



City of Columbia

701 East Broadway, Columbia, Missouri 65201

Department Source: Community Development - NS

To: City Council

From: City Manager & Staff

Council Meeting Date: December 19, 2022

Re: Annual Report of Volunteer Service to the City

Executive Summary

One of Columbia's most valuable assets are the volunteers who share time in support of local government. Each year Volunteer Programs staff in the Community Development Department provide to Council a report of the efforts of volunteers who support the City of Columbia. In FY22, volunteers shared 30,602 hours of service valued at more than \$916,000.

Discussion

Volunteer service for FY22 is up three percent from 2021, and 21 percent from 2020. Six City departments reported volunteer service of greater than 100 hours with Parks & Recreation having the greatest support at 13,917 hours, a 37 percent increase from FY21. Volunteers supporting City Utilities, primarily Solid Waste, logged 8,779 hours and Community Development reported 7,178 hours of service. Staff estimate that about 6,000 individuals provided volunteer service over the year.

Highlights for the 2022 volunteer program include:

- Many long-standing Parks & Recreation programs saw significant increases in volunteer service in FY22 including Blue Thunder Track, CARE, Douglass Baseball and Adapted Sports/Special Olympics.
- Volunteers continue to be vital in helping to keep Columbia clean. In FY22, volunteers reporting picking up 8,149 bags of litter along our roadways, in our parks and near our streams. Nine groups joined the Adopt-A-Spot Litter program in FY22, which currently has 92 active adopters.
- Interest in the Adopt-A-Trail program continues with volunteers reporting a 56% increase in service hours. Volunteers care for 16.25 miles of City trail and four park areas by removing invasive species and may restore with Missouri native plants. Volunteers work on invasive removal and park improvements through projects with Parks staff and volunteer led projects. Stephen Bybee was recognized for his work leading invasive removal projects at Kiwanis Park with the Columbia Missourian's Progress in Sustainability Award. His projects mobilized many other volunteers.
- Recycling Ambassador volunteers promote waste reduction and proper recycling. They assisted with 15 education events engaging 661 participants. Solid Waste collections and recycling outreach volunteers assisted in providing information to over 450 households in the East Campus neighborhood to help educate new residents, and conducted outreach in The District about the shared solid waste system downtown.
- Residential Composting Program: Volunteer compost instructors conducted 10 home compost workshops with 156 participants. Program evaluations have consistently shown that 80% of participants actively compost. A five year, post-workshop survey



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showed that 92% of participants are still actively composting and 81% have shared their composting knowledge with others.

- Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) collections are dependent on volunteers. In FY22 volunteers contributed 684 hours of service, with 30 volunteers providing most of this service by helping at multiple collections. HHW was visited by 4,251 vehicles this year. Volunteers consolidated 3,190 gallons of water-based paints for repurpose.
- Jody Cook, Volunteer Program Specialist funded through the Solid Waste Utility, received the Outstanding Volunteer Administrator Award from the National Association of Volunteer Programs in Local Government, the professional organization for volunteer programs in municipalities and county governments.

Volunteers are surveyed each January about their experience. In the 2022 survey, 99% of respondents said they would recommend volunteering with the City to a friend or family member. Volunteers tell us their greatest motivation is public service (their volunteer service helps the community) followed by personal satisfaction and opportunities to be outdoors. In addition to the hours and service represented in this report, hundreds of volunteers share time on Boards & Commissions that advise the City council and staff.

Volunteers support the City's effort to fulfill our mission, vision and values. Specifically, volunteers help us provide service to our residents and visitors and their gift of time enhances our stewardship of resources.

Fiscal Impact

Short-Term Impact: \$916,527

Long-Term Impact: Volunteers have been serving the City of Columbia for many years and we anticipate their service well into the future.

Strategic & Comprehensive Plan Impact

Strategic Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Social Equity, Secondary Impact: Not Applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Comprehensive Plan Impacts:

Primary Impact: Not Applicable, Secondary Impact: Not applicable, Tertiary Impact: Not Applicable

Legislative History

Date	Action
n/a	n/a

Suggested Council Action

Acceptance of this report.