ADOPT-A-BLOCK
Frequently Asked Questions

How Can I Get Involved?
We need as many people as possible to help make the work go quickly and ensure success. It is particularly helpful to have a point person or “captain” for each block that is adopted. That person is then responsible for scheduling their regular clean-ups and for notifying their neighbors so that they can help. If you are able to be your block’s “captain” please let the NNN know.

How Will the NNN Help?
The NNN hosts the annual “kick-off” event complete with light breakfast. We also have extra bags and gloves on hand. Because we have found that reminder notices increase resident participation, we help captains by creating these notices (when requested) so that you can deliver them door-to-door a few days before your clean-up.

How Many Clean-ups Should I Have?
The Department of Code Enforcement encourages neighbors to have six (6) clean ups between April and September which averages about one a month. Some neighbors feel like this is too many. We say, have as many as you need to keep your streets looking tip-top throughout the summer months!

Do I Have to Commit to Cleaning the WHOLE Block?
We encourage residents to commit to cleaning their block from intersection to intersection (for instance the 900 block of Diamond). If your block is particularly long and you are concerned that you cannot clean it all, we’ll work with you to identify other volunteers. You can also commit to cleaning more than your block, if you would like.

My Street is Clean, But My Alley Really Needs Help – What Do I Do?
It is okay to adopt your alley if you feel that it is in the most need of attention. Just let us know, so that we can help with the logistics. Also, you may want to check with your neighbors – maybe between all of you, you can adopt both!

How Can I Get My Friends and Neighbors Excited About This Too?
Bringing your friends and neighbors to the “kick-off” is a great opportunity for them to see just how many other residents are involved and to gather the supplies that you will need to clean up your street. There is strength in numbers and these kick-offs can be very energizing.

My Block Is Already Pretty Clean, Can I Still Be Involved?
If you feel that your block is already looking good, you can still be involved by “adopting” another block and committing to keeping it clean and litter free throughout the summer! If you aren’t sure which blocks need adopting, contact NNN and they can help guide you.

Does This WORK?
This program really does work. Neighbors throughout the near northwest have found that the Adopt-a-Block program is a great way to meet other neighbors, increase neighborhood ownership, and keep our streets looking clean. As time passes, residents begin to become more conscious about the litter on their street and begin to pick it up outside of the regularly scheduled clean-ups. Also, the cumulative effect of doing the adopt-a-block program has significantly improved the appearances of such streets as Diamond Avenue, Cottage Grove, and Woodward.