

## City Of Watertown: Adopt An Island Program

City of Watertown “Adopt an Island” Program provides opportunities for companies, civic groups, institutions, and individuals to adopt a traffic island or other designated public spaces and create attractive, welcoming “oases” throughout the City. By adopting an island, the sponsor commits to maintaining the landscaping of the designated areas by having services performed including but not limited to trash pickup, grass cutting, weeding and providing approved plantings.

The Department of Public Works maintains a list of locations available for adoption and will assign spaces on a **first-come, first-served** basis with prior year participants given the ability to “re-adopt” the same space. If you are interested in available locations, you may email the Department of Public Works at [dpwdept@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:dpwdept@watertown-ma.gov) or call at (617) 972-6420.

Initial agreements will be for a duration of **one (1)** year and will be subject to renewal at the discretion of the Department of Public Works. The Department will designate locations for adoption under this Program from time to time, as it deems appropriate, and publicize the opportunity to sponsor such locations to the general public.

Under this plan, an adopter will pay a yearly fee, to be determined by the Department. In return the City will provide and install a sign recognizing the adopter’s support, with no other signs or signage to be allowed on the island. The specifications of the sign will be subject to the discretion of the Department of Public Works, but shall be uniform across all islands (sample sign included in this flyer). The fees collected will strictly be used for the administration of the program.

### Program Requirements:

- Participants shall be responsible for installing and/or maintaining landscaping at the adopted location.
- Only qualified, bonded and insured landscape contractors can perform work under this program (i.e. citizen volunteers cannot physically perform the work themselves unless they are insured and bonded to perform landscaping work). Evidence of satisfactory bonding and insurance shall be provided to the Department.
  - General Liability and Workers Compensation from the landscaping company. GL limits of \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$3,000,000 aggregate.
  - City should be listed as an additional insured.
- Volunteer groups or businesses can secure landscape contractors to perform the work under their organization or business name.
- The Department and/or Tree Warden shall approve all types of plant materials to be placed, removed, or aggressively trimmed or pruned. Unnatural physical landscaping objects (pots, statues, lights, etc.) are not allowed. The Superintendent of Public Works reserves the right to grant exceptions under unique circumstances. Decisions of the Superintendent of Public Works shall be final.

- It is understood that most islands and planting areas do not have irrigation; drought and salt tolerant plant materials should be considered. No pesticides will be allowed and no fertilizers shall be used without the approval of the Superintendent of Public Works.
- Maintenance work hours are assumed to be 9 AM-3PM and may be additionally limited at certain high traffic islands.
- The sign shall state the business name or sponsor only; it shall not display addresses, phone numbers, website addresses, or additional mottos, taglines, etc.
- Islands greater than 1,000 square feet may be allowed to display 2 signs.
- For locations with irrigation, the Department will continue to manage all aspects of the irrigation system including maintenance.
- Participants who fail to comply with the program requirements and directions of the Department may be subject to termination of their participation.
- Due to the limited number of islands available, the Town reserves the right at its sole discretion to consider whether to make available future island sponsorship opportunities for other potential sponsors.

**The City of Watertown**  
**Adopt An Island Program Agreement**

- I. This document serves as an Adoption Agreement between \_\_\_\_\_ (“Sponsor”) and the City of Watertown (“City”) for participation in the “Adopt-an-Island” program.
- II. Sponsor agrees to participate in the Adopt an Island Program by adopting the traffic island located at \_\_\_\_\_ for one (1) year, beginning this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_. **Sponsor agrees to provide an annual contribution of \$25 to participate in this Program.**
- III. In consideration of this service by Sponsor, the City agrees to provide a sign bearing Sponsor’s name.
- IV. Sponsor shall be responsible for maintaining the island by regular landscaping, mowing, trash removal, and all other maintenance as needed.
- V. The Town reserves the right to terminate the Adoption Agreement at will and without notice or cause at the sole discretion of the Superintendent of Public Works. Sponsor may terminate this agreement for any reason, with thirty days notice.
- VI. Sponsor will be given first option to re-adopt this island and shall be billed annually for participation. Should Sponsor decide not to continue participation, it will forfeit its interest in the island and the City will remove the sign bearing Sponsor’s name.
- VII. The Superintendent of Public Works will decide any questions or disputes that may arise under this agreement and its final decision shall be conclusive upon the parties to this agreement. The agreement is not transferrable or assignable in whole, or in part, without the written consent of the Superintendent of Public Works.
- VIII. in consideration of the opportunity to participate in the “Adopt-an-Island” program, and for other good and valuable consideration hereby acknowledged, Sponsor agrees to forever RELEASE the City and the Department of Public Works, its employees, agents, and officials (the “Releasees”), from any and all claims, actions, rights of action and causes of action, damages, costs, expenses, compensation and attorneys’ fees that may have arisen in the past, or may arise in the future, directly or indirectly, from known and unknown personal injuries to Sponsor or property damage resulting from Sponsor’s participation in the “Adopt-an-Island” program, which Sponsor or its heirs, successors, or assigns may have as the result of Sponsor’s participation in the program. Sponsor hereby further covenants for itself, its heirs, successors and assigns not to sue said Releasees on account of any such claim, demand or liability
- IX. This Agreement shall be governed by, construed and enforced in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the parties hereto submit to the jurisdiction of any of its appropriate courts for the adjudication of disputes arising out of this Agreement.
- X. The representative with their signature affixed below asserts the authority to execute this agreement on behalf of the Sponsor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement on the day and year first above written.

City of Watertown

\_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR:

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization \_\_\_\_\_

The City of Watertown

Adopt An Island Program Application Form

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please review the list of available islands and fees and use the spaces below to identify which island you would like to adopt. Applicant may rank three locations if desired.

What enhancements do you propose to make to this island?

Please provide the name, address and phone number of the proposed landscapers that will fulfill the requirements of the program. If approved, the proposed landscaper will need to submit the required insurance and bonding documents to the Department of Public Works located at 124 Orchard Street, Watertown, MA 02472.

What would you like written on the Adopt-an-Island sign (must be limited to name or business organization)?

Please also fill out the agreement and attach it with your check, payable to the City of Watertown, and this form delivered to:

**Watertown Department of Public Works  
Attn: Adopt an Island Program  
124 Orchard Street,  
Watertown MA 02472**