



The Scoop

News for Adopt-A-Spot Beautification Volunteers

Summer 2013

Thank you!!

Many thanks to the great work that you do for our City as an Adopt-A-Spot Beautification volunteer! Please remember that your beds are viewed by hundreds and sometimes thousands of residents and visitors daily. Your work reflects not only on yourself and your business but on our community at-large! Thanks for all you do to make our City look great!!

Fall Bulbs

The City will again be providing tulip and daffodil bulbs to our adopters. Please mark on the enclosed card or the online form if you would like some! If demand is high they will be distributed by size of bed and if your bed has received bulbs before.

The bulbs should be available for pick up in late September or early October. We will notify those who have requested the bulbs and ask that you have them planted within a week.

Mulch for your spot

- **Mulch:** We are pleased to announce we are offering mulch again this year. A mulch layer will help retain precious moisture, reduce weeds, improve the soil quality over time, and it gives any bed a nice, finished appearance.
- Good quality, double-ground mulch is delivered in bulk to your spot by our contractor or if your bed is small, we may ask you to purchase bagged mulch and we will reimburse you.
- Mulch is provided no more than once every 12 months.
- Adopters must have their beds cleaned up and free of dead plant materials before receiving mulch this spring.
- If you need mulch forks, please let us know. We can get some for you to borrow!

Please mark on the enclosed card or notify us by email if you would like mulch this fall, and list a preferred delivery date. We would like to know by

September 1 to assist us in planning. If you notified us in the spring, you are already on our list but we do want to confirm with you.

You may always pick up free mulch from the city or purchase some on your own. The two mulch sites are: [Capen Park Drive](#) (located off Rock Quarry Road, South of Stadium) and [Parkside Drive](#) (located off Creasy Springs Road – newly improved and open again) – both are open from dawn to dusk. You may also dispose of personal yard waste and spent adopt-a-spot plant materials at these sites.

- **Compost:** Compost can be a great addition to your bed and help improve the soil greatly, and is available at many places, including at the City Landfill. Compost Pick-up is available every Thursday from 1:00p.m. to 4:00p.m. From Columbia, go North on Paris Road/Route B to North Brown Station Road to Peabody Road. The landfill is located at 5700 Peabody Road, telephone no. 573-474-9145.



- Compost is a wonderful soil amendment. Some ideas on how you can use it:
 - Work it into the soil when you are installing new plants.
 - Move the mulch from the top of your bed aside and work compost into your bed's soil; return the mulch to the top of the bed, or, add new mulch.

Learn about Nature's Way to Recycle:

Free spring and fall compost workshops are held at the Capen Park Demonstration Site. Upcoming workshops will be held Tuesday, August 20 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, September 14 at 10 a.m.

For additional details about the compost workshops, email Columbia Public Works at pw-volunteer@GoColumbiaMo.com or call them at 874-6271, or, and they'll send you the composting schedule.

How's your sign?

We know that signs get damaged. We want to replace or repair damaged signs as they are reflection on you and the city. If your sign needs to be replaced please let us know... it is sometimes difficult for us to see every bed first hand.

Bed Reviews

It is the goal of City staff to review each bed a few times each year to provide you feedback on how you are doing! We hope you are viewing these constructively as a reminder of the expectations for the program. Thanks for responding if work is needed on your bed.

Please also know that when we receive feedback from the public we will share that directly with you, good or bad!

Adoption Renewals

According to our records there are many beds that have expired agreements or agreements that will expire this summer. Those whose agreement is in this category will be hearing from us on renewing. We appreciate you letting us know if you can continue as an adopter, and if you cannot we will work to find a new adopter for your bed.

Do you need extra help?

Some beds may need special attention that is more than you can do as an adopter. There

may be dead shrubs or other major work done. If that is the case, please let us know and we can ask our contractor to do that work.

There may also be a need for new plants for your bed. We have some resources to help you so please let us know.

The City appreciates the work you do as adopters and we want you to be successful. While funds are limited we do want to do what we can to assist you!!

Please share your hours report!

On the enclosed postcard we are asking for you to report the hours for you and your group so we can track the impact volunteers make through this program. For those with email you can share that through the online form included in the email.

End of summer tasks:

- Deadheading: Please review your bed and cut back any vegetation that has bloomed and died back. It will help your bed look neat and tidy!
- Please cut back any bushes or shrubs that may be blocking the view of traffic. If we receive citizen concerns about site distance issues we will share those with you and appreciate your help in keeping beds safe.

How to contact us:

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