



# 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 (DeIDOT) 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 DeIDOT. DeIDOT 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 DeIDOT collection.

Adopting a bike path is a big commitment. However, DeIDOT 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.