



Department Source: Community Development - NS

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: April 3, 2023

Re: Adopt A Spot Beautification Agreements

## Executive Summary

Volunteer Programs, part of the Community Development Department, is submitting for approval five Adopt-A-Spot Beautification agreements allowing volunteers to care for landscaping at City property or in City right of way.

## Discussion

Volunteers are responsible for maintaining landscaped beds in city or state right of way in the City of Columbia at 109 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 97% adoption rate.

Staff is asking for council to approve five agreements with volunteers to care for Adopt A Spots:

- The Veterans United Foundation will care for a new roundabout located at Peachtree Drive and Nova Way. This spot will be planted this spring with a project planned for April 19. Knowledgeable and passionate Veterans United employees are excited to care for this location for years to come.
- Veterans United People Services will be taking over care of Forum Blvd. bed #4 located near Forum and Canterbury. With the convenient location from their office, this site will be cared for weekly. This bed was previously adopted by Columbia Honda who took excellent care of the landscaping here and left it in great shape.
- The islands at the intersection of Nifong and Bethel will be cared for by Eric and Suzy Hempel Family. This planting area will have new landscaping installed this spring, and we are happy to see this area will be cared for following its recent construction.
- Tatum Owens and George Sarafianos will take over maintenance for landscaping at Route B/Paris Road and Brown Station Road. This is an existing spot in the program, but has been neglected for several years. We are excited to see how Tatum and George transform this intersection!
- The Downtown Optimist Club will be taking over care of Forum Bed 8 near Forum & Shoreside Drive. This bed was previously cared for by the Pitzer Family who were dedicated adopters, and we are thrilled to continue the success of this location with new adopters.

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. In mid-March, Volunteer Programs staff held a spring kickoff meeting to review program expectations and provide resources for the coming 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 \$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 help maintain more than 100 sites. 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.