



So you think you want to **Adopt-A-Site** with **Keep Akron Beautiful**...

Thanks for inquiring about volunteering to garden a public site for next year's growing season and beyond. It is a time-consuming job for volunteers so we want you to know our criteria and expectations before your group adopts a site.

The Adopt-A-Site program has been active for over 25 years and provides the structure for volunteers to plan, plant and maintain a public garden on City of Akron property, under the guidance and supervision of our nonprofit agency.

All Adopt-A-Sites are gardened by groups of volunteers which range from scouting troops to senior citizen groups. More than 60 are located throughout all 10 Wards of the City. Groups can be Block Watch neighborhood groups, church or school groups, civic groups, garden clubs, private businesses, or clusters of neighbors.

The original goal of the Adopt-A-Site program was to extend public land beautification out into the neighborhoods. Many sites are traffic islands, triangles, corners or boulevards. They are also around school signs, in parks and in the front of Fire Departments. The goal is to fill the gardens with blooming color all summer long.

Basic Criteria:

- ❖ Must be public land
- ❖ Must have close, convenient access to a fire hydrant
- ❖ Must be a location that is visible to the public
- ❖ Must have suitable topography for planting
- ❖ Must be safe area for those doing the gardening
- ❖ Must commit for more than one growing season
- ❖ Start small and grow with success



You can recognize an Adopt-a-Site by the standard signage, bearing the agency logo and a second plate with the name of the volunteer group who has accepted responsibility to garden the site. Keep Akron Beautiful has recently updated and replaced all our Flowerscape and Adopt-A-Site signage.

What are the benefits of becoming a Keep Akron Beautiful Adopt-A-Site?

- ❖ One-on-one consultation with the agency's Flowerscape Director at the site.
- ❖ The first year, the Director will help you design the landscape plan, choosing the plant materials (number of plants, colors and heights).
- ❖ The first year, the Flowerscape crew will prepare the site for planting.
- ❖ Every year Adopt-A-Site contact people are provided a flower order that gives groups wholesale prices on selected varieties of annuals, perennials and soil amendments. Orders are picked up on a Saturday in May at the KAB Office.
- ❖ Free water from the City of Akron through a hydrant backflow hook-up.
- ❖ Invitation annually to an April clinic which teaches volunteers how to plant and keeps them up to date on the *newest* plant varieties.
- ❖ Free trash bags and pick-up/disposal of spent plant material in October.
- ❖ Access to professional advice for site maintenance and pest management problems that may occur during the 6 month (May-October) growing season.

How do I get started?

- ❖ Contact the Keep Akron Beautiful office by one of the following:
 - Phone us at 330-375-2116, or
 - Drop-by/send mail to 850 East Market Street, Akron 44305-2424, or
 - Fax us at 330-375-2116, or
 - Email us at keepakronbeautiful@akronohio.gov
- ❖ We need to determine if the site selected is in fact public property. *(Note: City of Akron ownership of a property is not the same as public land.)*
- ❖ You need to have several committed and dedicated volunteers with one person agreeing to be the contact person for agency communications.
- ❖ Volunteers are required to attend the April Adopt-A-Site Clinic the first year.
- ❖ The Flowerscape Director will call the contact person and make arrangements to meet the volunteers at the site to discuss their vision and proximity of a hydrant.

Each year we ask the groups to re-commit to maintaining their site since we understand the level of community service required to have a quality beautification site associated with all of our group names.

The staff and Flowerscape crew of Keep Akron Beautiful are delighted that you are interested in keeping our city blooming! Even just inquiring indicates your dedication to the appearance of your neighborhood and your community pride.

Visit our website at www.keepakronbeautiful.org for more information about our nonprofit programming and other volunteer opportunities.