

**Wayzata City Council Workshop Meeting Agenda
Wayzata City Hall Community Room, 600 Rice Street
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026**

WORKSHOP TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Presentation of Draft Landscape Design for Panoway (6:00-6:30 p.m.)
2. Discussion of Future Agenda Topics (6:30-6:40 p.m.)



City Council Workshop City Council Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: May 5, 2026	WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM: 1
TITLE: Presentation of Draft Landscape Design for Panoway (6:00-6:30 p.m.)	
PREPARED BY: Bennett Myhran, City Forester	
REVIEWED BY: Aurora Yager, City Manager, Mike Kelly, Public Works Director/City Engineer	

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE:

To consider the landscape changes to Panoway as described in the draft design and presentation. Workshop feedback from City Council will inform potential revisions to the design. Approval of construction plans and authorization to go out for bids will be scheduled for a future Council meeting.

2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES RELEVANCE:

Sustain Community Character and Safety

Maintenance of Lake Street is an important factor in Wayzata's character and resident pride.

BACKGROUND:

In the Summer of 2025, a group of residents approached the Mayor to request improved plantings along Lake Street, including, but not limited to, replacing the failed dogwoods. The group then hired Damon Farber to evaluate the performance of plantings on Lake Street. These findings were presented to the City Council at the January 20 workshop, where the Council directed staff to collaborate with the residents and their consultant to develop a design addressing landscape maintenance, performance, and aesthetics along Panoway.

The initial consulting and design phases of this work have been entirely funded by the resident group. The City has \$88,000 allocated in the Parks and Trails Capital Fund for landscape replacement on Panoway, which could be directed towards the costs described in this and forthcoming proposals. The consultant team has provided a table of estimated costs, which have been itemized to allow for potential project phasing and/or changes to scope. The complete installation, as shown in the current design proposal, has an estimated cost range of \$217,500 to \$287,500.

The landscape architect will make a brief presentation of the proposed design and planting philosophy. Staff and the design consultant are agreeable to the proposed design.

Discussion Questions:

1. Does the Council understand the planting philosophy and agree with the desire to increase sustainability and, ultimately, reduce maintenance?
2. Since the project is well above the proposed city budget allocation, how would the Council like staff to consider funding the project?

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Proposed Lake Street Planting Design
2. Cost Estimate



LAKE STREET

PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS

May 5th

20
26

City of Wayzata

This work is being completed in collaboration with Sustinea, PEBL, Wayzata Parks and Recreation, and a local citizen-led initiative.

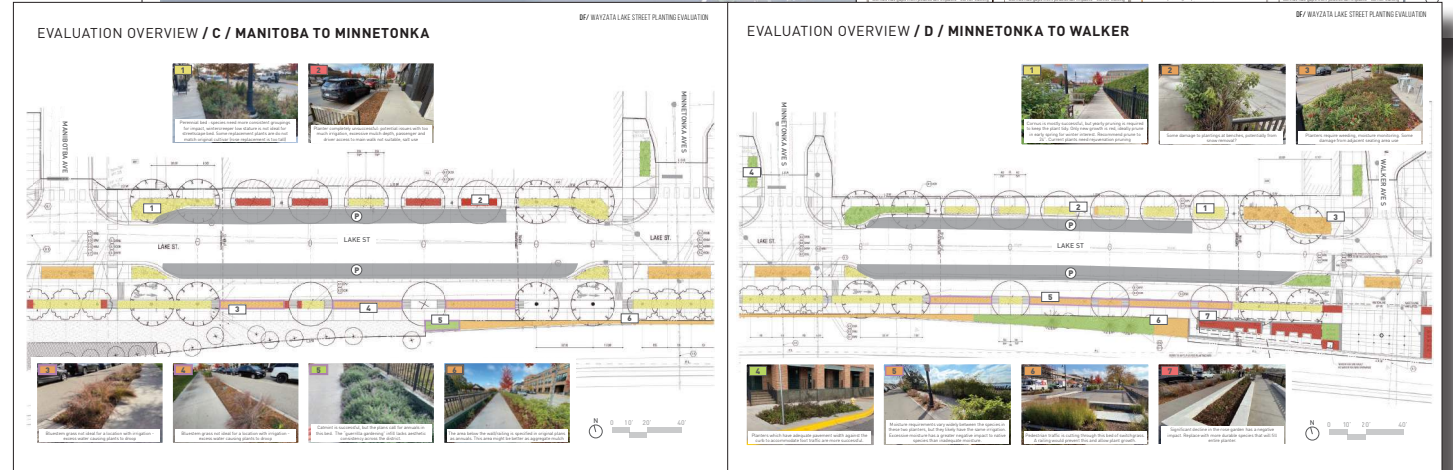
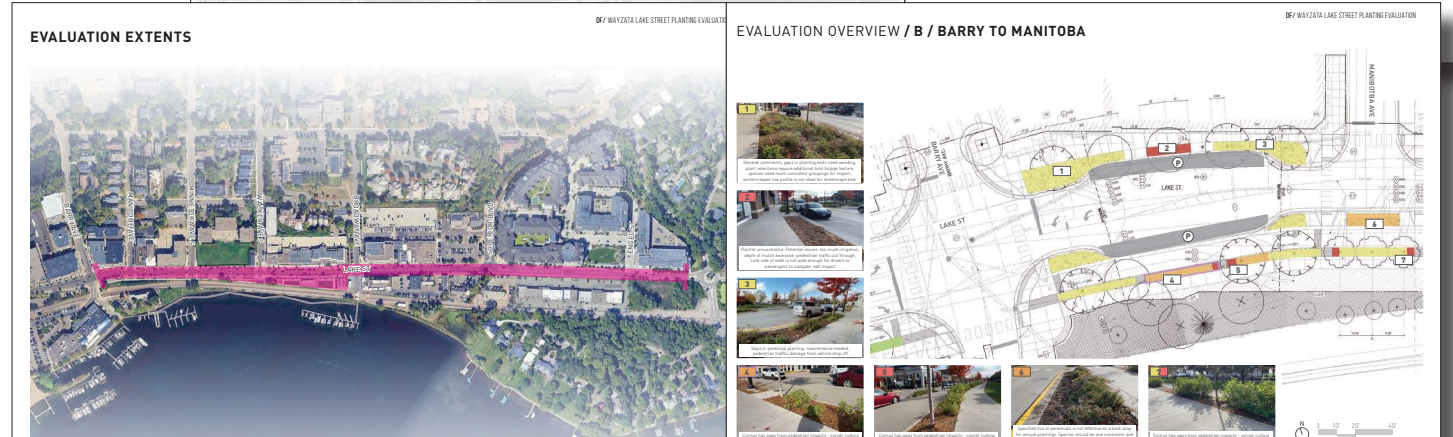
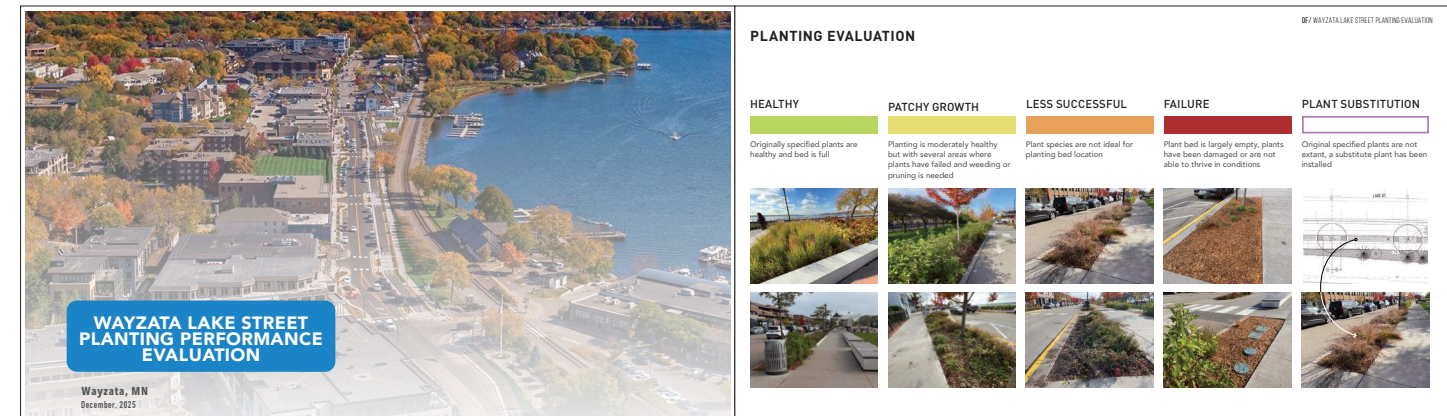
LAKE STREET

PLANTING RECOMMENDATIONS

We began by reviewing existing conditions and prior studies, including work completed in Fall 2025.

We reviewed the 2025 Wayzata Lake Street Planting Performance Evaluation provided by Damon Farber Landscape Architects. The study evaluated existing planting conditions along the Lake Street corridor to understand performance, challenges, and opportunities.

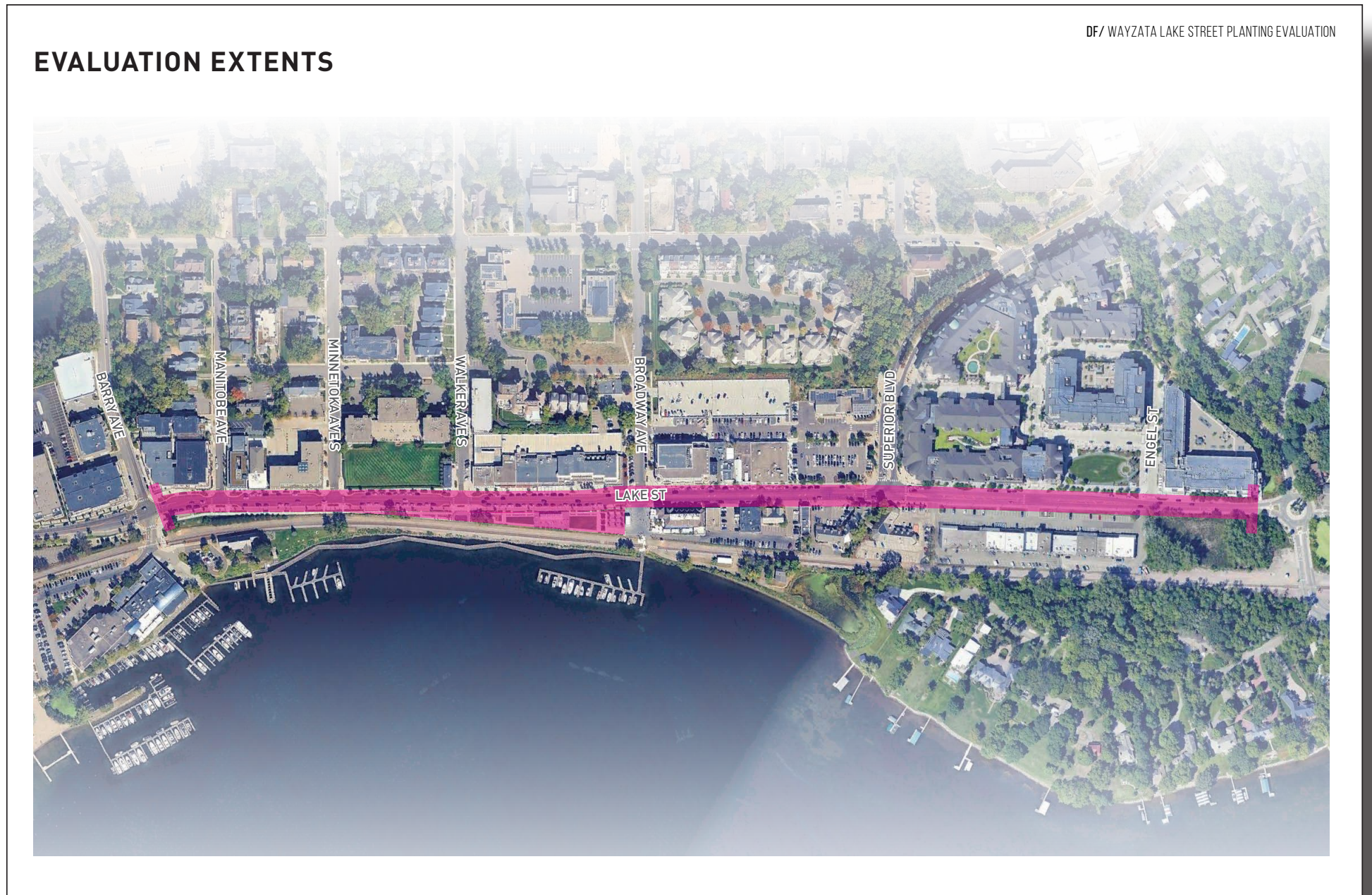
The study evaluated prior design work alongside current site conditions through on-site observations and analysis. This included assessing plant health and longevity, identifying issues related to irrigation, soil, and environmental stressors such as salt exposure, and understanding how the plantings interact with pedestrian use and the public realm.



PLANTING EVALUATION

The evaluation assessed the performance and composition of plantings along Lake Street.

This project focuses on the revitalization of 39 existing garden beds along Lake Street, from Barry Avenue to Engel Street. The goal is to transform these plantings into a cohesive, resilient, and visually compelling landscape that enhances the pedestrian experience and reflects the character of Wayzata.











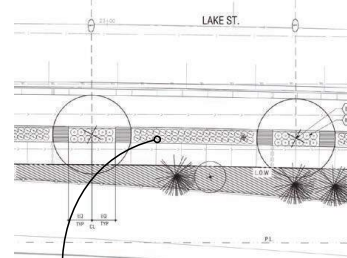

PLANTING EVALUATION

The evaluation discovered planting areas along Lake Street that were not successful or completely failing.

Across the corridor, planting conditions vary significantly, with only a portion of beds performing as intended. Many areas exhibit gaps in coverage, inconsistent species groupings, and declining plant health, while others have failed entirely due to a combination of factors. Key issues include mismatched plant selection for site conditions, inconsistent or excessive irrigation, poor soil and mulch practices, and impacts from salt exposure. In addition, pedestrian movement, maintenance limitations, and physical constraints within the streetscape contribute to ongoing plant stress and damage. These findings highlight the need for a more resilient, cohesive planting strategy that responds directly to site conditions and long-term maintenance realities

PLANTING EVALUATION

DF/ WAYZATA LAKE STREET PLANTING EVALUATION

HEALTHY <div style="background-color: #90EE90; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Originally specified plants are healthy and bed is full</p>	PATCHY GROWTH <div style="background-color: #FFFF99; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Planting is moderately healthy but with several areas where plants have failed and weeding or pruning is needed</p>	LESS SUCCESSFUL <div style="background-color: #FFA500; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Plant species are not ideal for planting bed location</p>	FAILURE <div style="background-color: #DC143C; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Plant bed is largely empty, plants have been damaged or are not able to thrive in conditions</p>	PLANT SUBSTITUTION <div style="border: 1px solid purple; width: 20px; height: 10px; margin: 5px 0;"></div> <p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">Original specified plants are not extant, a substitute plant has been installed</p>
 	 	 	 	 

PLANTING UPDATES

The purpose of this document is to problem solve planting challenges and provide long term design solutions that establish a cohesive, resilient, and high performing landscape along Lake Street.

Emphasis is placed on seasonality, texture, durability and ecological performance; with the goal of creating a unified streetscape experience that visually connects all 39 planting areas. This plan reinforces a clear, successful and consistent planting layout.

The project includes a comprehensive concept design addressing planting, soil, irrigation, and select hardscape considerations, followed by refinement based on feedback and finalization for approval. The work will conclude with detailed construction documentation and a bid-ready package to support implementation, ensuring clarity in execution and long-term management.



PLANTING UPDATES

The proposed planting design is an intentional shift from past conventional practices involving a high-maintenance manicured landscape. It requires lower maintenance and is environmentally-based, with more seasonal structure and interest. This palette has a proven history of success.

The intermingled patterns and plant groupings provide ongoing color, texture, movement, structure and interest throughout the seasons. Selecting material that can handle the harsh conditions of sidewalk and street plantings has its challenges. Maintaining the plant groups and working with the plants as they evolve is essential as gardens are constantly changing and evolving.

Our design supports a self-sustaining and low-input garden. We are creating a 'living mulch' that will suppress weeds and minimize maintenance and labor.



PLANTING UPDATES MAINTENANCE

Once established, this planting design will reduce the time and labor required for hands-on maintenance by creating a “living mulch” that suppresses weeds and minimizes labor. Staff responsible for curating these spaces will also have opportunities for educational and professional development.

Staff On-Site Learning: Conversations around best management practices will take place throughout the entire process. Resources and maintenance guidelines will be provided, along with regular site evaluation walks. I look forward to working closely with Public Works staff to integrate these concepts into daily operations.

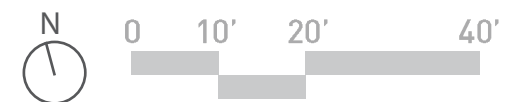
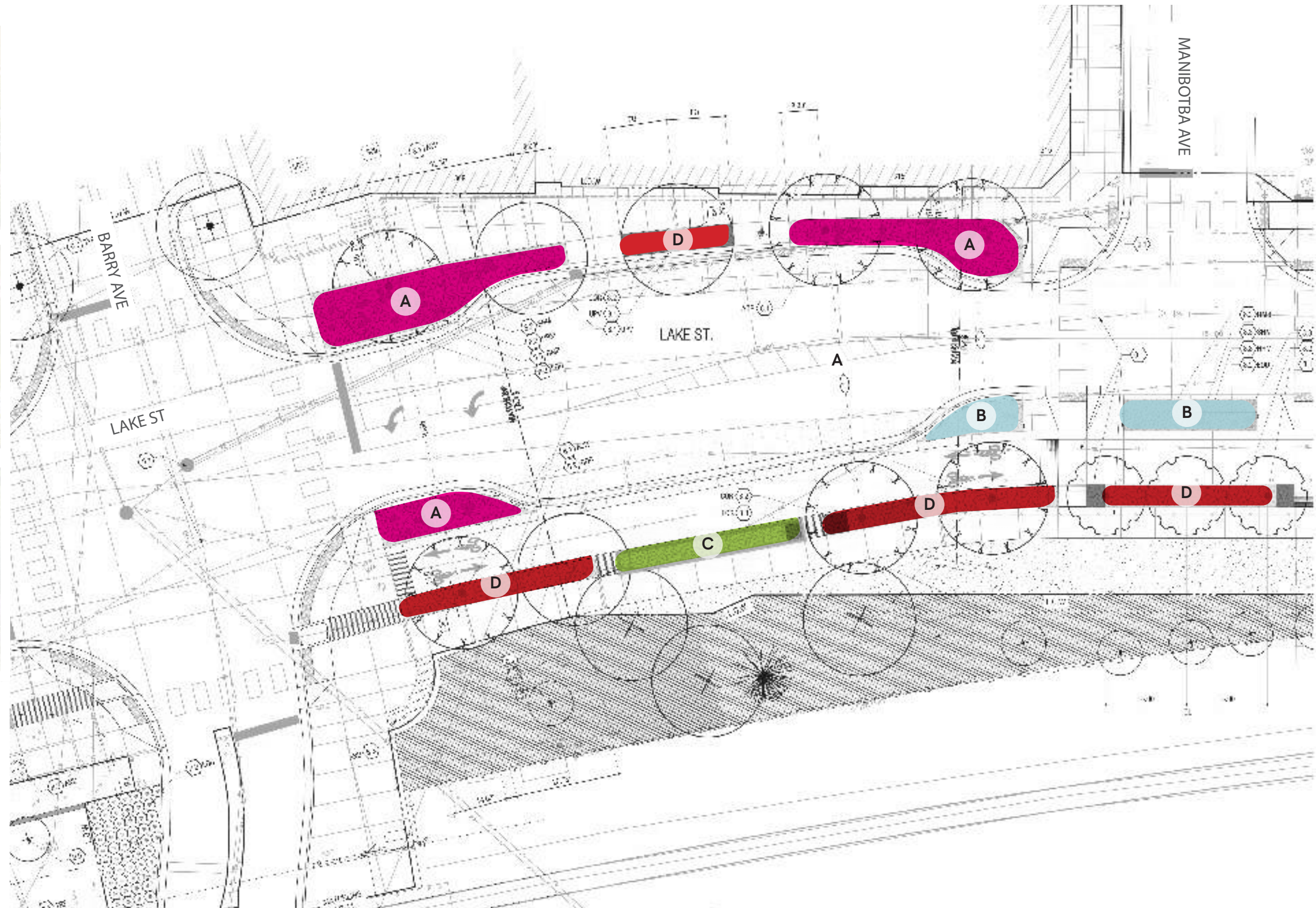
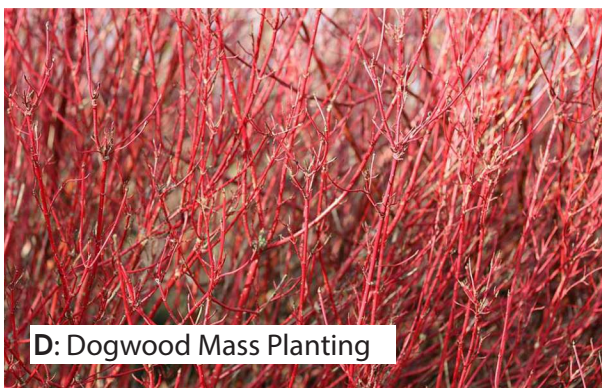
Weeding: The selected plants will eventually grow together to form a consistent, living ground layer. This “living mulch” helps suppress weed seed germination by limiting available light and space.

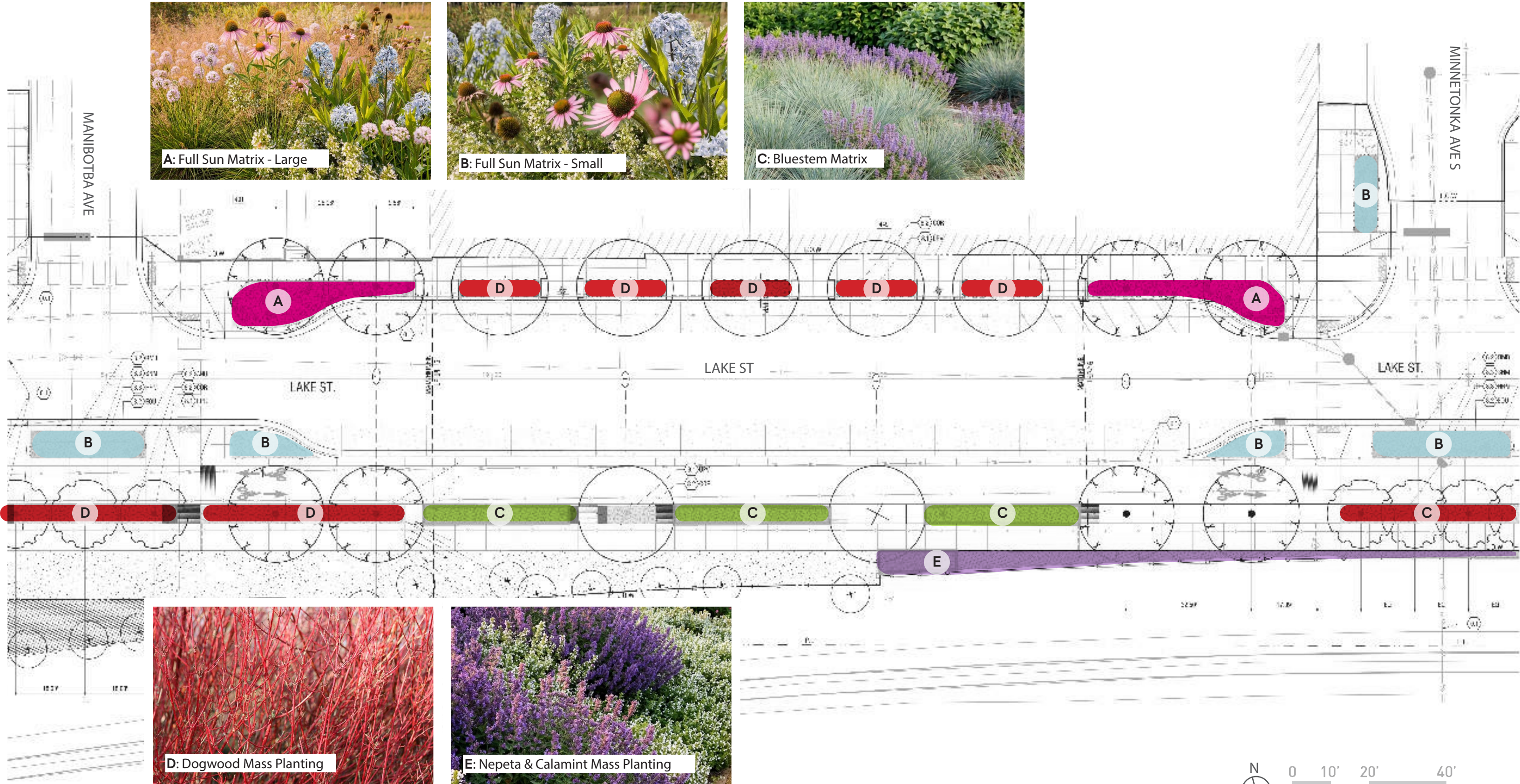
Leaf Mulch: Healthy soil is the foundation of a thriving planting. Leaf drop collected in the fall can be applied directly as mulch, broken-down leaves naturally enrich and feed the soil over time. This is a widely used practice among public gardens and municipalities.

Irrigation Monitoring: Irrigation is a valuable tool when used and managed thoughtfully. While the selected plants are drought tolerant once established, they will still require supplemental water on occasion. Full establishment typically takes around three years, making frequent staff monitoring and observation essential to supporting plant health during this period.

Spring Cutback: Most plant structure will be left standing through the winter, providing habitat, food sources, and visual interest. Cutback typically takes place in early to mid-April and can often be done with a high mower. Debris can be left in the beds rather than removed, returning nutrients to the soil.

Fertilizing: When plants are supported by healthy soil and sound management practices, supplemental fertilizer is generally unnecessary. The focus is on building strong roots and vigorous growth, the foundation for a resilient, attractive planting over time.





MINNETONKA TO WALKER / PLANTING UPDATES



A: Full Sun Matrix - Large



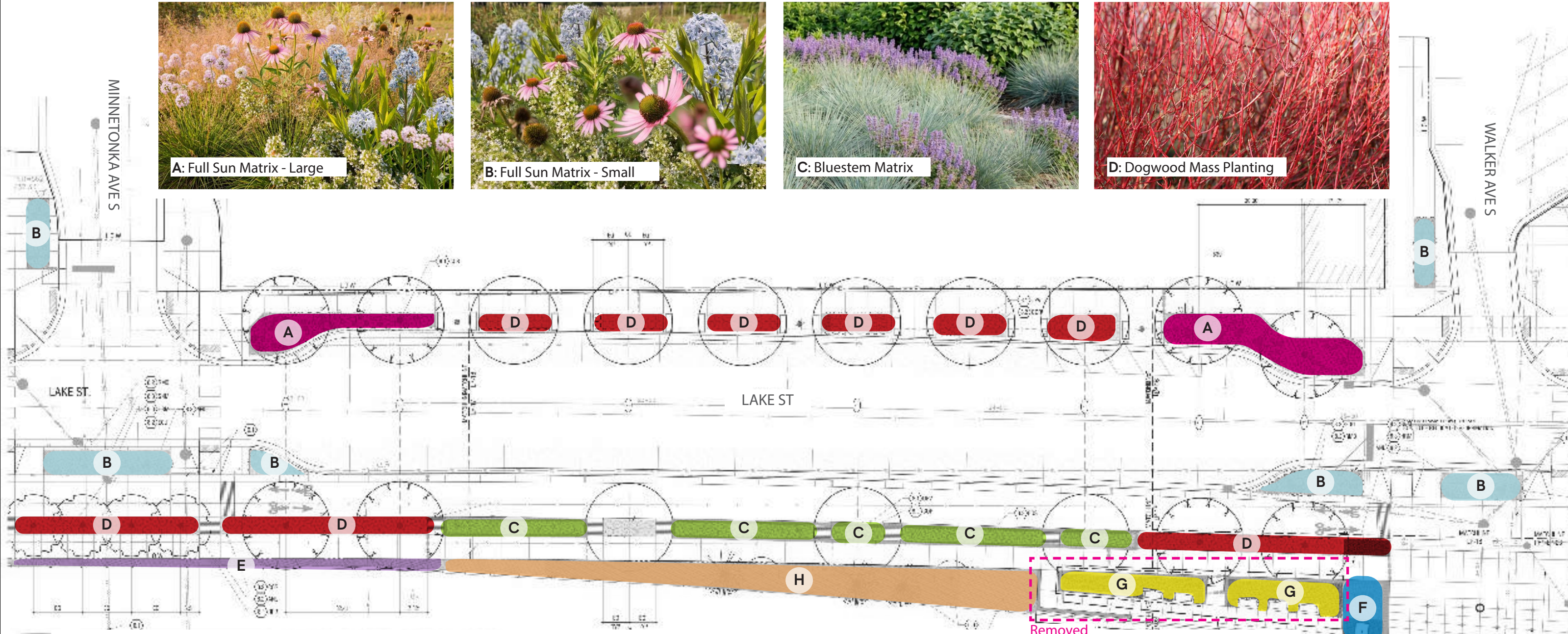
B: Full Sun Matrix - Small



C: Bluestem Matrix



D: Dogwood Mass Planting



E: Nepeta & Calamint Mass Planting



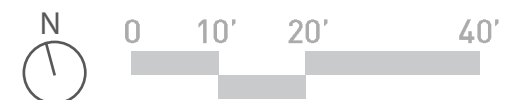
F: Switch Grass Matrix



G: Part Sun Matrix



H: Honeysuckle Matrix



WALKER AVES

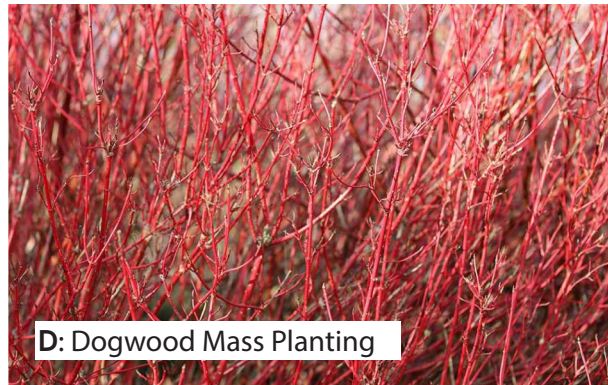
BROADWAY AVES



A: Full Sun Matrix - Large



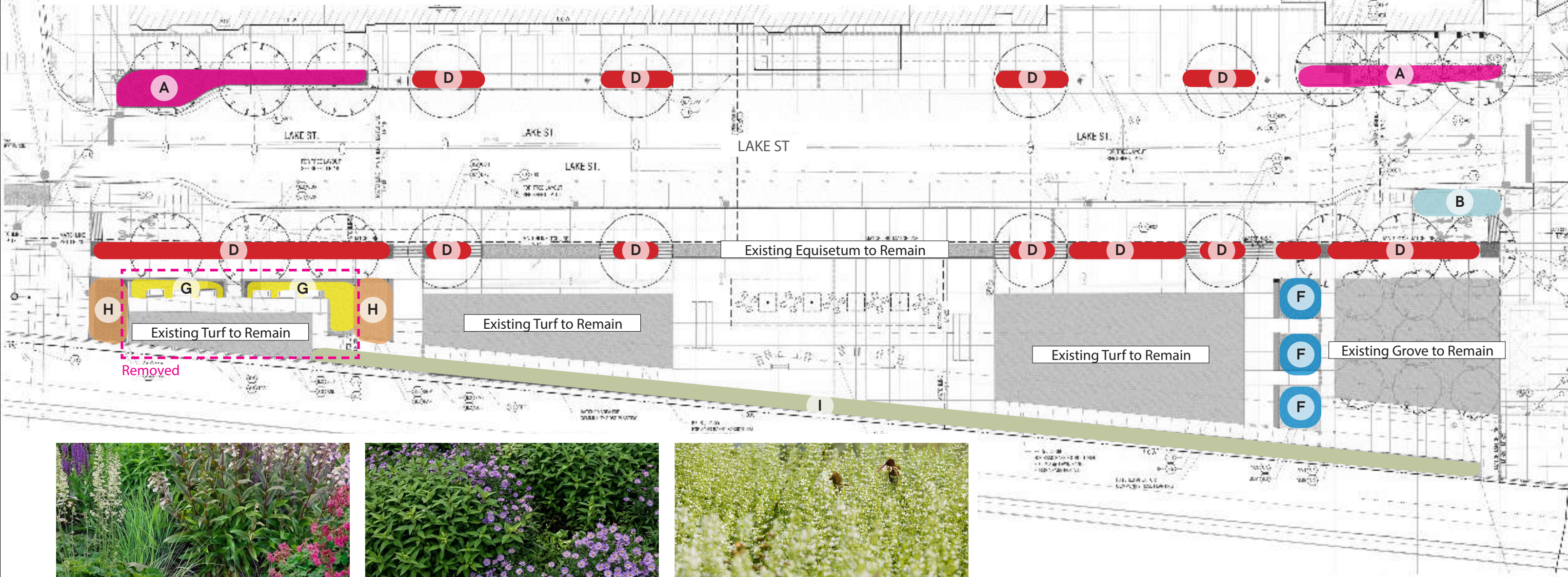
B: Full Sun Matrix - Small



D: Dogwood Mass Planting



F: Switch Grass Matrix



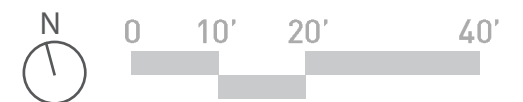
G: Part Sun Matrix



H: Honeysuckle Matrix



I: Calamint Mass Planting



A: FULL SUN MATRIX LARGE

This perennial matrix is intended to replace the primary plant composition currently repeated along Lake Street in the curb bump-outs at each intersection. The proposed palette is designed to create a resilient, beautiful, and seasonally dynamic planting scheme composed of long lived perennial plants.



WILLOW LEAF BLUESTAR
Amsonia taberaemontana salcifolia

Matrix Percentage: 35%

Notes: Serves as the Sub Shrub and provides the structure and weight of the space. Similar to the existing Roses but planted in a large drift vs dropped sporadically



WHITE CLOUD CALAMINT
Calamintha nepeta 'White Cloud'

Matrix Percentage: 20%

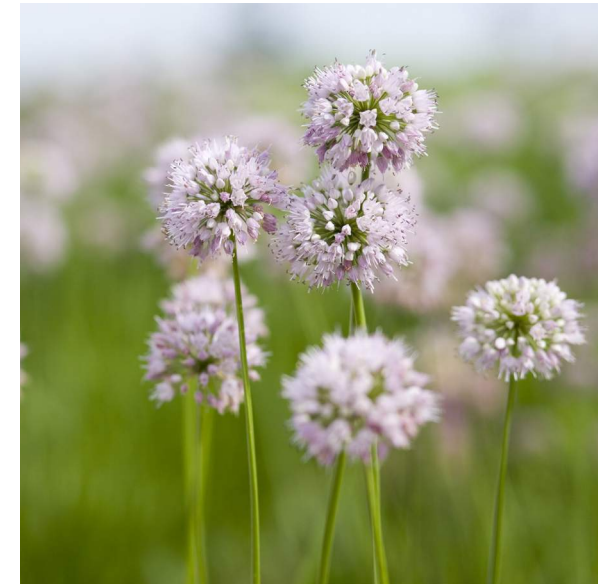
Notes: Planted near Amsonia drifts. Hardy plant that works well on sidewalk edges



PRAIRIE DROPSEED
Sporobolus heterolepis

Matrix Percentage: 20%

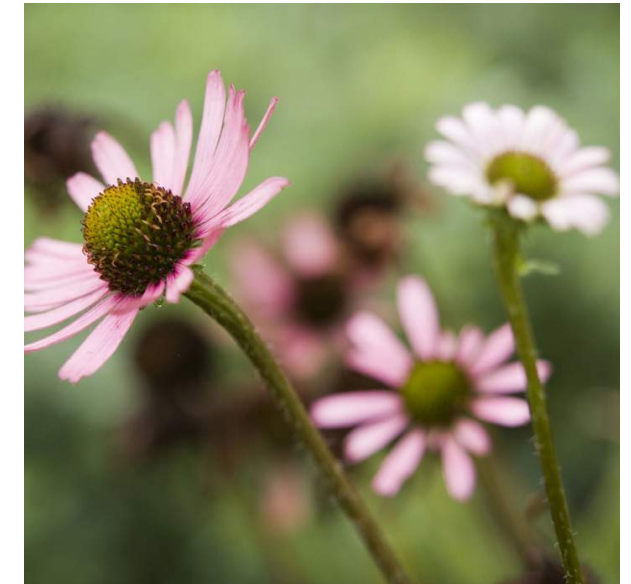
Notes: Planted on the interior of the bed in drifts



SUMMER BEAUTY ALLIUM
Allium 'Summer Beauty'

Matrix Percentage: 20%

Notes: Hardy plant that works well on sidewalk edges



PIXIE MEADOWBRIGHT CONEFLOWER
Echinacea 'Pixie Meadowbright'

Matrix Percentage: 5%

Notes: Pops of color coming up through the prairie dropseed



This perennial matrix is designed to achieve the same goals as the Large Full Sun Matrix, but is scaled down to better fit smaller intersection bump-outs. This approach ensures a tidy yet cohesive perennial planting scheme across the corridor, regardless of bump-out size.



WILLOW LEAF BLUESTAR
Amsonia taberaemontana salcifolia

Matrix Percentage: 60%

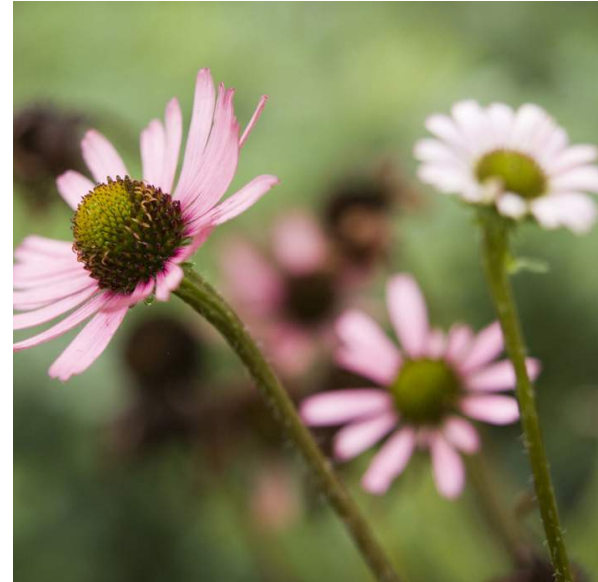
Notes: Serves as the Sub Shrub and provides the structure and weight of the space. Similar to the existing Roses but planted in a large drift vs dropped sporadically



WHITE CLOUD CALAMINT
Calamintha nepeta 'White Cloud'

Matrix Percentage: 30%

Notes: Planted near Amsonia drifts. Hardy plant that works well on sidewalk edges



PIXIE MEADOWBRIGHT CONEFLOWER
Echinacea 'Pixie Meadowbright'

Matrix Percentage: 10%

Notes: Pops of color coming up through the calamint



C: LITTLE BLUESTEM MATRIX

Large linear drifts of Little Bluestem are currently planted intermittently along the corridor. We propose retaining approximately 75% of these grasses and enhancing the planting with the addition of the perennial Agastache 'Blue Fortune' to provide seasonal color and textural variation.

*Existing Planting



'THE BLUES' LITTLE BLUESTEM
Schizachyrium scoparium 'The Blues'

'BLUE FORTUNE' AGASTACHE
Agastache 'Blue Fortune'

Matrix Percentage: 75%

Matrix Percentage: 25%

Notes: Existing planting that will be retained

Notes: Planted throughout the existing bluestem to create strong visual interest



The mass plantings of Red Twig Dogwood along Lake Street are arguably the corridor's most defining feature. However, these shrubs were originally installed too closely, limiting their ability to reach maturity and resulting in high mortality rates along the corridor. To preserve this character and maintain a strong winter presence, we propose removing and replacing the existing dogwoods and replanting the same species at an appropriate spacing to support long-term health.



ARCTIC FIRE DOGWOOD
Cornus stolonifera 'Farrow'

Matrix Percentage: 100%

Notes:



E: NEPETA AND CALAMINT MASS PLANTING

In areas where the original plan called for mass plantings of Roses and Euonymus, most have been lost over time. In their place, small drifts of 'Walker's Low' Catmint have been installed ad hoc and are performing well in these conditions. We propose continuing the use of this perennial species and interplanting with the perennial Calamintha nepeta 'White Cloud' to create a cohesive, resilient, and visually striking planting in these previously underperforming areas



WHITE CLOUD CALAMINT
Calamintha nepeta 'White Cloud'

Matrix Percentage: 50%

Notes: Hardy plant that works well on sidewalk edges

WALKERS LOW CATMINT
Nepeta 'Walkers Low'

Matrix Percentage: 50%

Notes: Hardy plant that works well on sidewalk edges and has a proven history of success in this corridor



F: SWITCH GRASS MATRIX

Approaching Panoway Plaza, large beds of Switchgrass with interplanted salvia become increasingly prominent. The Switchgrass continues to perform well, while the salvia has largely declined. To build on the success of the existing grasses, we propose retaining most of the switchgrass and introducing a complementary, durable perennial such as 'White Swan' Coneflower to enhance seasonal interest.

*Existing Planting



'CHEYENNE SKY' SWITCHGRASS
Panicum virgatum 'Cheyenne Sky'

'WHITE SWAN' CONEFLOWER
Echinacea 'White Swan'

Matrix Percentage: 70%

Matrix Percentage: 30%

Notes: High performing and high impact grass that exists on site already

Notes: Planted throughout the switchgrass to create visual interest



H: HONEYSUCKLE MATRIX

West of Panoway Plaza, a large planting bed between the sidewalk and the train tracks experiences highly variable sun and shade conditions, resulting in a sparse and inconsistent planting that lacks visual cohesion along the corridor. To address these varied conditions and create a more unified planting approach, we propose introducing hardy, sun- and shade-tolerant perennial species such as Bush Honeysuckle and 'October Skies' Aster to establish continuity and visual consistency.



BUSH HONEYSUCKLE

Diervilla lonicera

Matrix Percentage: 70%

Notes: Hardy and high performing shrub that can tolerate sunny to shady conditions

OCTOBER SKIES ASTER

Aster oblongifolius 'October Skies'

Matrix Percentage: 30%

Notes: Hardy plant with fall blooms for full season color



I: CALAMINT MASS PLANTING

At Panoway Plaza, between the main walking path and the train tracks, an existing stretch of roses has had varied success. To establish a more cohesive and elegant planting in this area, we propose a mass planting of the perennial *Calamintha nepeta* 'White Cloud'. This would create a refined backdrop for events at the plaza while complementing the existing white pergola and site details.



WHITE CLOUD CALAMINT

Calamintha nepeta 'White Cloud'

Matrix Percentage: 100%

Notes: Hardy plant that works well on sidewalk edges and looks exceptional planted en masse.



FULL PALETTE - SEASONAL INTEREST

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Arctic Fire Dogwood	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
'Autumn Bride' Heuchera								Light Green	Light Green	Light Green		
Bee Balm (Removed)							Purple	Purple	Purple			
'Bevans Variety' Geranium					Pink	Pink						
Blue False Indigo (Removed)					Teal	Teal	Teal					
'Blue Fortune' Agastache							Dark Purple	Dark Purple	Dark Purple	Dark Purple		
Bush Honeysuckle						Orange	Orange					
'Cheyenne Sky' Switchgrass						Orange	Orange	Orange	Orange			
'October Skies' Aster									Purple	Purple	Purple	
Palm Sedge (Removed)				Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green			
'Pixie Meadowbright' Coneflower							Pink	Pink	Pink			
Prairie Dropseed								Orange	Orange			
'Sea Green' Juniper (Removed)	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green
'Summer Beauty' Allium						Pink	Pink					
'The Blues' Little Bluestem								Teal	Teal	Teal		
'Walkers Low' Catmint					Dark Purple	Dark Purple	Dark Purple	Dark Purple	Dark Purple	Dark Purple		
'White Cloud' Calamint						Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green	Light Green		
'White Swan' Coneflower							Light Green	Light Green	Light Green			
Willow Leaf Bluestar					Light Blue	Light Blue	Light Blue					
Woodland Aster								Dark Green	Dark Green	Dark Green		

*Winter Interest - Seedheads

*Winter Interest - Seedheads

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*Winter Interest - Seedheads

*Winter Interest - Seedheads

*Winter Interest - Seedheads

*Winter Interest - Seedheads

*Winter Interest - Seedheads

ADDENDUM

PLANTING UPDATES / BROADWAY TO SUPERIOR (REMOVED)

EVALUATION OF PLANTING DONE WITHOUT ORIGINAL PLANTING CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS



PLANTING UPDATES / SUPERIOR TO ENGEL (REMOVED)



G: PART SUN MATRIX (REMOVED)

West of Panoway Plaza, a series of elevated benches are flanked by large planting beds of roses that have largely declined due to significant shade from mature trees. In response, we propose introducing a hardy, shade-tolerant perennial palette better suited to these shadier conditions along the corridor.



BUSH HONEYSUCKLE
Diervilla lonicera

Matrix Percentage: 50%

Notes: Hardy and high performing shrub that can tolerate sunny to shady conditions



OCTOBER SKIES ASTER
Aster oblongifolius 'October Skies'

Matrix Percentage: 10%

Notes: Hardy plant with fall blooms for full season color



AUTUMN BRIDE HEUCHERA
Heuchera villosa 'Autumn Bride'

Matrix Percentage: 20%

Notes: Elegant and shade tolerant Heuchera variety.



BEVANS VARIETY GERANIUM
Geranium 'Bevans Variety'

Matrix Percentage: 10%

Notes: A remarkable filler and mover in between other plants. Can also tolerate more sun so could be added to the other matrixes if need be



J: SHRUB MATRIX (REMOVED)

Between Broadway Avenue and Superior Boulevard, two bump-out planting beds frame the entrance to a parking lot. Existing plantings have largely disappeared, likely as a result of heavy foot traffic. We propose establishing a resilient shrub matrix of the perennial Sea Green Juniper interplanted with the perennial Willow Leaf Bluestar to create visual cohesion along the corridor while also discouraging foot traffic within these areas.



SEA GREEN JUNIPER

Juniperus chinensis 'Sea Green'

Matrix Percentage: 30%

Notes: Strong and resilient shrub. If protected until maturity, presence of this shrub will deter foot traffic within planting beds.

WILLOW LEAF BLUESTAR

Amsonia taberaemontana salcifolia

Matrix Percentage: 70%

Notes: Serves as the Sub Shrub that stitches the planting together.



K: WOODLAND ASTER MASS PLANTING (REMOVED)

Between Broadway Avenue and Engel Street, existing shrub planting beds have largely failed, likely due to heavy shade from mature trees. To address these conditions, we propose a mass planting of Woodland Aster, a perennial species well-suited to deep shade that provides a strong seasonal display when in bloom.



WOODLAND ASTER

Aster divaricatus

Matrix Percentage: 100%

Notes: Planted in conditions of deep shade at the base of trees for a consistent perennial layer.



L: FULL SUN SWALE MATRIX (REMOVED)

Across from the Landing Hotel, a turf swale currently performs poorly due to its low grade, moisture conditions, and difficult maintenance. We propose converting it into a dense perennial planting that works with site hydrology while creating a strong eastern gateway into Wayzata. A hardy mix of sun and moisture tolerant species such as False Indigo, Bee Balm and Palm Sedge would provide seasonal color and texture, while reducing maintenance to simple annual edge mowing. The result is a resilient, welcoming arrival experience that transforms an underperforming turf area into a high-impact landscape moment.



BLUE FALSE INDIGO
Baptisia australis

Matrix Percentage: 45%

Notes:

PALM SEDGE
Carex muskingumensis

Matrix Percentage: 35%


Notes:

BEE BALM
Monarda fistulosa

Matrix Percentage: 20%

Notes:



CITY OF WAYZATA LAKE STREET PLANTING ROM PRICING			05/05/2026 REVISED		ADDITIONAL ALT OPTIONS
			LOW RANGE	HIGH RANGE	ADD ALT
REMOVALS AND SITE PREP	\$	20,000.00	\$	25,000.00	
PLANTING AREA A	\$	45,000.00	\$	55,000.00	
PLANTING AREA B1	\$	15,000.00	\$	25,000.00	
PLANTING AREA B2 (ADD ALT)					\$ 10,000.00
PLANTING AREA C	\$	5,000.00	\$	7,500.00	\$ -
PLANTING AREA D	\$	55,000.00	\$	65,000.00	\$ -
PLANTING AREA E	\$	10,000.00	\$	15,000.00	\$ -
PLANTING AREA F	\$	2,500.00	\$	5,000.00	\$ -
PLANTING AREA G	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 20,000.00
PLANTING AREA H	\$	30,000.00	\$	40,000.00	\$ -
PLANTING AREA I	\$	30,000.00	\$	40,000.00	\$ -
PLANTING AREA J (ADD ALT)	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 10,000.00
PLANTING AREA K (ADD ALT)	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 15,000.00
PLANTING AREA L (ADD ALT)	\$	-	\$	-	\$ 22,000.00
MOBILIZATION AND GENERAL CONDITIONS	\$	5,000.00	\$	10,000.00	\$ -
TOTAL	\$	217,500.00	\$	287,500.00	\$ 77,000.00
GENERAL NOTES:					
This is a preliminary budget exercise, based on the conceptual plan provided by Pebl. This pricing range is used to identify the scope of work and priorities. This is not a construction proposal. Final costs will be determined with corresponding design drawings and specific selections, vegetation sizes, spacing, etc.					
EXCLUSIONS:					
Utilities (Gas, Electric, Sewer), Permits, Design Fee, Mortar Set Paving, Sub Cut of Driveway, Rough Grading, Other Site Furniture,					



City Council Workshop City Council Agenda Report

MEETING DATE: May 5, 2026	WORKSHOP AGENDA ITEM: 2
TITLE: Discussion of Future Agenda Topics (6:30-6:40 p.m.)	
PREPARED BY: Aurora Yager, City Manager	
REVIEWED BY:	

DISCUSSION OBJECTIVE:

To discuss and prioritize future workshop and general topics.

2024-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITIES RELEVANCE:

Not Applicable.

BACKGROUND:

Below is a list of planned workshop topics. These are subject to change:

- **May 19**
 - Council Budget Priorities and 2027 Budget Process
 - Staffing Needs
- **June 2**
 - 2025 Excess Reserves
 - Strategic Plan Update
 - Comprehensive Plan Scope and RFP Review
- **June 16**
 - Future of Retail in Wayzata
 - Update from Energy & Environment Committee
- **July 7**
 - Long Term Financial Plan Update
 - 2027 Preliminary General Fund Budget
- **July 21**
 - 2027 Preliminary Enterprise Fund Budgets
- **August 5**
 - Development Review Process
 - Planned Unit Development (PUD) Ordinance Revisions
- **August 18**
 - 2027 Preliminary Budget Status Update
 - Charter Commission Review Topics
- **September 1**
 - Potential Sale of Public Land
 - Franchise Fees
- **September 15**
 - Update on Shared Services Exploration
- **October 6**
 - Public Safety Facility Needs and Tour
- **October 20**
 - Consideration of Open Book Meeting Process
- **November 10**
 - Review Draft of 2027-2036 CIP
- **November 24**
 - 2027 Legislative Priorities
 - 2027 Budget Status Update

- **December 1**
 - Board and Commission Interviews
- **December 15**
 - Closed Session to Review Performance of City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

None