

Section 9-45.8 (adopted 5/7/09-amended 3/15/11) The “adopt a spot” program was instituted by the City of Attleboro to beautify the roads and city property in and leading into Attleboro. Sites range from sidewalk landscapes, greenway trails, conservation, park and forestry and recreation properties. Sites may also include ancient burial grounds that the City has authority to maintain under M.G.L. c. 114 § 18. The designee of such burial sites will be the Historical Commission. The City of Attleboro asks that all participants in the Program agree to clean, beautify and maintain their designated areas in compliance with the following conditions: (this ordinance shall take effect on passage)

- a. Individuals, groups, organizations, and businesses may apply to “adopt a spot” through the Mayor’s Office who will forward the application to his/her designee, once approved. Designee shall mean either the Park Commission, Conservation Commission, Recreation Commission, School Committee, or the Superintendent of Water, Wastewater and Public Works Departments or any other personnel appointed by the Mayor. The application will list the name or names responsible, an address and phone number. The application will specify which particular property the party would like to maintain and the intended care, i.e., cleaning, plantings, mowing, pruning and other care.
- b. Completed applications, new or renewal, should be submitted via regular, first-class mail, postage prepaid, or in hand to City of Attleboro Mayor’s Office Government Center, 77 Park Street, Attleboro, MA 02703 no later than March 1st. A design proposal narrative must be submitted with the “adopt a spot” program application to the address above for review and approval. The Mayor or his/her designee will review any and all such applications to determine whether the application meets the regulations herein. The Mayor or his/her designee will only grant applications to “adopt a spot” to individuals who agree to abide by the terms of the City of Attleboro’s “Adopt a Spot Program Regulations.” Confirmation of sponsorship shall be sent to applicants upon review. In promulgating these regulations, the City of Attleboro does not intend to, nor shall it be construed to create a public forum or a limited public forum. Renewal applications receive priority, followed by new applicants. Multiple applications for initial or newly identified areas will be awarded by lottery, to be conducted by the appointed City designee. Awarded sponsorships will be for eleven (11) months beginning April 1st.

Section 9-45.9 “Adopt a Spot” Regulations (adopted 5/5/09)

- a. Individuals or groups adopting a designated area will have access from April 1st to March 1st.
- b. The sponsor shall be responsible for maintaining the designated area free of trash, and to weed and refresh plant material during the season. Individuals or groups adopting a designated area will be responsible for care, watering, weeding, pruning, and supplying tools, etc. The City of Attleboro cannot supply materials, plants, tools, vehicles, or any other items to any resident or group in order to care for the designated area. If any person or group adopting a spot should experience a difficulty in maintaining the designated area, the Mayor or his/her designee will be notified immediately.
- c. All plantings must be approved by the Mayor or his/her designee in regard to growth, density and height limitations. The height of plants should not exceed 30 inches, and may not impede visibility for vehicles. Plantings shall not exceed the physical space of the designated area adopted.
- d. If at any point the City deems that the designated area is unsightly due to lack of care, then the City will remove the “adopt a spot” sign and the material on the designated area and the person or business will forfeit their rights to plant the designated area.
- e. No individual or group adopting a spot will block or impede traffic while in the care of the designated area. If at any time the planting is deemed to interfere with traffic or views of traffic, then the City of Attleboro will take steps to correct the problem in consultation with the adopter.
- f. Planting of traffic islands under the jurisdiction of the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) or the Federal Highway Administration (FHA) must be approved by the MHD and/or the FHA and therefore require additional application(s).
- g. The individual or group adopting a designated area shall not erect any sign or display any message on the area except that a single sign not exceeding one (1) square foot which identifies the sponsoring individual or group may be placed on the site. The City reserves the right to adopt a uniform design for such identifying signs.

(updated 3/15/11)

Section 9-45.10 The foregoing regulations shall apply to any and all designated areas involved in the “adopt a spot” program, which may be designated at the sole discretion of the Mayor or his/her designee. Nothing herein shall be construed as affording any party the right to plant on any owned, cared for, and/or area maintained by the City of Attleboro.

Section 9-45.11 The City of Attleboro shall retain the right of ownership and control over any and all designated areas; as such, it may revoke the right of any or all sponsor(s) to access the site(s) for any reason and at any time. As such, sponsors receive only a license to access the site for the sole, limited purposes provided for in this regulation. The license to access a designated area is not intended to be construed as a property right, giving rise to any due process rights; all applicants acknowledge this term, and all terms in this agreement, as an express condition of applying for and of being granted a license by the City of Attleboro.

Section 9-45.12 All individuals, groups, organizations, or businesses adopting a spot will take sole responsibility for their own personal safety and will be solely liable for their well being while on City Property. As a condition of approval, all individuals, groups, organizations shall certify that they do hereby release, indemnify, and forever hold harmless the City of Attleboro, together with its boards, commissions, committees, officers, agents, employees, assigns, and designees, from any and all liability and loss, liability, damages, claims, costs, including reasonable witness and attorneys’ fees, associated with the performance of any and all services performed in conjunction with the maintenance of any designated area in the City of Attleboro. No individual, group, organization, or business shall be entitled to receive any benefits of employment with the City of Attleboro, including without limitation, salary, overtime, vacation pay, holiday pay, sick leave, health insurance, life insurance, pension or deferred compensation, with regard to any maintenance under the “adopt a spot” program.

Section 9-45.13 All individuals, groups, organizations, or businesses adopting a spot shall comply with all the revised ordinances of the City of Attleboro, federal, and state, regulations, and/or rules and policies.

Section 9-45.14 The foregoing regulations shall take effect immediately upon approval of the City Council of the City of Attleboro.



Attleboro Adopt-A-Spot Application to be delivered in triplicate to the Mayor's Office
(Please print or type)

New Renewal

Adopt-A-Spot Location: _____ Plat _____ Lot _____

2nd choice Adopt-A-Spot Location: _____ Plat _____ Lot _____

Please attach Assessors map and identify the spot you would like to adopt.

____ Please check here if you do not have a specific location and would like to be assigned an area

The area to be adopted is: (please check one)

City property Recreation property Park Conservation land School Property

Traffic Island Water or Wastewater property Do not know

Organization/Group Name _____ No. of Persons _____

Mailing Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Group Coordinator/Contact Person _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address (if different from above) _____

Type of Group (please check one) Non-profit Business School Scouts Civic Individual

Please give a brief explanation of what is being planned for the "Adopt a Spot" location. If plantings as well as planter/pots are proposed please submit a plan with listing of plants to be used.

Spots will be adopted in the order applications are received. Therefore, if more than one group applies for the same location, it will be awarded to the first person to submit their application. If applications are submitted simultaneously, the location will be awarded by lottery.

Please print the exact wording that will appear on the Adopt-A-Spot sign (The individual or group adopting a designated area shall not erect any sign or display any message on the area except that a single sign not exceeding one (1) square foot which identifies the sponsoring individual or group)

I have read Section 9-45 "Adopt a Spot Program" Regulations and Permit Process and agree to all of the terms and conditions of this ordinance:

Signature of Coordinator/Contact Person Date _____

***APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH A DESIGN PROPOSAL NARRATIVE.**