Highway Beautification Project

A CRMP Initiative by the Tysons Community Alliance

Presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Transportation Committee
April 8, 2025

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Project Overview

Concept plan for landscaping transformation of up to 10 highway interchange sites on VDOT right-of-way:

- Eliminate invasive plants
- Replace them with more intentionally managed landscapes

Generally, sites chosen have a positive impact on the sidewalk experience for pedestrians





Project Benefits

- General beautification, professionally managed and maintained
- Improves perception of Tysons – helps build the new identity of Tysons as a world class urban district
- Create & maintain more intentional, managed landscapes free of invasive species, and potentially benefiting pollinators
- Make walking & biking on adjacent sidewalks more pleasant & safer

Model: Chicago Gateway Green Program

Chicago Gateway Green® is a non-profit, public-private partnership dedicated to the greening and beautification of Chicago's expressways, gateways and neighborhoods through landscape enhancement, litter and graffiti removal and the installation of public art.





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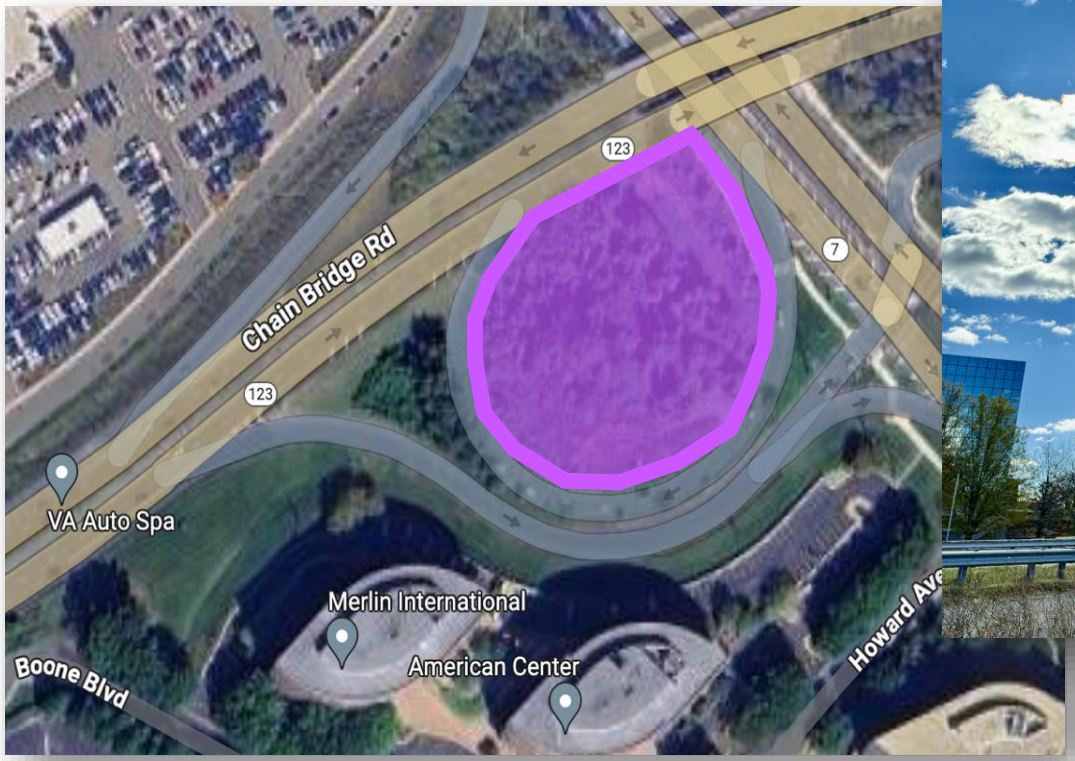
TCA's Pilot Project Site

2024-2025 Pilot Project:

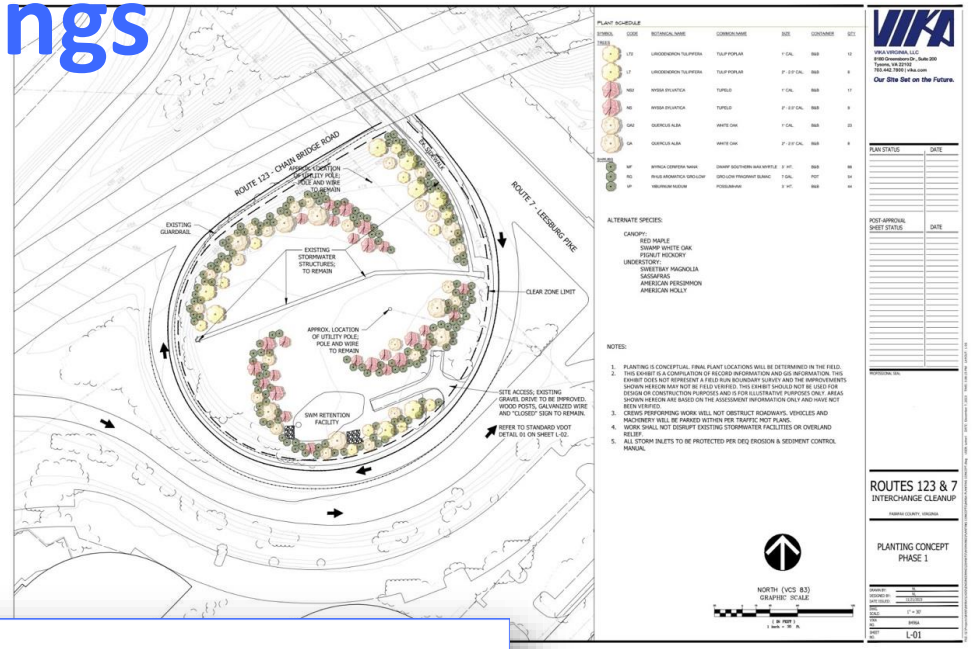
- Started with one cloverleaf as proof of concept
- 123 & 7 interchange, South side





Pilot Project Site Plantings

- Native plantings
- 3 levels of plantings
  - Trees (spring flowering or fall color)
  - Understory shrubs
  - Mixed Meadow (no-mow & pollinator friendly)



ALTERNATE SPECIES:

CANOPY:
- RED MAPLE
- SWAMP WHITE OAK
- PIGNUT HICKORY

UNDERSTORY:
- SWEETBAY MAGNOLIA
- SASSAFRAS
- AMERICAN PERSIMMON
- AMERICAN HOLLY

PLANT SCHEDULE

SYMBOL	CODE	BOTANICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	SIZE	CONTAINER	QTY
TREES						
	LT2	LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA	TULIP POPLAR	1" CAL.	B&B	12
	LT	LIRIODENDRON TULIPIFERA	TULIP POPLAR	2" - 2.5" CAL.	B&B	8
	NS2	NYSSA SYLVATICA	TUPELO	1" CAL.	B&B	17
	NS	NYSSA SYLVATICA	TUPELO	2" - 2.5" CAL.	B&B	9
	QA2	QUERCUS ALBA	WHITE OAK	1" CAL.	B&B	23
	QA	QUERCUS ALBA	WHITE OAK	2" - 2.5" CAL.	B&B	8
SHRUBS						
	MF	MYRICA CERIFERA 'NANA'	DWARF SOUTHERN WAX MYRTLE	3` HT.	B&B	66
	RG	RHUS AROMATICA 'GRO-LOW'	GRO-LOW FRAGRANT SUMAC	7 GAL.	POT	54
	VP	VIBURNUM NUDUM	POSSUMHAW	3` HT.	B&B	44



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Tysons CRMP: 10 Locations Overview

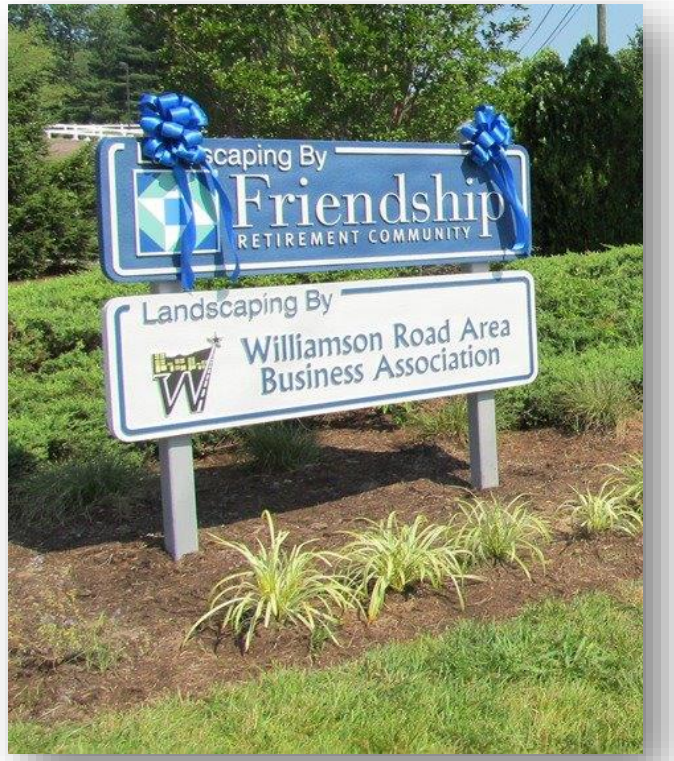
- Seeking approval from VDOT for up to 10 sites

- Chosen for:
  - Maintenance feasibility
  - Improvement to ped sidewalk experience
  - Maintenance vehicle staging
  - No VDOT or utility conflicts
  - Sponsorship potential

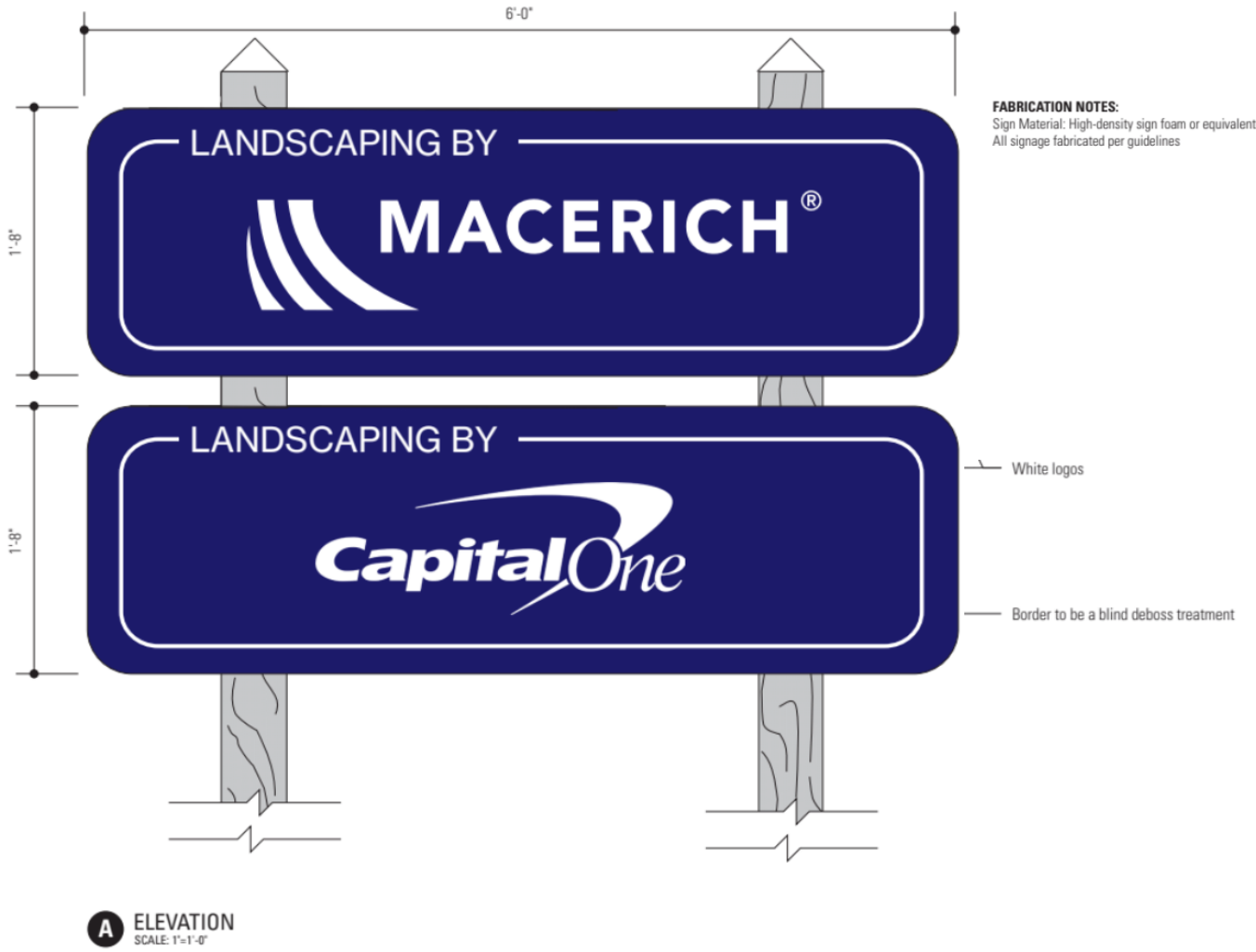


What is VDOT's CRMP program?

- Established by state law in 2004
- Open to local governments, businesses, nonprofits, community/civic groups (in all cases, local government is the applicant to VDOT)
- Commit to actively manage landscapes in VDOT right-of-way
- In exchange, funders get up to 2 acknowledgement logo signs per site
- Used in Roanoke, Lynchburg, Richmond
- Tysons will be first use of program in NoVA



Sponsorships and Signage





VDOT Required Process

1. Provide concepts for public review
2. Notify VDOT of the intention to hold a public hearing
3. Hold a public hearing at a future BOS meeting.
4. Maintenance agreement

Tysons Community Alliance's Next Steps

5. Submit application package to VDOT
6. Recruit sponsors to first 5 sites
7. As sponsors are secured:

   Target plantings late fall 2025



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This Way Up.

Appendix

Existing Conditions Opportunities Analysis for 10 Sites