

## For More Information

Each year, INDOT must spend money and employee hours collecting litter along Indiana's highways. These resources could be better spent improving Indiana's roadways rather than litter pickup. The Adopt-A-Highway program improves the environment and reduces highway maintenance costs.

INDOT employees help coordinate Adopt-A-Highway program activities in each of INDOT's six districts. Contact INDOT Customer Service at 855-463-6848, [INDOT4U.com](http://INDOT4U.com), or [INDOT@indot.in.gov](mailto:INDOT@indot.in.gov) for more information.



855-463-6848

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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.



**Indiana Department of Transportation**  
100 North Senate Avenue, Room N758  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
[www.in.gov/indot](http://www.in.gov/indot)



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# Adopt-A-Highway

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.



January 2025



## How Does Adopt-A-Highway Work?

The Adopt-A-Highway program enables individuals or local community organizations to adopt one-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 INDOT Customer Service to identify the roadway section they are interested in adopting.

Once the adopted highway location is approved, participating organizations pledge to pick up trash two or more 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 the manpower for the cleanup.

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 [Adopt-A-Highway](#) webpage.

## What Does INDOT Provide?

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

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 Adopt-A-Highway program is great!  
We love participating and feel the program  
is a wonderful incentive to help get people  
active and keep our roadways clean!"*

— Anna Z.  
Indiana Horse Riders Assoc.  
Brown 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, 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 tempts people to add more.

## What is Trash Bash?

Any interested party or community group can also help clean up Indiana roadways each spring by joining forces to participate in Trash Bash, a major statewide effort to clean up Hoosier 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 pickup enables INDOT mowing crews to work more quickly and safely.

