



WALLER COUNTY ADOPT-A-COUNTRY ROAD PROGRAM GUIDELINES

PART 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose. Waller County, Texas (“**County**”) is establishing an Adopt-A-Country-Road Program in order to enhance the natural beauty of the County, to decrease the tax payer burden associated with litter control in County rights-of-way, and to improve people’s view when country roads take them home. The purpose of this document is to establish uniform guidelines in order to provide elected officials, other county officials, and county employees with direction in administering the county’s Adopt-A-Country Road Program (“**Program**”), and to inform the general public of the policies and procedures to be used in its administration.

1.2 Administration. The Program is to be administered by the Waller County Environmental Department (“**WCED**”). If a county official, officer, or employee has questions related to the Program, it is their responsibility to seek clarification and/or guidance from their immediate supervisor, or from the Waller County District Attorney’s Office prior to taking any action related to the Program. The WCED is responsible for reviewing applications, ensuring necessary supplies are available to volunteers, and coordinating with the Waller County Road and Bridge Department concerning sign placement.

1.3 Policy Not Restrictive. Nothing in this policy is intended to withhold from Waller County any right or authority accorded to it by any federal or state law, rule, or regulation.

PART 2 PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION

2.1 County Authorization. The Waller County Commissioners Court authorizes the creation of the Waller County Adopt-A-Country Road Program, and designates the Department Head of the Waller County Environmental Department to administer the Program.

2.2 Participants. An individual, family, community organization, youth organization, business, civic or non-profit organization, religious group, fraternity, sorority, or school may adopt a one-mile stretch of a county road. Children under the age of seven (7) may not participate.

2.3 Adoption Period. A stretch of county road must be adopted for a minimum of one year.

2.4 Minimum Required Cleanups. Volunteers must pick up litter from the adopted stretch of road a minimum of four (4) times per year. Stretches of road with heavier litter accumulation may require more scheduled pickups.

2.5 Adopt-A-Country Road Signs. Adopt-A-Country Road signs will be posted at both ends of the adopted section of road that display the name of the volunteer or volunteer organization responsible for that section of road. Volunteers may adopt a section of roadway to memorialize individuals who are deceased. The recognition sign may include the phrase “in memory of” the name of the deceased person, and the name of the adopting volunteer group. Signs may not include slogans, contact information, logos, icons, fictitious names or organizations, offensive or harmful language, or language that may indicate the County is influencing the outcome of any election or legislation. Names may need to be adjusted, altered, or abbreviated to fit within the space available on a sign.

2.6 Basic Equipment and Supplies. The County will supply basic supplies necessary for the litter pickup, such as trash bags, safety vests, traffic control signs, and gloves.

2.7 Road Eligibility. Volunteers may only adopt a county-maintained road. This Program does not apply to private, city, or state roads. All work must be performed in the County right-of-way. Volunteers must not enter privately owned land. The WCED will review volunteer applications, and determine if a county road is eligible for adoption.

2.8 Adoption Agreement. Each volunteer group must complete the Road Adoption Volunteer Agreement (“Volunteer Agreement”), attached hereto as Appendix A. The Waller County Commissioners Court authorizes the WCED Department Head to sign the Volunteer Agreement on behalf of the County.

2.9 Agreement Termination: The WCED Department Head is authorized to terminate, upon thirty (30) days prior notice, the Agreement and remove posted signs if, in his or her sole judgment, the Volunteer Group is not meeting the terms and conditions of the Agreement. The Volunteer Group may appeal the termination to the Waller County Commissioners Court.

2.10 Limitation on Liability. Nothing within this Program is intended to create or creates liability on the part of the County. Volunteers must agree to hold the county harmless and agree not to hold the county responsible for any injuries they may suffer, or damages they may cause or suffer as a result of participation in the Program. Anyone who participates in a cleanup under this Program understands that the County is not liable for any damages that may result from participation in such an event.

2.11 Program Modification or Termination: The County reserves the right to modify or cancel the Program at any time, and for any reason at its sole discretion.

PART 3 VOLUNTEER RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Volunteer Representative. Each volunteer group must appoint an authorized representative that is responsible for coordinating group activities with the County.

3.2 Program Safety. Volunteers are responsible for maintaining their own safety during any litter pickup. Each volunteer must obey and abide by all applicable laws and regulations while performing work on a county roadway, and obey any safety instructions given by the County. Each volunteer group must conduct a safety meeting prior to a scheduled cleanup. Each volunteer that participates in a cleanup must attend the safety meeting held immediately prior to the cleanup.

3.3 Adult Supervision. Minors aged fifteen (15) through seventeen (17) must be supervised at all times during the cleanup by aged twenty-one (21) or over at a ratio of at least one (1) adult for every three (3) minors in that age category. Minors aged seven (7) to fourteen (14) must have a parent or legal guardian present at all times during the cleanup.

3.4 Coordination With County. Volunteers must coordinate with the WCED each time they plan to cleanup their adopted section.

3.5 Don’t Mess With Texas Trash-Off. Volunteers will conduct at least one of the required cleanup activities during the annual “Don’t Mess with Texas Trash-Off” event each April.

3.6 County Provided Supplies. Volunteers must obtain County provided supplies and materials from the County during regular business hours.

3.7 Safety Equipment. Volunteers must set up traffic control signs prior to cleanup, and remove them upon completion. Volunteers must also wear safety vests during cleanup.

3.8 Other Equipment. Volunteers must have a first-aid kit and adequate drinking water on-site while performing any cleanup work.

3.9 Litter Removal. All litter must be placed in County provided trash bags, and disposed of properly. The WCED will assist volunteers who are unable to locate an approved disposal site.

3.10 Unused Supplies. Volunteers must return unused materials and supplies, and safety equipment to the County within two (2) business days of cleanup.

3.11 Prohibited Items. Volunteers may not possess alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, or illegal weapons while on the adopted section of the roadway.

PART 4 COUNTY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

4.1 Available Roads. The WCED will work with volunteer groups to determine a specific section of County road to be adopted. The WCED may determine for any reason that a given section of roadway is not suitable for adoption.

4.2 Adoption Signs. WCED will coordinate with the Waller County Road and Bridge Department to place signs at both ends of each section of adopted roadway. The Waller County Road and Bridge Department will make the roads signs, and place them at the adopted sections of roadway.

4.3 Basic Equipment and Supplies. The WCED will provide trash bags, safety vests, traffic control signs, and gloves to volunteer groups.