

MEMO

TO: City Council

FROM: Aimee Nassif, AICP, Deputy Director of Development Services

DATE: September 23, 2025

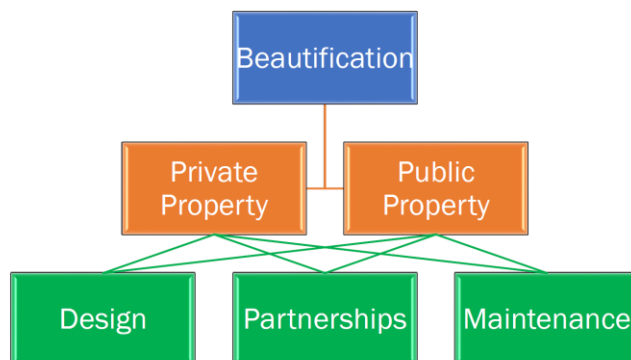
RE: City Council “Big Rocks” - Beautification

RECOMMENDATION

This report is for information purposes only. No Council action is required.

BACKGROUND

In April 2025, City staff provided Council with an update on their work related to beautification, a “Big Rock” identified as part of the 2024 City Council retreat. Beautification involves a host of partners and strategies identified in the Ignite! Strategic Plan. To organize staff efforts and resources, the beautification category was organized as illustrated below:



MEETINGS TO DATE

- [April 15, 2025](#) , Big Rocks - Beautification discussion and presentation (City Council)
- [July 10, 2025](#) , Architecture & Design Standards Public Hearing (Planning Commission)
- [August 12, 2025](#) , Architecture and Design Standards Adoption (City Council)

UPDATES

- Design: In July 2025, the Planning Commission recommended approval of a UDO Amendment that would modify the Architecture & Design Standards for residential and commercial development in the city. In August 2025, this amendment was adopted by the City Council. This UDO Ordinance is now in effect.
- Design: Staff anticipates revisiting the “Beautification-Design” item in early 2026, to begin work on the remaining areas of focus for private development – tree installation

and maintenance, tree preservation (during construction), and site layout/design requirements.

- Design: A collaborative effort between Public Works, Water Utilities and Development Services is underway to review and update applicable sections of the City's Design and Construction Manual (DCM). The City Engineer is responsible for updates that follow an established administrative process for City Manager approval. Updates describing the proposed changes will be available in the future.
- Maintenance: This winter, Neighborhood Services (NHS) will begin work evaluating proactive versus complaint-based code enforcement strategies and identifying enforcement priorities, for both residential and non-residential areas, for the year ahead. These efforts will place an emphasis on educating residents, property owners, and businesses about property maintenance and public-private partnerships.
- Maintenance: Although not a City effort or partnership, MoDOT has added US50 Highway to contracted mowing and litter clean up within Lee's Summit (I470 also remains contracted litter management). MoDOT also increased its FY26 ROW Budget.
- Maintenance: Public Works increased mowing and weeding level of service afforded through approved resource expansions and plan improvements
- Partnerships: RecycleFEST will be November 1, 2025, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the City Maintenance Facility, in partnership with Summit Transfer/KC Dumpster.
- Partnerships: A Stream Team event is scheduled for October 11, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Upper Banner Park.
- Partnerships: City streets remain available for litter clean up through Adopt-A-Street. Information on these opportunities are available at the Green LS webpage: <https://cityofls.net/public-works/green-ls>

IGNITE! STRATEGIC PLAN / COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The "beautification" items discussed in this report are in alignment with several objectives, strategies, and/or action items identified in the Ignite! Strategic Plan or Ignite! Comprehensive Plan including, but not limited to:

- Develop an approach to selective, proactive code enforcement.
- Educate the community on resources and opportunities.
- Ensure City services support quality of life.
- Foster Lee's Summit unique spirit of community and caring culture.
- Require social interaction common areas in neighborhoods.
- Increase overall property values by neighborhood.
- Sustain and enhance City services and facilities to protect a high quality of life.
- Plan and build City services and infrastructure to promote quality growth and resiliency.
- Appreciate, protect, and enhance the natural environment to meet the community's today.
- Encourage development of neighborhood "hubs" or gathering places where a variety of activities can take place.
- Preserve existing land uses, open space, and neighborhoods.