



Naturalized No-Mow Areas

PRESENTED TO THE PARK BOARD – AUGUST 21, 2025

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Overview

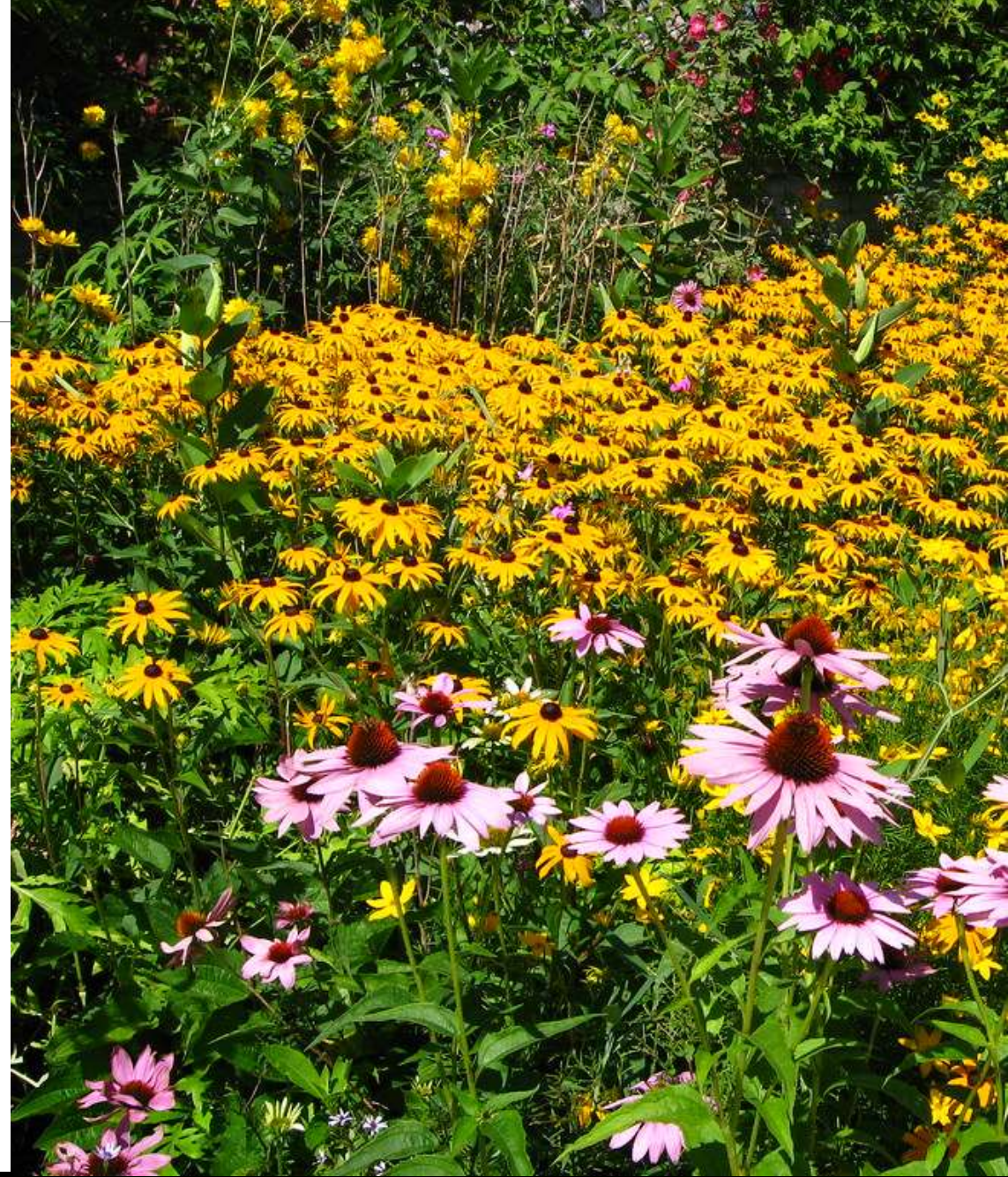
The purpose of exploring naturalized areas is to reduce long-term maintenance costs, enhance biodiversity, and improve environmental sustainability by transitioning select high-maintenance turf areas into low-maintenance, ecologically beneficial landscapes.

- Key Benefits
- Site Selections
- Implementation Process & Timeline
- Naturalized Areas Program:
Savings & Impact Summary
- Success Stories
- Next Steps



Key Benefits

- Saves on mowing and maintenance costs
- Retains soils and helps with erosion control through deeply rooted plants
- Helps prevent grass clippings, litter and toxins from entering waterways by filtration
- Supports pollinator activity
- Protects natural and native resources
- Provide food and cover for native wildlife
- Helps reduce mower emissions
- Aesthetics
- Educational opportunities



Site Selections

- **9 sites** have been selected for the initial phase of the naturalized areas program, chosen for their high maintenance demand, potential environmental benefits, and visibility for public education.
- These locations provide opportunities to reduce mowing frequency, lower operational costs, and enhance ecological health while maintaining an attractive and functional landscape.
- Seed mix will vary per site. Each mix contains a blend of native grasses and/or wildflowers that support pollinators and add seasonal color.

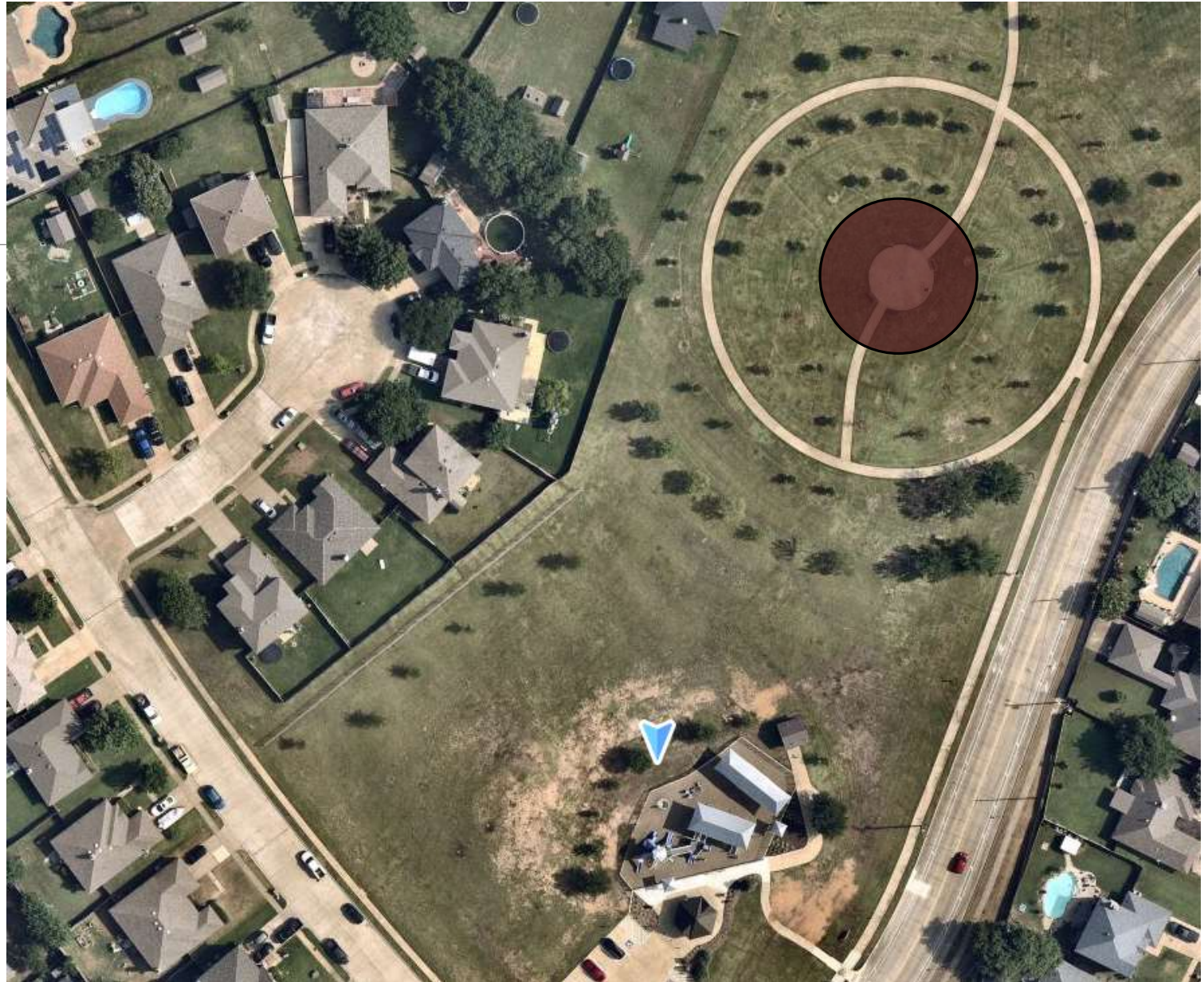




Park – No Mow Zones

Site 1: Centennial Park

- Coverage Area Estimate:
1 acre
- Staff Time Savings:
30 minutes/week
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$826



Site 2: Cedar Ridge Park

- Coverage Area Estimate:
.5 acres
- Staff Time Savings:
1 hour/week
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$413



Site 3: Heberle Trail

- Coverage Area Estimate:
1.5 Acres
- Contract Savings:
\$3,280
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$1,239



Site 4: Bailey Lake

- Coverage Area Estimate:
3-5 acres (Tractor)
- Staff Time Savings:
1 hour/week
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$4,130





Median – No Mow Zones

Site 5: Lakewood Drive (Median near CR 1021)

- Coverage Area Estimate:
1.9 acres
- Contract Savings:
\$9,196 – *Assumption includes additional surrounding properties*
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$1,652



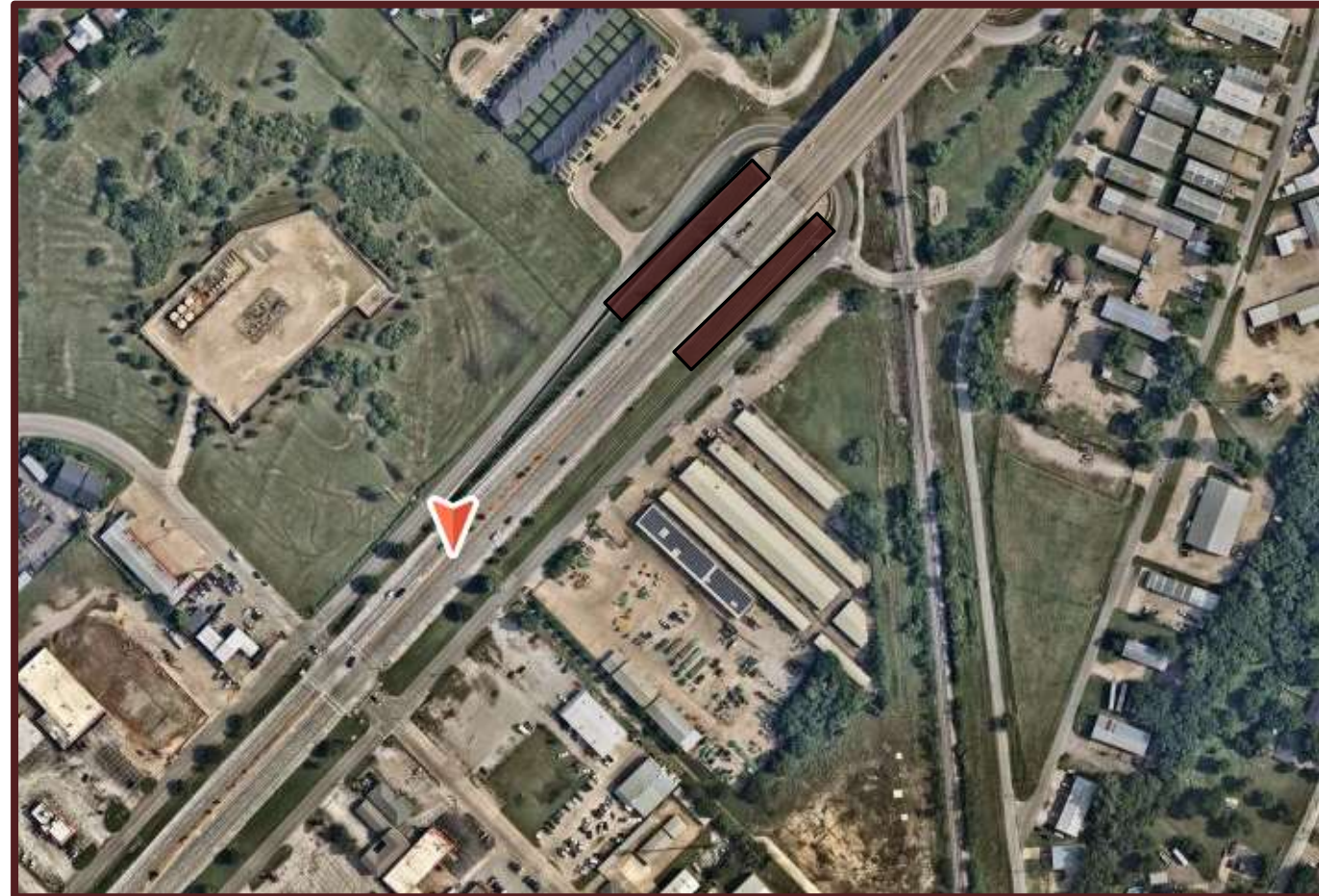
Site 6: NW Renfro Medians (Near Crowley)

- Coverage Area Estimate:
1 acre
- Staff Time Savings:
4 hours/week
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$826 (Groundcover selection)



Site 7: Wilshire: Slopes on I-35 Bridge

- Coverage Area Estimate:
.5 acre
- Staff Time Savings:
1 hour/week
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$413



Site 8: Hidden Creek Parkway Slope

- Coverage Area Estimate:
.5 acre
- Staff Time Savings:
30 minutes/week
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$413



Site 9: John Jones Medians

- Coverage Area Estimate:
9 acres
- Staff Time Savings:
6 hours/week
- Anticipated Seed Cost:
\$7,434



Selected medians along John Jones begin at the intersection of Wilshire and extend just past Summercrest Road.

Implementation Process & Timeline

- **Mid–Late September:** Apply chemical treatment to designated areas.
- **Mid September:** Purchase seed to allow for shipping time and ensure availability for October planting.
- **Late September–Early October:** Allow treated areas to die back for approximately two weeks.
- **Early October:** Till treated areas to prepare for seeding.
 - **Immediately After Tilling:** Seed prepared areas.
 - **Post-Seeding:** Use the ball field drag to lightly cover seed with tilled soil.
 - Watering (If Feasible)
- **Completion Target:** All work finalized by the third week of October.



Naturalized Areas Program: Savings & Impact Summary

- **Total Naturalized Area Added:**
 - 19.9 acres transitioned from high-maintenance turf to low-maintenance naturalized areas
- **Time Savings:**
 - 420 staff hours saved per season
 - 4 hours minus Lakewood internal assumption
 - 2 hour minus Heberle Trail internal assumption
 - 330 staff hours saved per season
- **Contract Savings:**
 - Lakewood Properties: \$9,196
 - Heberle Trail: \$3,280
 - Total Contract Savings: \$12,476 annually
- **Estimated Total Seed Cost (One-Time):**
 - \$17,346 for all sites in the initial program phase
- **Additional Cost Considerations:**
 - Chemicals (One-time): Estimated \$1,500
 - Educational Signage (One-time): \$1,500 per sign
 - Staff Preparation Time: 44 Hours



Success Stories

- **City of Burleson**
 - Successfully implemented no-mow programs in select parks, creating naturalized areas that support pollinator habitats and enhance park aesthetics.
 - Positive public feedback and increased community engagement through educational signage and outreach.
- **City of Lewisville**
 - Established a citywide median naturalization program, improving visual appeal while reducing mowing frequency and operational expenses.
 - Achieved over \$30,000 in annual mowing cost reductions.



Educational Outreach

- **Partnership Opportunities**
 - Expand collaborations with the Master Naturalist group to incorporate volunteer-led planting, maintenance, and educational programs.
 - Leverage community partnerships to host nature walks, school field trips, and pollinator awareness events within naturalized zones.



Next Steps

- City Council feedback: September 15
- Program preparation to begin soon after September 15
- Mid-September: Begin program preparation
- October: Implement planting process and City-wide communication plan



Questions / Comments

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