

Montgomery County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) Adopt A Road (AAR) Program
Eligibility Requirements, Program and Safety Guidelines

1. AAR volunteers may adopt a road segment for an unlimited amount of time as long as they meet participation and reporting requirements. Roads within business districts or municipalities such as Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Takoma Park, or State-maintained roads (designated by a route number) are not eligible. 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, the road could either already be adopted or not owned by the County. You can view a list of available roads at montgomerycountymd.gov/adoptaroad.

AAR volunteers are required to clean both sides of their adopted road segment as needed, but no fewer than six times a year (the equivalent of every other month). Road segments under .59 miles require twelve cleanings a year (the equivalent of every month).

Volunteers are asked to take a photo of the collected trash/debris and attach it to their cleaning report.

2. AAR volunteers can adopt one road segment for the first six months of participation. After six months of active participation (by following the cleaning and reporting guidelines), a second road segment may be adopted. Due to limited road inventory, only two road segments can be adopted by a business, organization or individual.
3. AAR volunteers are required to report their cleaning efforts to MCDOT. If cleanings are performed more often, the volunteer can combine the cleaning results into one monthly report. If the road segment does not require a cleaning, a report should still be submitted stating this.

Cleaning reports are mandatory to remain active in the program. Cleaning reports let MCDOT know program guidelines are being met and that the volunteer is still actively participating. These reports also serve as a record of volunteer activities should a complaint arise on the condition of an adopted road segment. A cleaning report includes the volunteer's name, road name, date of cleaning, total number of bags collected and type (or gallon) of bags used (tall kitchen bag, small grocery store bag or AAR- program provided orange or blue bag).

Volunteers are to submit their cleaning results/report online at montgomerycountymd.gov/aar-report.

4. AAR volunteers are responsible for the disposal of trash collected. If four or more large/heavy bags of trash or debris (such as appliances or tires) are collected, the AAR volunteer can contact MC311 to request a one-time trash pickup. MC311 can be reached by dialing 311 (or 240-777-0311), or a request can be submitted online at montgomerycountymd.gov/MC311. If an AAR volunteer chooses to pick up recyclables, they are to empty them into their own home or business recycling bin.

AAR volunteers can report potholes, foliage overgrowth, animal carcasses, sidewalk damage, or any other issue along their adopted road segment to MC311. They are also to report illegally posted signs on traffic signs, telephone poles, or in the median. Legal signs will display a permit number, usually on the back of the sign (do not confront the sign owner).

5. Upon request, MCDOT provides a limited amount of cleaning and safety equipment to assist with AAR volunteer efforts. These include gloves, trash bags, safety reflective vests, and traffic cones.
6. In recognition of the AAR volunteer's agreement to future cleaning and reporting efforts, MCDOT will install one or two AAR signs with nameplates stating the volunteer's name. The name has a 15-character limit (this includes spaces) per line, two lines max. Slogans, slang, tag lines, phone numbers, social media, website addresses, or any other information besides the name of the volunteer is prohibited. *Signs are not required.
7. AAR volunteers are to report fallen, missing, or damaged AAR signs to MCDOT's Sign Shop by email to TrafficOps@montgomerycountymd.gov.
8. Because MCDOT is unable to monitor volunteer work in person, students cannot earn Montgomery County Public School's Student Service Learning (SSL) hours for cleaning a road.
9. The County reserves the right to reassign an adopted road segment or terminate participation for any reason, including failure to maintain cleanliness of the adopted road segment or failure to report cleanings within one year, or failure to comply with Montgomery County law.
10. Do not touch or try to remove materials that you suspect may be toxic or hazardous, such as batteries, powders, chemicals, smelly substances, suspicious packages, chemical drums or containers, weapons, syringes or needles and dead animal carcasses. Report hazardous materials to MC311.