

## Adopt-a-House FAQ

**Q: Do I have to sign up?**

A: No. However, the City would like to know how many volunteers are participating in the program so a phone call to the Public Safety Department would be greatly appreciated. 861-9880

**Q: Do I have to be concerned about trespassing?**

A: See reverse side of this flyer.

**Q: Can I clean up leaflets, flyers, phone books, etc. laying around the yard?**

A: Yes, just nothing can be removed from the mailbox.

**Q: What if the home is in disrepair?**

A: Call 612-861-9880 to report this to the City.

**Q: If someone is in the house that I believe does not belong there, should I tell them to get out?**

A: No. Call 911 and the Police will check it out.



Most Richfield lots can be mowed in 30 minutes with a standard mower. Volunteer today to adopt-a-house in Richfield. You aren't required to register. However, we do prefer that you let us know by calling 612-861-9880.



**City of Richfield  
Adopt-a-House  
Program**

City of Richfield  
Public Safety Department  
6700 Portland Avenue  
Richfield, MN 55423

Phone: 612-861-9880

Fax: 612-861-9749

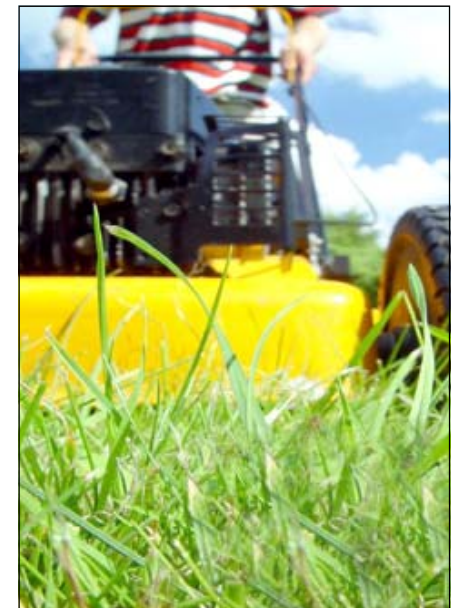
E-mail: [bfritz@cityofrichfield.org](mailto:bfritz@cityofrichfield.org)



## City of Richfield

### Adopt-a-House

Now seeking volunteers to mow lawns and maintain neglected and vacant properties



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City of Richfield  
Adopt-a-House  
Program

Tel: 612-861-9880

## Adopt-a-House Program



There are approximately 300 homes in some stage of the foreclosure process in Richfield.

Foreclosures have risen dramatically throughout the nation during the past two years. Richfield is not immune to this unfortunate trend. Currently, there are approximately 300 properties in the foreclosure process.

The number of foreclosed homes has led to unkempt and neglected properties.

The biggest problem is tall grass. But you can help!

The City is seeking volunteers to 'adopt-a-house' in their neighborhood. Volunteers are encouraged to mow the lawn and clean up debris of any vacant and neglected property. Your volunteerism will help maintain the appearance of your neighborhood as well as conserve staff resources and costs.

If you are interested in adopting a house, please let us know. Call 612-861-9880 and provide us the address of the house and your information. This is NOT mandatory but it would be helpful to know how many properties have been "adopted."

## About Foreclosed Properties and Property Maintenance

Many of these homes, but not all, are vacant. Some are being maintained by mortgage companies while others are not. This becomes most evident in the spring and summer when the grass is not mowed, newspapers, handbills and trash may collect on the property.

City staff receive many calls with questions or complaints about unmowed grass, weeds, trash, and junk on vacant properties. The City deals with these problems via an abatement process.

The abatement process begins with the City sending a letter to the property owner detailing the problem. If the problem is not fixed, the City will do the work and charge the property owner.

However, this process takes time and City staff has been strained to keep up with the unfortunate demand created by the foreclosure crisis. These vacant homes have the greatest negative impact on the neighbors living near them.



Many homes in foreclosure are vacant which leads to unkempt properties.



Help maintain the look of your neighborhood by adopting a house today!

## Is it trespassing?

Participants should know that they are NOT trespassing should they decide to begin caring for a neighbor's unkempt vacant property.

If someone is still living in the home, contact the City at 612-861-9880. Information on the adopt-a-house program is also available in the Public Safety section of the web site. Just go to [www.cityofrichfield.org/publicsafety](http://www.cityofrichfield.org/publicsafety).



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