

ADOPT-A-STREET PROGRAM FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Can schools, churches and businesses adopt a street?

A: Yes. We encourage schools, churches, businesses and other organizations to participate in our Adopt-A-Street program to promote community service in their neighborhoods.

Q: What supplies and support will the City provide if I adopt a street?

A: The City provides volunteers with all the materials needed for cleaning their street on a loan basis. It is the responsibility of the adopter to arrange for the collection of supplies prior to your clean up and return of supplies upon completion of your project. The following tools are available for loan:

Latex Gloves	Rakes	Brooms
Canvas Gloves	Trash bags	Dustpans
Safety Vests	Sharps containers	
Litter pick up tools (grabbers)	Compostable paper bags	

In addition, as an Adopt-A-Street *Traditional Adopter* you are entitled to receive one Adopt-A-Street signs which include your name or group name.

Q: After adopting a street, how do I get Adopt-A-Street signs?

A: Adopt-A-Street volunteers who have selected the **Traditional Adopter** option with the Adopt-A-Street program are eligible for one street signs. After your first year of service, contact the Adopt-A-Street Coordinator to arrange for the installation of the signs. Prior to installation, please fill out the **Sign Request Form**.

Q: How do I get rid of the litter that I collected?

A: The City disposes of collected litter by Adopt-A-Street volunteers for free! To schedule a pick-up, please call the Adopt-A-Street Hotline at (206) 684-7647 and provide the following information; 1) exact location of trash bags including intersection 2) number of bags 3) number of volunteer hours 4) number of volunteers 5) date when you would like to drop off supplies. **Bags are picked up between 2-5 days.**

Q: How can I find out if there is an Adopt-A-Street group in my neighborhood?

A: Visit the Adopt-A-Street website at: www.seattle.gov/util/AdoptAStreet for a map of adopted streets or contact us via email or phone at adoptastreet@seattle.gov and (206) 684-7647.

Q: Can I do more than just pick up litter and garbage?

A: Yes. Adopters are encouraged to remove graffiti from their neighborhood, restore habitat, and do other beautification projects. We would be happy to assist you with these projects.

Q: What do I do if I find a syringe?

A: If you encounter a syringe, and you have a sharp container, then you can dispose of the syringe correctly. Make sure that you are wearing gloves and have a litter grabber. Open the sharp container and place it on the ground. While standing, pick up the syringe with the litter grabber (**keep the syringe away from your body**) and place the syringe in the sharp container. Make sure the needle point is facing down and away from the container opening. The sharp containers provided through Adopt-A-Street can

hold up to 8 syringes. When you have finished placing the syringes in the sharp container, close the lid of the container. You can dispose of sharp containers for free at your nearest transfer station. Do not place sharp containers in the same bag as your other waste. They must be disposed of separately. If you are unable or uncomfortable with picking up the sharps, contact the **Illegal Dumping hotline at (206) 684-7587** and they will make arrangements to pick up and dispose of it for you.

Q: Can I adopt streets outside of city limits?

A: Our program is only for City of Seattle streets. Contact the numbers below for adoption opportunities outside the City of Seattle.

King County Adopt-A-Road	(206) 296-3807
Pierce County Adopt-A-Road	(206) 798-7364
WA State Dept. of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway Program	(425) 739-3730

Q: Can volunteers pick up and dispose of leaves and plant debris in the streets?

A: Yes. Your group can pick up and dispose of leaves and other plant material along streets and drains. Loose leaf debris and leaves can be put into Yard Waste bags provided by our program. Other large items such as branches and logs can be placed in a pile for pickup. If large items are blocking or interfering with traffic, please call Seattle Department of Transportation at (206) 684-ROAD (7623).

Q: Do you provide insurance for volunteers?

A: Yes. Volunteers in our program are covered under the City's Volunteer Insurance Program. Adopters are required to record the name of each volunteer who is participating in the cleanup event on the **Volunteer Sign-in Sheet**.

Q: How many miles of streets have been adopted?

A: Approximately 200 miles of street are under adoption. This is about 30% of the arterial streets in the city. See [Adopt-A-Street map](#) for currently adopted streets.

Q: Am I allowed to paint over any graffiti on Public Property?

A: No. Volunteers are only allowed to remove graffiti on Private Property after they have received written permission to do so.

Q: Are volunteers allowed to paint over graffiti on Private Property?

A: Yes. **But, only after volunteers have received written permission from the property owner.** Volunteers are not allowed to paint over graffiti without written permission from the property owner.