The Adopt-A-Trail Program is sponsored by the Elkhart Environmental Center to encourage environmental stewardship and community involvement. Participating individuals and groups perform caretaking responsibilities and work with EEC staff to ensure trails are in good condition for visitors and wildlife.

1. Participants are expected to commit to a one year, signed agreement stating they will visit their adopted trail(s):
   - Once every 2 weeks during the growing season, April—October
   - At least once a month through November—March

2. Participant responsibilities include:
   - Cleanup and disposal of litter—Please report suspicious materials to the appropriate authorities.
   - Clearing small debris and objects obstructing trails (when feasible)
   - Reporting large obstructions or dangerous conditions to EEC staff (e.g. large overhanging tree limbs) Participants are not expected to move or address these items on their own.
   - Trimming smaller vegetation back from trails
   - Other maintenance tasks, as needed (e.g. spreading mulch or woodchips along the path—materials will be provided).
   - Reporting the amount of time and individuals involved in any volunteer duties.*
     * New this year: email surveys will be sent out at the end of the month to collect this information

3. Participants are expected to fulfill their duties safely. This includes:
   - Using safe practices
   - Wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) when needed
   - Adhering to EEC safety policies, including but not limited to: Heavy machinery cannot be used without receiving permission from the Volunteer Coordinator in advance.

4. Participants agree to adhere to EEC and city volunteer policies and procedures, including, but not limited to:
   - Drug and Alcohol Policy (not possessing, using, or being under the influence of drugs or alcohol while volunteering)
   - Smoking Policy (not smoking on the trails or within 8 feet of any entrances)
   - Dress Code Policy (wearing appropriate attire while representing the City of Elkhart through volunteer activities)

5. If a trail is adopted by a school or youth group, the adopting group must provide one adult supervisor for every 8 participants under the age of 16.

If you are interested in attending a volunteer training session, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator.

Thank you for your participation!