

Exhibit B - Council Brief: Phase Two Median Landscape Renovations

Lessons Learned & Planned Improvements

Project Goal: The goal of the median landscape renovation project is to

- Enhance landscape infrastructure and design aesthetics along major roads in the City of Louisville while creating a consistent, attractive look across the city.
- Reduce water use and lower long-term maintenance needs
- Proactively remove ash trees affected by the Emerald Ash Borer (EAB).
- Upgrade outdated irrigation systems
- Convert high-water-use, non-functional turf to drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly landscaping.

History: The Median Landscape Renovation Project began in late 2018 with an evaluation of the current medians, many of which were installed 20-30 years ago. The process included community meetings, input from the Parks and Public Landscaping Board (PPLAB), and approval from City Council. Phase 1 construction was completed in 2023, focusing on medians impacted by the 2021 Marshall Fire or in close proximity to fire-damaged areas.

While Phase 1 achieved the sustainability and infrastructure goals, it also prompted public concerns around visibility, plant height, mature tree removal, and plant selection. As we prepare to move into Phase 2, staff have made targeted adjustments to improve safety, simplify maintenance, and reflect community feedback.

Phase 2: Phase two is scheduled for Q3 of 2025. The second phase is anticipated to include the Dillon Road corridor between McCaslin and 88th, Via Appia at McCaslin (adjacent to the Police Station) and McCaslin commercial area, as budget allows.

This selection is based on:

- Poor health of ash trees
- Corridor's visibility and role as a key gateway into the city
- Prior recommendations from the Parks & Public Landscape Advisory Board (PPLAB)

Key Improvements in Phase 2 (based on Phase 1 lessons):

Improved Visibility & Safety

- No stacked rock walls or tall grasses in sight distance triangles
- Wall heights reduced from 36" to 24"
- Substitute tall plants with shorter species (see below)
- Use smaller boulders for improved installation and safety

Better Plant & Grass Seed Selection

- Modify plant species based on Phase 1 performance and public feedback
- Increase number of trees per median segment
- Replace small shrubs (e.g., sumac, yucca) at median ends with larger, multi-stem shrubs for easier maintenance
- Reduce number and density of perennials/grasses in bullnose beds
- Substitute Big Bluestem with shorter species (e.g., Siskiyow Blue Fescue) to improve visibility
- Replace Prairie Sage with plants no taller than 18" near walls for better wall visibility
- Revise grass seed mix to limit mature height (Verge mix preferred – see information next page)

Enhanced Maintenance & Irrigation

- More mowable slopes and easier contractor access
- Shift from microspray to pop-up irrigation heads
- Adjusted gravel and mulch layout to reduce overspray and heat retention

While incorporating these improvements, the Phase 2 medians will maintain a similar look and feel to those already completed, ensuring visual consistency throughout the city's corridors.

Information on Verge Seed Mix

Verge Pollinator Seed Mixture is a low-growing minimal water use lawn alternative that provides aesthetic beauty, shelter for pollinators, and an ecological carbon bank for your homescape. The mixture features several low growing, fine textured, cool and warm season grasses that combine with various yellow, orange, pink and white flowers creating a resilient lawnscape built for the 21st century.



GROWING A BRIGHTER, BETTER WORLD

- Increases Habitat for Pollinators
- Minimize Labor with No Mowing or Greatly Reduce Mowing to 2x per Year
- No Fertilizer or Herbicides Required
- Reduce Irrigation/Improve Carbon Sink Capacity
- Increases Oxygen, Reduces CO₂/Carbon Footprint

SEEDS/POUND: ~460,000
MATURE HEIGHT: 6 Inches
GERMINATION: 5-14 Days
MIXTURE COMPONENTS: Native Red Fescue, Blue Grama, Annual and Perennial Wildflowers, Misc Other Cool Season Grasses

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