



The Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County,  
Environmental Department of Porter County,  
Porter County Highway Department,  
Porter County Sheriff's Department,  
and Porter County Commissioners  
thank you for your efforts and support of the  
"Adopt A County Road" Program.

# ADOPT A COUNTY ROAD

*WORKING TOGETHER TO  
KEEP OUR COUNTY CLEAN!*

Sponsored by the following partners:  
Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County  
Environmental Department of Porter County  
Porter County Highway Department  
Porter County Sheriff's Department  
Porter County Commissioners



## Adopt A County Road “Clean-up” Log

*(dates, amount of trash, comments, etc.)*

Thank you for expressing an interest in the **Adopt A County Road** program! As a participant in our program your organization, family, or business will become an integral part of the County’s effort to keep the roads of Porter County litter free. Clean roads discourage future littering, improve community morale and enhance the beauty of our environment. In addition, tax dollars that would otherwise be spent on road clean-up can now be used for road maintenance and improvement.

We look forward to working with you on this project!

### Important Telephone Numbers

Emergency ..... 911  
Sheriff’s Department..... 477-3000  
Recycling & Waste Reduction District ..... 465-3694  
Highway Department ..... 465-3570  
Animal Shelter ..... 465-3550

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## How Do I Adopt A County Road?

You've already taken the first step by obtaining this information packet. Read through it carefully. If you decide you would like to participate, your next step is to fill out the *registration form provided on the last page*. Return it to the Recycling & Waste Reduction District at your earliest convenience—make sure to include the name of the road that you wish to adopt, the beginning and ending points, and the number of miles (a one mile minimum, please!). After the County Highway approves the road you have selected, you and the other group members will receive safety information briefing you on the hazards of roadside clean-up, as well as the necessary precautions to take while picking up litter. Before your adoption is finalized, you will be asked to sign a waiver releasing the RWRD, other local government agencies, and sponsors of any liability should an accident occur during your clean-up.

## What are the requirements for joining?

- ✓ You must adopt at least one mile stretch of road and commit to keeping that road clean for 2 years.
- ✓ You should plan to pick up litter along the road four (4) times per year. It is advisable to conduct clean-up work on days or during hours when there is less traffic. Depending on the road, these times and days will vary.
- ✓ You must receive safety training and agree to a liability waiver releasing the RWRD, other local government agencies, and sponsors of any responsibility should an accident occur during the clean-up.
- ✓ Contact the RWRD office one to two weeks before each collection day so we can arrange to have the trash picked up.

## What services are provided?

- ✓ An “Adopt A County Road” sign with your organization or family name will be placed at the beginning and end of your adopted area.

✓ The RWRD will furnish the trash bags, safety vests and “Working Ahead” and “Slow” signs for the collection days. Obtain the safety items and supplies from the RWRD before each clean-up.

✓ A crew will be sent to your adopted area to pick up bagged recyclables and trash on the first day after the collection day.

### Who is eligible to pick up roadside litter?

Responsible individuals are encouraged to be part of a clean-up crew. Children 12-16 may participate if supervised by 1 adult to every 3 children.

**Children under the age of 12 are not permitted to participate for safety reasons.**

### Are there any costs involved?

No. Trash bags, safety vests and road signs are provided free of charge by the RWRD. However, the safety vests and road signs must be returned within three working days after the clean-up. The RWRD office will also make arrangements to

have the bagged trash collected from the adopted road site.

### How often am I supposed to pick up litter on my adopted road?

We ask that the “adoptees” schedule 4 pick ups per year. If you see the need to schedule more dates, don’t hesitate to do so. You are not limited to 4 dates per year. In the summer, check with the Highway Department (see phone list at end of booklet) to see when the mowing crews will be trimming grass and shrubs along your adopted road. It’s a lot easier to pick up trash that hasn’t been shredded by a mower.

### Am I supposed to sort the road trash for recycling? Will the RWRD Office pick up my bagged road side litter if it’s not sorted?

It’s a great idea to recycle and not hard to do so. Since the RWRD will coordinate picking up all road side litter, disposal costs could go beyond their projected budget for this project. Over 50% of all material collected is recyclable which is a real budget stretcher.

## Adopt A County Road Registration

Does your group want an “Adopt A County Road” sign with your group’s name on it?

YES

NO

Enter the name of organization/family as your would like it to appear on the sign:


Mailing Address:

Street \_\_\_\_\_ PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Members \_\_\_\_\_

Please list the section(s) of road your group would like to adopt (be specific!):

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide RWRD with the name of the a group member who will act as the primary contact of your organization:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Recycling & Waste Reduction District of Porter County  
155 Indiana Avenue - Suite 314  
Valparaiso, IN 46383  
219/465-3694, 219/465-3696 (fax)  
www.ItMeansTheWorld.org



## Safety Checklist

Roads can be dangerous places to work. The Recycling & Waste Reduction District asks that all volunteers be reminded of safety precautions before each clean-up. Before cleaning up your adopted road, please take a moment to go over these important safety points.

Remember . . .

1. Be sure to obtain all safety items and supplies from the RWRD office.
2. Plan to take rest breaks and drink fluids, especially in hot weather.
3. Stay alert for noxious weeds, biting insects, snakes, and harmful objects.
4. Keep the group together and face oncoming traffic.
5. Stop work if inclement weather begins.
6. Be careful on hillsides and watch for hidden holes.
7. Do not pick up objects on bridges or overpasses, in tunnels or in construction sites.
8. Keep off the roadway and out of the medians.
9. Don't play around! Just being on the roadside is already a distraction to the motoring public.
10. Don't bring children under age 12. Children ages 12-16 must be supervised at all times.

### Check all the items below before beginning to clean the roads . . .

- \_\_\_\_\_ Are warning signs in place?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Do all participants have on safety vests?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have all participants been properly trained?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are all vehicles parked off the roadway?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Is drinking water available?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Have procedures for crossing bridges and overpasses been reviewed?
- \_\_\_\_\_ Are all children ages 12-16 being supervised in a 1 : 3 ratio?

You won't have to handle the trash twice if it is picked up correctly the first time. As you start your pick up, decide who will pick up which items. You'll have two teams-the Recycle Team and the Clean-up Team. The Recycle Team: Have 1 or 2 people pick up only recyclable glass and metal cans and recyclable plastic bottles. The Recycle Team walks first leaving everything else that hasn't been picked up. The Recycle Team will use clear trash bags; the Clean-up Team will use solid colored trash bags. The RWRD and the Sheriff's Department will pick up all bagged trash and recycled litter and dispose of it.

If you do not recycle, use only the solid colored trash bags and the RWRD and Sheriff's Department will pick up and dispose of all trash.

**How do I handle items found along the road that are too large for a trash bag? What about dead animal, hazardous materials, or sharp edged materials?**

Especially during your first clean-up you may find items too large to place in the collection bags. These items could be anything from car parts (mufflers, fenders, etc.) to small appliances. The Clean-up Team should make note of the location of these items and contact the Highway Department so their crews can collect those items.

Use common sense. DO NOT touch, move, or pick-up hazardous materials, dead animals, broken glass, or other harmful items.

To report hazardous materials call the RWRD.

To report dead animals alongside the road call the Animal Shelter.

To report potholes or other similar roadway problems call the Highway Department.

### Who do I contact with additional questions?

During the week between 8:30 am-4:30 pm, contact the Recycling and Waste Reduction District at 465-3694.

## SAFETY GUIDELINES: Litter is bad . . . an accident is worse!

### ALWAYS do the following:

**Always** car pool to the pick up site to keep the number of vehicles on the roadside to a minimum. Also, park all vehicles as far off the roadway as possible.

**Always** place the “Working Ahead” and “Slow” signs at both ends of your project before you begin your litter pick up.

**Always** wear goggles, sturdy shoes, a safety vest, and other bright colored, protective clothing to insure your visibility and safety.



**Always** face on-coming traffic and stay alert.

**Always** keep your group together, pace yourselves, take breaks and drink plenty of liquids.

**Always** watch for holes, obstacles, and hill side slopes.



**Always** be alert for snakes, noxious weeds, and biting or stinging insects.

**Always** supervise children during clean-up.

### NEVER do the following:

**Never** play around or do anything that will distract passing drivers or other volunteers; your presence along the roadside is already a distraction to the motoring public.

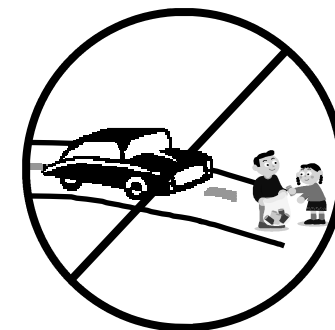
**Never** pick up hazardous materials, dead animals, or sharp edged objects.



**Never** pick up litter on bridges, in tunnels, or in construction sites.

**Never** bring children under 12 years of age to the pick up site.

**Never** pick up litter in the roadway or in the median.



**Never** consume alcohol or drugs before or during the clean-up.

**Never** work during peak travel times or when traffic would be heavy or during inclement weather conditions..

**BE SAFE !!!**