



Department Source: Community Development - NS

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: October 7, 2019

Re: Adopt A Spot Beautification Agreements

## Executive Summary

Volunteer Programs, part of the Community Development Department, is submitting for approval an Adopt-A-Spot Beautification agreement to allow volunteers to care for landscaping in street right of way. Staff is excited about the addition of this volunteer group to the program; 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 nearly 100 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.

Staff is asking for Council to approve an agreement with Kids on the Run Track Club to maintain an existing bed in the roundabout at Mexico Gravel Road and Ballenger Lane. This is an existing bed that was re-landscaped by Public Works in 2018 with native flowers and a ring of rock in an effort to reduce maintenance and mowing requirements.

With this adoption, the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification program is at a 96% adoption rate. City staff will work with this group to provide plants and other support to ensure their success. City staff review spots two to three times each year 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 to be enjoyed by hundreds of residents and visitors each day.

## Fiscal Impact

**Short-Term Impact:** The City will provide signs acknowledging the work of adopters in each bed for a total cost of \$130. Because of the low-maintenance of this bed, additional costs are not expected.

**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 than 90 beds. Volunteers provide the labor to maintain these beds at no cost to the City.



# City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

## Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impacts

### Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Infrastructure, Secondary Impact: Secondary, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

### Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Secondary Impact: Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Tertiary

## Legislative History

Date	Action
n/a	n/a

## Suggested Council Action

Approval of the Adopt A Spot agreement.