

WAPELLO COUNTY SECONDARY ROAD DEPARTMENT

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY POLICY & PROGRAM

The objective of the program is to create public awareness of environmental needs along Wapello County highways and roadways by making adopted sections of roadsides an example of opportunities to improve the aesthetics of our county.

GENERAL STATEMENT

There is a need to enhance the quality of our roadsides. This may take the form of litter pickup, wildflower and native prairie plantings, preservation and maintenance of prairie and landscaped areas, increased landscaping, living snow fence plantings, prairie grass seed harvesting for replanting in the right of way and wildlife habitat and manual weed control. These activities are labor intensive, expensive and are necessarily second priority to pavement and shoulder maintenance and safety activities. The problems of labor, expense and priority dictate the need for a new approach to roadside management.

The Adopt-A Highway Program allows individuals or groups to adopt a certain highway roadside. Through adoption they may assume the responsibility for any or all of the eligible items. These activities have the potential to:

- Reduce litter along highways
- Enhance the environment and beautify roadsides
- Build a broad-based community support for anti-litter and highway beautification programs

POTENTIAL ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY ACTIVITIES

The following activities are eligible to be included in Adopt-A-Highway sponsorships:

- Litter pickup
- Wildflower and prairie grass planting
- Planting and Harvesting seed for wildlife and reseeding operations
- Landscape maintenance
- Living snow fence plantings
- Hand weeding of sensitive areas

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Wapello County Secondary Roads Department will work with the adopting group to determine the specific section of roadside to be adopted.

The sponsor should constantly be aware of the problems that can be involved along highways and instruct their personnel in safety precautions. Where possible, access to highway right-of-way will be gained from off right-of-way, rather than from roadway surface or shoulders. Planting or harvesting will be approved by the department prior to any work being done.

Sponsors agree to indemnify and hold harmless Wapello County, Wapello county Secondary Road Department, officers and employees from all liability, judgments, cost, expenses and claim growing out of damages, or alleged damages of any nature whatsoever to any person or property arising from the performance or non-performance of roadside work.

Sponsors agree that in the performance or non-performance of roadside work that they are initiators and volunteers and are in no way to be considered employees of Wapello County or Wapello County Secondary Road Department.

First preference for adoptions will be given to adjacent property owners. Second preference to governing bodies of small communities and urban areas.

Organizations, clubs and individuals will have final preference.

Sponsorship will be a minimum of ½ mile and 2 years. If litter pickup is involved, it must include both sides of the highway.

Sponsorship will not be granted to political parties, political candidates, elected officials, or entities which would constitute partisan endorsements.

A sponsor may adopt only one entry way to a city.

Litter must be removed a minimum of twice per year depending on the area and conditions.

You are not expected to pick up litter from pavement surfaces or within 10 feet of the edge of the pavement. These areas will be maintained by Wapello County Secondary Road Department.

Whenever possible do not park on shoulders while doing litter pickup.

All participants are expected to wear orange safety vests when in the right-of-way.

Sponsors of plantings, planting or landscape maintenance or harvest areas will control noxious weeds as necessary using approved methods before the weeds produce seed.

Plant species used must be approved by Wapello County Secondary Road Department.

All seed harvested is to be used on public lands. Seed harvested from the right-of-way may not be resold.

If, in the sole judgment of Wapello County Secondary Road Department, it is found that the sponsor is not meeting the terms and conditions of the agreement, Wapello County Secondary Road Department may terminate the agreement and remove sponsorship signs.

WAPELLO COUNTY SECONDARY ROAD/SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

Wapello County Secondary Road Department and sponsor will share in these responsibilities:

- Develop a brief work plan outlining specific activities.
- Secure media coverage for the program and sponsor activities
- Coordinate work activities between the sponsor and the Wapello County Secondary Road Department's Maintenance Supervisors.
- Appropriate in an effort to create public awareness and support
- Cooperate in developing beautification plans for planting or maintenance work.

SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

The sponsor will be responsible for:

- Conducting at least two safety meetings per year. Participants must attend a safety meeting conducted by the sponsor before participating in any roadside activity.
- Performing work as outlined in the work plan.
- Advising the Maintenance Superintendent 24 hours in advance when litter bags are needed or when filled bags are going to be left along the road.
- Obtaining the required supplies and material from the department during regular business hours
- Insuring participants 15 years of age or younger are furnished adequate supervision by one or more adults.
- Providing right-of-way locations and size of area to be replanted with seed harvested from right-of-way.
- Placing filled trash bags adjacent to the adopt-a-highway sign for pickup and disposal by Wapello County Secondary Road Department.
- Returning unused materials and supplies furnished by Wapello County Secondary Road Department within one week following cleanup.

WAPELLO COUNTY SECONDARY ROAD DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Wapello County Secondary Road Department will be responsible for:

- Erecting a sign at each end of the adopted section with the Sponsor(s) name or acronym displayed
- Providing reflective vests, trash bags and safety literature.
- Removing filled trash bags.
- Coordinating publicity efforts with the sponsor(s) for local media coverage
- Removing large, heavy, or hazardous items when found on an adopted roadside

PROCEDURE FOR HIGHWAY ADOPTION

A representative of an interested group or an individual should contact the Wapello County Engineer.

The Wapello County Engineer will explain the program and a sponsorship application.

The sponsor should choose a location, complete the sponsorship application and return it to the Wapello County Engineer.

The Wapello County Secondary Road Department will erect signing identifying the sponsoring group and coordinate publicity efforts.

The sponsor arranges to obtain trash bags and safety vests from Wapello County Secondary Road Department and conduct a safety meeting prior to any work being done.

The sponsor will collect litter in the furnished orange trash bags and place them adjacent to the adopt-a-highway sign when filled.

Wapello County Secondary Road Department will pick up the full trash bags.

COMPLETION OF THE SPONSORSHIP

After the sponsor has performed the necessary activities, Wapello County Secondary Road Department will, at the end of the two year period, present the sponsor with a certificate in recognition of the work completed.

**WAPELLO COUNTY SECONDARY ROAD DEPARTMENT
APPLICATION FOR
ADOPT A HIGHWAY**

Name of Organization: _____

Address of Organization: _____

_____ (city) _____ (state) _____ (zip)

Phone: _____ (_____) _____

Type of Activities:

____ Litter Pickup ____ Planting ____ Landscape ____ Living Snow Fence ____ Weeding

Proposed Location of Activity: _____

Alternate Location of Activity: _____

Name of Individual(s) or Organization to Place on Sign:

Signature indicates agreement to terms and conditions of Adopt-A- Highway Policy & Program.

Signature of responsible adult

date

Approval by Wapello County

Brian P. Moore, P.E.
Wapello County Engineer

date