



CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

TO: Mayor & City Council

DATE: July 31, 2013

FROM: John McDonough, City Manager

AGENDA ITEM: Sandy Springs Beautification Projects

MEETING DATE: For Submission onto the August 6, 2013, City Council Work Session Meeting Agenda

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: (Attach additional pages if necessary)

See attached:

Memorandum
Presentation

APPROVAL BY CITY MANAGER:  APPROVED

PLACED ON AGENDA FOR: 8/6/2013

CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL REQUIRED: () YES () NO

CITY ATTORNEY APPROVAL: 

REMARKS:

To: John McDonough, City Manager
From: Angela Parker, Director of Community Development 
Date: July 31, 2013 for submission onto the August 6, 2013 City Council Work Session
Agenda Item: Sandy Springs Beautification Projects

Background:

Pursuant to the Sandy Springs Tree Conservation Ordinance the City collects recompense monies for:

- Sites that are not large enough for tree planting that meets canopy or mitigation requirements
- Enforcement of the Tree Conservation Ordinance related to the removal of trees

The Tree Fund balance as of July 31, 2013 totals \$116,983.

Discussion:

The attached PowerPoint provides an overview of beautification projects recently completed as well as recommendations for future projects. Upon Council action on the project list, staff will develop design and construction documents. While available funds will not be sufficient for execution of all of the recommended projects, staff will proceed down the list as funds are available. Additionally, staff proposes that the project list be revisited annually in advance of the planting season to insure that the priority listing remains valid. Phase I project installation and expenditure of the available funds will occur during the Fall 2013/Winter 2014 planting season.

Department of Community Development Recommendation:

The Department recommends that the City Council approve the recommended beautification project list.

SANDY SPRINGS BEAUTIFICATION PROJECTS

August 2013



Benefits of Landscaping

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- Beautification
- Tangible evidence of City's proactive approach to environmental stewardship
- Demonstrates COSS investments in infrastructure
- Reduces stormwater runoff
- Reduce the heat island of the City
- Safer and more appealing pedestrian and motorist experiences
- Encourages private investment and citizen engagement

Recently Completed Projects

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- Abernathy Roadway Median
- Mayor's Tree Landscaping
- Siren Island Landscaping
- Hanover Tree Planting
- Lost Corner Community Gardens
- Morgan Overlook Park Perennial Beds

Recently Completed Projects

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Abernathy Road Median 1

- Landscape completed April 2013
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover, lawn and ornamental grass
- Approx. 1,400' length
- Lighting/ electric to be completed with Park Phase 4 construction

Recently Completed Projects

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The Mayor's Tree is a white oak

Mayor's Tree

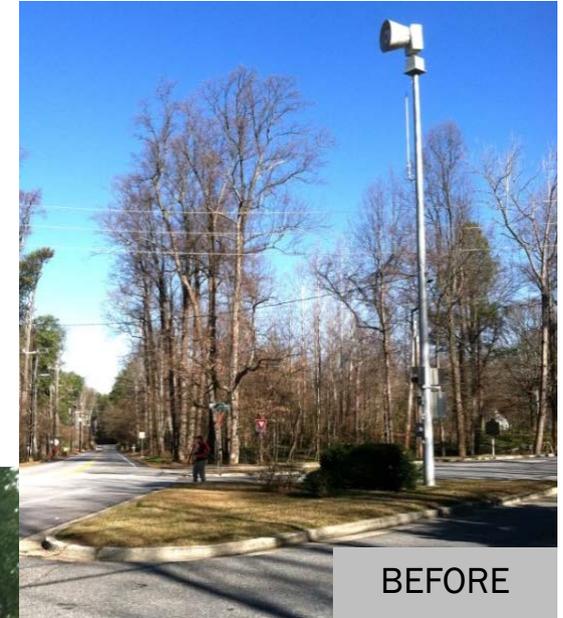
- Island at Mt. Vernon Hwy & Hammond Drive
- Landscape completed May 2013
- Features – patio, wall, benches, and lighting and irrigation
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover, lawn and ornamental grass
- Approx. 3,500 square feet
- Project partner - Sandy Springs Society
- Dedicated July 31, 2013

Recently Completed Projects

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Mt. Vernon Siren Island

- Median at Mount Vernon Highway and Northside Drive
- Approx. 1,500 square feet
- Landscape completed April
Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover, pole to be painted



Recently Completed Projects

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Lost Corner Community Gardens

- 62 raised garden beds managed by Friends of Lost Corner.
- Work performed by community service and Parks staff
- Improvements include fencing, storage, a new water line and hose bibs.



Recently Completed Projects

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Morgan Overlook Park Perennial Plantings

- Flowering perennials planted to replace annuals at vehicle and pedestrian entry focal areas
- Work performed by community service and Parks staff
- Perennials selected to complement existing plantings include black eyed susan, shasta daisy, verbena, daylily and coreopsis



Median and Street Tree Plantings

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Tree Plantings have many benefits:

- Creates a gateway and a sense of place
 - Reduces the heat island, shades pedestrians and commuters in traffic
 - Improves the environment – increases oxygen, reduces pollutants in the air, reduces stormwater runoff.
- When combined with shrubs and/or groundcover can reduce or eliminate the intensive maintenance requirements of open lawns.
 - Improves the community image and outlook.
 - Potential street trees include:



European Hornbeam



Dawn
Redwood

Chinese
Pistache



Tree Fund

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Funds collected for:

- Site size not sufficient to meet canopy requirements or mitigation requirements
- Enforcement of Tree Conservation Ordinance, related to illegally removed trees

Fund Balance

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- Tree Fund
(as of July, 2013) **\$ 116,983.00**

- Explore Funding Opportunities
Grants – State and Federal

Tree Fund Project Evaluation Criteria

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1. Overall Project Cost (goal to install greater quantity of less-expensive projects)
2. Visibility (proximity to gateway corridors, higher traffic counts)
3. Beautification (addressing eyesores/ impact)
4. Ease of implementation/ complexity of project
5. Public/ private partnership potential

Proposed Priority Ranking

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Recommended Projects

1. Abernathy/Roswell Road Island
2. Springs Crossing Landscape
3. City Center Street Trees
4. Glenridge Drive south of Abernathy
5. Fig Island
6. Johnson Ferry Road Medians
7. Abernathy Road Medians & Street Trees

Abernathy/Roswell Road Island

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Roswell Road Island

- Approx. 2,600 square feet area total
- Must maintain pedestrian crosswalk refuge
- Currently all concrete, would require pavement cutting and removal
- Limited to 30" max. ht. plant materials to keep sight lines open
- Beautification – low shrubs, groundcover such as junipers, daylilies, perennial groundcovers

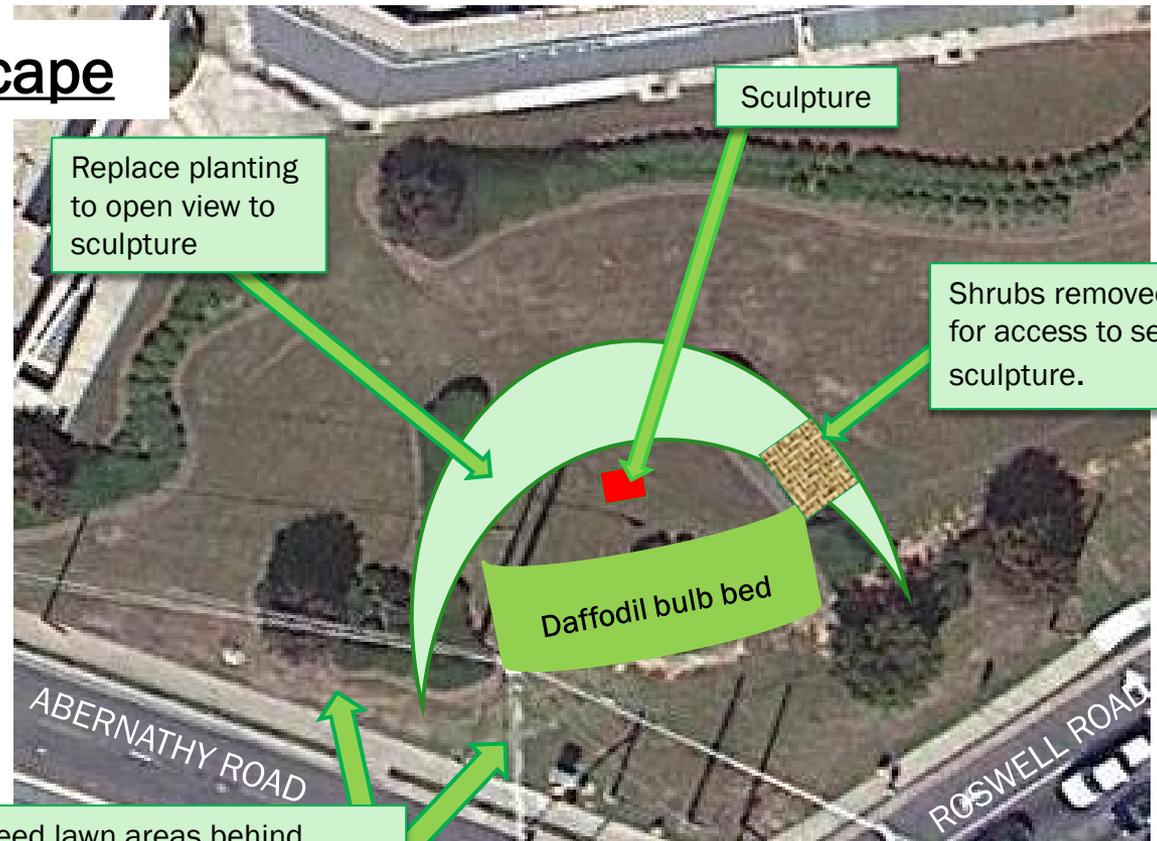


Abernathy Road/Roswell Road

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Springs Crossing Landscape

- City-owned parcel at corner of Roswell and Abernathy, maintained by shopping center management
- 2,500 bulbs planted by garden clubs, bed prepared and groundcover planted by COSS in December, 2012
- Sculpture re-installed February, required removal of shrubs
- Recommend removing shrubs, replant area to frame sculpture



Replace planting to open view to sculpture

Sculpture

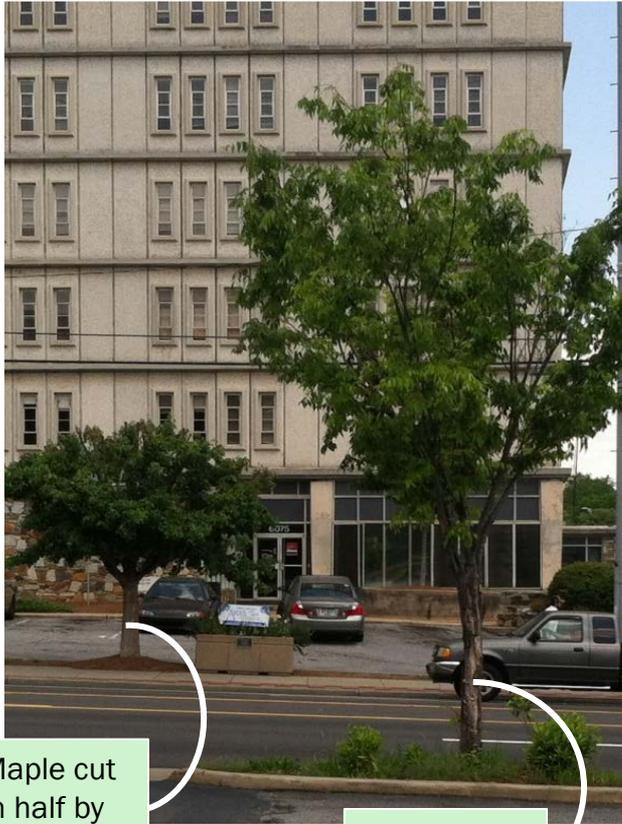
Shrubs removed for access to set sculpture.

Daffodil bulb bed

Reseed lawn areas behind sidewalk, disturbed by GDOT work; to match existing lawns, currently mismatched and rough

City Center Street Trees

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Maple cut
in half by
GA Power

Zelkova
damaged
by vehicles



City Center Tree Replacements

- Streetscape trees primarily on Roswell Road have failed or have sustained significant damage requiring replacement.
- Highly visible City Center area with streetscape improvements in place
- Many trees stressed, damaged, infected with mistletoe, or severely pruned by GA Power
- Some tree pits and landscape islands have no trees
- Need detailed inventory

Glenridge Drive Improvements

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Glenridge Intersection

- Open right of way left bare from realignment of intersection
- Approx. 35,000 square feet open area with overhead power lines
- Tall/steep bank, difficult to maintain grass well
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover

Glenridge Drive Improvements

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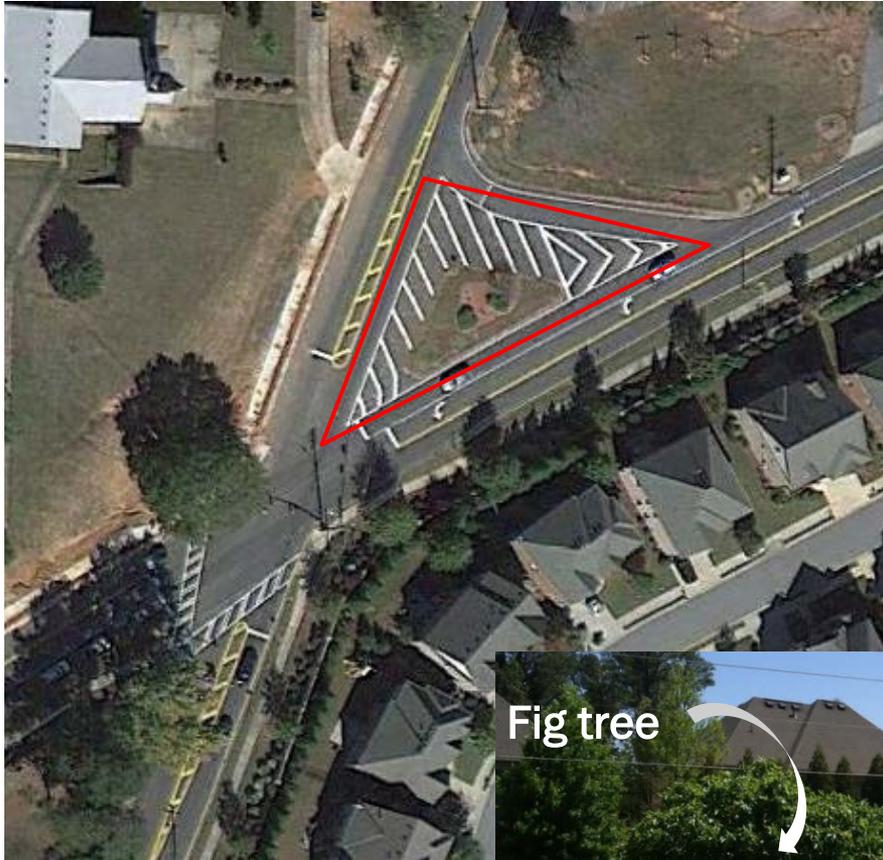


Fig Island

- Mount Vernon and Glenridge island, recently striped to address illegal parking
- Intersection is somewhat bleak – island is lawn, planted with Indian Hawthorn and one fig tree
- Striping added to eliminate overflow parking, island could be expanded by removing pavement
- Beautification – tree, shrubs, and groundcover



Fig tree

Johnson Ferry Road Improvements

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Johnson Ferry Rd Median 1

- Approx. 250' length of plantable area
- Concrete removed by GDOT
- Sleeving installed for the addition of irrigation
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover

Johnson Ferry Road Improvements

20



Johnson Ferry Road Median 2

- Approx. 540' length of plantable area
- Concrete removed by GDOT
- Sleeving installed for the addition of irrigation
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover

Johnson Ferry Road Improvements

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Johnson Ferry Road Median 3

- Approx. 400' length of plantable area
- Concrete removed by GDOT
- Sleeving installed for the addition of irrigation
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover



Abernathy Road Improvements

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Abernathy Road Street Trees

- Trees lost to road widening
- Trees proposed in existing ROW
- Smaller trees required below power lines and in sight lines of shopping center
- Wide expanse of fresh asphalt is hot and bleak, with no trees, and there are no power lines in the way of planting large shade trees



Abernathy Road Improvements

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Abernathy Median 2

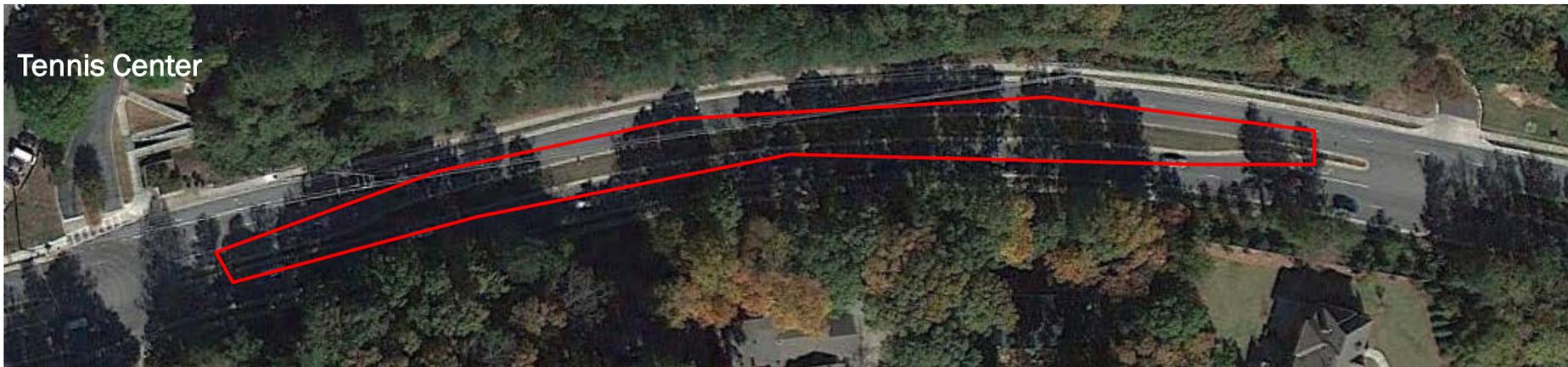
- Approx. 200' length plantable space
- Concrete removed by GDOT winter 2013
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover to match Median 1, area is in desperate need

Abernathy Road Improvements

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Abernathy Road Median 4

- Approx. 600' length of plantable area
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover



Abernathy Road Improvements

25

Abernathy Road Median 5

- Approx. 200' length of plantable area
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover

Abernathy Road Median 6

- Approx. 85' length of plantable area
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover

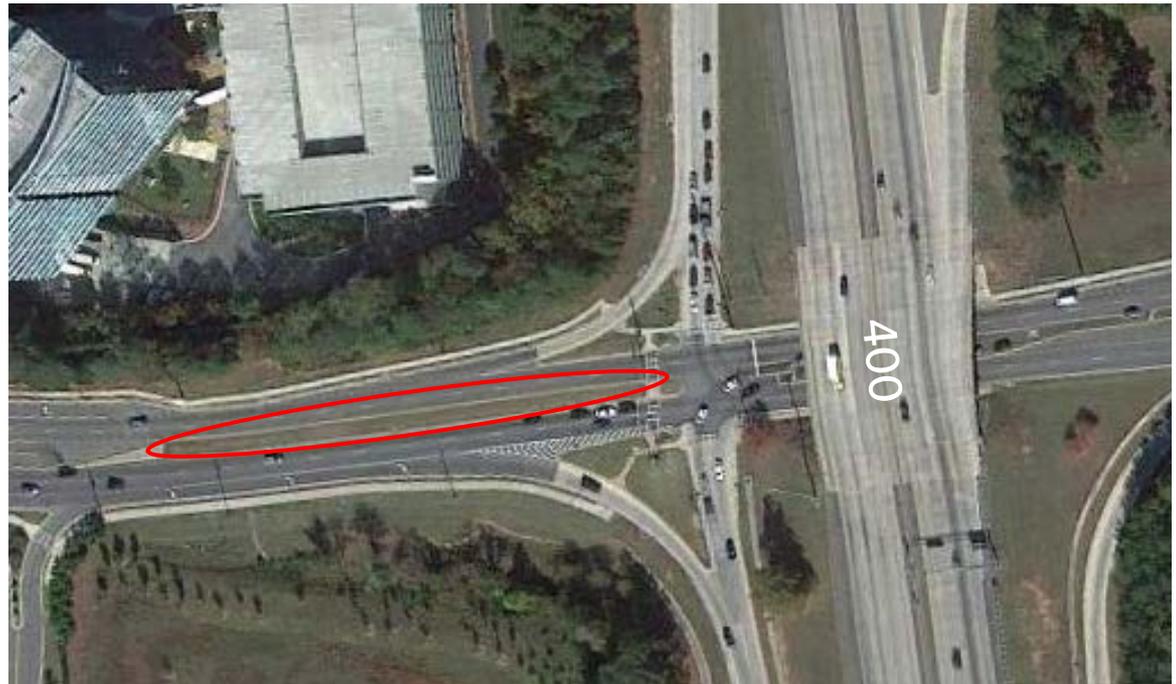


Abernathy Road Improvements

26

Abernathy Road Median 7

- Approx. 430' length of plantable area
- Beautification – trees, shrubs, groundcover
- Can be incorporated in Interchange/ Gateway plantings



Proposed Priority Ranking

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<u>Project</u>	<u>Estimated Budget</u>
1. Abernathy/Roswell Road Island	\$ 20,000
2. Springs Crossing Landscape	\$ 15,000
3. City Center Street Trees	\$ 35,000
4. Glenridge Drive south of Abernathy	\$ 40,000
5. Fig Island	\$ 25,000
6. Johnson Ferry Road Medians	\$ 100,000
7. Abernathy Road Medians & Street Trees	\$ 110,000

Estimate is based on potential size and complexity of projects. Actual costs will vary with program development, and are provided for discussion purposes only.