



Grand Island

South Locust Street Corridor, from Highway 34 to Stolley Park Road, Grand Island, Nebraska

The project

South Locust Street, lined with irrigated lawns, had been known for commanding one of the highest water bills in town. It also suffered from chronic plant losses, with extensive bare spots where flowers and shrubs once grew. The Grand Island Chamber of Commerce and local Business Improvement District wanted to do something about it, and partnered with the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum on a vision to transform this bustling corridor into a waterwise, prairie-inspired streetscape. To start, they solicited a survey of existing conditions, which revealed that excess salt, heat, wind and snow made curbside a tough place to grow. Accordingly, they enlisted Groundwater Guardian volunteers to help install a dense mix of over 2,000 drought-tolerant grasses and sedges, planting smart with species that can survive the stress of the street.



Volunteers plant additional grasses in the median south of Woodland Drive in May 2019.

What we learned

- 1 Don't expect every plant to make it and plan for replacements.
- 2 Waiting to apply mulch a few weeks after planting allows for better root growth.
- 3 Drip irrigation systems are a great back-up, even with native plantings.



Pawnee Buffles Sand Cherry
Prunus besseyi



Long-beaked Sedge
Carex sprengeii



Plains Oval Sedge
Carex brevior



Shenandoah Switchgrass
Panicum virgatum

Who's involved & costs

- South Locust St. Business Improvement District
- Grand Island Chamber of Commerce
- City of Grand Island
- Grand Island Area Clean Community System
- Nebraska Statewide Arboretum
- Cloudburst Landscaping

\$18,000
\$--
\$14,898
\$ 4,041
\$36,939

PAID BY GREENER TOWNS
PAID BY OTHER GRANTS
PAID LOCALLY
DONATED TIME/GOODS
PROJECT VALUE



The Green Team participated in master planning sessions with landscape designers to envision a new future for Locust Street.

South Locust Streetscaping

GREENER TOWNS



NATIVE PLANTS



SAVES WATER

