



No-mow fescue grass in medians of
LaGrange Road and 159th Street

6.16.25

Purpose of Brief:

- History/Cost of Project
- Do we like the different aesthetically look of no mow fescue in pilot area on LaGrange Road?
- Do we continue the project after pilot area in future budgets?
- Do we scrap this project immediately and revert to regular weekly mowing?



Why convert from traditional lawn to no mow fescue?

Fescue grass generally grows to 12 to 15 inches tall and fall over in undulating wave-like mounds about 6 inches high.

(It does requires cutting 3 times a year versus weekly.)

- **Ecological Alternative:**
 - Needs minimal watering (drought tolerance)
 - Is highly salt tolerant and resists most turf grasses diseases
 - Does not require fertilization
 - Reduces weed growth
 - Thrives in full sun to partial shade
- **Cost:** Reduce amount of times maintenance crews must cut.
- **Safety:** Reduce number of times personnel to be in median cutting grass.

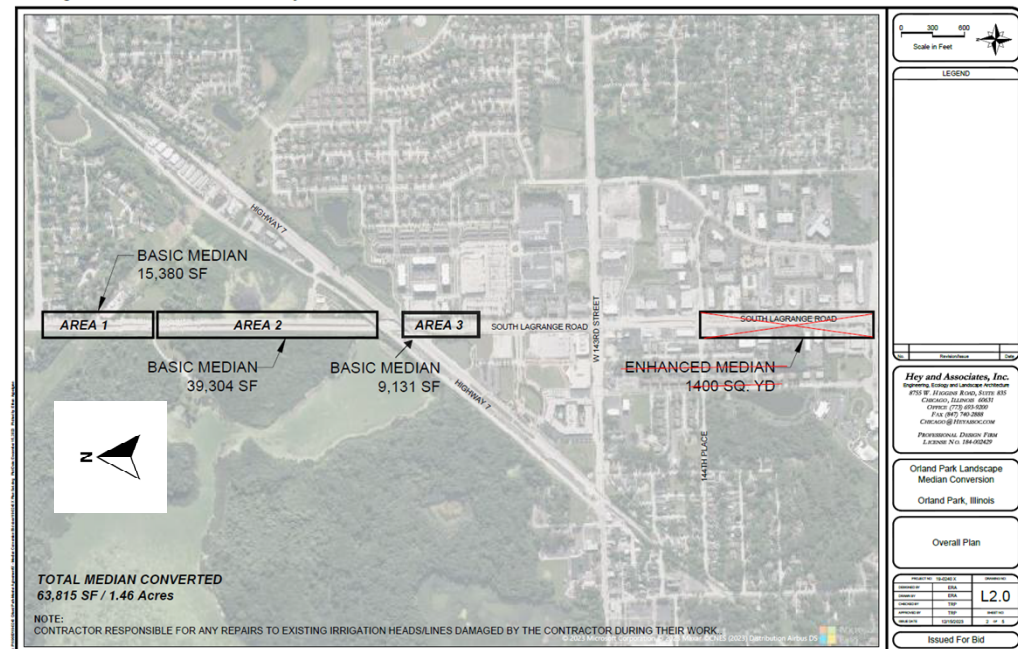


Planning/Test Pilot Area

- **Planning:** '23 Hey and Associates estimated cost to convert LaGrange Medians (131st to 171st Street)
 - Once complete on LaGrange Rd, move to 159th medians.
- **Test Pilot Area:** Convert 1.46 acres from 135th St to just south of 141st St. (approx. 0.75 linear miles)
 - An area south of 143rd containing raised planter beds was decided against due to logistical constraints.

Budget Estimate for entire LaGrange Rd
\$371,058

LaGrange Road Median Turf Conversion Project- Phase 1 - As Built Plans



Design/Construction Costs

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Cost</u>
• A/E Design Services: '23 - '25: Hey & Associates • Included planning, permitting with IDOT, estimating, construction documents, construction administration	\$15,000	\$10,865.33
• Board Approval: On February 19, 2024, Village Board approved 2024-0090 for the test pilot area	\$65,000	\$53,790.00*
• Construction: '24-'25: Semmer Landscape	Final Cost	\$49,875.00

* Not to exceed \$53,790.00 (\$48,900 +10% contingency \$4,890)

Return of Investment (ROI) Analysis

- **Mowing Method:** LaGrange Road from 131st St to 179th St contains approximately 8.87 acres by contractor.
 - Annually \$26/acre/week x 30 weeks a year
 - - Future mowing remain: \$26/acre x 3 times a year
- **Test Pilot:** 1.5 acres conversion to fescue and 1 acre cost (\$49,875 / 1.5).
- **Remaining Area:** Subtracting 1.5 acres from 8.87 mowable acres
 - 7.37 acres remain x test pilot cost of 1 acre
- **Estimated A/E cost:** For IDOT permits and contract administration (x 1 yr)
- **ROI: 39 years**
 - $(245,053 + 2,500 / 6,344)$

Cost per Year

\$6,919 in FY25

-\$575 per year

\$6,344 mowing savings

\$49,875

\$33,250

\$245,053

\$2,500

Appearance Considerations:

- LaGrange and 159th Streets are gateways into the Village.
- 1st year establishment period often contain patchy areas.
- 2nd year growth is more uniform and currently looking better than expected.
- 3rd year is anticipated to look like last photo

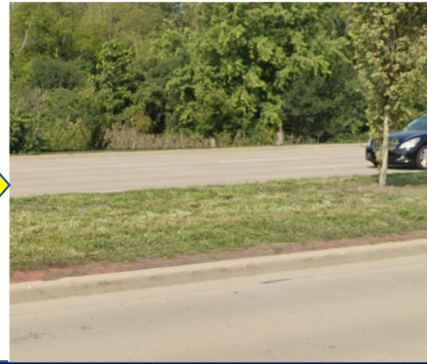
Previous grass
May 2023



Seeding Period
May 2024



Establish Year
Sept 2024



2nd Year
June 2025



Projected look
2026



Questions?

Request Decision

- Do we like the different aesthetically look of low mow fescue in pilot area on LaGrange Road?
- Do we continue the project after pilot area in future budgets?
- Do we scrap this project immediately and revert to regular weekly mowing?