



Department Source: Community Development - NS

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: August 3, 2020

Re: Adopt A Spot Beautification Agreements

Executive Summary

Volunteer Programs, part of the Community Development Department, is submitting for approval four Adopt-A-Spot Beautification agreements to allow volunteers to care for landscaping in street right of way. Staff appreciates the efforts of these new adopters; their service to our community is greatly appreciated.

Discussion

Volunteers are responsible for maintaining landscaped beds in city or state right of way in the City of Columbia in 99 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 pending, the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification program is at a 96% adoption rate.

Staff is asking for council to approve four Adopt A Spot Agreements:

- Candlewood Suites has agreed to adopt an existing median in Creekwood Parkway, just north of Clark Lane. This is a new Adopt A Spot location that was previously unmaintained.
- Chapel Hill Bed #1, the first median bed west of Scott Boulevard, will be adopted by Christian Fellowship Church. They will maintain landscaping in the ends of this bed with the center portion in grass.
- Sara Fox is adopting landscaping at the northwest corner of Forum and Mills Drive. Sara has done a tremendous amount of work here already, removing honeysuckle and re-mulching this bed.
- Rebecca Fahrendorf and McAdams' Ltd. will be adopting a bed in Country Lane, near her home. An agreement was previously approved by Council for the neighborhood association to care for this area. Since that time, the maintenance has been taken over by Ms. Fahrendorf.

City staff will work with volunteers to provide plants and other support to ensure their success. Spots are reviewed annually to provide feedback to volunteers and help ensure program quality. Staff terminates agreements with volunteers who are not meeting the standards for weed free beds with color throughout the growing season.

The City's Volunteer Programs staff appreciates the investment that volunteers put into Adopt-A-Spot beds and rain gardens 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, mulch, bulbs and annual flowers. No more than \$15,000 is spent on the program to support more 100 beds. Volunteers provide the labor to maintain these beds at no cost to the City.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

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.