



Department Source: Housing & Neighborhood Services

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: June 3, 2024

Re: Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Agreements

Executive Summary

Volunteer Programs, part of the Housing and Neighborhood Services Department, is submitting for approval two Adopt-A-Spot Beautification agreements allowing volunteers to care for landscaping at City property or in City right of way.

Discussion

Volunteers are responsible for maintaining landscaped beds in city or state right of way in the City of Columbia at 109 locations. Adopters are responsible for weeding, watering, and mulching the beds and planting annual flowers and bulbs. Agreements are written for a four-year commitment and each bed has a sign to acknowledge the efforts of the adopter. With these agreements and others in progress, the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification program is at a 99% adoption rate.

Staff is asking for council to approve two agreements with volunteers to care for Adopt-A-Spots:

- John and Haley Johnson have agreed to adopt a median bed located in Burning Bush just east of Providence at the north end of the City. The Johnsons live in this neighborhood and would like to maintain this existing bed to create a pleasing entrance to the neighborhood
- Preferred Pest and Lawn will take over care for the roundabout at Vandiver Drive and Mexico Gravel Road. These new adopters who have landscape experience will maintain this location in northeast Columbia.

The City supports volunteers with plants, mulch and other support. Spots are reviewed to provide feedback to volunteers and help ensure program quality. Agreements are terminated when volunteers are not meeting the standards for weed free beds and color throughout the growing season.

The City's Volunteer Programs staff appreciates the investment that volunteers put into Adopt-A-Spot beds to be enjoyed by hundreds of residents and visitors each day.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: The City will provide signs acknowledging adopters in each bed for a total cost of \$130. Additional support for mulch and plants should not exceed \$1,000.

Long-Term Impact: The City's Volunteer Programs provides ongoing support for Adopt A Spot beds including water meter and hydrant maintenance and repair, replacement plants,



City of Columbia

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mulch, bulbs and annual flowers. No more than \$15,000 is spent on the program to help maintain more than 100 sites. Volunteers provide the labor to maintain these beds at no cost to the City.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
n/a	n/a

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the Adopt-A-Spot Agreements.