



Adopt-A-Highway Terms and Conditions

Revised May 2021

Program Description

The Anoka County Adopt-A-Highway (“AAH”) Program was established to maintain the beauty of the highway right-of-way and ditches, with help from the community. The AAH Program currently has 184 segments along the Anoka County highway system, varying from one to three miles in length.

Community participants, including single families, 4-H Clubs, Girl and Boy Scout Troops and Packs, snowmobile clubs, etc., have the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment by pledging to maintain and keep the county right-of-way and ditches clean, by adopting segments of the highway system.

Get Started

- Contact the AAH Program Coordinator at (763) 324-3176 to start the process.
- Choose a group representative and a group name. The group representative will sign the permit on behalf of the group, serve as the main contact with the Program Coordinator, and be responsible for the safety of the volunteers.
- The group agrees to pick up litter a minimum of twice a year, on a specific Anoka County Highway segment. The segment will be determined during consultation with the Program Coordinator.
- The recommended segment length is two miles. At Anoka County’s discretion, certain highways may not be eligible for the AAH program.
- Highway segments are offered on a first come, first serve basis. Groups in good standing may re-apply every two years.
- Approved permits are valid for a two-year term.

Plan Ahead

- The group representative will need to contact the Program Coordinator to schedule a date to pick up the safety vests and bags, and the date your group wants to pick up litter.
- Safety vests and bags must be picked up at the Highway Department by the group representative, during regular Highway Department business hours.
- We want the event to be safe and enjoyable for your group. Events must be held during daylight hours only, and not when roads are wet, or visibility is poor.
- Events are not allowed on certain dates and times, such as on or near holidays, or during construction activities on the selected roadway segment.
- Adequate supervision must be provided to participants 18 years of age or younger. Unless specifically permitted, children 11 years of age or younger cannot participate.
- Volunteers should be in good physical health, be mentally alert, and use common sense regarding the safety of themselves and others.
- Volunteers should have an up-to-date tetanus shot.
- Pets are not allowed.
- Work clothing, heavy gloves, work boots or leather shoes, hat, long sleeves and long pants, sunscreen, and insect/tick repellent should be worn.
- A first aid kit, water, and cell phone should be available.

Event Day

- All group participants must review the safety information provided by the Highway Department before each event.
- All participants must wear an approved AAH safety vest.
- Work shall be limited to the area between the outer shoulder and the right-of-way boundary.
- Participants shall not pick up litter in the median, unless specifically permitted by the County, and work may not be performed on the roadway itself.

Our Passion Is Your Safe Way Home

1440 Bunker Lake Boulevard N.W. ▲ Andover, MN 55304-4005
Office: 763-324-3100 ▲ Fax: 763-324-3020 ▲ www.anokacounty.us/highway

Affirmative Action / Equal Opportunity Employer

- Face oncoming traffic when you pick up litter.
- Participants should not touch any abandoned containers, suspicious or hazardous object(s) found in the right-of-way. The group representative must contact the program coordinator immediately to report any suspicious or hazardous object(s) found in the right-of-way.
- When filling the trash bags, leave enough space in the bag to secure the contents by tying the bag ends together.
- Place filled trash bags on the shoulder slope, close to the ditch bottom.
- Highway Department Maintenance Crews will remove the filled trash bags from the highway segment on the next business day. Crews are scheduled to pick up the filled bags based on the date the event is scheduled; therefore, if the event is not held on the scheduled day, please contact the Program Coordinator as soon as possible so the crews do not go out to pick up the bags.
- Borrowed or unused supplies must be returned to the Highway Department within one week. Because a limited quantity of supplies is available, as a courtesy to other groups, please adhere to this timeline.

Safety Guidelines

- All supply pick-ups or drop-offs will be contact-free. Contact the Program Coordinator to schedule a pick-up appointment.
- Bring and wear your own gloves.
- Use a trash picking tool whenever possible to minimize direct contact.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth while picking trash.
- Avoid open water, ravines, bridges, overpasses, and retaining walls.
- Avoid poison ivy and other noxious weeds.
- After trash picking is complete, use hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol or disinfectant wipes.

Anoka County Highway Department's Role

- The County will provide volunteers with safety information, AAH safety vests and trash bags.
- The County will remove filled bags and all large, heavy, or hazardous items.
- The County will erect a sign for groups that agree to adopt a highway for a minimum of two years.

Sign Guidelines

- Signs will contain the group name only and will be limited to two lines of 18-20 characters, including spaces and punctuation.
- Signs may not contain any political, social, or advertising messages.
- No political candidates in office or running for office. Individual names are allowed, but not titles (i.e., John Smith, not Senator John Smith)
- No volunteer groups supporting a candidate for office
- The name of a political group ("Republican Party") is allowed, but not the candidate name
- No business logos, special lettering, or additional colors
- No product names, slogans, or colors
- No advertising directions or business addresses
- No website, email address or social media handles
- The County reserves the right to approve and/or edit names or acronyms.

Anoka County Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator – (763) 324-3176

Business Hours: Monday thru Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm

Anoka County Highway Department

1440 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW

Andover, MN 55304