



701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Housing & Neighborhood Services

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 3, 2025

Re: Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Agreement

Impacted Ward: Ward 1

### Executive Summary

Volunteer Programs, part of the Housing and Neighborhood Services Department, is submitting for approval an Adopt-A-Spot Beautification agreement allowing volunteers to care for landscaping at City property or in City right of way. This agreement is for a vacant lot at 515 Hickman Avenue that the city acquired for stormwater management in 2021.

### Discussion

Volunteers are responsible for maintaining landscaped beds in city or state right of way in the City of Columbia at 110 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 96% adoption rate.

Staff is asking for council to approve an agreement with Pat Fowler and Lorri Auer to care for the City-owned lot of 515 Hickman Avenue. At the October 6, 2025 council meeting an agreement was approved for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to install a habitat improvement project in the stormwater basin at this location. Once installed, neighbors will continue to care for the habitat.

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 \$174. Additional support for mulch and plants should not exceed \$1,000 per spot.

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, mulch, bulbs and annual flowers. 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: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

[Comprehensive Plan Impacts:](#)

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

Legislative History

Date	Action
n/a	n/a

Suggested Council Action

Approval of the Adopt-A-Spot Agreement.