

Dear Interested Party:

Thank you for your recent inquiry regarding MCDOT's Adopt A Road (AAR) program. The AAR program enlists more than 5,000 volunteers who clean over 480 road segments in Montgomery County. Your participation will help keep our County a clean and attractive place to live and visit. Due to budget constraints, there is very little funding to conduct litter pickup. Our program volunteers help us remove unsightly litter from roadsides before it reaches local streams or clog storm drains that feed into the Potomac and Patuxent Rivers and our water supply.

Please take time to review the AAR FAQs and program application which contain guidelines and safety procedures, as this should answer many of your questions. There is no cost to participate and no limitation as to how long a road can be adopted. Upon request, we will provide free cleaning and safety equipment, such as safety vests, gloves, and trash bags to help with your cleaning efforts.

Also, we provide a list of road segments that are available for adoption. Some roads on this list are identified as rural and require brown rustic road signs. Rustic roads are historic and scenic roadways in an area where natural, agricultural, or historic features are predominant. Most rustic roads are narrow, windy and have no sidewalk. All other County roads will require purple AAR signs (see photos below). When filling out the application be sure to include two road segments (should your first choice not be available). If you are interested in a specific road and it is not listed, it could either already be adopted or not owned/maintained by Montgomery County. Roads located within a business district, municipality or owned by the State (roads that contain a number) are not eligible. One road can be adopted for the first six months of participation. If the volunteer follows the program guidelines (by regularly cleaning their road and submitting cleaning reports) within these six months, a second road may be adopted.

Under the program guidelines, volunteers **agree to clean their adopted road segment as needed, with a minimum of six times a year** (the equivalent to every other month) **and to report the cleaning results to us** (if more cleanings are done the results can be combined into a monthly report or if the road does not require a lot of cleanings, we would still like this to be reported). **Cleaning reports are mandatory to remain in the program.** These reports let us know that the participant is meeting their commitment, active in the program and serve as a record of activities should a complaint arise about the cleanliness of an adopted road segment. A cleaning report includes the group name, road adopted, date of cleaning; total number of bags of trash collected; and the type (or gallon) of trash bags used, such as tall kitchen trash bag, lawn/leaf bag, small grocery store bag or the AAR provided blue or orange bag.

In recognition for the volunteer's efforts, two signs will be installed bearing the volunteer's name. All County signs are installed within the public right-of-way and are placed with the consideration of certain engineering factors such as line of sight and safety concerns as determined by department engineers. When choosing a name for the nameplate there is a 14-character limit (this includes spaces) per line, two lines max (see photo below). Slogans, slang, messages, phone numbers, website addresses or any other information besides the volunteer's name is prohibited.

For questions or concerns email mcdot.outreach@montgomerycountymd.gov or call 240-777-7155 (press # to bypass greeting). You can also visit the program website at montgomerycountymd.gov/adoptaroad. We appreciate your interest in keeping Montgomery County clean, green and beautiful! The success of our program is due primarily to volunteer commitment — you will make a difference!

