

Grand Have Phase II Summary

Waterfront Parks, The Crossings, Esplanade & Circle Islands

Waterfront Parks

These are beautiful park settings where the community can enjoy walking, gathering and sharing these settings with their family and friends. There are small changes that need to be done to bring these parks back to the standard they were designed to portray.

Over crowded plants are the norm and plants where the environment has changed due to normal plant growth. Some areas have no shade for shade loving plants and some areas have shade where sun-loving plants are growing.

There are missing plants where plants have died due to poor environment or damage from storms. There are plants that are over crowded due to plant growth over the years. These areas can be corrected by removal of some plants and transplanting others where they are over crowded to areas where they are needed.

Several areas need plants added to change the pallet of plants adding interest by adding another color to make the area more diverse.

Lowering soil line to prevent the mulch and sand from washing over the curbing in these parks should be done to improve the over all appearance.

Raising some of the trees lower branches to give a more open look. Removing the unhealthy pines in South Park to allow the oaks to grow correctly. These are simple fixes to repair the parks and to make them far more attractive and welcoming to the community.

Montague

Montague has an area of dead turf due to extreme conditions. I have shown in the Power Point program several new beds that will remove the turf and allow the view to be enhanced by putting in transplanted trees from South Park where they are in the wrong environment.

Extending the beds under the trees to the natural area will also help create a more uniform bed while fixing the problem of trying to grow turf in conditions where they can not thrive. Again this is a simple fix to a problem area using material we have in the community. The transplanting of the trees

should be done in cooler weather, but the construction of the beds can be done now, which will improve the look this area. The other plant material can be installed in the beds at this time leaving only the trees to complete the project.

Circle Islands

The Circle Islands are in need of upgrading and should have a common theme in place. There are so many variations in each island they give the look of confusion, by creating a common theme they will be pulled together to look more uniform. The design group is working on this theme and will present the design after the gates are completed for review. The plan will incorporate Coquina rock and plants that require less pruning and water.

I also recommend not stripping the islands of all the plants but to work in the theme with the material we have to work with and not to waste the good landscape material we have planted in these islands. The use of a single element will do this and will cost less when working with the many islands in Grand Haven.

The Landscape Standards should be reviewed and should include the new theme and its elements. There should be some leeway if islands contain more trees than the standard lists. If a planted

island works but needs a small amount of work we should not strip the island just to meet the standards as they are written.

One type of mulch or ground cover should be used. If Pine Bark is the pick then all islands should be using Pine Bark.

Sod should not be part of the theme as it requires more irrigation than landscape plants & needs to be maintained weekly with mowing.

As budget allows and as the other projects are finished the traffic circles should be allotted funds and should be used to improve their look and condition.

They should be rated and worked on according to their condition, worst islands first and so on. I have copied the AD Hoc map for circle location.

The Crossings

The gates at the Crossings need to be brought up to the standard of the rest of the community. These gates are the entrance to the community and need

to portray a look of elegance and should present this to approaching visitors and future homebuyers.

The Crossings only needs minor additions and corrections to complete this project. Adding azaleas and putting in plants to brighten the entrance will accomplish this problem.

Inside the Crossings there is too much Spartina running along the walking areas. One problem is the plantings are over crowded and the other is many of the plants are unhealthy form too much pruning which was done in order to keep the plants from spilling over onto the sidewalks. Lets remove some of these plants and replant with plants where they can be maintained with less care and that will also improve the look of the community.

South Lake

The main road leading into South Lake Village is in very poor condition. Changes need to be made to help improve the look entering this area of Grand Haven. Removal of dead and damaged plant material would greatly improve this entrance. A future plan will show the recommended improvements to this area. Low maintenance is the theme.

Village Center

The Village Center should have several corrections made to the landscape to again correct plant problems stemming from dead or dying plants over the years.

The diseased sago palms were removed and holes were left in the landscape and never corrected. There are old plants that need replacing along with plants where growing conditions have changed resulting in too much shade or too much sun stressing plants and are now in poor condition. Again a plan will show the recommended changes after the other projects are completed.

I hope this sheds a light on your community & the recommended improvements are welcomed. I know as we move on to these projects the residents will feel a sense of pride in their community, but keep in mind they will be done as budget and seasonal conditions allow.