



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Community Development - NS

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 4, 2016

Re: REPORT on FY15 Volunteer Hours to the City of Columbia

Executive Summary

In fiscal year 2015, volunteers shared 33,864 hours of service with the City of Columbia. Through their time, volunteers enhance city programs and services and give citizens greater connection to municipal government. Based on the national value of an hour of service, \$23.07, these hours have a value of \$794,947.67.

Discussion

Columbia residents continue to show ownership in their community through their volunteer service. Volunteer hours in Public Health and Human Services and the Office of Sustainability were both up while the Parks & Recreation Department hours were stable. All other departments had a decline in volunteer hours. Volunteer Programs received applications to volunteer from 300 individuals in FY15. Volunteer hours are slightly lower than FY14 at 98% of the previous year's service.

The City of Columbia established several new programs involving volunteers in FY15 including the Recycling Ambassadors who have been instrumental in promoting recycling in the downtown business district. Kaleidospoke and Neighborhood Fun Days were new events for Parks & Recreation supported by volunteers and a new invasives removal program called CHiRP - the Columbia Habitat Improvement and Restoration Project – was established this year under volunteer leadership.

By department, Parks & Recreation has the greatest number of hours at more than 15,541 followed by Community Development at 8,340 and Public Works at 5,181. The programs with the highest level of volunteer participation were Special Olympics with 5,114 hours, Cleanup Columbia (an annual city-wide litter control event) with 2,575.75 hours, Adopt A Spot Beautification with volunteers logging 2565 hours in 98 beds, Adopt A Spot Litter Control with 2,472 hours, and the Fire Department's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) with 1,969 hours.

Looking ahead to FY16, the City's Volunteer Program will continue our mission to connect volunteers to valuable ways to serve in local government. We will emphasize roles where volunteers can educate and encourage recycling and composting. Staff will also connect volunteer service with the City's Strategic Plan for 2016-2019 in supporting our three focus neighborhoods.

Volunteers of all types serve the City in roles ranging from episodic projects, which may be only a few hours in length, to long-term commitments where volunteers share time on a



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weekly basis over several years. The volunteer program includes residents of all ages and abilities including college students and those fulfilling community service obligations.

Boards and Commissions are also an important source of volunteer support for the City. Based on reports from staff who work with these groups, residents contributed 4403.75 hours through board and commission service. This is in addition to the volunteer hours reported above.

Much appreciation goes to the volunteers who have shared their time to make municipal government more effective and efficient. The work of volunteers extends the efforts of paid staff and allows for a greater connection to the City and fellow residents while learning new skills. City staff also deserve recognition as volunteers take time and effort to manage.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Volunteers extend the services provided by City government. Based on the national value of volunteer time, the value of volunteer service in FY15 was \$794,947.67. Long-Term Impact: The City has a long history of incorporating volunteers into our work. We anticipate the value of volunteer service to continue to exceed \$750,000 annually.

Vision & Strategic Plan Impact

Vision Impacts: Community Pride and Human Relations, Parks, Recreation and Greenways
Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Strategic Plan Impacts: Social Equity
Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Comprehensive Plan Impacts: No Impact
Primary Impact: Primary, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

Legislative History

Date	Action
N/A	N/A

Suggested Council Action

Acceptance of this report.