



**ADOPT-A-LAKE  
PROGRAM**

834-8429

## **HELP SAVE OUR LAKES - ADOPT-A-LAKE PROGRAM**

In 2001, the City of Lakeland, in cooperation with Lakeland Vision, organized the Adopt-A-Lake program for lakes within the City. The program goal is to involve the community in efforts to conserve and protect these precious resources. A variety of activities are performed and include:

### **Volunteer Monitoring**

A volunteer monitoring program to sample area lakes will be administered by the University of Florida's Lakewatch Program. Volunteers will be trained and equipped by Lakewatch staff to collect monthly water quality samples from their lakes. The samples will be shipped to the University of Florida for analysis, and reports explaining the results will be returned to the Adopt-A-Lake program volunteers. Annual meetings will be held with Lakewatch biologists to discuss the health of your lake and lakes in the region.

### **Florida Yards & Neighborhoods**

The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program is also administered by the University of Florida. The Florida Yards & Neighborhoods Program is an educational outreach program informing homeowners how they can be more environmentally friendly with their landscape care practices and how this can help protect Florida's natural environment for future generations. Master gardeners will provide training and information on managing our yards using methods that will result in beautiful landscapes while protecting water quality in downstream basins. Tips on planting material selection to attract wildlife will be included.

### **Stormwater Runoff Activities**

Adopt-A-Lake groups will be involved in assisting the City of Lakeland in minimizing the impacts of stormwater runoff on their lakes. Activities will include installing stormwater inlet plaques to educate the community about the relationship between inlets and lakes. Volunteers may also be asked to assist in monitoring pollutants entering these systems.

### **Lake Cleanup**

Lake and shoreline cleanups will be scheduled to help remove litter.

### **Aquatic Plant Management**

Volunteers will assist in establishing and maintaining aquatic vegetation around their lakes. This vegetation is important in providing habitat for fish and wildlife, and the vegetation helps prevent bank erosion.

If you or your neighborhood association is interested in participating in the Adopt-A-Lake Program, please contact City of Lakeland Lakes & Stormwater Division at 863-834-8429.



## **ADOPT-A-LAKE PROCEDURES**

- Step 1 -** The City of Lakeland, Adopt-A-Lake Program Coordinator will review and discuss potential locations the group proposes to adopt. Once a location is agreed upon, a Letter of Intent needs to be completed by City of Lakeland, Lakes & Stormwater Division, Adopt-A-Lake Program and group representatives.
- Step 2 -** When the Letter of Intent is signed by all parties, the City of Lakeland will order a recognition sign identifying the groups name and arrange for installation in appropriate area. (This will be done when the group has shown, after a year, a sign is warranted)
- Step 3 -** Use of and quantity of equipment will be reviewed and determined. Equipment will be supplied by the City of Lakeland and consist of gloves, trash bags, safety vests, grabbers and nets.
- Step 4 -** Volunteer groups are responsible for disposing of trash picked up. The City of Lakeland will arrange, when necessary, for dumpsters to be placed on location. Otherwise trash cans located on site are to be used.
- Step 5 -** When a group terminates the Letter of Intent or defaults on its obligation for six months, the Coordinator will remove the recognition signs. That lake will then be available to other adopting groups.



## ADOPT-A-LAKE APPLICATION FORM

The City of Lakeland, Lakes & Stormwater Division's Adopt-A-Lake Program will work with the adopting group to determine the specific location (lake).

*(Please print or type)*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Organization, business or interested group: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

President, chairperson, etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
E mail address

City, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated number of members participating in the program: \_\_\_\_\_

Lake(s) you are interested in Adopting:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form to:

City of Lakeland  
Lakes & Stormwater Division  
Adopt-A-Lake Coordinator  
228 Massachusetts Ave.  
Lakeland, FL 33801  
863-834-8429 (phone)  
863-834-3308 (fax)



**RELEASE FORM**

For and in consideration of the undersigned's participation in lake beautification activities conducted by the City of Lakeland through its Lakes & Stormwater program, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the undersigned, for himself/herself and his/her personal representatives, heirs, successors and assigns, hereby releases, waives, discharges, and holds harmless the City of Lakeland, its officers, employees, and agents, from and against any and all loss, damage, cost, expense or liability of whatever type or degree, or any claim therefore, on account of any injury or death to the undersigned or the undersigned's property, whether caused by the negligence of the City of Lakeland or otherwise while the undersigned is in any manner participating in the Lakes & Stormwater program.

DATED: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Participant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent Signature (if participant is a minor)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name of Participant

# CITY OF LAKELAND ADOPT-A-LAKE

## SAFETY GUIDELINES

These safety guidelines are provided for groups participating in the Adopt-A-Lake program. Enforcement of these safety guidelines is the responsibility of the group's representative.

1. Use common sense!
2. No horseplay of any type will be tolerated.
3. Children are to be supervised
4. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be tolerated during activities.
5. Avoid picking up any materials that may present a danger. This includes medical waste and any potentially hazardous material.
6. Activities to occur only during daylight hours.
7. Activities are not to be performed during bad weather, especially if lightning is in the area.
8. Use caution when reaching under something to remove litter or putting hands in water.
9. An adequate supply of drinking water should be readily available (to be supplied by group's representative)
10. Participating persons should use gloves and appropriate clothing including enclosed shoes during activities.
11. Recommendations include sunglasses, hat and sunblock.
12. Avoid suspected hazardous materials, poison ivy, poison oak, noxious weeds, areas where herbicides were recently applied, places where snakes, alligators, and fire ants may be located. Immediately report any injury or hazardous material to group representative and to appropriate authorities.



# LETTER OF INTENT ADOPT-A-LAKE PROGRAM

This letter will serve as a commitment between the City of Lakeland, Lakes & Stormwater Division's Adopt-A-Lake Program, by and through its Public Works Department and \_\_\_\_\_ (GROUP), to adopt \_\_\_\_\_ in Lakeland, Florida.

The group commits to:

1. Perform \_\_\_\_\_ at least 4 times a year for a period of two-years.
2. Designate a leader who shall represent the GROUP, and will register and brief participants prior to each event, include safety practices.
3. Submit a "Data Checklist" to Adopt-A-Lake Coordinator as to results of event.

City of Lakeland, Lakes & Stormwater Division's Adopt-A-Lake Program, by and through its Public Works Department commit to:

- Installation of one Adopt-A-Lake sign along the lake's shoreline, which identifies the group.

The group covenants and agrees that it will indemnify and hold harmless City of Lakeland and all their officers, agents, and employees from any claim, injury, loss, damage, cost charge, or expense arising out of any act, action, neglect, or omission, whether direct or indirect, by the Group, its agents, employees, invitees or any third parties acting for or on behalf of the Group, during the performance of the commitments set out in this Letter of Intent; provided however, that neither the Group nor any of its members shall be liable for any of the foregoing to the extent a claim arises out of a willful or negligent act or omission of the City of Lakeland and all of their officers, agents and employees.

Either party may terminate the commitment for any reason upon 30-day written notice.

This Letter of Intent is non-transferable and non-assignable.

I certify that I have read the information contained in this document and that I possess the authority to execute this document on behalf of my organization.

### VOLUNTEER

### CITY OF LAKELAND ADOPT-A-LAKE PROGRAM

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Group

City of Lakeland  
Lakes & Stormwater Division

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title



## **ADOPT-A-LAKE PROGRAM SIGN RECOGNITION POLICY**

**The sign installed for the groups participating in the program will conform to the following rules:**

- A.** For non-profit groups, only the full name of the group will be placed on the sign.
- B.** For commercial businesses, only the full name of the company will be placed on the sign.
- C.** For Political groups, only the full name of the group will be placed on the sign.
- D.** For schools, only the full name of the school will be placed on the sign.
- E.** City of Lakeland will not list the services that the group provides unless it is part of the group or company name.
- F.** City of Lakeland will not list specific locations, addresses or phone numbers of the business or group.
- G.** City of Lakeland will not allow any political or other statements, which can be considered controversial to be placed on the signs.

**For additional program information contact City of Lakeland, Lakes & Stormwater Division's Adopt-A-Lake Coordinator at 863-834-8429.**



**CITY OF LAKELAND  
ADOPT-A-LAKE**

**DATA CHECKLIST**

Please fill out the necessary information and provide a copy to the Adopt-A-Lake representative. (407 Fairway Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33801)

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Volunteer:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Lake:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Activity Performed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Water Level:**        normal        high        low

**Water Condition:**    good        bad        algae        trash

**Wildlife Observed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Problem Plants** (check those observed):

- Air Potato (vine)
- Alligator Weed
- Brazilian Pepper
- Cattails
- Dog Fennel
- Elephant Ear

**Survival of planted species:**

>85%        >50%        <50%

- Water Hyacinth
- Hydrilla
- Primrose Willow
- Skunk Vine
- Torpedo Grass
- Water Lettuce
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of invasive vegetation removed (and type):**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**# of missing stormwater plaques:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# Installed:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approximate amount of trash picked up:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Problems noted (erosion, broken storm drains):** \_\_\_\_\_

Should you have any questions, call 834-8429.