption.
- Litter pick up will be done at least two times a year. The recommended adoption period will be for one year, renewable at the request of the organization.
- Participants will be encouraged to schedule at least one of their required two pickups to coincide with the Great American Clean-up in the spring, or the Great Arkansas Clean-Up in the fall. Participants will be notified in advance of these events.
- A safety meeting will be conducted immediately prior to the first scheduled litter pickup. The Department will assist the adopting organization in planning the meeting. In this meeting, the workers should be apprised of the hazardous nature of the work which they will be performing. Subsequent in-person meetings will only be required if there is a change in group leadership.
- News media coverage will be encouraged to promote the Adopt a Road Program and to recognize participating organizations.

- The Department reserves the right to deny adoption or renewal requests by any group, individual or business based on any one of the following criteria:
 - A. Safety of the participants, passing motorists or county employees who may be involved in the program
 - B. Effectiveness of the litter control by the participants
 - C. Harm to the public image of the Adopt-a-Road program or the County
- For an applicant to qualify for admission into the Adopt-a-Road Program the said applicant must adhere to the restrictions of all State or Federal non-discrimination laws. Specifically, the said applicant must not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, or national origin. Such discrimination disqualifies the said applicant from admission into the Adopt a Road Program.
- The program is not intended as a means of providing a public forum for groups, individuals, or businesses to use in promoting name recognition or political causes. Therefore, the Department reserves the right to deny adoption of more than one section of road to any group, individual or business.
- The Department will erect an appropriate sized sign along the adopted road section to provide public recognition to the adopting organization for their participation in the program. The sign will have a maximum of 34 spaces available for the name of the adopting organization, limited to two lines with 17 characters per line. Spaces and dashes are considered characters. Political or business slogans and logos are prohibited, as well as names of candidates for political office. Phone numbers and addresses of adopting groups or businesses are also prohibited.
- Upon successful completion of participation in the program, the adopting organization will be presented a certificate of recognition on their anniversary date by the Department.

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The following guidelines will apply to any organization's or individual's participation in the Adopt-a-Road Program:

- Adopting organizations will place warning signs at the beginning and end of the specified section of road prior to start of litter pickup.
- All persons engaged in litter pickup on the right of way will wear an appropriate safety vest. (Department will furnish the appropriate safety vest and gloves.)
- All litter pickup activities will be restricted to the areas of the right-of-way outside the pavement and shoulder areas.
- No person under the age of 11 years will be permitted to pick up litter within the road right-of-way. All persons between the ages of 11 and 18 must be accompanied by at least one adult per 5 persons under age 18.

- Each organization shall designate a Group Lead Contact and Backup Contact who will arrange to meet with a Department representative prior to the first scheduled litter pickup and at least annually thereafter.
- The group shall obtain required vests, bags, and gloves from the Department during regular business hours.
- Place all bagged litter in one location, at least three feet from the edge of the road. Notify the Department of the location of the litter.
- Within one week after each pickup participants must
 - File reports detailing the number of people involved, number of bags collected, and number of hours spent.
 - Return all vests, gloves, unused bags, and warning signs to the Department.

WASHINGTON COUNTY RESPONSIBILITIES

- The County Road Department and the County Environmental Affairs Department will administer this program jointly and are collectively referred to as the Department.
- Erect an identification sign on each end of the adopted road section to recognize the adopting organization's activities and efforts.
- Furnish a set of appropriate advance warning signs (to be set up and maintained in place during litter pickup activities by the adopting organization).
- Furnish appropriate safety vests for all persons involved in litter pickup for the adopting organization.
- Furnish all litter bags needed by the adopting organization.
- Furnish a cleanup report form.
- Transport and properly dispose of the bagged litter and bulky items collected by the adopting organization.
- Recognize adopting organizations with an annual "Certificate of Recognition" and through the County's website.
- Meet with Contact/Safety Representatives prior to first scheduled pickup and at least one time annually thereafter.

VOLUNTEER GROUP RESPONSIBILITIES AND INFORMED CONSENT

On behalf of _____, Volunteer Group, I have met with Washington County and reviewed the terms and conditions for participation and safety information. I agree and acknowledge the following:

- Volunteers in this program are under the control and supervision of our group and not Washington County. Our organization will evaluate all Volunteers to determine that they are suitably responsible individuals who will abide by the Adopt-a-Road Safety Rules and use due care and caution while participating in this cleanup program.
- Each Volunteer will be instructed in the Adopt-a-Road safety rules prior to participation in the program.
- Volunteer Group must provide at least one week advance notice of planned cleanup dates.
- The Volunteer Group Leader will conduct a safety briefing for all volunteers prior to each cleanup event.
- Volunteer Group will provide the Department with a copy of the Adopt-a-Road Volunteer Informed Consent/Release form with names and signatures of individual Volunteers in the cleanup within seven days following each and every cleanup event.
- The Volunteer Group and its volunteers, collectively and individually, agree to release and forever discharge Washington County, its officers and employees from all claims, action, or damages of every kind and description which may accrue to or be suffered by any volunteer by reason of their participation in the ADOPT-A-ROAD Program or any of its activities in which they participate.

I CERTIFY THAT I AM AUTHORIZED TO SIGN THIS AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF OUR VOLUNTEER GROUP, AND CONSENT TO ITS TERMS.

**VOLUNTEER GROUP
LEAD CONTACT**

**VOLUNTEER GROUP
BACKUP CONTACT**

Signature

Signature

Print Name

Print Name

Date

Date

WASHINGTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS

Signature

Date

Print Name and Title