



Dear Potential Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer:

Thank you for your interest in the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (KACCB) Adopt-A-Highway program. Should you elect to serve in this important community project, you will become one of more than 80 groups participating in Athens-Clarke County! This is the electronic packet for the program. So please make sure that you print this entire document and keep this packet for your records (except the application that you must fill-out and send back to KACCB).

There are two Adopt-A-Highway programs in Athens: the KACCB Adopt-A-Highway program for county roads and the Georgia Department of Transportation State Adopt-A-Highway program for state roads. If you are interested in adopting a county road, the program specifics and application form are attached. I have also included a list of county roads in need of adoption, but you are welcome to pick the road that is most appropriate for your organization. Once you have made a decision, call the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful office to ensure that your selection is available for adoption. If you are interested in adopting a state roadway, please call the Department of Transportation District 1 office at (706) 583-2655.

KACCB Adopt-A-Highway selections should be one mile or more in length. Adopting organizations must do regularly scheduled clean-ups to keep their adopted roadway clean and free of litter. At the very least, adopting organizations are required to do a minimum of four clean-ups a year, or one per season. KACCB will provide gloves, garbage bags, recycling bags, safety vests, grab-its, and bag collection for the clean-up. **It is important that adopting organizations maintain communication with the KACCB office regarding all clean-ups.**

Please complete the enclosed Adopt-A-Highway application and return to the KACCB office at the address listed. We will forward your application to the Mayor who will officially accept your organization into the program. A proclamation will be sent to you upon acceptance. Please call KACCB with any questions or concerns. Thank you for participating in this important community beautification program!

Sincerely,

Carlos Pinto, Litter Abatement Specialist  
Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful  
725 Hancock Industrial Way  
Athens, GA 30605

## **What is Adopt-A-Highway?**

Adopt-A-Highway is a local litter prevention program sponsored by Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful (KACCB) that works to involve community volunteers in local roadside clean-up efforts. The goal of the program is to reduce roadside litter in an effort to keep our community clean and beautiful. Community organizations and/or volunteers accept the responsibility of regular litter pick-ups on their "adopted" local roadway. Adopt-A-Highway is part of the larger Adopt Athens Program, which is a community appearance program that allows community volunteers to take part in the care and maintenance of county roads, parks, rivers, medians, bus stops, etc.

## **Who Can Adopt?**

Any civic-minded organization, such as garden clubs, church groups, scout groups, student clubs, businesses, corporations, families, etc. can adopt a stretch of county roadway. Adopting organizations must be committed to their adoption and organized in their efforts.

## **Adopting Organization Responsibilities:**

Adopting organizations must:

- Commit to organizing litter pick-ups a minimum of four times per year
- Organize and manage their volunteers for each clean-up
- Contact KACCB to request supplies/tools (vests, litter grabbers, trash and recycling bags, etc.)
- Report to KACCB regarding clean-up summary after each clean-up (includes information on number of volunteers that participated in the clean-up, the duration of the clean-up took, and where the bags of trash and recyclable materials were left on road so that we can get them hauled away)
- Return all loaned supplies to KACCB office after each clean-up is completed

## **KACCB Responsibilities:**

KACCB will:

- Provide each group a personalized Adopt-A-Highway sign that will be placed along the stretch of road that is adopted
- For every clean-up, provide trash bags, recycling bags, litter grabbers, safety vests, etc.
- Arrange to have collected trash and recyclable material bags hauled away after each clean-up is completed (groups must make KACCB aware of where the collected piles of bags are located)
- Provide a safety orientation (if requested)
- Select a group to receive the annual Adopt-A-Highway Group of the Year Award

## **Incorporating Recycling Into Your Clean-up**

Ok, so you are doing a good thing and organizing a highway clean-up even. Your hard work and dedication makes a big difference in our community, but did you know that you can make an even bigger difference? What if you did more than just pick up the trash and throw it away? What if you actually recycled that trash? Did you know that a large portion of that trash can actually be recycled?

### **Quick Facts**

- Much of littering is accidental. For example, it flies out of truckbeds or it blows away from trash that was set at the curb for pick-up.
- Many types of roadside trash take years, if not hundreds of years, to disintegrate.
- The Georgia Department of Transportation spends about \$17 million annually to clean up roadside trash in the state, and local governments spend thousands of dollars to keep litter off of the locally-maintained roads.
- Litter detracts from our state's beauty, decreases property values and, over time, could affect Georgia's multi-billion dollar tourism industry.
- Recycling is widely known for its environmental benefits through the conservation of natural resources and energy, as well as its reduction in our dependence upon solid waste landfills.

Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful is now asking all Adopt-A-Highway groups to start recycling aluminum cans, glass, and plastic bottles. Our office is now providing all groups with clear plastic bags in order to collect

these items and separate them from the collected trash. Please use the tips below to help implement recycling into your highway clean-up. If you have any questions or concerns please contact our office at (706) 613-3501 ext. 310.

### **Highway Clean-up Recycling Tips**

Separating recyclables from trash does not have to be a hard process. Here are some tips to get you started:

- Divide your volunteers into two groups; one for trash, one for recyclable materials
- Use the clear bags for recyclable items: aluminum cans, #1 and #2 plastics, and glass bottles and use the black bags for all other trash collected on your road.
- Leave all your group's recyclable bags in a pile on the side of the road (but NOT on private property!) and be sure to let KACCB known where you left the bags so that they can be hauled away.

### **How does an Organization Adopt?**

Interested organizations should complete the attached application or call KACCB for more information:

**Keep Athens- Clarke County Beautiful**  
**725 Hancock Industrial Way**  
**Athens, GA 30605**  
**(706) 613- 3501 Ext. 310**  
**[www.keepathensbeautiful.org](http://www.keepathensbeautiful.org)**

# **Athens-Clarke County Government**

## **Adopt-A-Highway Regulations**

### A. Athens-Clarke County Regulations:

1. Adopting organizations must complete and sign the Adopt-A-Highway program agreement. Completed applications will be forwarded to the Athens-Clarke County Mayor for official adoption.
2. Athens-Clarke County will have final approval on all routes and litter clean-up times (ex. no interstate highway).
3. Adopting organizations must adopt a minimum of one-mile (preferably two miles).
4. Adopting organization must pick up litter a minimum of once per quarter (four times a year). It is strongly recommended that adopting organization perform clean-ups more often as deemed necessary.
5. Adopting organization must contact Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful at least three days prior to scheduled clean-up to request and reserve tools supplies.
6. Adopting organizations must contact KACCB if they are no longer interested in participating in program. KACCB has the right to discontinue adoption if adopting organization fails to meet requirements of Adopt-A-Highway program.

### B. Athens-Clarke County Will Provide:

1. All Signs:
  - 18" x 24" Adopt Athens/Adopt-A-Highway parent sign
  - 6" x 24" Organization name sign
2. Disposal services of all garbage and recyclable materials bags after each clean-up
3. A Contact Person (Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful):
  - To provide trash bags, recycling bags, litter grabbers, safety vests, etc.
  - To coordinate hauling of all garbage and recyclable material bags
  - To provide information on roadway safety prior to clean-up (if requested)
  - To coordinate erection of all signs
  - To assist as deemed necessary

C. Adopting Organization Requirements:

1. Civic and Nonprofit Organizations:

- Participants must be at least 12 years of age.
- If under age of majority, must have written parental consent.

2. Commercial Organizations:

- Cannot display any product identification.
- Cannot display address or phone number.
- Cannot display any product or service reference.
- Organization sign to be used only with parent sign.

3. All Organizations:

- Must be approved for the Adopt-A-Highway program.
- Must receive official Adopt Athens/Adopt-A-Highway proclamation from Athens-Clarke County Mayor accepting organization into program.
- If adopting organization fails to perform satisfactorily to Adopt-A-Highway rules and regulations, they will be removed from the Adopt-A-Highway program.

D. Safety:

1. Adopting Organizations:

- Car-pool to the clean-up area if possible to keep number of vehicles to a minimum.
- Park vehicles clear of roadway.
- Keep work groups to a manageable size.
- Close supervision of youth groups is required.
- Do not remove any hazardous materials.
- Do not pick up items on bridges, tunnels, or overpasses.
- Stay clear of construction areas.
- Hold safety meeting with group prior to the litter clean-up.
- Do not pick up litter during inclement weather, hours of darkness, or peak traffic hours.
- Be aware of possible contact with poisonous plants, stinging insects, fire ants, and snakes.
- Any known allergies should be considered before participants are allowed to take part in clean-ups.
- Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
- Be aware that you are working in a dangerous environment and act accordingly.

# The Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County

## Adopt Athens

### Adopt-A-Highway Program Application

Whereas, the Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County and \_\_\_\_\_ (group name) recognize the need and desirability of litter free highways; and

Whereas, the "Adopt-A-Highway" program has been established for civic organizations, nonprofit organizations, and interested parties to contribute toward the effort of maintaining litter free highways; and

Whereas, \_\_\_\_\_ (group name) is aware of the potentially hazardous work which is to be performed; and

Whereas, \_\_\_\_\_ (group name) agrees to abide by the Adopt-A-Highway rules and regulations attached; and

Whereas, \_\_\_\_\_ (group name) understands that the Commission agrees to cooperate in the development and implementation of the Adopt-a-Highway program, but cannot assume any liability with respect thereto.

Therefore, the Commission of the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County recognizes \_\_\_\_\_ (group name) as the adopting organization for \_\_\_\_\_ (street name (s)) between \_\_\_\_\_ (street name) and \_\_\_\_\_ (street name) for \_\_\_\_\_ (length) mile(s).

Furthermore, \_\_\_\_\_ (group name) accepts the responsibility of picking up litter on this section of \_\_\_\_\_ (street name(s)) and promoting a litter free environment in the community on these four dates:

\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_;  
\_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_; and \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_.

_____ Name of organization (please print)	_____ Primary contact name and title
_____ Phone number	_____ Primary contact's signature
_____ Mailing address	_____ E-mail address

**Return completed application to:  
Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful  
725 Hancock Industrial Way  
Athens, GA 30605**