For More Information

Each year, INDOT must spend money and employee man hours picking up litter along state highways and roads. This money and time could be better spent improving Indiana’s roadways or rest areas rather than litter pick-up. The Adopt-A-Highway program improves the environment and reduces highway maintenance costs.

Adopt-A-Highway coordinators are located in INDOT’s six regional districts. Contact the INDOT district near you for more information.

- Crawfordsville District 888-924-6368
- Fort Wayne District 866-227-3555
- Greenfield District 855-463-6848
- LaPorte District 855-464-6368
- Seymour District 877-305-7611
- Vincennes District 800-279-5758

INDOT’s Adopt-A-Highway program helps preserve Indiana highways, enhance the environment, and improve Indiana’s natural beauty. The Adopt-A-Highway Program is an excellent way for individuals or local groups to increase civic and community pride while improving Indiana.

The Indiana Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway program is a collaboration between INDOT and individuals or local community groups to keep Indiana beautiful and improve our state’s natural environment.
How Does Adopt-A-Highway Work?

The Adopt-A-Highway program enables individuals or local community organizations to adopt two-mile sections of U.S. or state highways. Participating organizations pick up litter and debris along Indiana’s roadsides while INDOT provides guidance, equipment, and public recognition.

Groups that are interested in participating in the program should contact their local INDOT district coordinator to identify the roadway section they are interested in adopting.

Once the adopted highway location is approved, participating organizations pledge to pick up trash 3-4 times a year, including once in early spring and once in late fall, along the adopted section of road. Crew members are required to receive a safety briefing and complete injury waiver forms before beginning work. There are no participation fees.

Participating groups need to provide transportation to and from the adopted section of road and manpower for the clean-up.

In return, INDOT will erect Adopt-A-Highway recognition signs at the start and end of the adopted highway section. The signs acknowledge the group’s participation in preserving Indiana roadways and improving our state’s natural beauty.

More than 1,000 groups participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program across Indiana.

More information about the program is available on the INDOT website, www.indot.in.gov.

What Does INDOT Provide?

Prior to clean-up of the identified road section, INDOT will provide safety training, high-visibility safety vests, work crew warning signs, and trash bags for clean-up crews. INDOT will haul away collected items following the clean-up.

INDOT Adopt-A-Highway recognition signs will be erected and maintained during your group’s active participation in the program.

Who Can Adopt-A-Highway?

Participation in the Adopt-A-Highway program is available to individuals or local community organizations to improve their area’s aesthetics and natural environment while boosting community participation and civic pride. INDOT reserves the right to review the content of the signs of the groups or organizations seeking to participate in the Adopt-A-Highway program. Objective criteria will be used to determine the disqualification of a sign’s contents (e.g. no political messages, profanity, vulgarity, fighting words, and/or symbols, etc. will be permitted.)

“[The sign’s nice, but that’s not really the reason we’re doing it. We’re doing it because we’re green-oriented, and trash along the road is not a pleasing sight.”] – Bob Sims
Boy Scout Troop 129
Franklin County

Did You Know?

Although motorists and pedestrians are often blamed for highway litter, they are just one of several primary sources. Other sources include household trash handling and placement, business dumpsters, loading docks, construction and demolition truck loads, and uncovered truck loads.

According to Keep America Beautiful, Inc., people litter because:

- They feel no sense of ownership, even though their taxes pay for highway maintenance and litter control.
- They believe that picking up litter is someone else’s job.
- Litter has already accumulated.

Litter is blown by wind and traffic or carried by water. It moves until trapped by a curb, building or fence. Once litter has accumulated, it invites people to add more.

What is Trash Bash?

INDOT employees, Indiana Department of Correction crews, and Adopt-A-Highway groups join forces each spring for a major statewide effort to clean up Indiana’s highways.

Each year, hundreds of tons of trash are collected and Indiana highways are spruced up in time for the summer driving season.

In addition to improving Indiana’s natural beauty, litter pick-up enables INDOT mowing crews to complete their work more quickly and safely.