

Proposal:

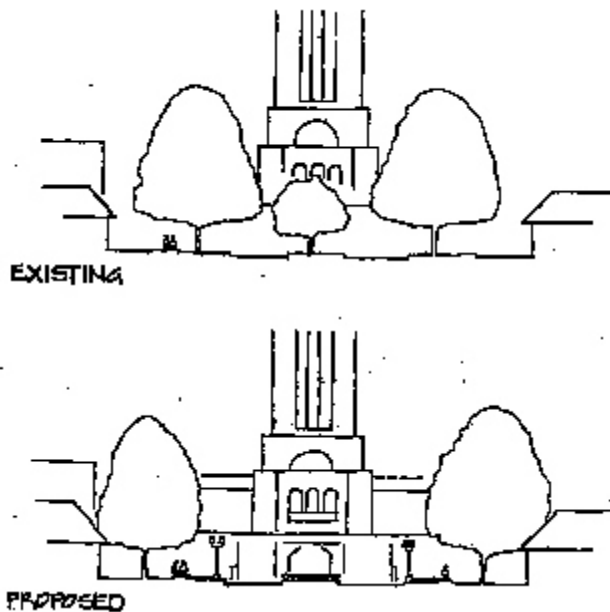
The Parks and Recreation Dept. proposes improvements to the streetscape in the public right-of-way, west side of Goodhue Blvd., between F and G Streets.

Discussion:

Two years before the Nebraska Capitol Environs Commission was created in 1988, City Council adopted the “Nebraska Capitol Environs East and South Mall Plan” in Nov. 1986—a master plan for J Street and what became Goodhue Blvd. The plan is available on-line at

<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/boards/ncec/reports/2010/capenv1986.pdf>

Among the concepts for “South Mall” was a switch of the sidewalk and tree-line locations, with the sidewalks moving inward to about 12 feet back of curb, and the tree-line being re-established between sidewalk and buildings, within the wide 120’ right-of-way. The plan stated *“In addition to creating a larger front lawn space between the sidewalk and buildings, this relocation also widens the mall ‘corridor’ created by the trees lining each side of the street and accommodates the full spread of the mature trees without excessive branching over the street proper...”*



Other South Mall concepts included ornamental streetlights, removal of trees from the medians, variations of tree species along the length of the mall *“to provide a gradation of summer and winter color from ‘A’ Street to the Capitol at ‘H’ Street. This change in plant variety not only allows for a pleasant visual transition along the mall but also will help prevent disease problems (e.g., Dutch Elm Disease) from spreading the entire length of the landscaped mall.”* Street closures were proposed at ‘C’ and ‘E’ *“and perhaps at ‘B’ and ‘F’ with cul-de-sacs and mini-parks.*

Finally, the plan suggested *“It should be noted that street closures as proposed are a long range improvement and would follow the City’s established policy for neighborhood input. Further, the success of the overall mall plans is not dependent upon approval of all or any one specific element proposed. These documents are intended to be conceptual in nature and therefore individual design elements are subject to change.”*

When the Commission was created in the 1988 and design standards were proposed, the 1986 Plan was incorporated by a statement “*The ‘South and East Mall Plan’ approved by City Council in 1986 provides general guidance to the development of the public landscape of this Mall.*” Furthermore, Guideline 24.5 states “*New sidewalks should align with north end, and be a uniform width of six feet.*”

That Plan and the Design Standards are reflected in various improvements carried out since the mid-1980s—the simplification of the center medians to turf, the decorative street lights from A-H, the new sidewalks, removal of oaks and planting of Autumn Purple ash trees on the G-H (Governor’s Mansion) block, and “clean up” of the east side of Goodhue from G-F in association with the McPhee School renovations.

In 2010 the Parks Department reassessed the condition of trees along Goodhue and met with the Commission to propose a gradual replacement and infill program, leaving the tree-line and sidewalk locations as they then existed, at least from A to F Streets. My report for that meeting is on line at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/boards/ncec/reports/2010/100826.pdf>
(Item 2, pages 1 & 2)

Discussion included mention that realignment of the sidewalks was less important south of F Street. Minutes of the August 26, 2010 meeting noted “*[Mark] Canney stated that most of the trees are pin oaks. They are going to salvage the oaks that are in good standing. From A to H Streets, they are proposing lindens on the McPhee [G-F] block, maple on the next block, then sugar maples, red oaks, lindens and maples again.*”

The action recorded at that meeting was to approve the plan from A to F Streets “*and to entertain further planning from F to G Streets and include LES, LPS & Public Works in those discussions.*”

The minutes for that meeting are on-line at <http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/plan/boards/ncec/minutes/2010/100826.pdf>

The next month (Sept. 2010) the Commission reviewed and approved the “design concepts and scope” for the McPhee School renovation, work which commenced in 2011. The McPhee site-work included a sidewalk relocated to align with the sidewalk north of G Street.

To the best of my knowledge, the Commission was never requested to take further action on the issue of sidewalk replacement on the west side of Goodhue, F-G Streets, and the related issues of tree alignment, tree removal, and replacement. The sidewalk on the north half of that block has a rather steep grade rising from north to south up the curb ramp from G Street. There is a large pin oak tree at about the mid-point of the north half of the block. The alley-throat at mid-block is paved with brick, a typical feature of Goodhue Blvd. alleys. The grade of the south half of the block is more level. A second large pin oak grows near the south end of the block.

Park and Recreation Dept. is offering two options for the improvement of the streetscape of this block-face. Diagrams of the options will be provided to the Commission at the meeting, or sooner if available..

Both options propose regrading the north half of the block for greater accessibility, and both position the new sidewalk closer to the curb, aligning it with the sidewalk north of G Street, consistent with the 1986 master plan. The regrading necessitates the removal of the existing trees, including the north pin oak. Fourteen Greenspire linden trees are proposed to be planted between the new sidewalk and the property line on both sides of the street, also consistent with the 1986 plan.

The two options differ on the southern end of block. Alternative B “bends” the sidewalk around the south pin oak in order to retain this mature tree.

Alternative A is more consistent with the 1986 master plan. Alternative B reflects the more nuanced approach approved in 2010 for the blocks south of F Street, where the current tree-line of existing oak trees is being maintained, with infill of more varied species where and when individual pin oaks are removed.

Neighboring owners &/or residents have contacted City offices in favor of retaining trees, especially the large oaks. Some may wish to testify to the Commission at your meeting. If I receive any correspondence on behalf of the Commission, I will be sure to share it with you.

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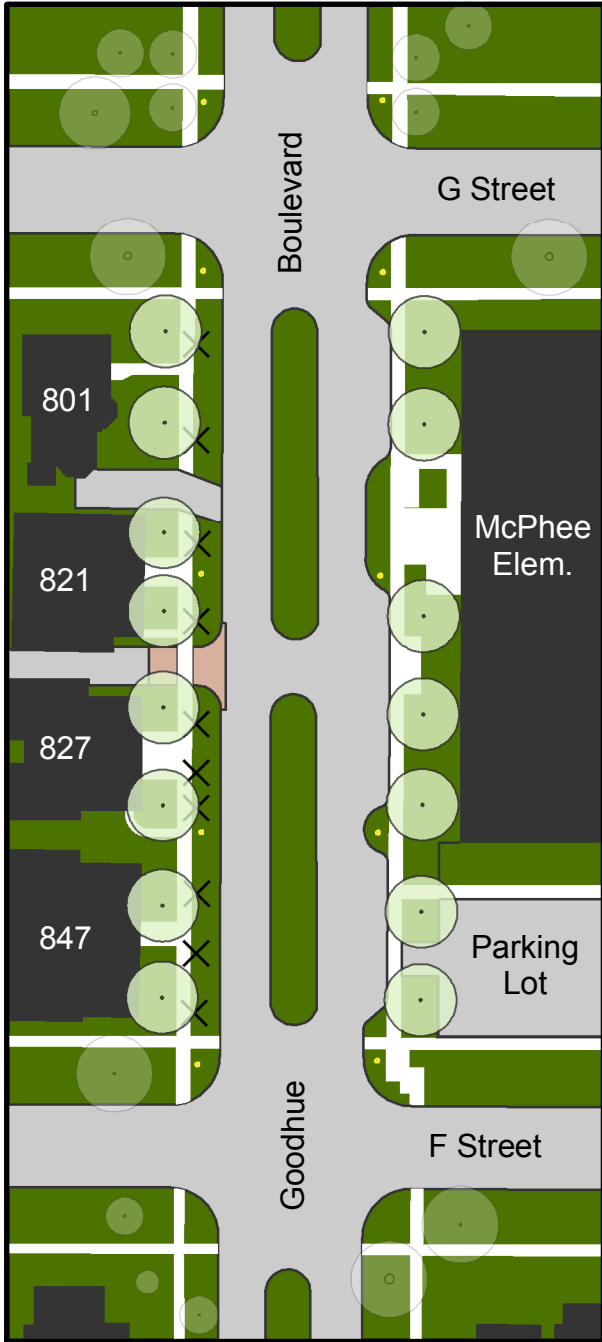


Goodhue Boulevard Streetscape Improvements ('F' to 'G')

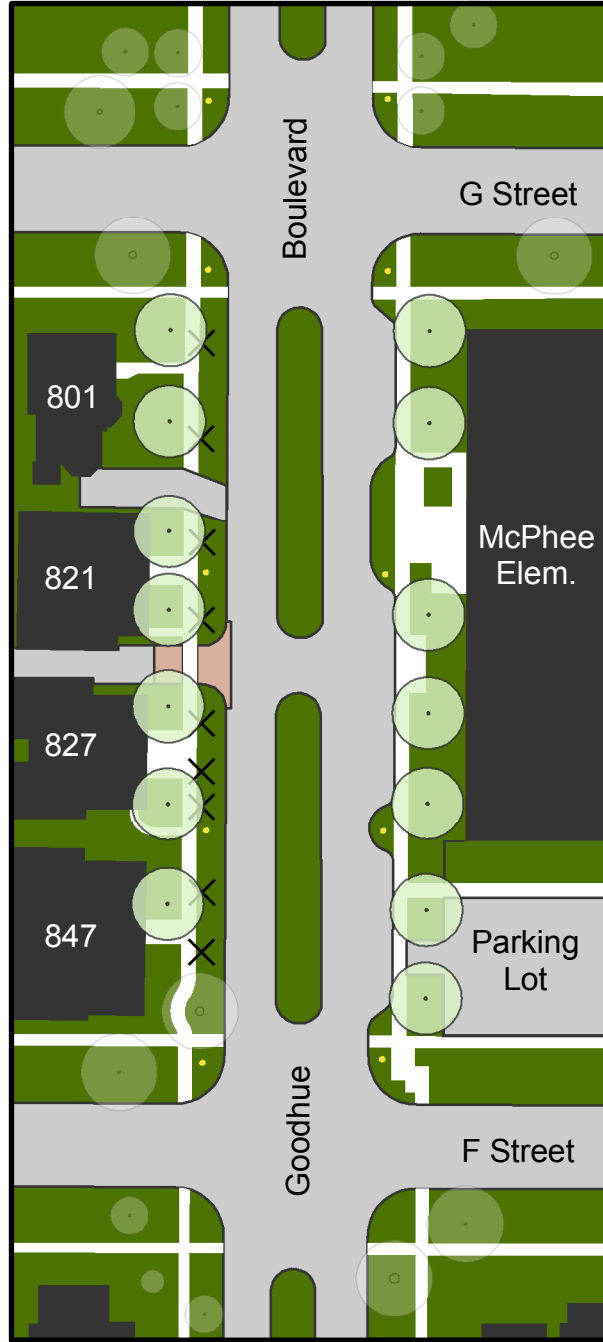
1 inch = 80 feet

Legend

	Open Space
	Building
	Roadway
	Brick Driveway
	Sidewalk
	Light Pole
	Proposed Greenspire Linden
	Existing Tree
	Tree Removal



Alternate A



Alternate B

From: [Ed Zimmer](#)
To: [Michele M. Abendroth](#)
Subject: FW: Ed Zimmer - concerning trees
Date: Friday, July 19, 2013 3:09:46 PM

Please include in the July 25th agenda packet.

From: Teri Hlava [mailto:teri_hlava@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, July 19, 2013 2:31 PM
To: Ed Zimmer
Subject: Ed Zimmer - concerning trees

7-19-2013

Hello Ed Zimmer!

I've heard about the trees and sidewalks on Goodhue Ave between F and G streets.

I tend to be a real conservationist. Not only do trees provide nice shade; they add a social positive flavor and make our community a friendly kind of "place".

My concern is that unless the trees are severely diseased and untreatable and if there is no other satisfactory solution, we should save both the money and especially the trees.

Thank you for your consideration. Please pass on these thought to those in decision-making roles in our community.

Teri Hlava
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