

KALAMAZOO DRAIN KEEPERS



Common Questions



The **Adopt-A-Drain Program (AADP)** stakeholders are 1) the participating community or neighborhood, 2) the City of Kalamazoo, Public Services Department as the stormwater utility owner, and 3) third-party persons (non-AADP participants such as people using the sidewalks, bikers, vehicle drivers, etc.). For all your questions and more information call the City of Kalamazoo by dialing **311** (when in the City) or **269-337-8000** (when outside the City) or go to ProtectYourWater.net/Adopt-A-Drain-Program/.

Are there liability issues?



Yes, drain clearing is usually done in a road right-of-way where vehicle or bike traffic is occurring. When participating in AADPs, accidents can happen either by the misuse of tools, tripping, trying to access a drain, or a vehicular collision. For these reasons, adult supervision is required for drain clearing.

Liability waivers must address comments and concerns from all stakeholders.

All participants must sign a liability waiver prior to any work being performed. An authorized parent or guardian shall sign a waiver for participants less than 18 years old.

Who should participate?

- Physically healthy residents capable of using tools, bending, lifting, etc.
- Adults
- Children, only if supervised by a participating AADP-trained adult for preparation and active clearing efforts.

- The weather conditions or high traffic volumes are judged to be unsafe to clean:
 - Warm or hot weather conditions exist contributing to heat stress, breathing issues, etc.,
 - Poor conditions exist due to snow, ice, heavy rainfall events, severe storms flooding, sunken pavement or other factors that may contribute to accidents or injury involving slipping, excessive snow removal, or frostbite,
- You have slippery shoes or inadequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and tools (see below), or
- You notice the pavement is slippery, badly broken up, or the area around the drain is collapsing.

How to prepare for clearing your drain safely?

- Be prepared and know your responsibilities when participating in an AADP.
- Refer to the **BEST PRACTICES 101 GUIDANCE** for more information; go to ProtectYourWater.net/Adopt-A-Drain.
- Understand your AADP and City of Kalamazoo's terms and conditions.
- Sign your liability waiver.
- Complete drain clearing training.
- Dress properly with PPE such as safety shoes, a yellow safety vest or shirt, gloves, trash grabber, etc.
- Have access to tools in good condition that are designed to properly clear a drain such as a broom, rake, trash grabber, shovel, and if needed, orange cones or a dustpan.
- Consider using a wagon to transport the tools to the drain location.
- Be prepared to contain waste materials. Bring a large bucket or yard waste bag.



How to clear your drain & stay safe while doing it?

- ***If you are uncomfortable clearing a drain for any reason, STOP.*** Do not take ANY RISKS.
- If conditions arise during clearing of a drain that make you uncomfortable (i.e., increased traffic, medium to high-speed vehicles passing by, etc.), **STOP**. Do not take ANY RISKS.

How do I dispose of the materials removed by clearing?

- Waste collection and disposal needs to be worked out by the stakeholders in advance. Create an AADP pre-approved waste disposal plan ahead of any activities.
- Do not keep waste collected from clearing actions at your residence or location.
- Do not leave wastes by the drain or in the roadway unless there are plans to have it removed immediately.
- Determine what items **can** go into your garbage bin/canister or a dumpster (if available).
- Determine what items **can't** go into your garbage bin/canister or a dumpster (i.e., medical wastes, drugs, hazardous substances, odd or unusual items, or unknown materials). Then decide where these item can be disposed of based on the AADP's **HAZARDOUS WASTE 101 GUIDANCE**.

Properly dispose of all non-hazardous wastes or contact the City of Kalamazoo for further guidance by dialing **311** (when in the City) or **269-337-8000** (when outside the City) or go to ProtectYourWater.net/Adopt-A-Drain-Program/.

Hazardous Waste: If you encounter hazardous waste, a completely clogged drain causing flooding, or issues you cannot safely handle, you should STOP and notify the Public Safety at **911** for emergency services.

How do I document the successful work I've done?

The City's storm drain system discharges (empties) stormwater directly to a creek or river. The City has a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permit allowing this. The permit requires documentation of all operation and maintenance ("cleaning") for their storm structures.

As part of the DRAIN KEEPERS, you must provide the City of Kalamazoo with details of your successful work.

After the cleaning is done, submit the details to the City by using the **AADP inspection entry tool!** It's accessible remotely by all participants.

