



Department Source: Cultural Affairs
To: City Council
From: City Manager & Staff
Council Meeting Date: June 2, 2025
Re: Pollinators Beautification Report Update

Executive Summary

At the October 21, 2024 meeting, a report was given regarding the status of the pollinators in Ward 2 and possible beautification initiatives in these areas. The following progress report has been put together collaboratively by the Office of Sustainability, the Office of Cultural Affairs and Public Works.

Discussion

This is a follow up to the report given at the October 21, 2024 Council Meeting, which covered the current pollinator program and the status of Ward 2 pollinator areas as well as ideas on beautifying these areas with signage and public art.

Current Status of Ward 2 Pollinator Areas

Some trees are scheduled to be installed just west of the existing pedway on the east side of Providence Road to add an element of shade for the sidewalk and enhance aesthetics. While some of the trees may eventually be impacted by a future widening project (ultimately Providence is projected to become a four-lane facility in the future), work for widening is a minimum of 15 to 20 years away if not longer. Tree species selection is being coordinated by the City's Arborist in order to select species appropriate for the location. When combined with the art projects and some select minimal mowing around some of the trees, this should enhance the overall appeal along the corridor for both motorized and non-motorized travelers.

Beautification Initiatives

Staff is taking action in beautifying these areas with a pilot public art project and updated signage.

Public Art

The City has invited local artist Adrienne Luther to participate in a pilot project. The artist has experience with public art projects, having completed a number of murals and other artwork that has been installed throughout Columbia. Her style is colorful and vibrant, and often reflects the native Missouri landscape. The artist is currently under contract to submit design proposals for six decorative art poles to be installed in the pollinator zones.

The artist will produce six design renderings on a provided template to be submitted to the Office of Cultural Affairs by June 23, 2025. The City's Commission on Cultural Affairs Standing Committee on Public Art will then plan to hold a public meeting in July to review the designs and make recommendations to move forward. The artist will have until September 15, 2025



to complete the painting of the art poles.

The City will provide the poles, which are to be delivered to the artist to be painted. Once completed, the City will handle installation logistics and provide the necessary stakes and pole caps.

Signage

Public Works plans to print and install new signs similar to the design renderings presented in the October 2024 report. Installation will occur in conjunction with the art installation.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: Funds available for sign productions and pilot public art project in FY25 budget.

Long-Term Impact: If the public art program continues in future years, funds will be budgeted in the Office of Cultural Affairs.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Organizational Excellence, Secondary Impact: Reliable Infrastructure, Tertiary Impact: Resilient Economy

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Environmental Management, Secondary Impact: Livable & Sustainable Communities, Tertiary Impact: Inter-Governmental Cooperation

Legislative History

Date	Action
8/2/24	Report requested by Council member Meyer.
10/21/24	REP66-24 Pollinator Beautification Report.

Suggested Council Action

This report is informational only.