

ADOPT-A-PROGRAMS

PROGRAM INTENT

The Adopt-A-Programs is a litter cleanup program that encourages individual responsibility for our environment through scheduled cleanups. This is a two year commitment where organizations, groups, businesses, families and individuals (18 years of age and older) agree to perform a minimum of one cleanup every other month (six per year).

Parks and Recreation provides the materials to assist with cleanups, if needed. Supplies are available on a first come, first serve basis. After two years, if the minimum requirements are met, the adopting group may choose to renew their agreement.

Areas eligible for adoption on City Property include:

- Highways
- Parks
- Streets
- Trails
- Waterways

PROGRAM GUIDELINES

The Adopt-A-Program Team shall coordinate, review, and approve the proposed area(s) of adoption. If there is a question of safety or health, the proposed adoption will not be approved. Parks and Recreation reserves the right to revise these conditions and discontinue the program at any time.

Group members less than 15 years of age must be supervised by an adult 18 years or older. One adult per five under-age group members is required. Parental permission shall be obtained for each minor. No one under the age of 10 may participate in the Adopt-A-Highway or Adopt-A-Waterway Program.

Adopting groups are required to complete a [report card](#) after each cleanup. If numerous orange trash bags or large debris pick-up is required, please submit the location on your report card to ensure prompt pick-up. These cleanup reports are the only way we have to document your participation and to monitor the success of the program.

Note: It will be the responsibility of the adopting group to notify our office of any changes within their group as it affects their adoption (i.e. changes in primary contact, phone number, email, address, etc.) Failure to notify the office of any changes may result in termination of your adoption.

PROGRAM LOCATION REQUIREMENTS

Highway Adoption: Two-mile sections of arterial roadways are eligible for adoption. There must be sidewalks on both sides.

Street Adoption: One-mile sections of non-arterial roadways are eligible for adoption. There must be sidewalks on both sides.

Park Adoption: Most unstaffed parks are eligible for adoption.

Trail Adoption: One-mile sections are eligible for adoption. The trail surface proper plus five to ten feet (5' to 10') on each side of the trail should be kept clean. These areas are very limited.

Waterway Adoption: City owned Canoe/Kayak Launches. The purpose of waterway cleanups is to manage litter along stream banks, shorelines, and waterways. When required, canoes and other kayaks should be owned by the volunteer and volunteers should be experienced in their use and limitations. These areas are very limited.

ADOPT-A-PROGRAMS

General Safety Tips

DO

- **DO** work as a group, in pairs during cleanup dates. Never venture out alone.
- **DO** wear a roadway safety vest (provided) if you are involved in a highway, street cleanup or maintenance session on the public right-of-way, so you can be seen and identified with the cleanup team.
- **DO** walk facing traffic, being careful to stay away from the pavement's edge.
- **DO** wear light or bright colored protective clothing, as well as hard-soled shoes. Sandals or open toe shoes should not be worn. Wear work gloves to protect against cuts, scrapes and contact with poisonous plants.
- **DO** make participants aware of the possibility of contact with poison plants, noxious weeds, bees, snakes, etc. Stay alert and avoid them and always carry insect repellent.
- **DO** work only during daylight hours and in good weather.
- **DO** provide adult supervision for group members less than 15 years of age.
- **DO** carpool to the pickup site to keep the number of cars to a minimum. Park all cars clear of roadway.
- **DO** wear life vests when working from a boat or canoe if you are involved in a waterway cleanup.

DON'T

- **DON'T** horse around or do anything that will distract other volunteers.
- **DON'T** participate in litter cleanups or maintenance sessions while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- **DON'T** overexert yourself.
- **DON'T** pick up litter on construction sites.
- **DON'T** pick up hazardous materials. Call the Environmental Crimes Hotline
 - Monday - Friday, 8 am - 5 pm 385-4228
 - Evenings and weekends 385-5000 ext 1
- **DON'T** pick up litter or do landscape maintenance during peak traffic times if your adopted area is on or near a highway or street.
- **DON'T** step into high vegetated areas or stick your hands under objects or into high vegetated areas.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY:

- Every cleanup crew should have a first aid kit available, including insect repellent.
- Have transportation readily available and a means to contact the appropriate authority (a cell phone or the location of the nearest pay phone).
- Carry a list of emergency numbers.

Waterway Cleanup Safety Tips

NOTIFICATION

Always leave a work plan detailing departure/return times and locations with a responsible person ashore.

PARKING AND LOADING

Provide adequate space to get well off of traveled portion of road.

LAUNCHING

Utilize a clean, sloped area.

Avoid walking on wet grass or soils on sloped areas. These provide an ideal situation to sustain injuries from slipping and falling.

LOADING EQUIPMENT

Avoid lifting heavy objects alone.

Don't try loading with one foot ashore and one in the boat; use your partner.

Place sharp objects, such as axes, saws, etc. in a safe place to avoid contact during travel and work activities.

Ropes, nets and bags should be neatly stowed until needed.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT ITEMS

Flotation vest(s) in good condition

Adequate anchor (tie) lines

Oars or paddles

First Aid kit(s)

Fire extinguisher(s), if equipped with motor

NATURAL HAZARDS

Venomous snakes are in several areas. Don't step into high vegetated areas.

Watch for snakes overhead and in the water. Keep your eyes open!

Avoid poison ivy, etc.

PERSONAL INJURIES

Don't stand up in craft.

Wear appropriate shoes to prevent slipping on wet boat decks. Wear gloves to protect against cuts, scrapes, and contact with poisonous plants.

CREW SIZE

Always work in pairs – never venture out alone (helpful if someone falls overboard and/or becomes injured).

BOATS

Never overload your craft with personnel and/or debris (make extra trips to drop site).

Don't throw heavy objects into boat (when loading heavy objects, place them into boat to prevent damage to the bottom and possible sinking).

Adoptive groups must abide by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) Boating Regulations (if applicable). For a copy of the Boating Regulations, contact VDGIF at (804) 367-1000 or visit them online at dgif.virginia.gov

POWER EQUIPMENT OPERATION

Chain saws & any other power equipment should be operated only by persons familiar with them. Boat motors and accessories should be operated only by qualified persons.

NOTE

Attendance to specialized training would be a definite advantage: (1) chain saw operation, (2) snake and poisonous plant identification and related information (3) basic boating, first aid, etc. (4) boating safety courses through the Coast Guard or Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

If any adjoining property owners should object to your cleaning efforts, explain to them what you are doing. If objections are still apparent, leave area as is and move on. Make note in your report of any pertinent information if this situation is encountered.

If other problems such as severe erosion, broken pipes or drainage problems are noticed, please make note of this in your report.