

Because of the hard work of our Adopt a Highway participants, our Dakota County roadways are much cleaner. Your group could become a part of this volunteer effort.

Terms and Conditions

The adopting group agrees to:

1. Pick up litter on a segment of county highway selected in consultation with the Dakota County Transportation Department. Recommended length is two miles. Certain highways may not be eligible.
2. Review the safety training materials before each pick up to alert participants to the hazards and precautions of working on a highway right-of-way.
3. Pick up litter during daylight hours only.
4. Provide adequate supervision to participants who are under 18 years of age. Unless specifically permitted, children age 11 or younger shall not participate.
5. Limit work to the area between the outer shoulders and the right-of-way boundary. Participants shall not pick up litter in the median unless specifically permitted. Work may not be done on the roadway itself.
6. Call coordinator after pick up so that the maintenance crew can be notified to pick up the bags.

7. Place filled trash bags on the shoulder grass line and arrange with the Transportation Department (952/891-7100) to pick up the bags. Groups are encouraged to recycle appropriate materials.
8. Return borrowed or unused supplies to the Transportation Department when discontinuing participation.

Dakota County Transportation Department agrees to:

1. Help your group select a highway to adopt. Roads that have heavy traffic or are inaccessible to pedestrians will not be eligible.
2. Provide high visibility vests, trash bags, and safety training materials. The group will be instructed how and where to pick up their supplies.
3. Remove filled trash bags from the adopted highway.
4. Remove large, heavy, or hazardous materials from the adopted highway.
5. Place two 36" X 30" highway signs at each end of the adopted section recognizing the group's efforts.



Transportation Department

Safety Tips

Remember

A highway is a dangerous place to be. Every crew member should possess these qualifications:

- ✓ Sense of responsibility for safety of self and others.
- ✓ At least 12 years of age, unless otherwise permitted.
- ✓ Supervision for workers under age 18.
- ✓ Mentally alert; good common sense.
- ✓ Good physical condition, including sight and hearing.

Plan Ahead

- ✓ Review safety precautions and take them seriously.
- ✓ Assign work teams and leaders before you reach the site. Distribute trash bags beforehand. Estimate the amount of time for your pickup and agree on a meeting place when you're done.
- ✓ Carpool to the site to reduce the number of vehicles along the road. Park vehicles on the shoulder in advance of the area and on the same side of the highway that crews are working.
- ✓ Bring along an adequate first aid kit. Identify the nearest hospital and know how to get there in an emergency.
- ✓ Don't overexert yourself. Bring along a supply of drinking water and take breaks.

While You Work

- ✓ Work only during daylight hours during good weather.
- ✓ Work one side of the road at a time. Do not cross the road to get to your vehicle.
- ✓ Whenever possible, face oncoming traffic. Stay alert and be prepared to move out of the way in an emergency. Stay with your team.
- ✓ Do not wear headsets that could prevent your hearing traffic or other hazards.
- ✓ Do not crush collected trash to make more room in the bag; broken or jagged objects could cause accidental injuries. Do not put syringes or hypodermic needles in the trash bag as they can easily puncture the bag and cause serious injury. Inform the Transportation Department staff of their location.
- ✓ Do not horse around or do anything to purposely distract drivers.

What to Wear

- ✓ Heavy gloves
- ✓ Heavy leather shoes or boots
- ✓ Light colored clothing; brightly colored cap
- ✓ Long sleeves for sunburn; sunscreen; insect or tick repellent
- ✓ High visibility vests provided by the Transportation Department.



What to Avoid

- ✓ Stay away from construction sites, mowing activities, open water, bridge overpasses, or retaining walls that could be dangerous for pedestrians.
- ✓ Avoid poison ivy or other noxious weeds. Stay away from recently applied herbicides.
- ✓ Never try to pick up heavy or large materials. Notify the Transportation Department for pick up.
- ✓ Examples of hazardous materials to avoid are abandoned barrels, containers containing chemical or unknown substances, hypodermic needles or other sharp objects, paint, dead animals and weapons. Please notify the Transportation Department for pick up.

Lifespan of Commonly Discarded Litter

Aluminum Can	200-500 years
Nylon Fabric	30-40 years
Rubber Boot Sole	50-80 years
Wool Clothing	1-5 years
Plastic Bag	10-20 years
Cotton Rag	1-5 months
Orange or Banana Peel	2-5 weeks
Cigarette Butt	1-5 years
Leather	Up to 50 years
Glass Bottle	Approx. 1 million years

Source: *California Waste Management Bulletin*

Adopt-A-Highway is a public service program staffed by volunteers who pick up litter along Dakota County highways. For more information, contact the Dakota County Transportation Department at (952) 891-7900.

Adopt-A-Highway



ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

**Dakota County
Transportation Department**
Empire Transportation Facility
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