Adopt-A-Spot

Tips from Heart of Missouri
Master Gardeners
January 29, 2009
Steps To A Successful Spot

- How much time can you commit?
- Site preparation
- Creating a landscape plan
- Maintenance
- The fine print
- Pretty pictures
How Much Time Can You Commit?

- Considerations
  - Moisture level
  - Light level
  - Weeds and nearby plantings
  - Traffic
  - Chemicals (salt/cinders)
Site Preparation

- What are the environmental needs of the site?
  - Soil
  - Water
Site Preparation

Soil test
Soil amendments
Double dig and avoid compaction
Don’t forget to consider water availability
Landscape Planning

- Landscape planning addresses the environment, aesthetics and the availability of plants and other needed materials.
Landscape Planning

- Environmental issues
  - Sun exposure
  - Amount of water needed and available
    - Xeriscaping
  - Exposure to exhaust, salt and cinders
  - Auto intrusion into your spot
Landscape Planning

- Aesthetic issues
  - Color design
  - Height
  - Three-season gardening
  - Winter interest
  - Plant lifespan – annuals, perennials and biennials – bloom time
Landscape Planning

- Places to visit – our favorites:
  - Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance; MU Campus; MBS; Shelter Gardens; Adopt-A-Spot near Paxton-Keeley; Round About near Cosmo; Bass Pro Shop; Xeriscape at Twin Lakes; Pilot Project (Second Saturday in June); Jefferson Farms Trial Gardens; Flat Branch Brewery; Adopt-A-Spots on Forum.
Landscape Planning

- Availability of materials – plants
- Sources for plant ideas
  - Plants of Merit
  - MU handouts (library or online)
  - Grow Native handouts and website
  - Plant list from the City and info from the City arborist
Landscape Planning

- Availability of materials – plants
- Sources for plants – don’t ignore your own and friends’ gardens
Landscape Planning

- Availability of materials – mulch

- Calculating the amount of mulch: 1/2 cubic yard of mulch covers 50sq. ft. three inches deep.

- One scoop from a skid loader bucker is typically 1/2 cubic yard.
Landscape Planning

- Availability of materials – compost
- City dump site
Maintaining Your Spot

- All spots need maintenance.
- New plantings will need water – even natives.
  Think about July and August now!
- Spots must be weeded regularly.
Maintaining Your Spot

- General tips for maintenance:
  - Wear sunscreen, a hat, long sleeves and bug spray
  - Bring water to drink
  - Wear supportive shoes
  - Work early in the morning or in the evening during hot weather
  - Weeding is easier after it rains
  - Never let weeds go to seed
  - Keep mulch thick to inhibit weeds
Maintaining Your Spot

- **Tips for plant maintenance:**
  - Leave bulb foliage intact until June.
  - Deadhead flowers for continued bloom.
  - Be sure to leave bud ends in tact on flowering shrubs (i.e., prune soon after bloom).
  - Consider a succession of annuals.
  - Consider cutting back perennials at least once during the season, several weeks prior to bloom.
The Fine Print – Getting Your Plan Approved

- Turn in landscape proposal to Office of Volunteer Services (important for new beds).
- Volunteer Services will circulate the plan to Brett at Parks and Recreation and to Public Works.
- Expect process to take two weeks for approval.
- Existing Adopters who want to add a few annuals or perennials do not need to submit a new plan. If you want to add rocks or stone, you must have approval.
- If a car runs over your spot or ends up messing it up and they are caught, the City Risk Management Office will pursue the offender for reparation.
Pretty Pictures – Annuals

White Petunia

Baby’s Breath

Nicotina
Pretty Pictures – Annuals
Blue/Purple

Salvia
Blue Petunia
Gomphrena
Ageratum
Scaevola
Pretty Pictures – Annuals

Pink

Petunia

Vinca
Pretty Pictures – Annuals
Yellow/Red

Meacian Zinnia
Melampodium

Petunia
Salvia
Vinca
Pretty Pictures – Annuals
Mixed Colors

Ornamental Pepper

Celosia

Portulaca
Pretty Pictures – Perennials
Blue/Purple

Catmint
Lavender
Pincushion Flower

Poppy Mallow
Spike Speedwell
Prairie Beardtongue
Pretty Pictures – Perennials
Blue/Purple

Liatris
Pretty Pictures – Perennials
Yellow/Orange

Basket of Gold
Missouri Primrose
Black Eyed Susan
Prairie Dropseed
Blanket Flower
Moonbeam Coreopsis
Pretty Pictures – Perennials
Pink

Sedum
Pink Evening Primrose
Pincushion Flower
Pretty Pictures – Perennials
Silver/White

Aster My Antonia

Lambs Ear

Silver Mound
Conclusion

- Questions?
- Mentoring