



Dear Adopt-A-Bike Path Enthusiast:

Thank you for your interest in the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) Adopt-A-Bike Path (AABP) Program.

This volunteer program gives the public an opportunity to actively support DelDOT's anti-litter and beautification efforts. It also offers a way for individuals, companies, businesses, civic groups and other organizations to help visually improve their community, save taxpayer dollars and keep our paths safe for everyone to enjoy all while generating positive publicity for your group.

In this packet you will find more information about the program, conditions of membership, safety tips, release forms and an application. Please review all materials carefully with all potential members of your group.

Ready to begin? Please submit your application online at DelDOT.gov, e-mail to dotpublic@delaware.gov or by mail to:

Department of Transportation
Adopt-A-Bike Path Program
PO Box 778
Dover, DE 19903

Thank you for your interest in the Adopt-A-Bike Path program. Please feel free to call (302) 760-7080, 1-800-652-5600 or e-mail dotpublic@delaware.gov with any further questions about the Adopt-A-Bike Path program.

Sincerely,

Program Coordinator



Delaware Department of Transportation

Adopt-A-Bike Path • Program Information



Initiated in 2004, the Delaware Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Bike Path Program (AABP) is a partnership between the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and volunteers, working together to make Delaware's bike paths cleaner and safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. More than a clean-up campaign, the AABP Program works to educate citizens of all ages about the responsibilities of land stewardship, alternative forms of transportation and brings the community together to help maintain the beauty of bike paths in the state so all can continue to enjoy them.

This program allows volunteers to adopt bike paths owned by the State of Delaware. Participants agree to care for their designated bike path or portion of a path at least three times a year. After each clean-up, groups are responsible for completing an activity report and submitting online, via e-mail or by mail to DelDOT. DelDOT provides safety vests, trash bags, gloves and "Trail Clean-up in Process" signs. In addition, we will create and install one sign along the middle of the adopted bike path or portion of path indicating the group's involvement in the program in recognition their efforts.

The AABP Program is free for all interested in volunteering and offers a way for individuals, companies, businesses, civic groups, and other organizations to help visually improve their community, save taxpayer dollars, and keep our paths safe for everyone to enjoy all while generating positive publicity for your group. Each time a group is seen cleaning up a bike path, it is our hope it will remind the public that alternative forms of transportation exist and that there is an ongoing need to keep our environment, specifically roadways, walkways, and bikeways cleaner. Hopefully, it will deter others from littering as well.

Another objective of the program is to remove dangerous debris from paths in order to protect the safety of those who use them. AARP volunteers remove loose gravel, pebbles, sand, dirt, sticks and other debris that may impede the directional path of a pedestrian or bicyclist as well as pick up any trash along the path. Participants have the option of turning any trash collected into cash through recycling. Many organizations volunteer for clean-ups often to fund group outings, special activities or even to purchase uniforms. If a sponsor prefers, they may leave trash filled bags near their sign for DelDOT collection.

Adopting a bike path is a big commitment. However, DelDOT believes in fostering a working relationship with walkers, pedestrians, bicyclists, and anyone who is interested in helping us keep these areas well maintained. As our network of bike paths continue to grow in the state, as does the need to keep them operational for all to enjoy.



What is the Adopt-A-Bike Path Program?

The Delaware Department of Transportation's Adopt-A-Bike Path Program (AABP) is a partnership between the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and volunteers, working together to make Delaware's bike paths cleaner and safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. More than a clean-up campaign, the AABP Program works to educate citizens of all ages about the responsibilities of land stewardship, alternative forms of transportation and brings the community together to help maintain the beauty of bike paths in the state so all can continue to enjoy them.

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Why should an individual, group or organization adopt a bike path?

You should adopt a bike path to make your state and local community better. By participating in AABP, you can make at least one area of the state cleaner, better looking, and healthier for everyone. Your sign will remind motorists not to litter, and that your group cares about the safety of those who use the bike path.

How much does it cost to Adopt-A-Bike Path?

The AABP Program is free for all interested in volunteering and offers a way for individuals, companies, businesses, civic groups, and other organizations to help visually improve their community, save taxpayer dollars, and keep our paths safe for everyone to enjoy all while generating positive publicity for your group.

Who can Adopt-A-Bike-Path?

Individuals, businesses, community organizations, schools and all other organizations in the community are encouraged to participate. Participants must have approved applications on file prior to conducting first clean-up.

How do we apply for the Adopt-A-Bike Path Program?

You can apply online or print out application, complete and e-mail to AABP Coordinator at dotpublic@delaware.gov or mail to:

Department of Transportation
Adopt-A-Bike Path Program
PO Box 778
Dover, DE 19903

Can we adopt more than one bike path?

When available, groups may adopt more than one bike path or more than one portion of a larger path.

Can we adopt a specific path or portion of a path?

It is best to have a particular path in mind when you apply. DeIDOT will confirm if the bike path is indeed state owned and/or maintained and if it is eligible for adoption. If the bike path is not state owned or maintained or is owned by another entity (Dept. Natural Resources & Environmental Control (DNREC), etc.) or is unavailable for some other reason, DeIDOT will work with you to provide a suitable bike path as close as possible, refer you to the owning entity or advise participation in DeIDOT's Adopt-A-Highway Program (if desired). For paths over 2 miles in length, DeIDOT may break the path into 2-mile (approximate) sections in order to accommodate multiple sponsorship requests.

How long is the Adopt-A-Bike-Path program?

Adopting a bike path is a big commitment. Participants in the Adopt-A-Bike-Path Program agree to adopt one state-owned bike path for a minimum period of two years.

Is there any recognition for individuals, businesses or organizations participating in the Adopt-A-Bike Path Program?

In exchange for participation in the AABP program, each group will receive one Adopt-A-Bike Path sign posted midway on the path or portion of path sponsored at no cost to the organization. The organization/business name will be a maximum of 28 characters in length, including spacing and punctuation. Logos, symbols, or website addresses are not permitted on AABP signs. Where possible, signs may be co-posted with other existing signs.

Are there any age restrictions for volunteers participating in the Adopt-A-Bike Path Program?

Group members younger than 15 years old must be supervised by adults 18 years or older. Individuals under 12 years old are not permitted to participate. There will be at least one adult per eight underage members (12 to 18 years of age.) Large groups should stay together as they clean the path.

Do members of our group need to fill out any type of waiver?

Yes, adult volunteers need to complete a waiver prior to each clean-up. A parental guardian will need to complete a waiver for any child 15-18 years of age. The waivers can be found under the forms tab.

Is there a limitation on how many times a year we can clean up our sponsored bike path or portion of a path?

Litter pick up must be done on the assigned bike path at least three times per year, more if necessary or desired. Each group agrees to complete and submit at least three clean-up activity reports per year to the AABP Coordinator.

How to we submit an activity report?

Activity reports can be submitted online, printed, completed, and e-mailed to AABP Coordinator at dotpublic@delaware.gov or by mail to:

Department of Transportation
Adopt-A-Bike Path Program
PO Box 778
Dover, DE 19903

How do we get supplies needed for cleanup?

Groups must contact AABP Coordinator at least one week prior to litter pick-up. AABP Coordinator will arrange for groups to pick-up safety vest, trash bags and “Crews Working” signs. Gloves are also available upon request. These materials should be picked up by you (or a member of your group) at the DelDOT District Maintenance Office during working hours one week before the cleanup.

What do we do with the trash we collect?

Filled trash bags may be left under your AABP sign. Please make sure they not on the path itself. The contact person for the group should notify DelDOT on the next business day to let us know that the bag(s) needs to be picked up. You are welcome to dispose of the trash with your personal trash, but you will not be reimbursed for any personal disposal services. If applicable, participants are encouraged to separate and recycle appropriate materials for their benefit and to further help the environment. However, it is not a requirement of the program. If participants recycle the trash, they are entitled to keep the money for their group or personal benefit.

How do we stay safe during the cleanup?

We have compiled a list of best practices. Please make sure everyone in your group reviews them prior to cleanup. The Safety Tips document is under the forms tab on this website.

What if we must reschedule our clean-up?

Cleanups during bad weather or when visibility is reduced or restricted is prohibited. The adopting group will be responsible for rescheduling.

Who do we contact if we discover an issue during our cleanup?

Please contact AABP Coordinator with any specific questions or concerns regarding bike path conditions in your area.

How do we renew our sponsorship?

Groups are responsible for notifying the AABP Coordinator of any changes in the status of their application. If group completes three cleanups per year and completes three activity reports per year for two years, their sponsorship will automatically renew. DelDOT reserves the right to terminate participation if we are unable to contact you and/or we do not receive at least three activity reports per year from group. DelDOT reserves the right to revise these conditions as needed and deny any applications from unqualified volunteers.

What is the history of DelDOT's Adopt-A-Bike Path Program?

The program was initiated in the early summer of 2004 and was announced to the public in May 2005. It resulted from the need for the Department of Transportation to find a way to keep bike paths free of debris that may impede the safe travel of a bicyclists or pedestrian.

The program is mirrored after the highly successful Adopt-A-Highway Program, which DeIDOT has administered for 15 years.



Delaware Department of Transportation

Adopt-A-Bike Path Safety Tips



The Adopt-A-Bike Path Program promotes responsible behavior. All participants are asked to keep this goal in mind when conducting clean-ups. Program requirements state that the following regulations must be shared with all members. Please review and discuss this information prior to conducting clean-ups.

DON'T pick up litter on the roadway close to the edge of the road or median.

DON'T pick up litter in construction or maintenance sites, in tunnels, or on bridges or overpasses.

DON'T pick up materials that appear to be hazardous. Contact the AABP Coordinator at (302) 760-7080 or at dotpublic@delaware.gov for assistance or call DNREC's Hazardous Waste Section at (302) 739-5072 or 1-800-662-8802.

DON'T pick up any meth lab waste products, such as propane cylinders (like the ones on gas grills), medicine boxes, masks, rubber gloves or hoses/clamps. Notify DelDOT immediately at 800-652-5600 if such items are found.

DON'T pick up any drug related paraphernalia, such as syringes or needles, as these can easily penetrate through the bag or cause injury.

DON'T pick up any firearms or explosive devices. If found, contact your local police agency.

DON'T do anything that will distract passing drivers or other volunteers.

DON'T work during peak travel times. DelDOT can help you identify suitable hours.

DON'T participate in litter pick-ups while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

DON'T allow children under 12 years of age to participate.

DON'T wear music headsets that would prevent you from hearing an approaching motorist

DON'T attach signs or miscellaneous items to your AABP sign.

DON'T plant flowers or shrubs near your sign.

DO work in small groups, keeping minors with adults always.

DO carpool or bike to the site and park off the roadway and bike path

DO wear bright colored, protective clothing, gloves, and hard-soled shoes. Put on your orange safety vest before leaving your vehicle

DO work only during daylight hours and in fair weather

DO avoid animals and/or noxious weeds



Delaware Department of Transportation

Adopt-A-Bike Path Conditions for Participation



Thank you for your interest in the Delaware Department of Transportation's (DelDOT) Adopt-A-Bike Path (AABP) Program. All individuals, companies, businesses, civic groups and other organizations participating in the program must adhere to the below condition.

- Adopt one state-owned bike path for a minimum period of two years.
- When available, groups may adopt more than one bike path or more than one portion of a larger path.
- Litter pick up must be done on the assigned bike path at least three times per year, more if necessary.
- Groups may request a path or portion of a path, if not available path may be assigned by the AABP Coordinator.
- Individuals, businesses, community organizations, schools and all other organizations in the community are encouraged to participate.
- Participants must have approved applications on file prior to conducting first clean-up.
- In exchange for participation in the AABP program, each group will receive one Adopt-A-Bike Path sign posted midway on the path or portion of path sponsored at no cost to the organization.
- Businesses that wish to sponsor a group may do so. The business name (maximum of 28 characters including spacing and punctuation) would then go on the sign in block letters. Logos are not permitted.
- Where possible, signs may be co-posted with other existing signs.
- Group members younger than 15 years old must be supervised by adults 18 years or older. Individuals under 12 years old are not permitted to participate. There will be at least one adult per eight underage members (12 to 18 years of age.) Large groups should stay together as they clean the path.
- Each group agrees to complete and submit at least three clean-up activity reports per year to the AABP Coordinator.
- Groups must contact AABP Coordinator at least one week prior to litter pick-up.
- AABP Coordinator will supply group with safety vest, rubber gloves, trash bags and "Trail Clean-up in Process" signs upon request.
- Please submit Activity Reports online at DelDOT.gov, e-mail to dotpublic@delaware.gov or mail to Department of Transportation - Adopt-A-Bike Path Program - PO Box 778 Dover, DE 19903.
- If participants do not dispose of filled trash bags themselves, they must notify AABP Coordinator as soon as possible that trash bags need to be removed from trail by DelDOT.
- Participants are encouraged to recycle appropriate materials.

- DeIDOT will monitor and administer the program in each respected county.
- Please contact AABP Coordinator with any specific questions or concerns regarding bike path conditions in your area.
- Cleanups during bad weather or when visibility is reduced or restricted is prohibited. The adopting group will be responsible for rescheduling.
- Groups are responsible for notifying the AABP Coordinator of any changes in the status of their application.
- DeIDOT reserves the right to terminate participation if we are unable to contact you and/or we do not receive at least three activity reports per year from group.
- DeIDOT reserves the right to revise these conditions as needed and deny any applications from unqualified volunteers.



Delaware Department of Transportation

Adopt-A-Bike Path Application



Please submit online at DelDOT.gov, e-mail to dotpublic@delaware.gov or mail to Department of Transportation - Adopt-A-Bike Path Program - PO Box 778 Dover, DE 19903.

Date: _____

I/we request permission to adopt a bike path in _____ County located at:

_____.

(the bike path must be state owned – bike paths over 2-miles in length may be broken down into 2-mile sections)

We agree that work will be performed under and in accordance with the Delaware Department of Transportation’s AABP conditions included in this application packet and incorporated herein by reference.

We further agree that upon approval, each participating member of our organizations, for themselves, shall at all times indemnify and save harmless the Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT) and DelDOT employees, agents and officers from responsibility, damage or liability arising from the exercise of the privileges granted in such applications.

We further agree that this application may be terminated by DelDOT at any time DelDOT determines that, in its opinion, the applicants do not comply with the conditions of this program or at any time the applicants’ work under this program is unsafe or causes a conflict with traffic. The Department reserves the right to revise or discontinue this program at any time.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Path Adopted By: _____

(name to appear on sign – limit 28 spaces including spaces and punctuation)

Signature: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY: The undersigned hereby accepts the above organization’s agreement for the adoption of a bike path located at _____.

District Engineer

Date

cc: Sign Shop
Office of Public Relations

Sponsor ID



Delaware Department of Transportation

Adopt-A-Bike Path Child Release Form



This form must be completed and returned with each activity report/clean-up being conducted as part of the AABP Program. Please submit online at DeIDOT.gov, e-mail to dotpublic@delaware.gov or mail to Department of Transportation - Adopt-A-Bike Path Program - PO Box 778 Dover, DE 19903.

Date: _____

Organization: _____
(name of group as it appears on the sign)

I, a member of the _____ (group name), have received the roadside safety regulations as a prerequisite to participating in the AABP Program.

I do hereby release and discharge the State of Delaware, the Delaware Department of Transportation, and their officers, agents, and employees, from all claims, demands and causes of action of every kind whatsoever for any damages and/or injuries that may result from my participation in the Adopt-A-Bike Path Program and other voluntary activities on or near the bike path or highway right-of-way.

I further agree to hold harmless the State of Delaware, the Delaware Department of Transportation, agents, and employees from liability for any damages or injuries resulting from any acts or failure to act on my part during my participation in said voluntary activities on or near the bike path or highway right-of-way.

NOTE: A parent's permission is required for all participants under the age of 18. Children younger than 12 years old may not participate in the AABP Program.

Name of Child/Children: _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent's Signature: _____



Delaware Department of Transportation

Adopt-A-Bike Path Schedule Cleanup/Supply Request



Please complete this form at least one week prior to picking up your supplies. Please submit online at DelDOT.gov, e-mail to dotpublic@delaware.gov or by mail to Department of Transportation - Adopt-A-Bike Path Program - PO Box 778 Dover, DE 19903.

Today's Date: _____

Date of Clean-up: _____

AABP Group Name (name as it appears on sign):

Location of Bike Path: _____

New Castle County

Kent County

Sussex County

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

I am new contact person for this group

I am alternate contact person for this group

How many people will be participating in the clean up? _____

How many bags will you need for your group's cleanup? _____

How many safety vests (total) will you need for your group? _____

(please keep vests and reuse for future cleanups)

Please indicate the sizes/quantities of vests that you need:

Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____ 2X _____ 3X _____

Will you need "Crews Working Ahead" signs to post while cleaning up the path? YES NO

(signs must be returned with one week of clean up)

How will you dispose of the trash/debris?

Leave at AABP sign for DelDOT pick up Take to DelDOT Area Yard Personal/business trash

.....
OFFICE USE ONLY:

Maintenance Area: _____ Sponsor #: _____ Bike Path #: _____ Clean-up #: _____

Ordered by: _____ Date: _____

Accepted by: _____ Date: _____



Delaware Department of Transportation

Adopt-A-Bike Path Activity Report



Please submit online at DelDOT.gov, e-mail to dotpublic@delaware.gov or mail to Department of Transportation - Adopt-A-Bike Path Program - PO Box 778 Dover, DE 19903.

Today's Date: _____

Date of Clean-up: _____

AABP Group Name (name as it appears on sign):

Location of Bike Path: _____

New Castle County

Kent County

Sussex County

Contact Person: _____ Phone Number: _____

(please note any address/contact person changes below in the comments section)

How many people participated in the clean-up? _____

How many hours did the clean-up last? _____

How many bags of trash were collected? _____

How did you dispose of the trash/debris?

Left at AABP sign for DelDOT pick up Took to DelDOT Area Yard Personal/business trash

What was the general condition of the bike path before the clean-up?

Excellent Good Fair Poor Other _____

Please report any hazardous materials, large items or dead animals for DelDOT to retrieve:

Please report any items on bridges, riprap, or ON the roadway for DelDOT to retrieve:

Comments:

.....
OFFICE USE ONLY:

Maintenance Area: _____ Sponsor #: _____ Road #: _____ Clean-up #: _____

Date Report Received

Date Trash Picked Up