
ALLEGHENY COUNTY ADOPT-A-ROADWAY PROGRAM

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Welcome to the **Allegheny County Adopt-a-Roadway Program**. The purpose of this program is to provide organizations, corporations, groups, and individuals an opportunity to help keep County-maintained roadways trash free. We ask adopters to organize cleanup events at least twice a year. In return, Allegheny County will post recognition signs along the adopted roadway, giving you or your group credit for your efforts.

Note: Contact [PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway Program](#) for state-maintained roads and the [local municipality](#) for municipal roads. To see who owns a road near you, visit [Who Owns My Infrastructure](#).

Adoption Time Length: 2 years.

Length and Location: Roadside area within the County's right of way. Allegheny County will work with prospective adopters to select sites that are safe for volunteers.

Note: Site selections will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Restricted visibility, high runoff potential, steep slopes, or narrow roadside/roadway shoulders are examples of what may cause a road segment to be unacceptable for adoption.

Age Requirements: An individual or an adopting group's primary contact must be 18 years of age or older. Cleanup event participants must be 14 years of age or older to work along County roadways. There must be at least one adult (18 or older) per eight minors (17 and under). Minors must have parental permission.

Note: Age limitations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis for cleanup events on roads in County parks.

Events Per Year: A minimum of two organized, scheduled events; one in the spring (March/April) in conjunction with the Great American Cleanup, and one in the fall (September/October).

Cleanup Event Scheduling: Requested cleanup event dates must be approved by the county. Adopter will contact the Adopt-a-Roadway Coordinator at least two weeks in advance of the preferred date.

Supplies: Allegheny County will provide "Litter Crew Ahead" signs and safety vests. All other required equipment, including personal protective equipment (PPE), trash bags, and work gloves, is the responsibility of the participants.

Acknowledgement Signs: Allegheny County will post signs to acknowledge the adoption.

Bagged Litter Pick-Up: Allegheny County will pick up bagged litter from the roadside after cleanup events.

Contact Information:

Mail: Adopt-a-Roadway Coordinator
107 County Office Building
542 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Email: Adopt-a-Roadway@AlleghenyCounty.us

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PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Allegheny County Adopt-a-Roadway Program allows any organization, corporation, group, or individual over the age of 18 to adopt an Allegheny County roadway. You or your volunteer group sign a two-year agreement to organize at least two scheduled cleanup events per year, and in return, Allegheny County will post signs to recognize the adoption. For-profit businesses, political groups, and elected officials can participate, but no logo or advertising can be displayed on recognition signs or at cleanup events.

Adoption Requirements

Designate a Primary Contact

Whether an organization, corporation, group, or individual is requesting an adoption, **one individual, 18 years or older, will serve as the primary contact person.** This person will be responsible for contacting the Adopt-a-Roadway Coordinator, registering the adoption, organizing cleanup events, communicating safety guidelines to participants for the day of the cleanup(s), and reporting cleanup results to Allegheny County. Spring events will also be reported to the Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania.

Get Approvals from Allegheny County

After deciding on the road or road segment you would like to adopt, speak to the Adopt-a-Roadway Coordinator or complete an adoption application. **Allegheny County must review the site for safety before granting permission to adopt and install signs recognizing the adoption.**

Register Your Adoption with Allegheny County

Register your adoption by returning a completed [Adoption Application \(Form AAR-1\)](#) to the Adopt-a-Roadway Coordinator by mail or email. The Adoption Application may be found in this program packet or on our [website](#).

<p>IMPORTANT! Adoptions MUST be registered and approved by Allegheny County. Cleanup events with unregistered or unapproved adoptions will not be recognized as Adopt-a-Roadway events and could affect the safety of your volunteers.</p>

Acknowledgment Signs

Allegheny County provides two acknowledgment signs, one sign in each direction, for an adoption of a County roadway and will manufacture, determine the placement, install, and maintain the signs. Sign specifications are included on the [Adoption Application \(Form AAR-1\)](#) found in this program packet and are also available on our [website](#).

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Cleanup Event Coordination

Schedule Your Litter Cleanup Events

When scheduling your cleanup event, always pay close attention to the safety of the volunteers. Weather, traffic patterns, road construction, visibility, and convenience should be taken into consideration. Holidays should be avoided due to increased traffic. It is a good idea to select a second date as a backup in case there is a conflict with your first selection. The Adopt-a-Roadway Coordinator will assist you with date selection to minimize liability concerns. Once a date is agreed upon, schedule your event using the [Cleanup Event Registration \(Form AAR-2\)](#), which is available in this packet as well as on our [website](#).

IMPORTANT! Adoptions MUST be registered and approved by Allegheny County. Cleanup events with unregistered or unapproved adoptions will not be recognized as Adopt-a-Roadway events and could affect the safety of your volunteers.

Determine the Supplies and Services Needed

Once your cleanup event date has been selected, determine the supplies and services you will need for your scheduled event and identify potential partners who can help. Seek potential partners to assist with supplies and services for your event. Potential partners may provide items for your event, such as personal protective equipment (PPE), trash bags, work gloves, and water.

Examples of potential partners to assist with your cleanup event include: local municipal officials, local businesses, hardware or home supply stores, local convenience stores, and grocery stores.

Supplies (bags, and gloves) are available from the Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania for your spring (March/April) events. In addition to registering all cleanup events with Allegheny County, you are also required to register spring events with the Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania at gacofpa.org.

Allegheny County will supply safety vests and “Litter Crew Ahead” signs. You will be notified where to pick up those items up once your cleanup event is scheduled with the County. Those items will be properly sanitized prior to the pickup.

Have Volunteer Waiver Forms Signed Before Starting Cleanup Activities

Be certain that all participants sign a [Volunteer Waiver \(Form AAR-3\)](#), which includes a parental consent section for participants between the ages of 14 and 17. The Volunteer Waiver is available in this packet and on our [website](#). Allegheny County requires participants be at least 14 years of age to work along County roadways. We recommend an adult to child ratio of 1 to 8. Completed waivers should be forwarded to the Adopt-a-Roadway Coordinator.

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Make Safety a Top Priority

Allegheny County places the highest priority on the safety of volunteers and the public. Cleanup events can be hazardous, and common sense should be used at all times. Things to consider and communicate to all litter cleanup event(s) participants include:

- While working along a roadway, face oncoming traffic. Never turn your back on traffic.
- Stay off the road surface. Never leave your group to cross the road or pick up trash on the traveled pavement.
- Wear a fluorescent-colored safety vest.
- Work on one side of the road at a time. Do not allow volunteers to work on both sides at the same time.
- Be careful when handling broken glass and other sharp objects.
- Always have a first aid kit, and make sure that everyone knows its location.
- Do not remove known hazards, such as chemicals, hypodermic needles, propane tanks or weapons. If something looks unsafe, it probably is. Contact the local authorities to report the situation.
- Follow the latest COVID-19 safety guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Pennsylvania Department of Health, and Allegheny County Department of Health.

Event Reporting and Trash Removal

Allegheny County Adopt-a-Roadway adoptions require a minimum of two cleanup events a year. After a cleanup event, report your results using the [Cleanup Event Report/Trash Pickup Request \(Form AAR-4\)](#) available in this packet and on our [website](#). This form also serves as notification to Allegheny County to arrange for proper disposal of trash and debris. For spring events, report the trash collected to Great American Cleanup of Pennsylvania at gacofpa.org.

Discontinuing Your Adoption

The adoption period for the Adopt-a-Roadway program is two years. Allegheny County will notify you when your adoption is about to expire, and you will have the opportunity to renew or discontinue the adoption at that time. Furthermore, you may terminate the adoption at any time by notifying the Adopt-a-Roadway Coordinator in writing, and we will arrange to have the adoption signs removed.

Forms and Safety Guidelines Online

Everything you need to apply for adoption and coordinate your cleanup events may be found in this packet or on our website at alleghenycounty.us/aar. Or you may contact the Adopt-a-Roadway Coordinator by mail, email or phone:

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107 County Office Building
542 Forbes Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Email: Adopt-a-Roadway@AlleghenyCounty.us