

My Spot Overview

Thank you for adopting a My Spot area. Your willingness to apply your gardening/landscaping skills will create a meaningful and lasting impression for everyone who enters or passes our grounds each and every day. So, thank you in advance for plugging into a mission here at FPC, and for using your time, talent, and treasure to beautify the house of the Lord. Surely he will smile at the beauty you create.

Whether you are considering, or have already decided to adopt a Spot, here are some basic questions and answers that should help you better understand what adopting a Spot entails and the resources available to support your efforts.

Q: What is “My Spot” and why are we using this approach?

A: With nearly six acres of exterior grounds to maintain, we can no longer expect one or two people to maintain it. Nor are we in a position to simply hire a landscaping company to maintain our grounds. Many people are willing to plant and tend flowers and we would like to harness that desire. However, we haven’t had any organized way to assign a specific area or task nor provided any consultative support for those efforts. My Spot divides our grounds into defined spaces. A professional landscape plan identifies the plants; a task list outlines the needs of each area; and experienced consultation from master gardeners and a certified landscape architect is provided. This approach allows us to use volunteers with varying degrees of gardening and landscaping skills and develop our landscape over a period of years.

Q: What is the “Green Thumb Brigade”?

A: The Green Thumb Brigade is the collective name of the people who adopt a Spot.

Q: How many Spots are there?

A: Twelve areas are available for adoption. More could be added if the concept proves popular.

Q: How do I know where the Spots are and what each area requires?

A: A map of the grounds with each of the 12 areas is located in the lobby. Each area is identified by a number. An “Area Specification Sheet” has been developed for each area that provides the following details:

- Area location.
- Maintenance activities required by your Spot like purchasing plants, planting, weeding, fertilizing, watering and pruning flowers/shrubs/trees.
- The amount of seed money provided by FPC.
- Plants/shrubs/trees specified by the landscape plan. Annuals are not defined.
- A guess on the number of people needed to maintain the area.
- The names of the Green Thumb Consultants.
- Specifications for mulch, decorative rock, or other needed materials that appear on the landscape plan.

Q: What are the basic things I have to do if I adopt a Spot?

A: You are responsible for purchasing plants and flowers specified by the landscape plan (or approved by the Green Thumb Consultants); planting, watering, pruning, and fertilizing them; and keeping the area weeded throughout the growing season. The tasks will vary by Spot and are outlined in the Area Specification Sheet. Hardscape materials such as landscape rock and cloth, mulch, boulders, paving stones, benches, planter urns, and other such materials are defined by the landscape plan for overall consistency. In certain cases, these materials could be purchased by FPC if budget is available and approved by the Building & Grounds Ministry area.

Q: What help is available if I don't have much experience with gardening or planting flowers?

A: You will have access to Green Thumb Consultants... a group that includes a Master Gardener, a certified Landscape Architect, and other experienced gardeners who have a lifetime of knowledge and experience to share on what flowers to plant, when to plant, fertilizing, watering, and pruning.

Q: Will the Green Thumb Consultants help me maintain my spot?

A: No. Theirs is a consultative role only. They will assist you with first rate advice, but they are not expected to take a physical role in maintaining your spot.

Q: Are any other resources or supplies provided?

A: In addition to seed money and the Green Thumb Consultants, FPC will provide water hoses, a few basic tools, and flower fertilizer. If you find you need other basic tools to maintain your Spot, please make suggestions to the Green Thumb Consultants.

Q: I don't have a lot of money. Do I have to buy all the plants and flowers indicated in the Area Specification Sheet?

A: No. FPC will provide seed money for each area. The amount of money provided depends on the area. You may spend additional money beyond the seed money provided by the church, but you are under no obligation to do so. Plants must be purchased according to the landscape plan (or as approved by the Green Thumb Consultants). Trees or shrubs for specific areas may be donated per the FPC Wish List.

Q: Am I expected to complete all the plantings and work called for in a particular Spot the first year?

A: No. We expect the landscaping plan to develop and take shape over the course of several years. The perennials, shrubs, trees, and other long term plantings called for in the plan can be donated or purchased by those adopting the spots. These items are also listed on FPC's Wish List and can be donated by another member of the congregation or anyone wishing to make such a gift.

Q: What if I want to construct or plant something special that's not on the plan?

A: The landscape plan is fairly comprehensive but there are areas that are not addressed in the plan. Nor does the plan specify what annuals should be planted so there is room for creative expression. All we ask is that you discuss your ideas with a Green Thumb Consultant and receive approval before beginning an unspecified project. They will work with the Building & Grounds Ministry Team to approve any project not called for in the master landscape plan.

Q: Can a group adopt a spot?

A: Absolutely. The more, the better.

Q: If I sign up for a spot, how long will I be required to maintain it?

A: Your commitment is one year. However, you can sign-up for the same Spot year after year and continue to develop it over the years, or move to any other unclaimed spot at the start of the next year.

Q: How do I sign up?

A: A sign-up sheet will be maintained in the Lobby. Don't wait; those who hesitate may find the Spot they want adopted by someone else.