



## Who Can Participate?

**Everyone can contribute!** Berkeley's Adopt-A-Spot program is open to anyone in the community. Individuals, families, group volunteers, local businesses, and other organizations are encouraged to participate. If you would like to Adopt-A-Spot, getting started is easy! All volunteers must review and sign our Traffic Circle or Storm Drain Volunteer Agreement and Release from Liability form. If a participant is under the age of 18, a parent or guardian must read and sign the Volunteer Agreement form before a minor can participate.

## How Can I Sign Up to Adopt-A-Spot?

- Visit the City of Berkeley website.
- Adopt-A-Traffic Circle: [berkeleyca.gov/community-recreation/volunteering/adopt-traffic-circle](https://berkeleyca.gov/community-recreation/volunteering/adopt-traffic-circle)
- Adopt-A-Storm Drain: <https://berkeleyca.gov/community-recreation/volunteering/adopt-drain>
- To begin, sign and return our Volunteer Agreement form to [adoptaspot@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:adoptaspot@berkeleyca.gov).
- All supplies are available and provided by the City upon request via email to [adoptaspot@berkeleyca.gov](mailto:adoptaspot@berkeleyca.gov).
- Visit the City of Berkeley's website to sign up for our [newsletter](#), which highlights volunteer resources, events, and more!

## Additional City of Berkeley Resources

### Tool Lending Library

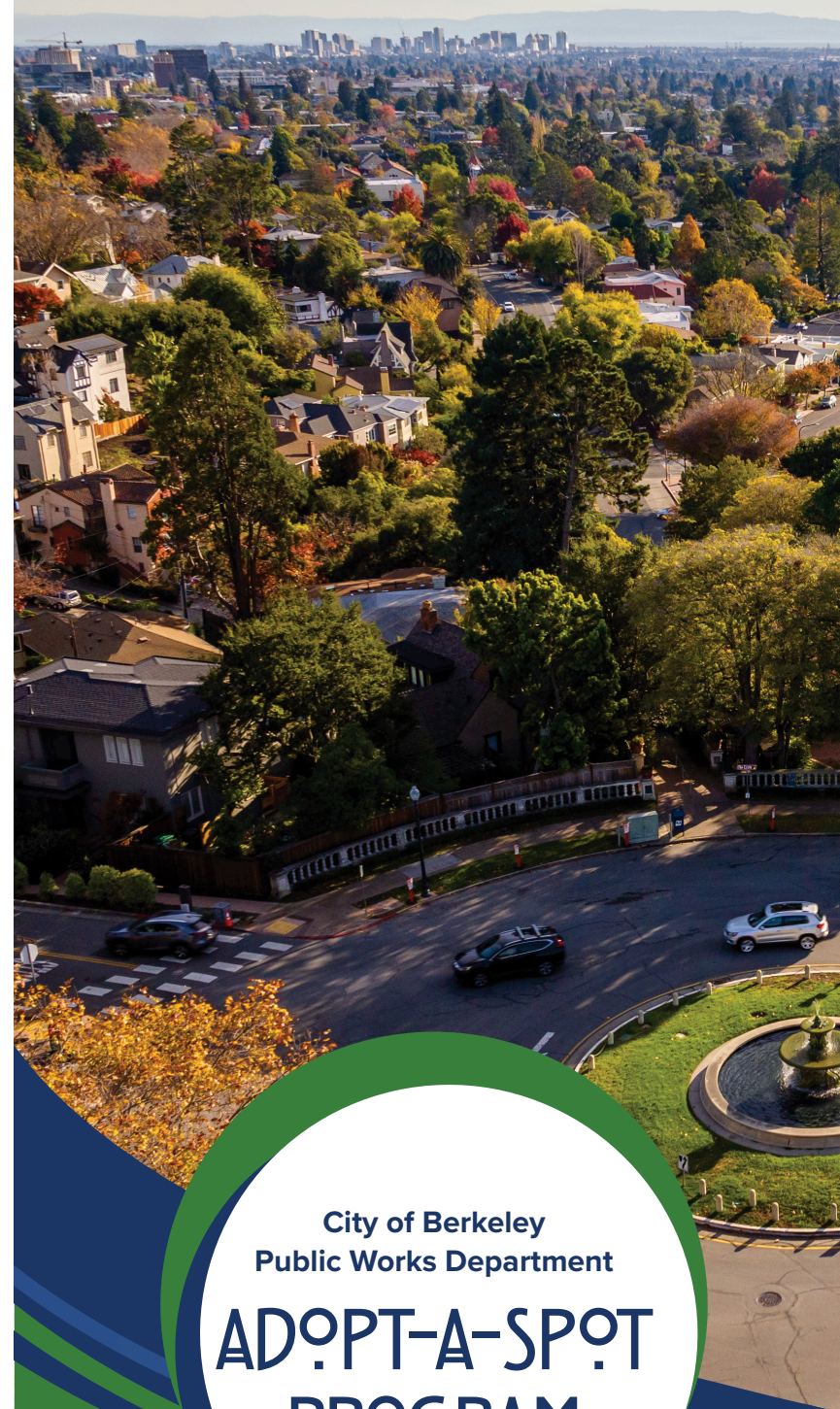
- Only Berkeley residents or property owners over age 18 may borrow tools available from the Berkeley Public Library, Tarea Hall Pittman South Branch, located at 1901 Russell St.

### City of Berkeley Free Compost Program

- The City of Berkeley provides free compost to Berkeley residents. Compost is available for pickup year-round at the Berkeley Marina (subject to availability). Located on the [East side of Marina Blvd](#), just South of the Doubletree Hotel.

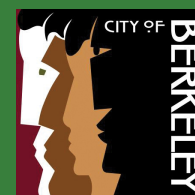


Department of Public Works  
Streets Division/Adopt-A-Spot  
1326 Allston Way  
Berkeley, CA 94702



City of Berkeley  
Public Works Department  
**ADOPT-A-SPOT  
PROGRAM**

**Adopt-A-Spot Traffic Circle  
Adopt-A-Spot Storm Drain**

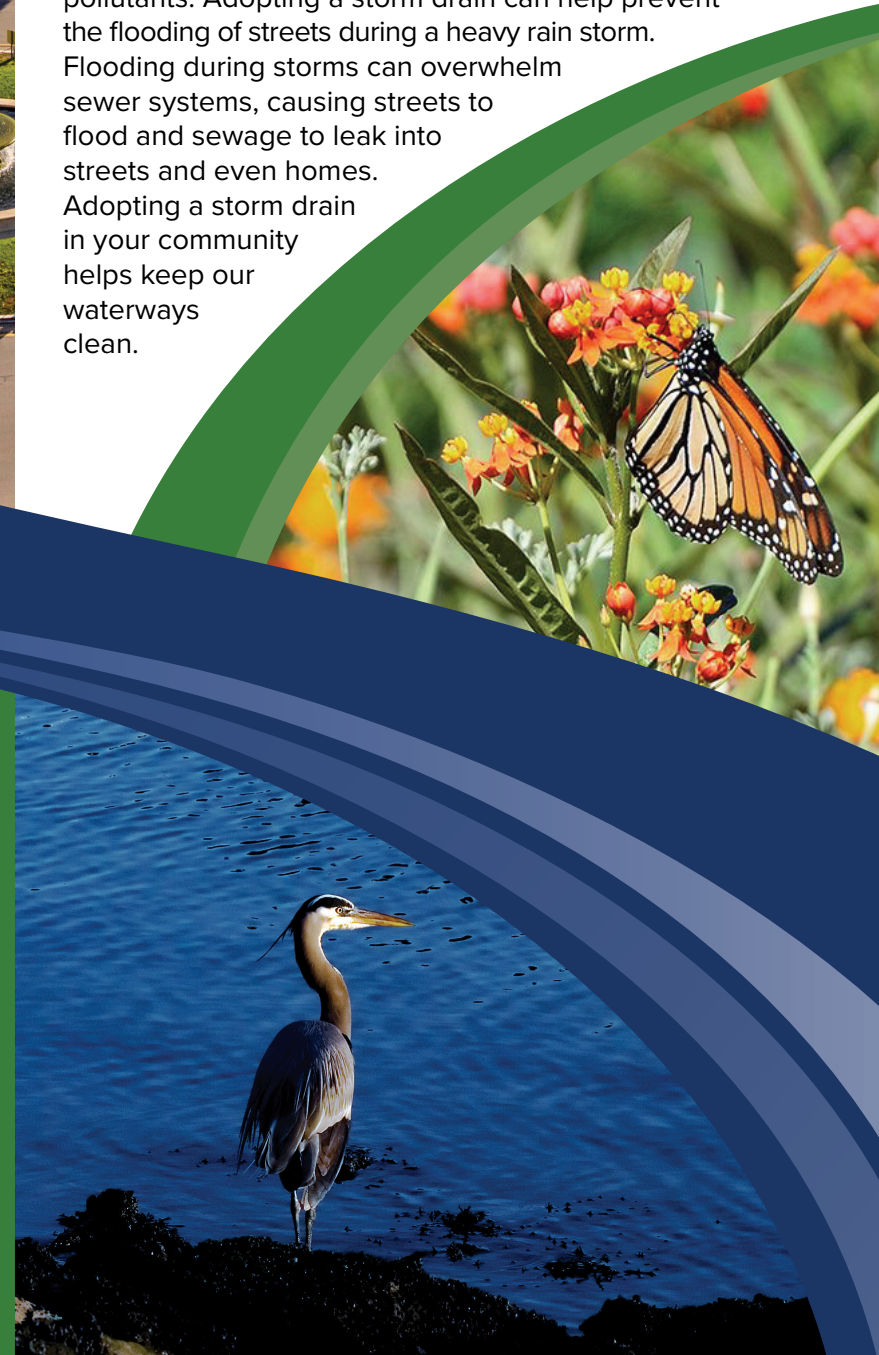


## What is Adopt-A-Spot Traffic Circle?

The City of Berkeley's Adopt-A-Spot traffic circle program offers individuals, neighborhood groups, and local businesses the opportunity to volunteer and help to maintain a traffic circle in your community to keep your street beautiful. We have 58 traffic circles in Berkeley and many opportunities to participate. Why does adopting a spot matter? Adopting and maintaining a traffic circle with neighbors helps create a sense of community. Our volunteers agree to maintain the planted area inside of the traffic circle to ensure they are clean and attractive and don't interfere with visibility. While the primary purpose of traffic circles is traffic calming, well-maintained traffic circle vegetation also contributes to urban greening, and creates a thriving home for birds, butterflies, bees, and other local pollinators.

## What is Adopt-A-Spot Storm Drain?

Berkeley's Adopt-A-Spot storm drain program offers individuals, neighborhood groups, and local businesses the opportunity to volunteer and help to maintain a storm drain in your community. Protecting our watershed is more important than ever. With almost 9,000 storm drains in our City, community volunteers play an important role in keeping storm drains free of trash, debris, and other pollutants. Adopting a storm drain can help prevent the flooding of streets during a heavy rain storm. Flooding during storms can overwhelm sewer systems, causing streets to flood and sewage to leak into streets and even homes. Adopting a storm drain in your community helps keep our waterways clean.





# ADOPT-A-SPOT TRAFFIC CIRCLE

## Urban Environmental Stewardship

Berkeley's Adopt-A-Spot traffic circle program recognizes and embraces our existing volunteer network and supports individuals and groups that are already actively adding valuable contributions and increasing the beautification of their neighborhoods by planting drought-tolerant California native plants and pollinator plants. Pollinator gardens help local bee and butterfly populations flourish which is crucial for the biodiversity and health of Berkeley's local ecosystem.



Keeping traffic circle clear of debris and all non-vegetative matter helps reduce pollution and assists City Staff and Contractors in accessing maintenance hole entrances inside the traffic circle.

## Safety Guidelines

Traffic circles lie in the middle of active traffic intersections. Therefore, it is necessary to take the following safety precautions before engaging in any volunteer work:

- Always wear high-visibility safety vests while working in the traffic circle.
- Wear closed-toed shoes and protect yourself with sunscreen, bug spray, and by staying hydrated.

## What Are the Parameters of An Adoption?

Adopt-A-Spot traffic circle volunteers agree to participate in ongoing traffic circle maintenance for at least one (1) year and abide by the 2020 Traffic Circle Vegetation Policy and Maintenance Plan. Volunteers who wish to plant in the traffic circle should choose a plant from the Suggestions for Traffic Circle Plantings guide. If you want to plant a different species, please complete the Traffic Circle Planting List request form and submit it to the City for approval. All forms are available on the City of Berkeley website.

Volunteers agree to maintain their traffic circle, including:

- Weeding
- Debris and trash removal
- Pruning plants to a 24" height

- To report hazardous or unknown waste, dead animal remains, or spiky/thorny vegetation, contact the City of Berkeley Public Works Department at 510-981-6620. Do not remove these items yourself.

## Recommended Materials for Maintaining Traffic Circles

- Branded Adopt-A-Spot Volunteer Safety Vest (provided by the City)
- Gloves
- Plant Debris Bags
- Orange Trash Bags



# ADOPT-A-SPOT STORM DRAIN

## Urban Environmental Stewardship

Adopt-A-Spot storm drain participation fosters a culture of stewardship for our waterways. Improving the water quality of creeks, shorelines, beaches, and the bay has a resounding effect on water and habitat quality for fish, birds, humans, and other living things. Our volunteers agree to regularly clean their adopted storm drain, removing trash, leaves, and other debris. And most Bay Area storm drains feed directly into waterways, dumping trash and pollutants into creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the ocean. By clearing the storm drains, volunteers will help reduce pollution and prevent flooding that can cause safety issues for cars, bikes, and pedestrians.

## What Are the Parameters of An Adoption?

By adopting a storm drain, our volunteers agree to participate in ongoing storm drain maintenance for a period of at least one (1) year and abide by the [Storm Drain Volunteer Agreement](#). All forms are available on the City of Berkeley website.

\* Please note that some storm drains may not be eligible for adoption if they are in high-traffic areas or in the state's right of way (e.g. Ashby Avenue).

## Safety Guidelines

Volunteers should follow the instructions below when cleaning a storm drain:

- Check and clear the drain periodically and especially before a storm.
- Use a rake to remove leaves, trash, and debris from the storm drain opening and gutter. Please do not remove the grate from the storm drain opening as this does not unclog the system and could be hazardous.
- Never attempt to use your hands or feet to reach into the storm drain to remove debris.
- Always wear high-visibility safety vests to be visible to vehicle traffic. Work from the curb or sidewalk if possible.

- Place all removed material into the orange trash bags and place it into your trash cart. Please notify 311 for pick up if the orange trash bag doesn't fit into your cart.
- Place the filled orange trash bags at the curb for pick up taking care not to block wheelchair ramps, crosswalks, driveways, or sidewalk passage. Use caution when lifting heavy bags. Please do not leave storm drain debris piles or filled bags near the drain.
- To report hazardous or unknown waste, dead animal remains, please contact the City of Berkeley Public Works Department at 510-981-6620. Do not remove these items yourself.

## Recommended Materials for Maintaining Storm Drains

- Branded Adopt-A-Spot Volunteer Safety Vest (provided by the City)
- Gloves
- Rake and/or Scoop
- Orange Trash Bags

