



MEMORANDUM

TO: Village President and Village Board
FROM: James M. Hogue, Village Planner
DATE: November 24, 2020
RE: Route 22 Landscape Plan – CSCC Review & Comment

Village Trustee O’Conner was present at the October 7th meeting and asked if the CSCC could review the proposed landscape plans for the Route 22 widening. Specifically, she asked if CSCC would review the plantings and make suggestions, particularly as it relates to any proposed native plantings. The goal of this review is to forward information to IDOT for consideration in the Route 22 landscape plans. If acceptable to IDOT, this plant species mix could serve as model for future landscape planting along roadways. This “big picture” goal is to provide a uniform look to roadway plantings village wide.

CSCC Comments

Attached is master plant schedule for Route 22 widening. This document identifies type of plant species proposed (by the village) for re-landscaping of the Route 22 right-of-way after expansion. This list also identifies the quantities of each species proposed in the re-landscaping. Quantities are noted with the comments/concerns of the CSCC.

SHADE TREES

Acer saccharum (Sugar Maple - 24 trees)

- Acer saccharum - Plant Finder

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- Concerns:

* Spread: 40.00 to 60.00 feet, which sounds too wide for a median

* "Grows poorly in compacted, poorly drained soils. Intolerant of road salt. Generally intolerant of urban pollution."

Quercus bicolor (Swamp White Oak - 49 trees)

- Concerns:

* Spread: 50.00 to 60.00 feet, which sounds too wide for a median

Quercus macrocarpa (Burr Oak - 3 trees)

- Concerns:

- * Spread: 60.00 to 80.00 feet, which sounds too wide for a median

Quercus alba (White Oak - 21 trees)

- Concerns:

- * Spread: 50.00 to 80.00 feet, which sounds too wide for a median

CONIFER TREES

Pinus Strobus (White Pine - 5 trees)

- Concerns:

- * Spread: 20.00 to 40.00 feet, which sounds too wide for a median
- * Intolerant of compacted, clayey soils, alkaline conditions, and many air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and ozone.

ORNAMENTAL TREES

Carpinus caroliniana (Hornbeam - 8 trees)

- Concerns:

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Cercis Canadensis (Red Bud - 45 trees)

- <https://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=h550>

- Concerns:

- * Keeping the tree vigorous by regular watering and fertilization and by pruning out dead branches as needed will help keep the tree healthy.

Hammamelis virginiana (Common Witch Hazel – 197 trees)

- Concerns:

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Ostrya virginiana (Hophornbeam – 53 trees)

- Concerns:

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SHRUBS

No comments.

PERENNIALS/GRASSES

Lobelia Cardinalis (Cardinal Flower- 1373 Plants @1 gal. container)

- Concerns:

- * Needs constant moisture.
- * A somewhat short-lived, clump-forming perennial

Monarda Fistulosa (Bee Balm – 694 Plants @ 1 gal. container)

- Concerns:
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Pycnanthemum virginianum (Two species proposed - 75 Cheyenne Switchgrass/1344 Heavy Metal Switchgrass @ 5 gal. container).

- Concerns:
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Schizachyrium scoparium (not *Schyzacharium scoparius*) (Little Blue Stem – 1058 @ 1 gal. container).

- Concerns:
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Sporobolis heterolepis (Prairie Dropseed – 1356 @ 1 gal. container).

- Concerns:
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Village Arborist Comments

I have not reviewed any of these plans for route 22. Is this for a widening project, utility upgrades or just a beautification project? Are any existing trees going to be removed for this project? My first concern would be, will any of these new plantings be installed within the critical root zones of existing trees? It appears numerous existing trees could potentially be damaged by the excavation of the root balls of these plantings. Was there any consideration of how the existing trees overhanging crowns may limit the available planting space?

It appears that the shade and ornamental trees are spaced appropriately--40' on center for the shade and 20'-25' for the ornamentals. The second concern I would have is, are there site line restrictions from vehicles exiting driveways onto Rt. 22 with these new plantings, particularly the shrubs and ornamental plantings?