

# ADOPT-A-SPOT and ADOPT-A-CREEK

## Program Information

The **Adopt-A-Spot / Adopt-A-Creek Program** is a partnership between the Alameda County Public Works Agency and its residents and merchants.

This Program is designed to enable individuals, community groups, businesses, churches, schools and other organizations to play an active role in maintaining the beauty and cleanliness of their neighborhoods, while allowing them to set their own schedule. This is also a great opportunity for students to obtain community service hours.

Volunteers, including school age children under the supervision of an adult, come together for projects such as removing litter from roadways, sidewalks, and, when approved, creek trails. Adopt-A-Spot/Adopt-A-Creek projects can also include removing weeds and other unwanted vegetation, painting over graffiti, and maintaining plants and wildlife habitat.

Adopted areas include County streets, County-owned vacant land, and some creeks and flood control channels, where ACPWA staff have determined it's safe for volunteers to work.

Other adoptable areas include storm drain inlets, gutters, and sidewalks. Removal of debris in these areas are particularly important prior to and during winter storms to ensure proper storm water runoff and help prevent localized flooding.

### **WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT FROM US:**

- Safety gear – orange vests, gloves, and safety glasses – for your estimated number of participants annually.
- One color of paint, rollers, and basic painting supplies for graffiti abatement.
- Free trash bags and disposal of the trash you collect.
- You're encouraged to separate recyclables and take them with you.
- Installation of signs recognizing you and/or your group.
- First aid kit and hand cleaner. (I don't know that we've ever supplied this, but it's not a bad idea)
- Technical assistance with authorized and approved planting projects.

### **RECOGNITION SIGNS:**

Your participation in the Adopt-a-Spot/Creek Program facilitates clean and attractive areas within your community. The Public Works Agency may install signs near project locations recognizing individuals or groups.

- Signage may vary in size according to the location.
- Recognition signs are limited to your group's name and/or logo\*. No products, phone numbers or addresses may be identified. (\*You will need to provide weather-proof decals of your organization's standardized logo for inclusion on the sign.)
- The decision to place signs, the sign size, and sign location are at the sole discretion of Alameda County.

## **WHAT WE EXPECT FROM YOU:**

- Each volunteer should understand and conform to the provisions noted on the form or in discussions.
- Provide a copy of the safety requirements to each participant.
- Conduct a safety meeting and discussion before you begin your project.
- Each work group must have a copy of the application and safety requirements with them on the work site.
- All participants are required to sign and return a Hold Harmless Release.
  - The Public Works Agency does not require insurance for volunteers.
- Follow all safety requirements.

## **SAFETY & CLOTHING:**

This program depends on the common sense and responsibility of individual participants.

- Participants must realize that they are working in a potentially hazardous environment and must diligently follow all safety requirements.
- Wear orange safety vests provided by Alameda County Public Works Agency, gloves, and safety glasses whenever you are at the work site. Put them on prior to beginning any work.
- Wear long pants and sturdy shoes or boots; light-colored clothing, long-sleeved shirts, and sunscreen are suggested.

## **HOW TO ADOPT A SPOT/CREEK:**

- Select the location and develop a plan for the type of work you would like to do, including any plans for planting.
- Complete an “Adopt a Spot/Creek” application and submit the form (Forms are available online at [www.acpwa.org](http://www.acpwa.org)).
- Discuss location and project plans with an Alameda County Public Works Adopt-A-Spot/Creek Coordinator.
- After the application is approved, notify Alameda County five days before each work event.
- Review and follow all safety requirements.
- Perform all work satisfactorily.
- Call the Maintenance and Operations Department at (510) 670-5500 to arrange removal of all trash and debris bags filled (either in advance or after completion of your work.)

# ADOPT-A-SPOT / CREEK PROGRAM APPLICATION FORM

~~~~ APPLICANT'S... ~~~~

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| NAME:                  |  |
| GROUP (if applicable): |  |
| STREET:                |  |
| CITY, STATE, ZIP:      |  |
| PHONE:                 |  |
| EMAIL:                 |  |

DESCRIBE GROUP/ASSOCIATION (if applicable):

~~~~ ADOPTION.... ~~~~

TYPE:    INDIVIDUAL    GROUP/ASSOC.    BUSINESS    # OF PERSONS

ADDRESS AND CROSS STREETS OF LOCATION:

DESCRIBE SITE ACTIVITIES, GOALS, AND WORK TO BE DONE: (I.E. WEED CONTROL, TRASH REMOVAL, GRAFFITI ABATEMENT, ETC.)

SPECIAL CONDITIONS:

I, the undersigned, understand that Alameda County Public Works Agency and Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District and the officers, agents, and employees of both entities, shall not be liable for any death, injury, illness, or property damage claim which arises from my participation in the Adopt-a-Spot or Adopt-A-Creek Program. If any claim arises out of the foregoing, I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Alameda County and the Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation. District, their officer, agents, and employees (this section and the one above should be reviewed by County Counsel and Risk Management)

By signing below, I certify that I have read and agree to the provisions and requirements of the program and will hold all participants to these requirements.

|                        |  |       |  |
|------------------------|--|-------|--|
| APPLICANT E-SIGNATURE: |  | DATE: |  |
|------------------------|--|-------|--|

~~~~ FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY. DO NOT FILL OUT. ~~~~

|                        |                                   |       |                                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| ALAMEDA COUNTY:        |                                   | DATE: |                                 |
| OWNED BY COUNTY:       | <input type="checkbox"/> YES      |       | <input type="checkbox"/> NO     |
| SAFE FOR PUBLIC:       | <input type="checkbox"/> YES      |       | <input type="checkbox"/> NO     |
| OFFICIAL DECISION:     | <input type="checkbox"/> APPROVED |       | <input type="checkbox"/> DENIED |
| DESIGNATION (AAS/AAC): | <input type="checkbox"/> AAS      |       | <input type="checkbox"/> AAC    |
| ADOPTION NUMBER:       |                                   |       |                                 |

# ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS ADOPT-A-SPOT / ADOPT -A-CREEK

## VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOLD HARMLESS RELEASE AGREEMENT

Adopt-A-Spot / Adopt-A-Creek is a Public Works Agency program to encourage individuals, neighborhood groups, civic organizations and businesses to play an active role in beautifying and maintaining their neighborhoods. Volunteers, including school age children under the supervision of an adult, are being recruited to clean creeks and flood control channels in need of ongoing attention. All volunteers will be instructed in safety requirements before they participate.

I, the undersigned, being of lawful age of the parent or legal guardian of the volunteer involved in the Alameda County Adopt-A-Spot / Adopt-A-Creek Program (hereinafter referred to as "Program"), in consideration of being allowed to participate in the Program, I hereby release and discharge for myself, my marital community, heirs, executors and assigns, release acquire, and forever discharge Alameda County, a political subdivision of the State of California, and its officers, agents and employees from any and all actions, causes of action, claims of any other thing whatsoever on account of or in any way related to or arising out of my participation in the program.

I, the undersigned, further understand that Alameda County, Alameda County Public Works Agency, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the officers, agents, and employees of these entities, shall not be liable for any death, injury, illness, or property damage claim which arises from my participation in the Adopt-A-Spot or Adopt-A-Creek Program. If any claim arises out of the foregoing, I agree to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless Alameda County, Alameda County Public Works Agency, Alameda County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, their officers, agents, and employees.

Further, I assume liability for any non-participants who accompany me.

**PARTICIPANT'S NAME:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Please print)

**PARTICIPANT'S AGE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_