



Grand River Corridor Streetscape and Landscape
Farmington Hills, Michigan

Final Design Recommendations

07.02.2026

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Overview

This Final Design Recommendations package is a result of collaboration with the City of Farmington Hills Economic Development and Engineering Departments as well as insightful, thought-provoking discussions and feedback received from the Grand River Corridor Improvement Authority (GRCIA).

With a desire to provide public beautification improvements,

Design Concept

The overall design concept is rooted in the landscape treatment, reflecting the project's goal of providing impactful yet low-maintenance enhancements. A primary design objective was to establish a consistent and cohesive aesthetic throughout the corridor, creating a unified identity while responding to the character of the surrounding environment.

Plant material selections were carefully considered based on seasonal interest, form, durability, and long-term maintenance requirements. Broad drifts of native grasses and flowering perennials introduce year-round visual interest within the corridor's expansive open spaces. These mass plantings create a dynamic landscape experience, with movement generated by wind and passing vehicular traffic adding texture and visual appeal throughout the seasons.

Built elements, including signage, branding features, site furnishings, and hardscape materials, were selected to complement and enhance the landscape rather than compete with it. Their understated design allows the planting palette to remain the primary visual feature while contributing to a cohesive overall character. Any future sculptural or artistic installations should be selected with a similar level of consideration to ensure seamless integration within the corridor.

Given the corridor's overall scale, enhancement opportunities have been strategically concentrated at key locations to maximize visual impact while maintaining cost-effective installation and maintenance practices. Existing mature trees, particularly those located within the median, are largely proposed to remain and continue contributing to the corridor's established character and canopy coverage.



Section 1

Site Plans





Grand River Corridor Streetscape and Landscape

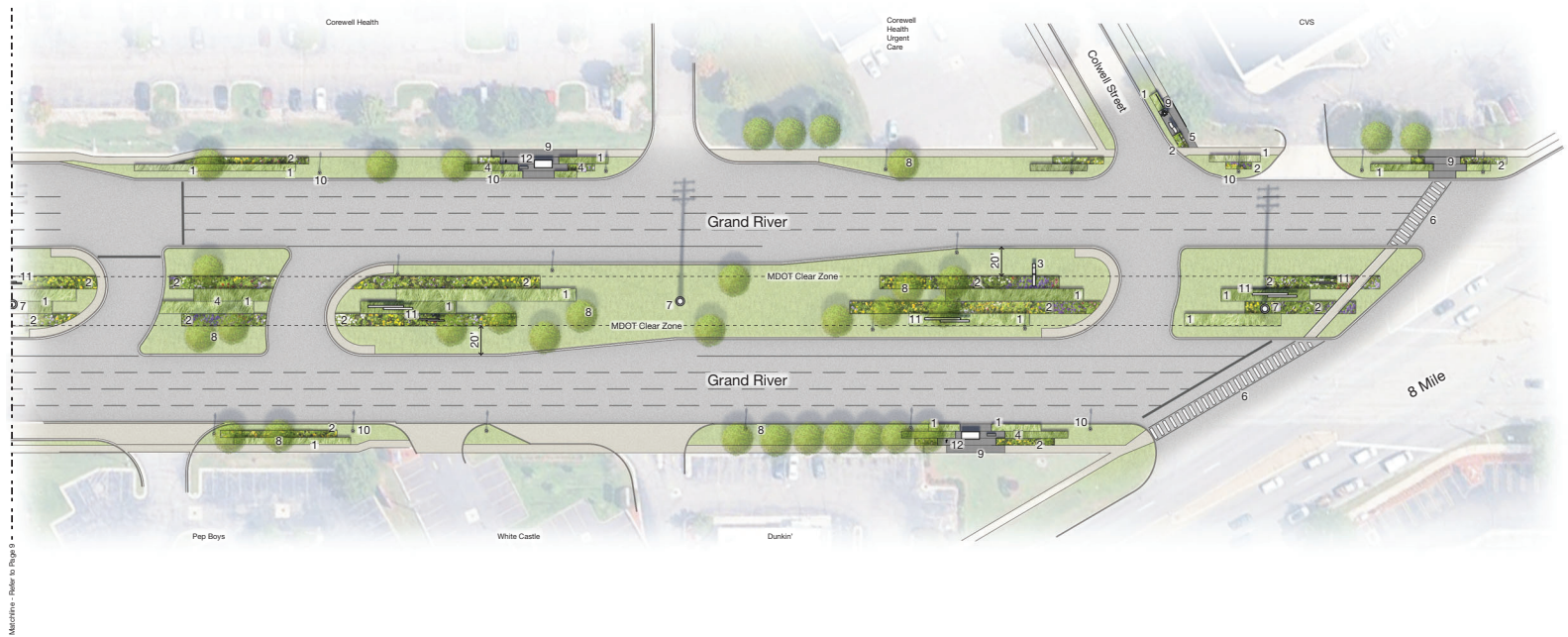
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Overall Site Plan



- Note Key:**
1. Ornamental Grass Plantings
 2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 3. New Farmington Hills Sign
 4. Proposed Sculpture Location
 5. Pedestrian Zone with Game Table, Art Walls, and Sculptural Bench
 6. New Crosswalk Treatment (continental style with parallel lines)
 7. Existing ITC transmission pole
 8. Existing Trees
 9. Precast Concrete Pavers - Refer to Material Information Section
 10. Existing Street Lights
 11. Sculptural Hill Elements
 12. Existing Bus Stop with New Bike Repair Station and Bench



- Note Key:**
- 1. Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 - 3. Pedestrian Zone with Sculptural Bench, Art Walls, and Sonic Pipe
 - 4. Existing ITC transmission pole
 - 5. Existing Trees
 - 6. Precast Concrete Pavers - Refer to Material Information Section
 - 7. Existing Street Lights
 - 8. Sculptural Hill Elements



Midline - Refer to Page 10

Midline - Refer to Page 8



Grand River Corridor Streetscape and Landscape

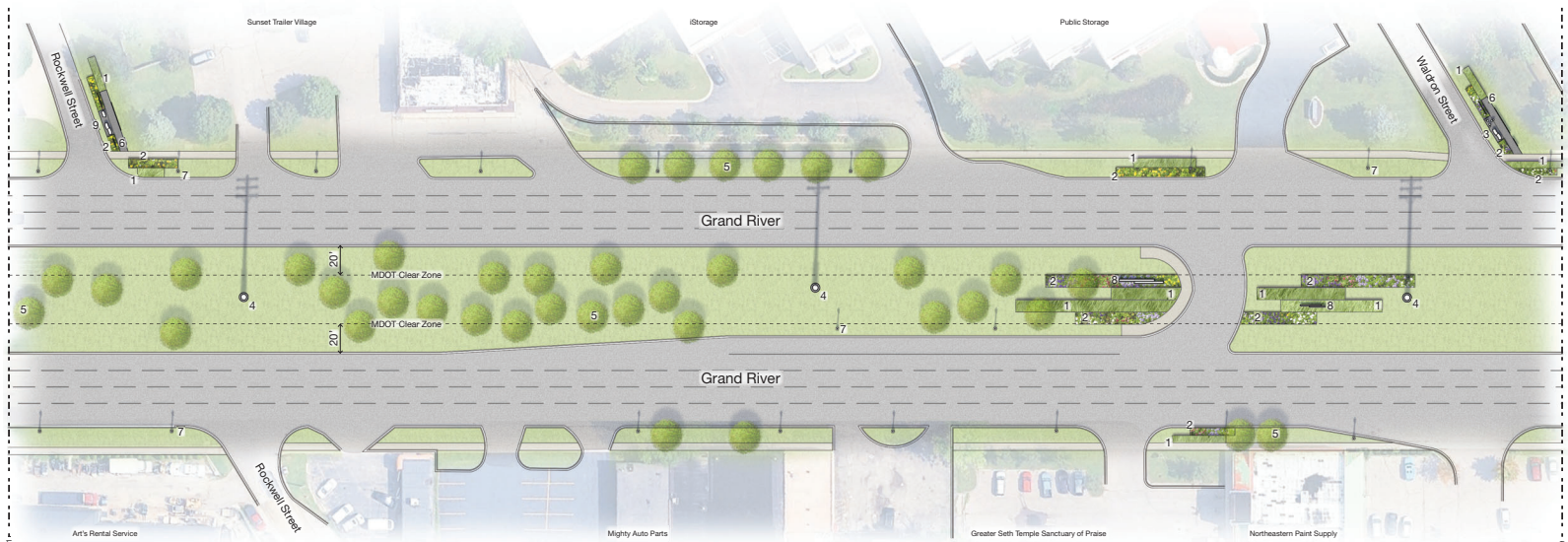
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Enlarged Site Plan Between Botsford Drive and Waldron Street



- Note Key:**
1. Ornamental Grass Plantings
 2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 3. Pedestrian Zone with Sculptural Bench, Art Walls, and Drums
 4. Existing ITC transmission pole
 5. Existing Trees
 6. Precast Concrete Pavers - Refer to Material Information Section
 7. Existing Street Lights
 8. Sculptural Hill Elements
 9. Pedestrian Zone with Sculptural Benches and Art Walls



Midline - Refer to Page 11

Midline - Refer to Page 9



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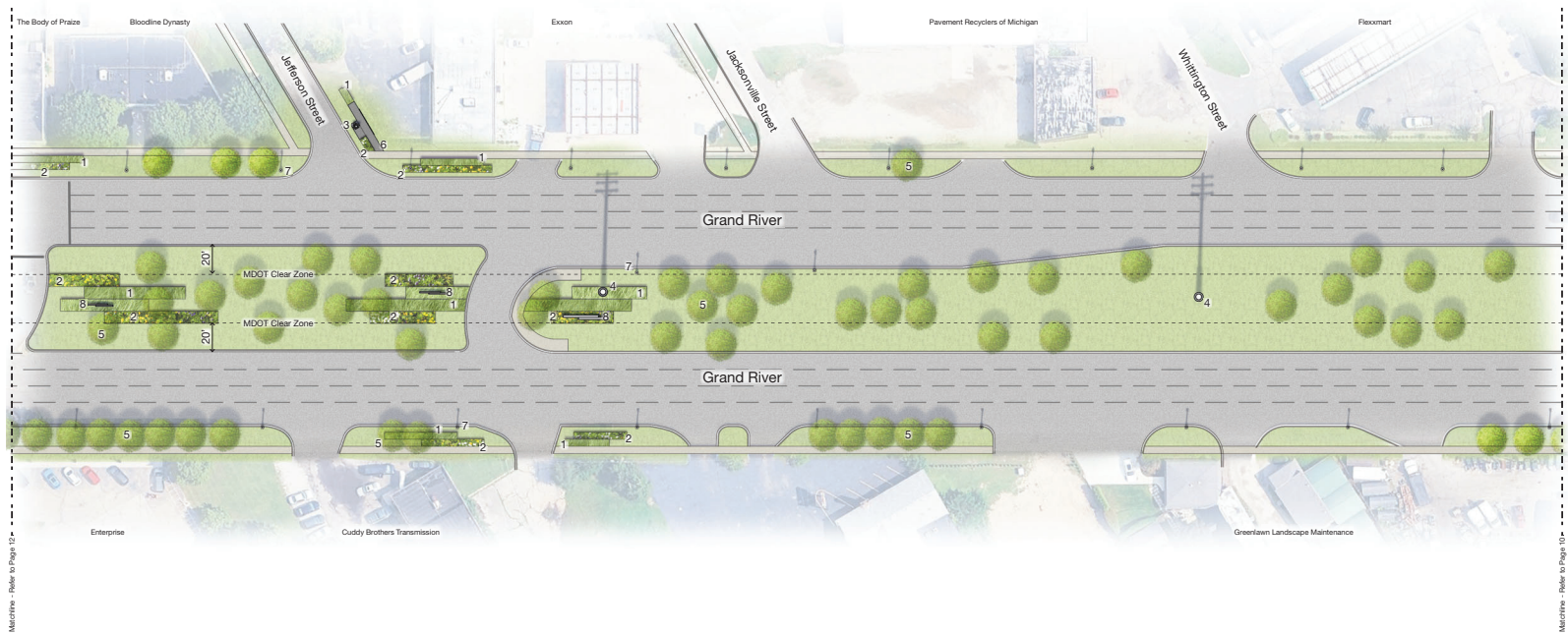
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Enlarged Site Plan Between Waldron Street and Rockwell Street



- Note Key:**
1. Ornamental Grass Plantings
 2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 3. Pedestrian Zone with Game Table and Art Wall
 4. Existing ITC transmission pole
 5. Existing Trees
 6. Precast Concrete Pavers - Refer to Material Information Section
 7. Existing Street Lights
 8. Sculptural Hill Elements



Midline - Refer to Page 12

Midline - Refer to Page 12



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Enlarged Site Plan Between Rockwell Street and Roosevelt Avenue



- Note Key:**
1. Ornamental Grass Plantings
 2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 3. New Deciduous Trees
 4. Existing ITC transmission pole
 5. Existing Trees
 6. Sculptural Furniture (Waves & Loops)
 7. Existing Street Lights
 8. Sculptural Hill Elements
 9. Precast Concrete Pavers - Refer to Material Information Section
 10. Covered Swings Pedestrian Zone - Refer to Pedestrian Zone Section



Midline - Refer to Page 13

Midline - Refer to Page 13



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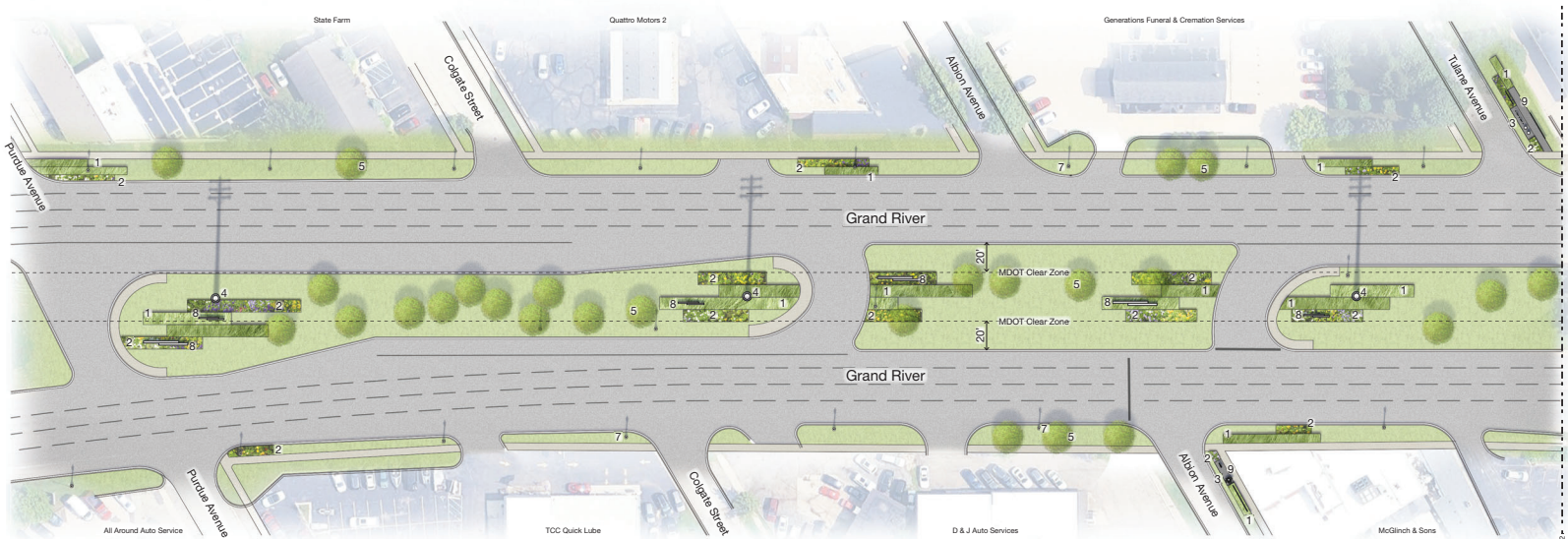
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Enlarged Site Plan Between Roosevelt Avenue and Tulane Avenue



- Note Key:**
1. Ornamental Grass Plantings
 2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 3. Precast Concrete Pavers - Refer to Material Information Section
 4. Existing ITC transmission pole
 5. Existing Trees
 6. Pedestrian Zone with Sculptural Benches, Art Walls, and Bells
 7. Existing Street Lights
 8. Sculptural Hill Elements
 9. Pedestrian Zone with Game Table, Art Walls, and Chimes



Midline - Refer to Page 12



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Enlarged Site Plan Between Tulane Avenue and Purdue Avenue



Section 2

Site Renderings

- Note Key:**
- 1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 2. Low Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 3. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 - 4. New Farmington Hills Sign
 - 5. Sculptural Hill Elements
 - 6. Existing Street Lights
 - 7. New Crosswalk (treatment)
 - 8. Existing ITC transmission pole
 - 9. Existing Trees
 - 10. Existing Bus Stop with New Bike Repair Station and Bench



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Bird's Eye View
8 Mile and Grand River



- Note Key:**
- 1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 2. Low Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 3. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 - 4. Proposed Public Sculpture Location
 - 5. Sculptural Hill Elements
 - 6. Existing Street Lights
 - 7. Existing Trees
 - 8. Existing ITC transmission pole



- Note Key:**
- 1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 2. Low Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 3. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 - 4. New Farmington Hills Sign
 - 5. Existing Street Lights
 - 6. Existing Bus Stop Shelter
 - 7. Existing ITC transmission pole
 - 8. Existing Trees



Note Key:
1. New Farmington Hills Sign (internally illuminated)
2. Sculptural Hill Elements (internally illuminated)



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Evening Street View
8 Mile and Grand River



Note Key:

1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
3. Sculptural Hill Elements
4. New Deciduous Trees
5. New Crosswalk (treatment)
6. New Pedestrian Zone with Seating
7. Existing ITC transmission pole
8. Existing Trees
9. Guardrail



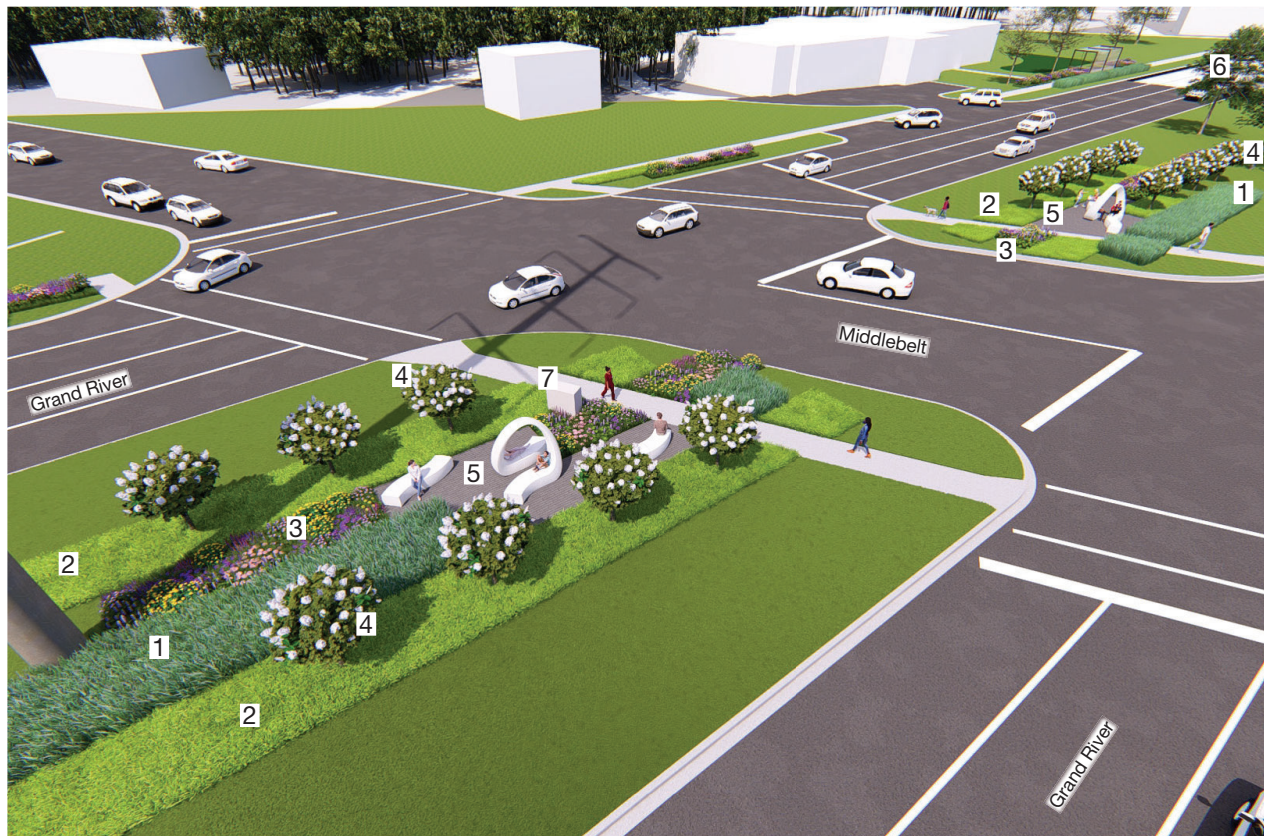
- Note Key:**
- 1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 - 3. Sculptural Hill Elements
 - 4. New Bike Repair Station
 - 5. Proposed Public Sculpture Location
 - 6. Existing Bus Stop Shelter
 - 7. Precast Concrete Pavers
 - 8. Existing ITC transmission pole
 - 9. Existing Trees
 - 10. New Bench



- Note Key:**
- 1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 2. Low Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 3. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 - 4. Sculptural Hill Elements
 - 5. Existing Trees



- Note Key:**
1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 2. Low Ornamental Grass Plantings
 3. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 4. New Tree Form Shrubs
 5. New Pedestrian Zone with Sculptural Seating Elements
 6. Existing Trees
 7. Existing Traffic Light Controller



- Note Key:**
- 1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 2. Low Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 3. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 - 4. New Tree Form Shrubs
 - 5. New Pedestrian Zone with Sculptural Seating Elements
 - 6. Existing Trees
 - 7. Existing Traffic Light Controller



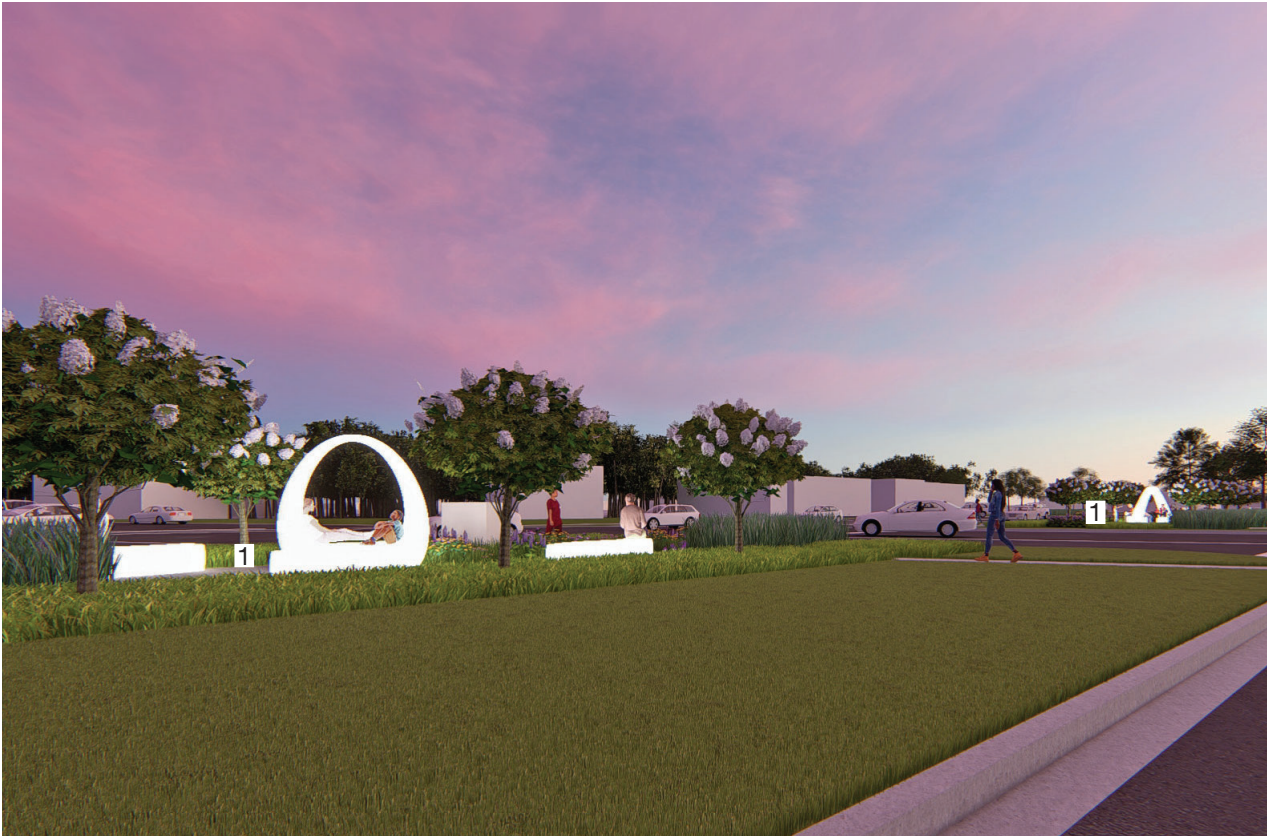
Note Key:
1. New Pedestrian Zone with Illuminated Sculptural Seating Elements



- Note Key:**
1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 2. Low Ornamental Grass Plantings
 3. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 4. New Tree Form Shrubs
 5. New Pedestrian Zone with Sculptural Seating Elements
 6. Existing Trees
 7. Existing Traffic Light Controller



Note Key:
 1. New Pedestrian Zone with Illuminated Sculptural Seating Elements



- Note Key:**
- 1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 2. Low Ornamental Grass Plantings
 - 3. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 - 4. New Tree Form Shrubs
 - 5. New Pedestrian Zone with Sculptural Seating Elements
 - 6. Existing Trees



Section 3

Pedestrian Zones

Pedestrian Zone Concepts

The original pedestrian zone concepts proposed distinct themes throughout the Grand River Corridor. The refined design, which locates the pedestrian zones along the City's side streets, integrates elements from each of these themes into every zone rather than assigning a unique theme to each location. This cohesive approach creates engaging, activated spaces while establishing a consistent visual identity that enhances the pedestrian experience and strengthens continuity throughout the corridor.



Art Walls



Gaming



Covered Swings



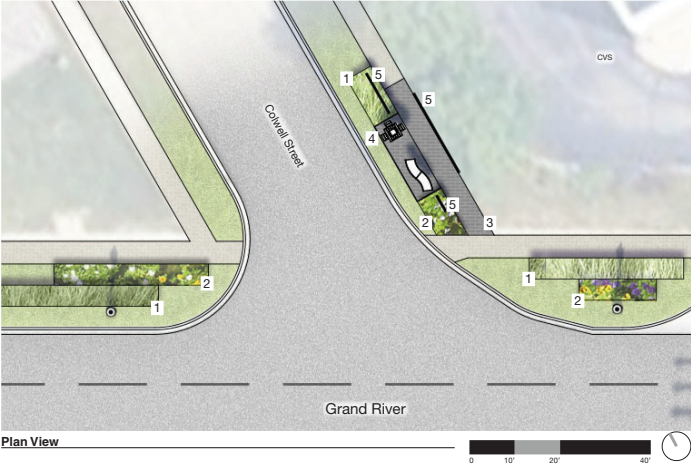
Music



Sculptural Loop Seating



Sculptural Wave Seating



Note Key:

1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
3. Precast Concrete Pavers
4. ADA Table with Chess Board - refer to product information below
5. Art Wall (3 total) - walls to be constructed out of aluminum stud or treated lumber framing and clad with cement board on all sides. Wall heights to be 2'-6", 3'-0", and 3'-6" .

General Notes:

1. Confirm all elements and materials do not conflict with clear zone triangle along Grand River.
2. Features located outside of the right-of-way to be coordinated with property owner.



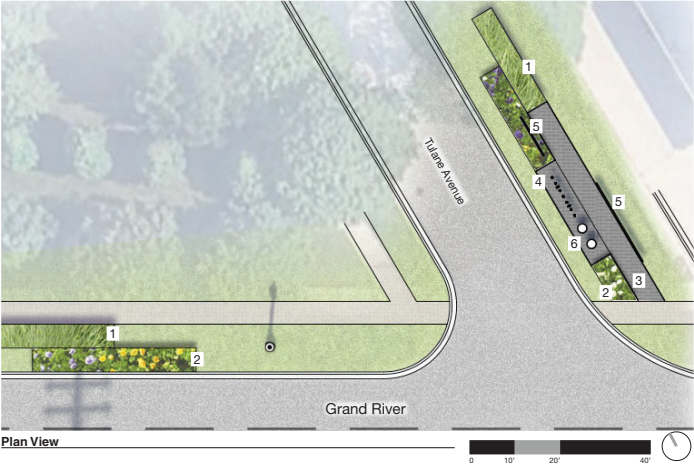
Rendering



Maglin 400 Cluster Seating
Material - Aluminum and Wood



Vondom And Bench
Material - HDPE with internal lighting



- Note Key:**
1. Tall Ornamental Grass Plantings
 2. Flowering Perennial Plantings
 3. Precast Concrete Pavers
 4. Chimes/Musical Element - refer to product options below
 5. Art Wall (2 total) - walls to be constructed out of aluminum stud or treated lumber framing and clad with cement board on all sides. Wall heights to be 3'-0" and 3'-6".
 6. New Furniture - refer to product options below

- General Notes:**
1. Confirm all elements and materials do not conflict with clear zone triangle along Grand River.
 2. Features located outside of the right-of-way to be coordinated with property owner.



Rendering



Landscape Forms Soc Stool
Material - Cast Stone



Landscape Forms Paseos Seat
Material - Cast Stone



Vondom Stone Stool
Material - HDPE



Vondom Noma Stool
Material - HDPE



Freenotes Harmony Park
Contrabass Chimes
Material - Aluminum



Freenotes Harmony Park
Cascade Bells
Material - Aluminum



Sonic Architecture
Slapped Pipes
Material - Aluminum



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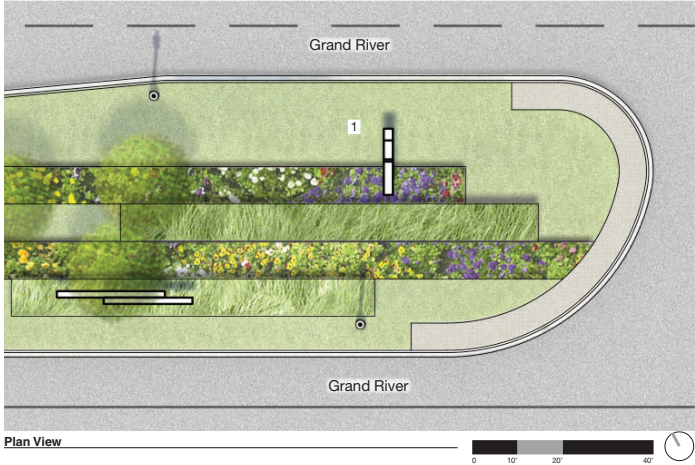
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Pedestrian Zone Example



Section 4

Signage & Branding Elements



Note Key:

1. City 'FH' Letters Gateway Signage. Sign to be constructed out of aluminum stud framing and clad with white polycarbonate on all sides except for the back panel, which is to be white aluminum. Sign to be internally illuminated to produce a soft, white, consistent glow.

General Notes:

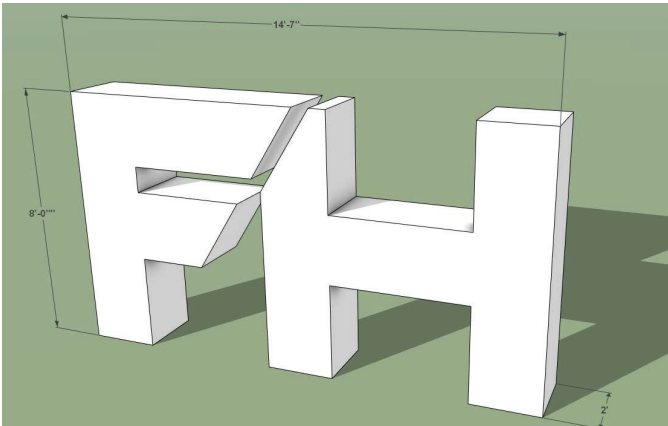
1. Sign design is based on latest City branding package.
2. Confirm crashworthy/breakaway installation requirements with MDOT for all installed features.
3. Exact sign location to be determined during engineering phase.
4. Existing utilities within median have not been surveyed/located.
5. Existing electrical service for sign illumination to be located.



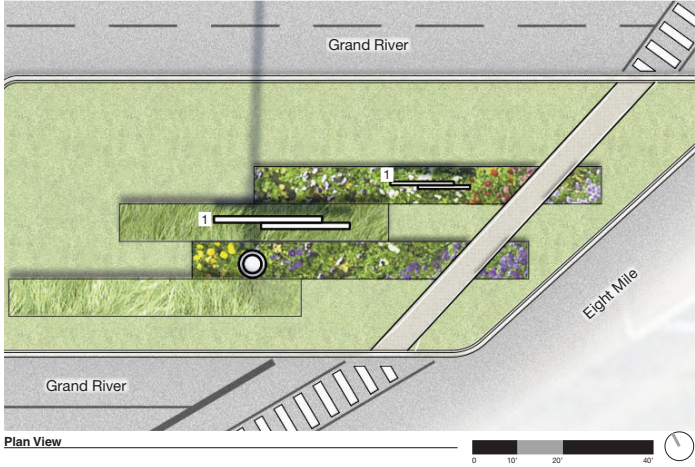
Reference Images



Evening Rendering



Isometric View

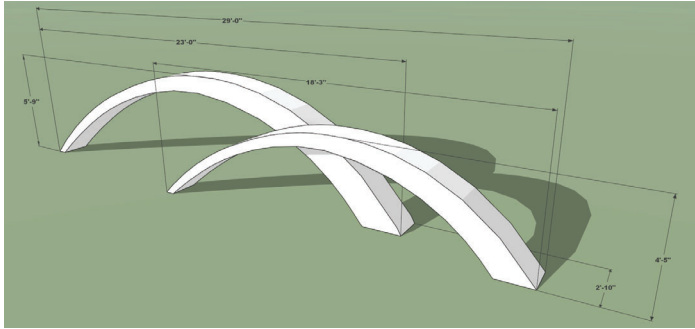


Note Key:

1. City 'Hills' Sculptural Elements. Hills to be constructed out of aluminum stud framing and clad with white polycarbonate on all sides except for the underside, which is to be white aluminum. Hills to be internally illuminated to produce a soft, white, consistent glow. Two sizes are shown on the plan (29' and 17' lengths).

General Notes:

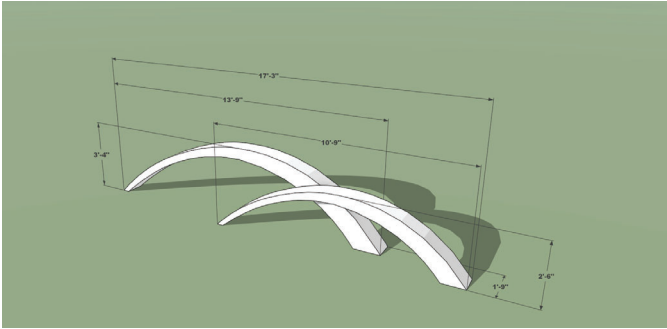
1. Hill design is based on latest City branding package.
2. Confirm crashworthy/breakaway installation requirements with MDOT for all installed features.
3. Exact locations to be determined during engineering phase.
4. Existing utilities within median have not been surveyed/located.
5. Existing electrical service for hill illumination to be located.



Isometric View - Large Hills



Evening Rendering



Isometric View - Small Hills



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City Branding





Section 5

Material Information



Exclamation London Planetree



Boulevard Linden



Ginkgo



Redpointe Maple



Armstrong Maple



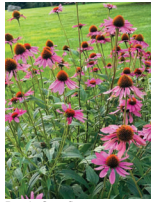
Big Bluestem



Prairie Dropseed



Black Eyed Susan



Purple Coneflower



White Coneflower



Liatris



Bee Balm



Coreopsis



Plank Paver



Benches



Trash Receptacles



Bike Repair Station



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Landscape & Hardscape Materials



Section 6

Budget Estimates



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Budget Estimate

