

To: City DPW

Re: Highlands Roundabout Refresh Project

Below is a summary of the main project elements. A plan schematic is also attached for reference.

Washington Highlands Roundabout Renovation Overview

Inspired by the Garden City movement of the early 1900's and the image that Hegemann & Peets had for this historic neighborhood, we've kept the design of the roundabout classic, simple and clean. In this plan, the bed size is reduced and turned geometrically formal, while shrubs and grasses are planted en masse for major impact. Plants were chosen for ease of maintenance and for extended bloom throughout the summer. Four matching trees will accent the 4 arms of the garden. Each arm will extend towards the existing hedgerow across the pavement, leaving the site line along Washington Blvd. to the east and west open as was originally intended per the federally designated historic designation and the original landscape plan.

Tree Removal & Stump Grinding

The first step in the renovation would be to remove the existing arborvitae in the roundabout. Arborists would also stump grind the area to prepare for future plantings. Removal will create visibility across the circle and allow us to create new, symmetrical bed lines, bringing back the intended formality of the area.

Roundabout Planting

Four 'Golden Glory' Cornelian Cherry Dogwood will be planted on each of the 4 bed extensions. These are in the city right-of-way and would be included in the city street tree program. These are the earliest blooming trees in the area and announce early spring with their sunny yellow flowers. Underneath, small evergreen junipers will anchor the bed with its year-round interest. Hardy landscape roses will fill the outer ring of the garden with textured grasses breaking up the circle in conjunction with the junipers. The inner ring will be a dwarf panicle hydrangea which start out blooming white and fade to pink as fall approaches. Flower bulbs may also be included for spring color, budget depending. We've chosen to exclude perennials (with the exception of grasses) to reduce tedious maintenance and also to use plants with deeper root systems that are more likely to be successful in the harsh conditions of the roundabout. Once new bed lines are established, and plants and mulch have been installed, any areas in the round about that were formerly bed or that were disturbed during renovation will be seeded and covered with straw mat or Penn mulch.

Mulching

The project includes mulching to help maintain moisture levels for the new plants.

Watering & Maintenance

The initial planting of the trees & shrubs has the initial watering immediately after planting included. Regular watering after that will be needed. For the 4 dogwood trees, we understand they will be watered and maintained pursuant to the city's street tree program policies. For the shrubs and flowers, maintenance will be handled by the homeowners through the association and volunteers, consistent with how the roundabout plantings are currently maintained.