



Department Source: Community Development - NS

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: January 22, 2019

Re: Adopt A Spot Beautification Agreements

Executive Summary

Volunteer Programs, part of the Community Development Department, is submitting for approval two Adopt-A-Spot Beautification agreements to allow volunteers to care for landscaping in street right of way. Staff is excited about the addition of these volunteers 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 97 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 three agreements with volunteers to maintain beds:

- Steve Schultz will care for the four beds at the intersection of Providence and Green Meadows Road. Steve is returning as an adopter to the program and installed the landscape material here several years ago. He began work in the fall to maintain them once again.
- Matt and Kate Pitzer have asked to care for bed #8 in the median of Forum Boulevard. This is an existing bed that was cleaned up by another volunteer in the fall and will be ready for new landscaping in the spring.

With these adoptions, and three more we anticipate submitting to Council in the spring, the Adopt-A-Spot Beautification program is at a 95% adoption rate. City staff will work with these volunteers to provide mulch, annual flowers, bulbs and plants as needed to help them be successful. City staff review the beds two to three times each year to provide feedback to volunteers and help ensure program quality. Staff will terminate 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 \$390. In addition, the City will provide mulch, plants, annuals and bulbs for a total two year cost not to exceed \$1000.

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,



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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.

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.