

The State Transportation Commission formally adopted a Context Sensitive Solutions (CSS) process in 2005 as part of the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) mission to provide the highest quality integrated transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life. Under CSS, MDOT solicits dialogue early in the planning process with local governments, road commissions, industry groups, land use advocates, and state agencies. This dialogue helps to ensure these bridges, interchanges, bike paths and other transportation projects "fit" into their communities. The CSS approach results in projects that respect a community's scenic, aesthetic, historic, economic, and environmental character.

The Adopt-A-Landscape Program exists within MDOT's right-of-way trunkline jurisdiction and must also adhere to the CSS process. For more information, go to [www.michigan.gov/adoptlandscape](http://www.michigan.gov/adoptlandscape).



# A NEW PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITIES



*Providing the highest quality integrated transportation services for economic benefit and improved quality of life.*

## What is the Adopt-A-Landscape Program?

The Adopt-A-Landscape Program provides individuals, organizations, and businesses an opportunity to help maintain sections of roadside within Michigan's state highway system. In addition to the aesthetic benefits of cleaner and more beautiful roadsides, your participation will help to prevent potential pollutants from entering our waterways.

The Adopt-A-Landscape Program provides a great opportunity to promote civic responsibility, community pride, and camaraderie within your organization. Although the Adopt-A-Landscape Program may not be used as a forum for advertising or public discourse, Adopt-A-Landscape courtesy signs provide you or your group with name recognition in your community.

## What is Required to Participate?

Your time and effort, it's that easy! Participants may choose one or more of the following activities:

- Planting and establishing landscaping within interchanges, boulevards, rest areas, roadside parks, etc.
- Planting and establishing trees, shrubs, and/or flowers along state highways
- Planting and establishing wildflowers
- Removing graffiti as needed from one or more highway structures
- Controlling weeds on right of way
- Ancillary mowing
- Tree trimming and/or removal



## Is There a Fee?

Yes, there is a minimal permit fee based on the size and scale of the area being adopted. Volunteer groups/organizations may perform Adopt-A-Landscape activities and be charged a discounted permit fee or even have the fee waived in some cases.

Participating groups generally provide all costs, materials, labor, and equipment necessary for the project.

MDOT will supply the following items free of charge:

- Safety vests for volunteer participants.
- Safety training materials for group use.
- Adopt-A-Landscape signs when the appropriate distance is landscaped as follows:
  - On roadways where the speed limit is 45 miles per hour or less, 1 mile of landscaping is required for an Adopt-A-Landscape sign.
  - On roadways where the speed limit is greater than 45 miles per hour, 2 miles of landscaping are required for an Adopt-A-Landscape sign.

## Who is Eligible?

Just about any group, business or individual may perform the work using your own volunteers and/or hired contractors to perform the work on your behalf.

## How Long Do Adoptions Last?

Adoptions for locations inside of rest areas require a one-year commitment. However, adoptions for locations outside of rest areas require a five-year commitment. You may extend the agreement provided that you (or your contractor) have satisfactorily met the terms of the permit and the site remains suitable for adoption. You may not transfer your permit to another organization.

## How Do I Adopt-A-Landscape?

1. Decide on the general location you want.
2. Submit Adopt-A-Landscape Interest Form (Form 3748) to your local TSC manager or the MDOT real estate office in Lansing. Obtain local TSC contact information at our website: [www.michigan.gov/adoptalandscape](http://www.michigan.gov/adoptalandscape) or contact the MDOT real estate office at 517-241-3028.
3. The local TSC manager will contact the applicant.
4. Submit an Individual Right-of-Way Construction Permit application and all the additional information required. All Right-of-Way Construction Permit applications are submitted and purchased through the Michigan Business One Stop online service: [www.michigan.gov/business](http://www.michigan.gov/business). Instructions for registering to obtain access to Michigan Business One Stop are available on the MDOT website at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot). Click on "Doing Business," then "Permits," and finally "Right-of-Way Construction Permits." Handouts and brochures are also available from your TSC construction permit agent and on the MDOT website at [www.michigan.gov/adoptalandscape](http://www.michigan.gov/adoptalandscape). Instructions for preparing plans/schedules also are available on the Adopt-A-Landscape website.
5. Once your permit has been issued you will receive an e-mail with instructions on how to log in to the Construction Permits System and print the permit and its attachments.

## What if the Section of Land I Want is Already Adopted?

Permits are issued on a first-come, first-served basis. You may wish to contact your TSC construction permit agent or consider adopting another location.