

Adopt-a-Highway/Trail Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who can adopt a highway or trail in DuPage County?

A: Organized groups can adopt a highway or trail. Church groups, fraternities, corporations, high school clubs, local businesses, and many other groups from across the county adopt highways and trails each year. There are no residency requirements.

Q: How does a group go about adopting a highway or trail?

A: By filling out the Adopt-a-Highway/Trail application form on DuPage County Division of Transportation's website and submitting it to the county. Forms can be e-mailed to HWADOPTAHIGHWAY@DUPAGECO.ORG or mailed to the address on the form. Each participating member must complete the "Adopt-a-Highway/Trail Volunteer Waiver and Release" prior to participating. This form is available online. No person may participate in the Adopt-a-Highway/Trail program unless they have a waiver on file with DuPage County Division of Transportation. Please see our website: www.dupageco.org/adoptahighway-trail/

Q: Is there a minimum or maximum number of participants for each group?

A: No.

Q: Can new members join an existing group?

A: Yes, so long as they complete the "Adopt-a-Highway/Trail Volunteer Waiver and Release" prior to participating.

Q: When is the deadline to adopt a highway or trail for the year?

A: April 30th.

Q: Can children participate?

A: Yes, children between the ages of ten (10) and seventeen (17) may participate in the program provided that the appropriate waiver is signed and submitted to the County and that one adult age eighteen (18) or older is present for every five (5) children at any work site.

Q: Is there a deadline for when all clean-ups for the year must be complete?

A: No, however, the County advises that groups try to complete their final clean-up by early November at the latest as snowfall can make cleanup not only more difficult but also potentially more hazardous in certain areas as well. Similarly, it is not recommended that groups choose early dates in January or February for the same reason.

Q: Is there a minimum amount of time that must be allowed between each clean-up?

A: No, however, most groups chose to leave at least a month between each clean-up session.

Q: Does the County provide supplies?

A: Yes; safety vests, gloves, and garbage bags are provided at no cost by the County. Supplies may be picked up at our office at 421 N. County Farm Road in the City of Wheaton.

Q: Does the County deliver supplies?

A: No.

Q: What should be done with the collected trash?

A: Groups should leave the trash bags in a safe location near the adopted highway or trail. Bags should not obstruct any roads, sidewalks, or any utility infrastructure. The group should then notify the County so that County crews may collect the trash. Alternatively, groups may dispose of the trash on their own should they prefer.

Q: How many times per year must a group clean the adopted highway or trail?

A: The County prefers that each group clean the area four times per calendar year. These dates along with the backup dates, should plans change or other circumstances arise, are chosen by the group and approved by the County upon applying to adopt a highway or trail.

Q: Can clean-up dates change after being approved by the County?

A: Yes, subject once again to County approval. Simply e-mail the Adopt-a-Highway/Trail inbox with the proposed change.

Q: What is the minimum distance of a highway or trail that can be adopted.

A: The County requests that no fewer than two contiguous (2) miles be adopted by a group.

Q: Can multiple groups adopt the same highway or trail?

A: Yes. However, no groups may adopt the same portion of any highway or trail. For example, Group A may adopt two miles of the Great Western Trail through the Village of Lombard while Group B may adopt three miles of the Great Western Trail through the Village of Carol Stream.

Q: Does a group's adoption automatically rollover when the calendar year does?

A: No, a group must let the County know that it intends to continue participating in the program. However, a group does have the first right of refusal to continue cleaning its adopted area. If the group declines to participate for a year, another group is welcome to adopt all or a portion of that area.

Q: Which areas are available for adoption?

A: An interactive map of which areas are available to adopt and which areas have been adopted by which groups is on our website. Please see our website: <https://www.dupageco.org/DOT/33352/>

Q: Are Illinois State Routes available for adoption?

A: The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) runs an adopt-a-highway program as well. Please contact IDOT if you are interested in this program. Please see the IDOT website: <http://idot.illinois.gov/about-idot/employment-opportunities/community-involvement/index>

Q: When will the sign showing that my group has adopted an area be erected?

A: The County reconciles which signs will be erected and taken down at the beginning of the program each year.

Q: Does the sign cost money?

A: The sign will be erected by the County at no cost to the participating group.