



Department Source: Community Development - NS

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: November 6, 2023

Re: Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Agreements

Executive Summary

Volunteer Programs, part of the new Housing and Neighborhood Services 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 114 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 96% adoption rate.

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

- Rency Elkomy will care for two median beds on East Broadway, near Stephens Lake Park. This spot was previously maintained by Parks and Recreation; we are excited for Rency, an already dedicated adopter, to care for the beds.
- Fresh Start Sober Living Programs will be taking over the southwest corner of Garth and Business Loop 70, previously maintained by Mark Stevenson and REMI. By this action one of the original Adopt-A-Spots will be maintained by an organization located nearby in the Ridgeway Neighborhood.
- Grasslands Homeowners Association will be adopting the southwest corner of S. Providence and Burnam Rd, and the small median bed that divides Bingham Rd and Wayne Rd.
- A new location for the program will be cared for by Steve Schultz and Brian Giling at the neighborhood entrance at Eastham and Green Meadows.
- The Blue Knights will be adopting the entrance of the CPD Regional Training Center. This organization was connected to the program by Police staff to help maintain the landscaping.

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.



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.