

Boulevard Landscape Proposal
John & Beth Sullivan Residence
349 24th St. S.
608-785-2194
La Crosse, WI

The proposed project would lower the existing grade of a portion of the boulevard in front of this property and change the current grass cover to native flowering plants and grasses (See site boulevard photo). The objective of this project is to create a aesthetically pleasing and sustainable landscape with improve water infiltration. Currently, the boulevard requires frequent watering to keep the grass green and growing during the summer months. This practice was discontinued in 2020, hence the dead grass appearance in the site photo. Permission is being sought to establish low-growing (<3ft) perennial flowers and grasses in this area as an alternative to the existing grass cover.

The boulevard surface area is about 180 sq. ft. Presently, the ground level is several inches above the sidewalk which reduces rainfall/runoff infiltration. The plan is to lower and flatten the grade after the City of La Crosse removes the stump of a Norway maple tree that was recent removed from the site. Surface soil is silty sand and the subsoil is sandy and well drained. Native plants would be selected that are adapted to grow in a well-drained soil with full sun exposure. Final plant selection and play layout will utilize experts from the native plant nursery industry and local master gardeners.

Specific Site Plan:

Diggers hotline will be contacted to mark underground utilities.

The City will grind up the tree stump this fall to several inches below grade.

Property owner will hire a contractor to remove sod and lower grade to 1-2 inches below the top of sidewalk and curb to prepare planting area and improve water infiltration. It is hoped this work can begin this fall after the tree stump has been removed. After the sod and soil has been removed, the area would remain free of plants until spring planting in 2021. All weeds would be periodically removed with a rake or by hand pulling in order to provide a plant-free bare soil for planting next spring.

Prior to planting, a thin layer of shredded wood chips and bark will be added to the area to help retain soil moisture and reduce unwanted weed growth.

Flowering plants and grasses will be planted approximately 1 ft on center with the larger more spreading species given a bit more room for growth. A 1 ft margin without plants would be provided on the perimeter as a means of reducing growth over the curb or sidewalk (see planting design).

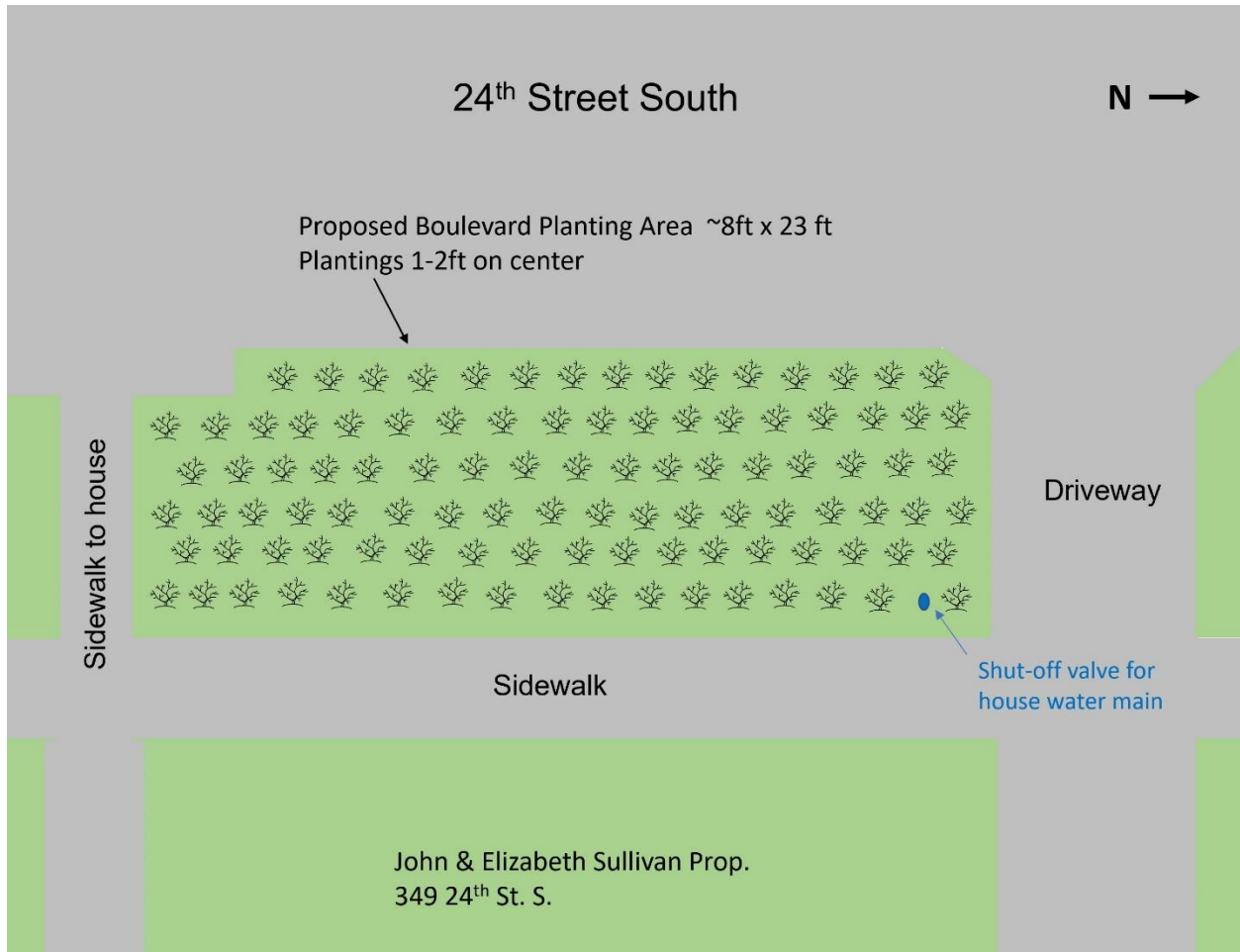
Low growing (mainly <3 ft tall) native perennial flowers and grasses that will be selected that are suitable for sandy to loamy soil and full sun exposure and are aesthetically desirable. A proposed list of species is included in the attached table. Plants would be planted in late April to early May 2021 depending upon plant availability and weather. Plants not meeting the 3 ft height limit will be cut back to reduce height (where possible) or will be replaced with shorter growing species over time.

After planting, the area will be water periodically to help establish the plants. Undesirable weeds will be removed during the first few years when plants are getting established.

Dead plant material will be removed in late fall or early spring. The material will be added to a compost pile or used as mulch around the property. Any excess material will be hauled to the Isle of Plume yard waste drop-off site.



Proposed boulevard area for native plantings. Looking SE. Address: 349 24th St. S



Proposed boulevard planting design.

Proposed List of Native Plants for Boulevard Planting

Wildflowers:

Nodding Pink Onion	Lanceleaf Coreopsis	Orange Coneflower
Butterflyweed	Prairie Smoke	Blue Stemmed Goldenrod
Crooked Stem Aster	Lead Plant	Ohio Spiderwort
Cream False Indigo	Lavender Hyssop	Lupine
Showy Goldenrod	Rough Blazing Star	Sky Blue Aster
Purple Prairie Clover	Wild Petunia	
Smooth Penstemon	Purple Coneflower	
Beardtongue Penstemon	Brown-eyed Susan	

Grasses:

Little Bluestem & Prairie Dropseed