RESOLUTION 2019-16

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE VILLAGE'S THEMATIC LANDSCAPE IDENTITY, GATEWAY, AND CORRIDOR PLAN

WHEREAS, upon its establishment in October 2015, the Village's Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee was charged with the development of a "Village Beautification and Enhancement Program that addresses auto, pedestrian, and bicycle transportation routes;" and,

WHEREAS, Lake Bluff's 2023 Strategic Plan states that the Village will "maintain and build upon Lake Bluff's charm and intrinsic character;" "feature and prioritize the Village's natural beauty, setting, culture, and connectivity;" "provide the Sustainability and Community Enhancement Committee with the resources to develop a beautification and enhancement program for all transportation corridors;" "utilize clear, fair decision making processes;" and "convene partners and peers to re-imagine partnerships, champion innovation, and create leading edge practices;" and,

WHEREAS, the Village's Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee convened key stakeholders in the Village's rights-of-way and public landscapes to conduct an examination of the Village's current and future landscape identity, including representatives from the Illinois Department of Transportation; the Lake County Department of Transportation; the Lake Bluff Open Lands Association; the Lake Bluff Park District; and the Lake Bluff Garden Club; and,

WHEREAS, over the course of ten months, this group of stakeholders developed a *Thematic Landscape Identity, Gateway, and Corridor Plan* for the Village that documents existing landscape typologies; provides specific planting and treatment recommendations for common settings throughout the Village; and applies these plantings and treatments to the Route 176 corridor; and,

WHEREAS, the Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee, after receiving and incorporating considerable feedback from Village residents, recommended on March 4, 2019 that the Village Board formally adopt the *Thematic Landscape Identity, Gateway, and Corridor Plan.*

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

Section 1. Recitals.

The foregoing recitals are incorporated into, and made a part of, this Resolution as findings of the Village Board.

Section 2. Adoption of Plan.

1. The *Lake Bluff Thematic Landscape Identity, Gateway, and Corridor Plan* (the "Plan"), attached to this Resolution as Exhibit A, is hereby adopted as an official plan of the Village of Lake Bluff, Illinois.

2. Members of the Plan's stakeholder committee are thanked for their diligent participation and service to the Village.

3. The Village Administrator is hereby directed to ensure that the principles of the Plan are considered and, where appropriate, are incorporated into the Village's facilities, rights-of-way, and future capital improvement projects.

4. The Village's residents, institutions, businesses, and volunteer groups are encouraged to review and consider incorporating the principles of the Plan throughout their own property.

Section 3. Effective Date.

This Resolution shall be in full force and effect upon passage and approval in the manner provided by law.

PASSED this 11th day of March 2019 by vote of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lake Bluff as follows:

AYES: (5) Ankenman, Dewart, Grenier, Lemieux and Meyer

NAYS: (0)

ABSENT: (1) Towle

APPROVED this 11th day of March, 2019.

Village President

ATTEST:

Village Clerk

VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
LANDSCAPE PLAYBOOK
THEMATIC LANDSCAPE IDENTITY, GATEWAY & CORRIDOR PLAN

Accepted by the Village Board | March 4, 2019

Dear Lake Bluff Village Board,

On behalf of the Lake Bluff Thematic Landscape Identity, Gateway and Corridor Plan Committee and the Teska Associates / Landscape Artistry consulting team, we want to present our strategy for corridor landscape improvements as part of an actionable corridor landscape plan for Lake Bluff.

Over the course of the past nine months, a committee of stakeholders and community members has worked with the Teska / Landscape Artistry team to better understand the existing landscape patterns of our community, maintenance considerations of roadway landscapes, and the desires of the community and stakeholder groups. The plan and strategy for implementation presented here is the culmination of those efforts.

This plan anticipates the following principles of planning for future landscape improvements along Lake Bluff's corridor landscapes including: removal of invasive landscape species; utilization of native plantings and; promotion of open views to the Village's surrounding landscape areas.

Our goal was to draw upon Lake Bluff's unique existing landscape characteristics and provide direction that balances best practices for landscape development with stakeholder and community desires. We hope you appreciate and promote the efforts of the Committee. We look forward to presenting this to the Village Board.

Sincerely,

Lake Bluff Thematic Landscape Identity, Gateway and Corridor Plan Committee Members

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INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE OF THE PLAYBOOK

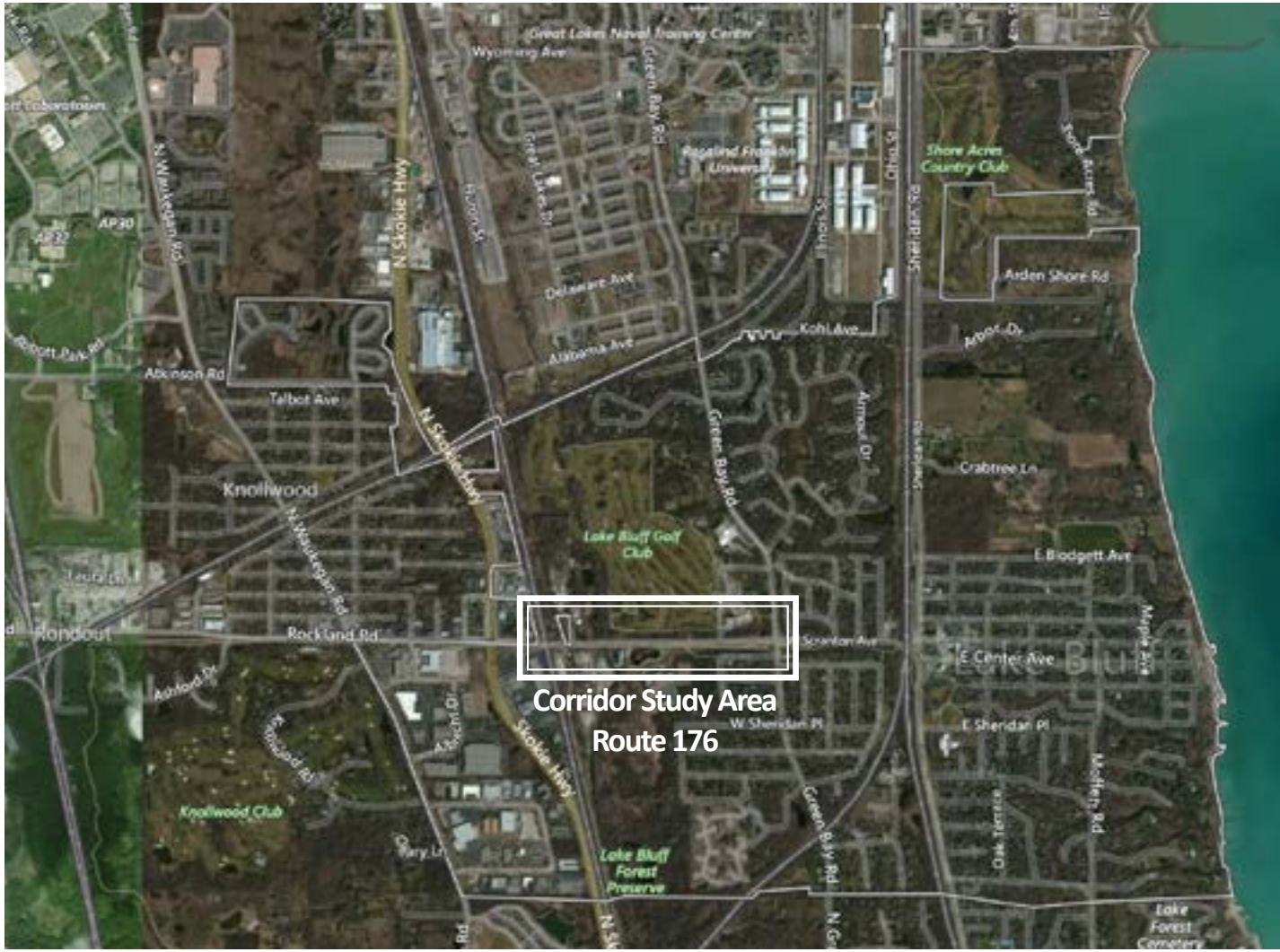
Lake Bluff's roadway corridors are more than conveyances - they also provide unique opportunities to access the Village's diverse landscape character and identity. The purpose of this playbook is to provide a conceptual framework that identifies Lake Bluff's unique landscape patterns and describes guidelines for corridor landscape development and management.

Lake Bluff's corridor landscapes are the community's common open spaces. A well thought-out approach to landscape design and maintenance should balance roadway functionality, viewsheds, durability, sustainable practices, aesthetics and an expression of Lake Bluff's unique identity.

STUDY AREA

The areas of focus include Route 176 / Rockland Road (Route 176) generally located between the Union Pacific Railroad to the west and Green Bay Road to the east. The project areas include the public rights of way and municipal properties that abut the public rights of way.

Although Route 176 is a focus area, the corridor plan also considers the surrounding context and Village-wide landscape patterning to understand dominant landscape typologies of Lake Bluff.



LAKE BLUFF – CORRIDOR STUDY AREA & CONTEXT

View looking east along Route 176 towards mown lawn, the North Shore Bike Path and scrub woodland areas.

View looking south along Sheridan Road towards mown lawn, split rail fence, the Robert McClory Bike path and scrub woodland areas.

View looking towards the North Shore Bike Path, mown lawn edge and native plantings.

View looking southeast from the intersection of Route 176 and Green Bay Road towards the North Shore Bike Path, split rail fence, mown lawn and native plantings.

PLANNING PROCESS & COMMITTEE GOALS

The planning process was guided by Village staff and an ad-hoc committee. The committee is comprised of key stakeholders, including representation from Lake County Department of Transportation (LCDOT); Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT); Lake Bluff Park District; Lake Bluff Open Lands Association (LBOLA); Lake Bluff Garden Club; the Village's Sustainability and Community Enhancement Ad Hoc Committee (SEC), and Village staff. All committee meetings were noticed publicly. As such, interested community members participated in committee meetings.

AD-HOC COMMITTEE

VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF
Drew Irvin, Village Administrator
Glen Cole, Assistant to the Village Administrator
Jake Terlap, Public Works Superintendent
Bob Hertel, Village Arborist
John Scopelliti, Administrative Intern

LAKE BLUFF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE (SEC)
Co-Chair Brian Rener
Co-Chair Marina Puryear
Emma Johnson
Anne Sorensen
Nan Patterson
Leslie Bishop
Sophie Twichell

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT)
Melissa Del Rosario
Giovanna Zaffina

LAKE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (LCDOT)
Matt Emde

LAKE BLUFF OPEN LANDS ASSOCIATION (LBOLA)
Larry McCotter
Bill Nordeen

LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT
Rob Douglass

LAKE BLUFF GARDEN CLUB
Marietta Hance

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Committee meeting #1
June 27, 2018
The purpose of this meeting was to present existing conditions and Village wide landscape themes and identities. Stakeholders discussed goals and objectives as well as current landscape planning initiatives.

Committee meeting #2
October 3, 2018
The purpose of this meeting was to present and receive comment on the Route 176 Concept Plan. Stakeholders provided comments and discussed priority projects.

Committee meeting #3
February 4, 2019
The purpose of this meeting was to present and receive comment on the draft Playbook.

STAKEHOLDER INITIATIVES

The Ad-Hoc Committee represents multiple key stakeholders in the use and maintenance of Lake Bluff's corridor landscapes. A summary of stakeholder interests and initiatives follows below:

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (IDOT)

- IDOT controls Route 176, including the adjacent landscape areas located to the south of the roadway and north of the North Shore Bike Path.
- A pump station project is planned at the northeast corner of Route 176 and the C&N RR. The work involves some landscape restoration and plantings. This project is scheduled for a November 2019 bid letting.
- A Phase I plan is complete for the intersection of Route 41 and Route 176 and IDOT is pursuing Phase II design of stormwater improvements. Intersection design and reconstruction are not yet funded. Design plans are not available at this time. Proposed improvements include widening Route 176 to two lanes in each direction until just east of the UP RR. The transition between a two-lane and four-lane cross-section occurs between the driveways for Mariani Landscaping (to the east) and Village Public Works (to the west).
- Current landscape initiatives and efforts promote native and pollinator plantings as practicable along IDOT controlled corridors.

LAKE BLUFF PARK DISTRICT

- In addition to the many recreational and open space properties it manages and controls throughout the Village, the Park District controls the Lake Bluff Golf Course, located north of Route 176. It also controls greenbelt parcels along the east side of Sheridan Road.

LAKE COUNTY DIVISION OF TRANSPORTATION (LCDOT)

- LCDOT does not control landscape areas associated with the North Shore Trail. IDOT owns the property the trail sits on and LCDOT operates the path via permit from IDOT. Any landscaping in the North Shore right of way would need permission from IDOT for installation.
- LCDOT is working on a wayfinding signage and branding initiative for county bike routes.
- LCDOT landscape standards includes a 2'-0" wide mown landscape edge along bike paths to promote visibility and to be clear of any obstructions.

LAKE BLUFF OPEN LANDS ASSOCIATION (LBOLA)

- LBOLA represents a large volunteer base of interested citizens who participate in environmental and educational activities throughout the community.
- LBOLA has strong interests in promoting best practices such as: removals of invasive species, such as buckthorn and; establishment of native prairie and wetland areas.
- LBOLA established and maintains areas within the Skokie River Prairie Land and Water Reserve.
- Recent initiatives include removal of invasive species located on Village property, north of Route 176 and adjacent to the Lake Bluff Golf Course, controlled by the Park District.

LAKE BLUFF GARDEN CLUB

- The Garden Club installs and maintains open space and beautification projects throughout the Village and has strong interests in promoting sustainable landscape practices and native plantings.

VILLAGE OF LAKE BLUFF

- Public Works staff maintains corridor landscapes and as such has a preference for plant materials that are low maintenance and tolerant of dry soil conditions, urban pollutants and deicing salts often associated with roadside landscapes.
- Maintenance practices include landscape and invasive species clearing adjacent to bike paths to promote visibility.
- In 2005, the Village evaluated costs to bury overhead electrical lines along Route 176 at $3M. This project was not pursued due to costs.

SUSTAINABILITY AND COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE (SEC)

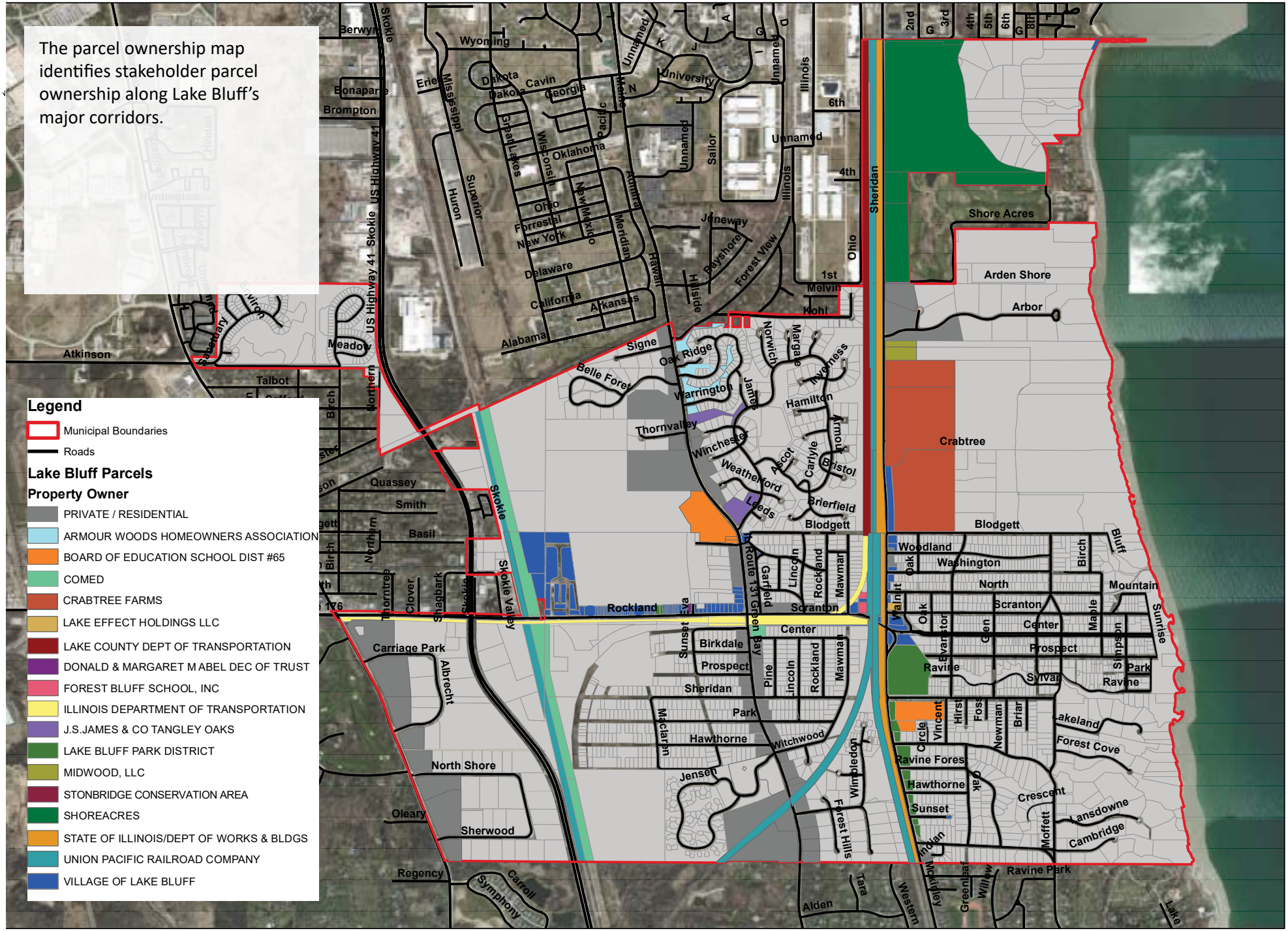
- The SEC is a recommending body to the Lake Bluff Village Board.
- Key initiatives include recommendations of Village policies and programs that promote sustainability throughout the Village.

COMMITTEE GOALS

The committee put forward the following goals to guide the development of corridor landscapes along Route 176 and other corridors throughout Lake Bluff:

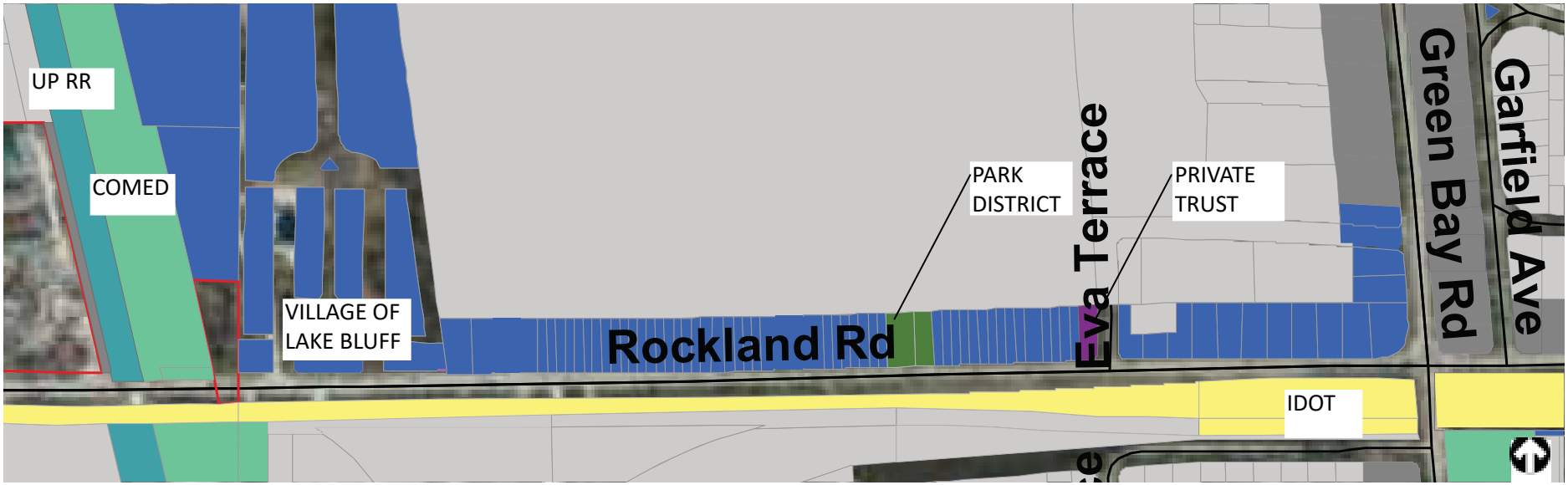
1. Remove invasive plantings, including buckthorn;
2. Make use of primarily native plantings;
3. Promote views to landscape areas along the vehicular entrances to the Village.

The parcel ownership map identifies stakeholder parcel ownership along Lake Bluff's major corridors.



EXISTING PARCEL OWNERSHIP

The parcel ownership map identifies stakeholder parcel ownership along Route 176.



EXISTING PARCEL OWNERSHIP - ROUTE 176

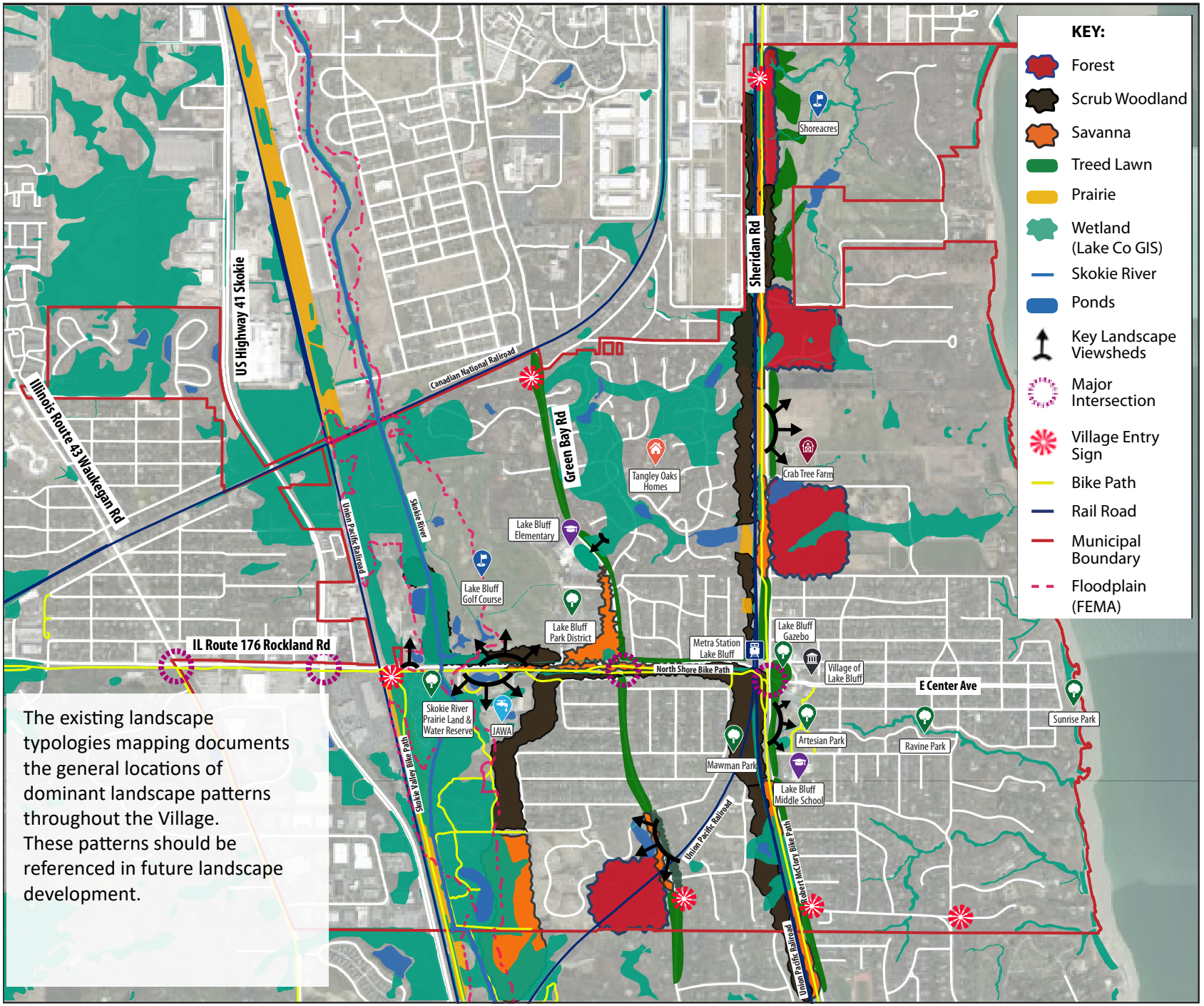
LAKE BLUFF'S EXISTING LANDSCAPE IDENTITY

For the thousands who travel Lake Bluff's corridors daily, key vistas are memorable, such as: the east view towards Crab Tree Farm from Sheridan Road and the northern and southern views to the Lake Bluff Golf Course and Skokie River valley from Route 176. These views are indeed special. Yet, they represent only a fraction of the available compelling viewsheds along the Village's roadway corridors.

What's in a view? Corridors offer vistas to Lake Bluff's indigenous forests, savannas, prairies and wetlands. Protection of Lake Bluff's landscapes are critical as they promote the region's biodiversity and also express character giving elements that are unique to the Village.

Existing landscape typologies should be protected in Lake Bluff. Best management practices for indigenous landscape typologies include the following:

- Prepare base maps for select landscape areas.
- Identify qualified staff or consultants to conduct landscape evaluations.
- Document landscape conditions seasonally. Documentation should focus on surrounding conditions, plant species and plant health.
- Where invasive or non-native species exist, remove plantings and haul off site. Recent removals of invasive buckthorn along Route 176, adjacent to the Lake Bluff Golf Course were noted by the committee and staff as successful efforts that should be continued throughout the Village as appropriate.
- Apply weed management techniques as required.
- Supplement new primarily native plantings as appropriate.
- Monitor landscape areas seasonally.



EXISTING LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

Note: Wetland and floodplain areas shown are derived from Village of Lake Bluff GIS data.

0 700 1,400 2,800 Feet

EXISTING LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

Existing Village-wide landscape typologies are described below and on the following pages:

FOREST

The forest typology is dominated by tree cover. Individual tree canopies are interwoven throughout these areas. Very little direct sunlight reaches the forest floor.

In Lake Bluff, there are several forest types. Forest typologies are generally limited to the areas located north of downtown along Sheridan Road. Remnants of original oak dominant forests are present north and south of Crabtree Farm.

Forest Plant List
The following species are typical of a Forest typology:

Trees: Red Oak, Sugar Maple, Basswood, Hackberry
Understory trees: Hop Hornbeam, American Hornbeam, Serviceberry, Pagoda Dogwood, Redbud

Shrubs: Blackhaw, Nannyberry, Witchhazel, Black Currant, Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle, Maple-leaf Viburnum, Arrowwood, Bladdernut

Herbaceous: Sedge species, Brome species, Rye species, Bottlebrush Grass, Wild Geranium, Early Meadow Rue, Goldenrod species, Trillium, Mayapple, Woodland Phlox, Hepatica, Big leaf Aster

SCRUB WOODLAND

The scrub woodland typology is comprised of secondary successional scrub woodlands. It is dominated by trees with a scrubby shrub and herbaceous layer, including Cottonwood, Silver Maple, Elm and Buckthorn. Often times, scrub woodland emerges as a result of limited landscape maintenance and volunteer growth.

In Lake Bluff, linear sections of scrub woodland are present along the Robert McClory bike path, along the east side of the North Shore bike path and; at the north side of Route 176 from Green Bay Road westerly. Riparian forest lands exist along the Skokie River areas.

Scrub Woodland Plant List
The following species are typical of a Scrub Woodland typology. It should be noted that this landscape typology is not intended to be replicated or supported in Lake Bluff:

Canopy Trees: Cottonwood, Silver Maple, Elm, Ash

Understory trees: Buckthorn, Black Cherry

Shrubs: Highbush Cranberry (European form), Grey Dogwood, Honeysuckle

SAVANNA

The savanna typology contains scattered groves of trees. Historically, plantings include Oak trees amongst a meadow of grasses and forbs. In this typology there are fewer canopy and understory trees and shrubs are present in scattered copses or groupings. In this typology, there is a higher percentage of sunlight that reaches the ground plane.

In Lake Bluff, the savanna typology is present along the Skokie River; south of Route 176.

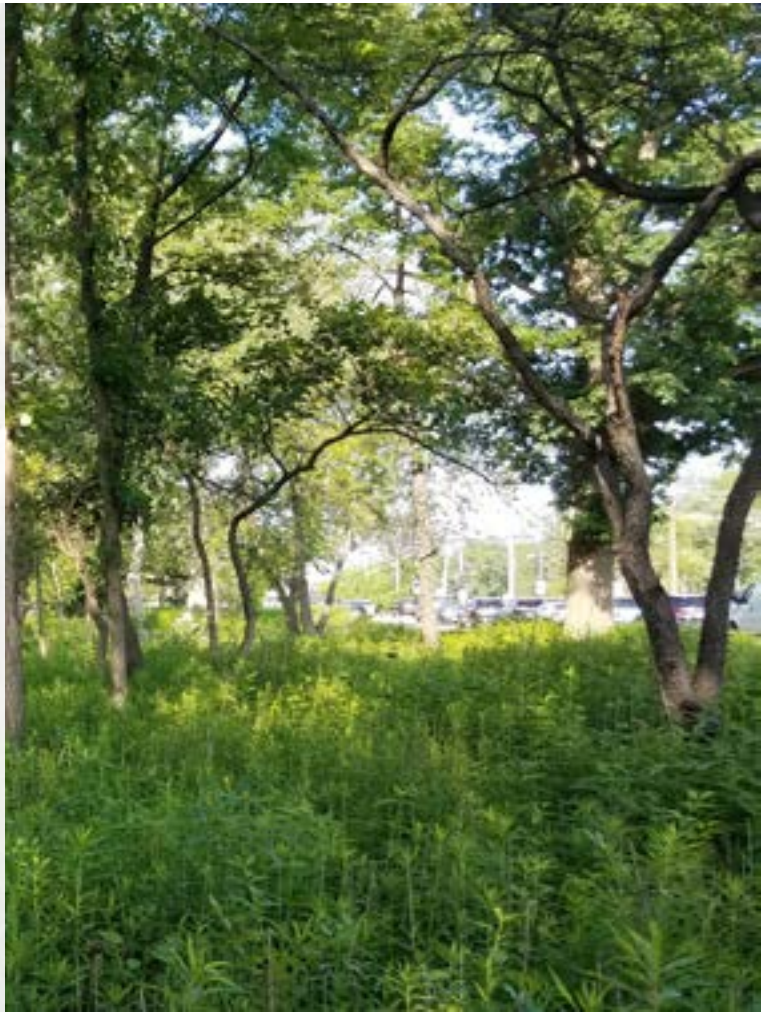
Savanna Plant List
The following species are typical of a Savanna typology:

Canopy Trees: Bur Oak, White Oak, Hill's Oak, Shag Bark Hickory, Walnut

Understory trees: Black Cherry, Prairie Crabapple, Hawthorn species.

Shrubs: Smooth Sumac, Hazelnut, Grey Dogwood, Early Wild Rose, Raspberry species, American Plum, Ninebark, Willow species.

Herbaceous: Sedge species, Rye species, Brome species, Bottlebrush Grass, Indian Grass, Big Bluestem, Switch Grass, Black-eyed Susan, Aster species, Goldenrod species, Mint species, Gentian species, Joe Pye Weed species, Rattlesnake Master, Purple Coneflower, Butterfly weed, Columbine, Cup Plant



TREED LAWN

The treed lawn typology appears somewhat similar to the savanna typology. Key differences are that the meadow grasses and forbs present in a savanna are replaced with cool season lawn grasses in the treed lawn typology.

In Lake Bluff, treed lawn typologies are present at Park District properties along the east side of Sheridan Road, from McKinley north to Blodgett Ave and; at the Lake Bluff Golf Course areas. Also, treed lawn areas are present at the Stonebridge development on Green Bay Road.

Treed Lawn Plant List
The following species are typical of a Treed Lawn typology:

Canopy Trees: Oak species, Maple species, Kentucky Coffee Tree, American Elm, Basswood, Hackberry, Hickory species

Understory trees: Hawthorn species, Crabapple species, Serviceberry, Redbud

Shrubs: Typically no shrubs, except in transition areas and borders

Herbaceous layer is typically limited to non-native grass species (lawn) and Carex species

PRAIRIE

The prairie typology is dominated by grasses and forbs. Prairies have few trees and shrub copses. There are a wide variety of prairie types that have adapted to a range of mesic (wet) to xeric (dry) soil conditions.

In Lake Bluff, the entire west end of Route 176, near the Skokie River, would have been primarily a wet prairie. Plant communities located just east along the Green Bay slope would have been mesic prairie. Prairie remnants today are present along the Robert McClory bike path located north of the Metra station. Scattered linear patches of prairie exist along the railroad tracks at the east and west parts of the Village.

Prairie Plant List
The following species are typical of a Prairie typology:

Canopy Trees: sporadic only, Bur Oak and Shagbark Hickory

Understory trees: sporadic only, Hawthorn species, Black Cherry and Crabapple species on edges

Shrubs: Smooth Sumac, Grey Dogwood, Rose species, Raspberry species

Herbaceous: Big Bluestem, Little Bluestem, Prairie Brome, Side-Oats Grama, Switch Grass, Prairie Dropseed, Indian Grass, Sedge species, Black-eyed Susan, Aster species, Goldenrod species, Mint species, Gentian species, Joe Pye Weed, Rattlesnake Master, Purple Coneflower, Butterfly Weed, Cup Plant, Prairie Doc, Compass plant, Gay Feather species, Ironweed, Boneset, Yellow Coneflower, Sunflower species, Flowering Spurge, Foxglove Beardtongue

WETLAND

Wetland typologies refer to the presence of water and wet soil conditions (rather than plant types). These are areas that are often or always wet.

In Lake Bluff, wetlands are present along the north end of Sheridan Road, north of Crabtree Farm, in small areas within the original forest are Oak flatwoods. Oak Flatwoods are wooded, poorly drained depressions within the original mesic Oak Forest. A small savanna wetland exists at the northwest corner of Green Bay Road and Route 176. Cattail dominant wetlands are present along the Skokie River, transmission corridors and railroad areas. There is extensive floodway and floodplain along the Skokie River, much of which is on the Lake Bluff Golf Course. A wet tolerant scrub woodland exists along Route 176 where the Skokie River crosses beneath the roadway.

Wetland Plant List
The following species are typical of a Wetland typology:

Trees: Swamp White Oak, Red Maple, Cottonwood, Black Willow

Shrubs: Red Osier Dogwood, Blue-Fruited Dogwood, Buttonbush, Willow species, Winterberry, Swamp Rose

Herbaceous: Carex species, Blue-Joint Grass, Fowl Manna Grass, Cord Grass, Turk's Cap Lily, Swamp Milkweed, Great Angelica, Prairie Gay Feather, Cardinal Flower, Great Blue Lobelia, Marsh Marigold, St. John's Wort, Chelone, Touch-Me-Not species, Blue Flag Iris

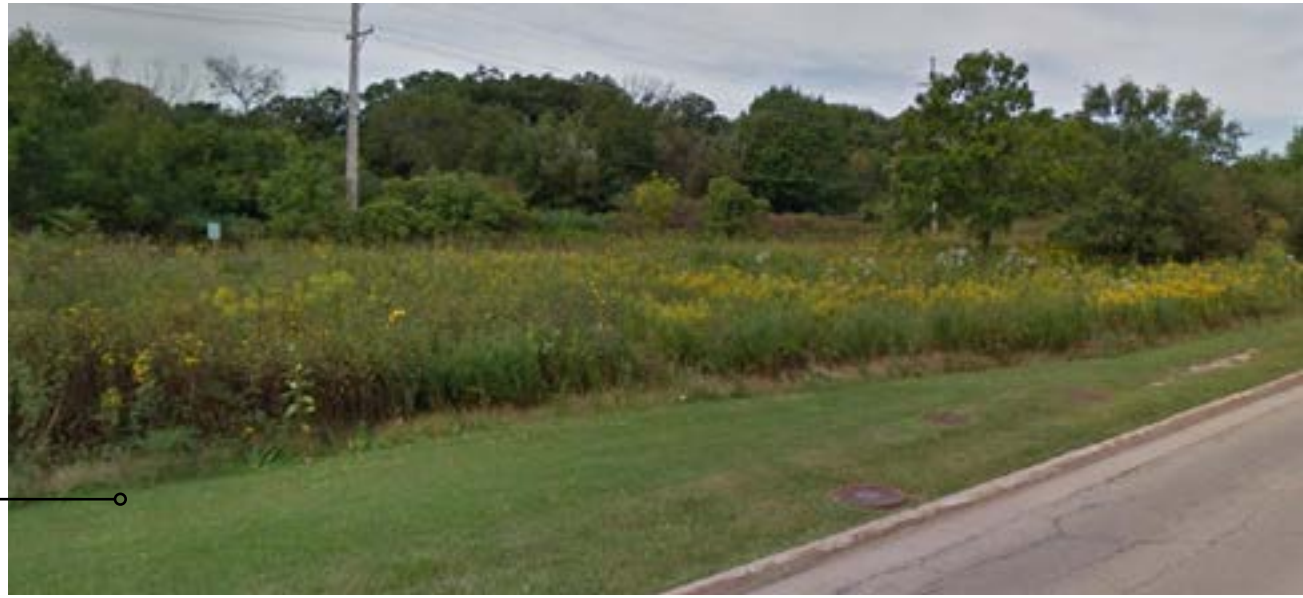
PROPOSED LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES & CORRIDOR CONCEPTS

Landscape development along Lake Bluff's roadway corridors should be conducted within the context of the Village's existing landscape patterns.

Proposed landscape improvements should incorporate all landscape treatments and native plantings that are characteristic of Lake Bluff's existing character as described below:

SPLIT RAIL FENCING

The Village is encouraged to continue to make use of existing split rail fencing along corridor landscapes. This fencing style and material is reflective of Lake Bluff's character and identity and provides a function that separates the roadway from bicyclists and pedestrians.



NATURALISTIC GROUPINGS OF PLANTINGS BEHIND MOWN LAWN

Naturalistic groupings of plant materials should surround the split rail fencing. This softens the appearance of the fencing, provides seasonal interest and buffering for mowing practices.

Mown lawn should be provided in curvilinear massings between edge of pavements and naturalistic plantings. In areas, the mown lawn should sweep into the golf course and merge with the existing landscape. This treatment maintains open views adjacent to the roadway as well as buffering between the roadway and plantings.

ROUTE 176

Route 176 is a major east-west corridor into Lake Bluff. For many visitors, this corridor is the first glimpse of the Village. This corridor is similar to other corridors in town as it has a mix of land uses, landscape types and open drainage. Some sections of Route 176 offer expansive views over the Skokie River and Lake Bluff Golf Course, while other sections appear narrow and constrained due to the presence of invasive buckthorn. The Route 176 corridor concept is on the following pages.

The corridor landscape areas along Route 176 are generally controlled by IDOT along the south side of the roadway and Village of Lake Bluff along the north side of the roadway. The roadway includes one lane of travel in each direction and a left turn lane at intersection areas. Although sections of the roadway include curb and gutter, most sections have open drainage. The North Shore Bike Path runs east-west along the south side of Route 176. A metal barrier railing is present at the south side of Route 176, near the approach to Green Bay Road. Wood split rail fencing exists along the south side of the connector path in the study area. Chain link fencing exists along some portions of the south side of the North Shore Bike Path.

There are a variety of desirable landscape typologies in this area, including the wetland at the Skokie River and northwest corner of Green Bay Road and Route 176, scrub woodland at CLCJAWA, Forest and Savanna at the Golf Course Property and scrub woodland at the approach to the Robert McClory Bike Path. Additionally, there are substantial undesirable buckthorn groves along the north side of Route 176 adjacent to the Golf Course property. Recent efforts by Lake Bluff Open Lands Association (LBOLA) have eradicated portions of the buckthorn shrubs. These efforts have provided additional attractive and expansive views to the Golf Course from Route 176.

Proposed landscape treatments are developed to continue the recent buckthorn removal efforts.

Landscape treatments include split rail fencing surrounded by drifts of native grasses, perennials and forbs. Plantings should be arranged on both sides of the fence so as to eliminate mowings around individual fence posts. Existing good quality tree groupings should be preserved if appropriate. New tree groupings should be placed strategically to maximize and enhance views to the landscape beyond. The areas located between the edge of roadway pavement and drifts of native grasses, perennials and forbs should be lawn. These areas should be maintained with regular mowing practices.

Mowing practices should follow broad curvilinear forms that would provide interest and help direct the sight lines to the higher quality sections of the roadside landscape. These types of mowings are currently present at other locations in the region, such as the parkway treatments located along Sheridan Road nearby to the Ft. Sheridan cemetery area near Lake Forest. Mowing stakes may be used to delineate the mown edge until the landscape forms are established.

Clear and open viewsheds should be accommodated throughout. Plantings should be located so as not to impede safe sight distances.

Existing Landscape Patterns

- Scrub Woodland
- Savanna
- Wetland (Lake Co GIS)
- Ponds and Rivers
- Tree Grove
- R.O.W. Line
- Bike Path
- Gateway Sign

Proposed Landscape Patterns

- Tree Grove
- Shrub Copses
- Split Rail Fence
- Drifts of Native Grasses, Perennials & Forbs
- Wet Tolerant Drifts of Native Grasses, Perennials & Forbs
- Perennials
- Mowed Lawn

ROUTE 176 CORRIDOR CONCEPT - PLAN

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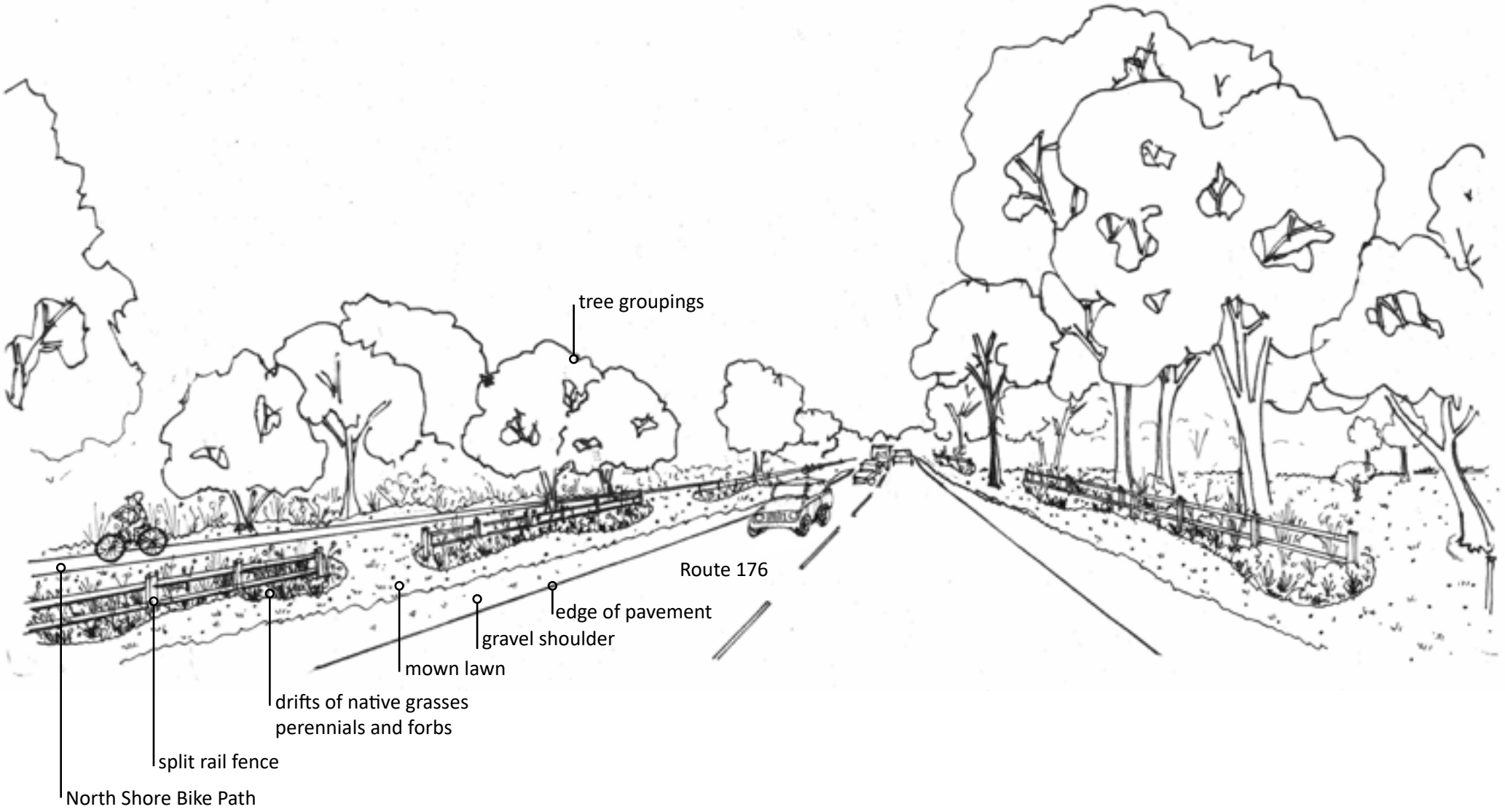
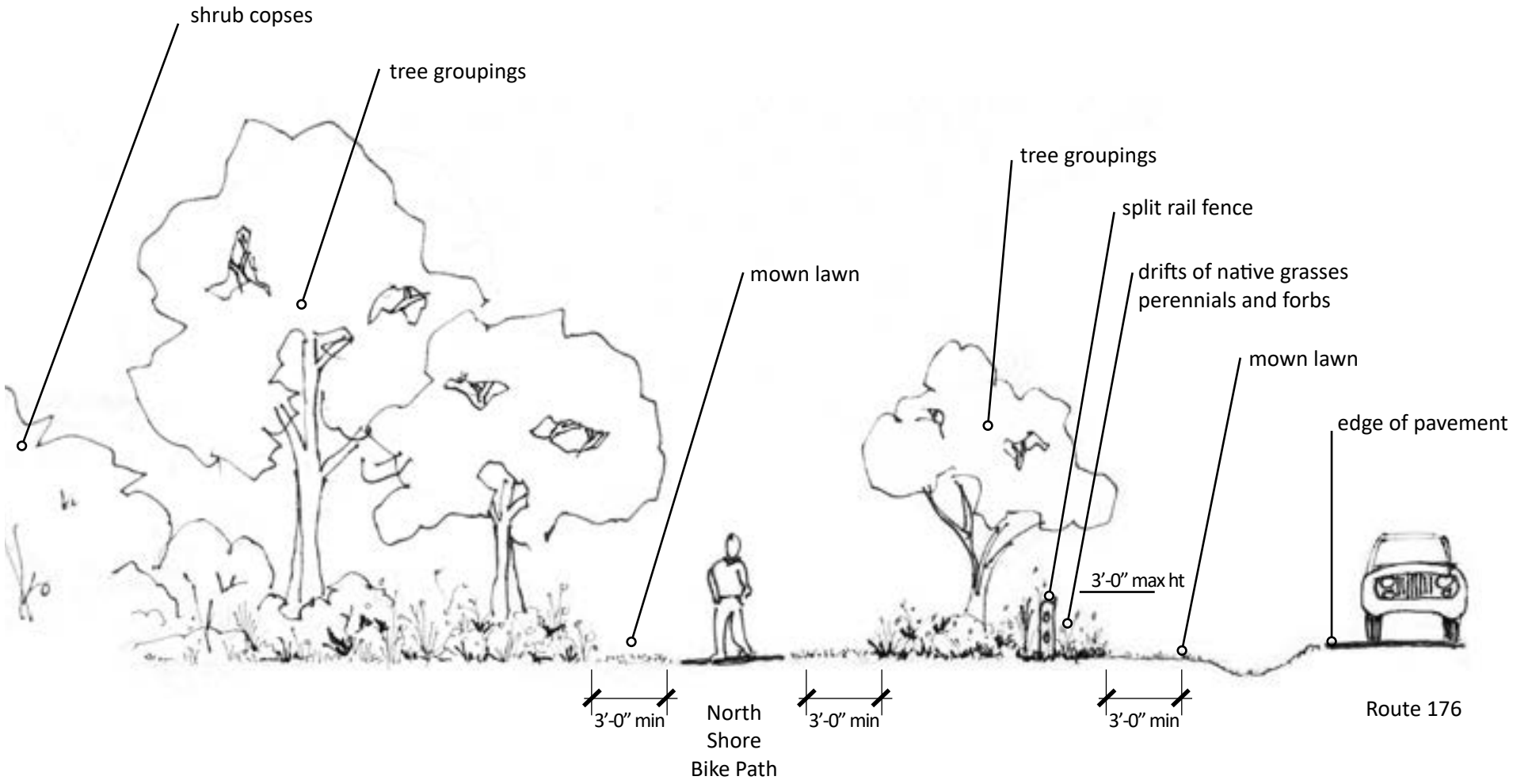


ROUTE 176 CORRIDOR CONCEPT - PERSPECTIVE



ROUTE 176 CORRIDOR CONCEPT - TYPICAL SECTION

GATEWAY ENTRY SIGNAGE

Gateway entry signs exist within the public rights of way located at vehicular entries to the Village. These areas help frame visitors' early impressions about the Village. As such it is important that the landscape surrounding the sign be designed with the same care as the signage itself. As a follow up to the Village's recent branding efforts, these signs announce the entrances to the Village and express Village character. Signs are post mounted and typically include a limited grouping of perennial plantings at the base of the sign.

Proposed landscape treatments for gateway entry signs include a well-defined arrangement of trees, shrubs and perennials. Plantings should be selected for their salt and urban tolerance. Plant placement should include large massings of perennial plantings in the foreground with trees and shrub copses in the rear.

Clear and open viewsheds should be accommodated at driveway and intersection areas. Plantings should be located so as not to impede safe sight distances.

The following salt tolerant native plantings are recommended for the gateway signage areas:

Shrubs

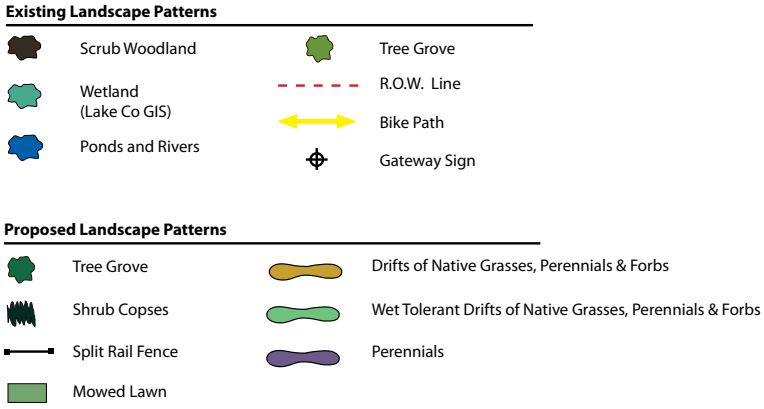
Hydrangea arborescens, Smooth Hydrangea
Rhus aromatica, Fragrant Sumac
Rhus glabra, Smooth sumac

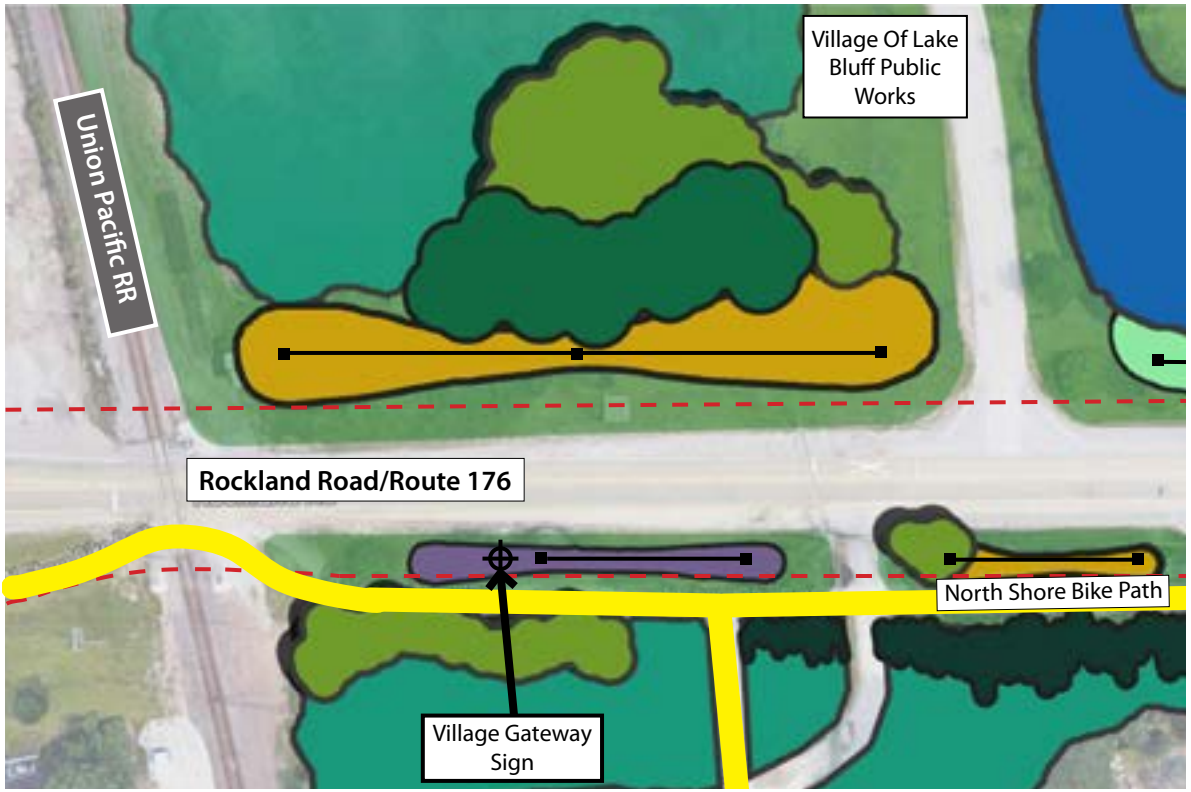
Grasses

Andropogon scoparius, Little bluestem
Bouteloua curtipendula, Side-oats grama
Sporobolus heterolepsis, Prairie dropseed

Perennials

Butterfly Weed
Prairie Coreopsis
Rough Blazing Star
Prairie Bergamont
Purple Prairie Clover
Fragrant Coneflower
Sky Blue Aster
New England Aster
Pale Purple Coneflower
Prairie Blazing Star
White Prairie Clover





ROUTE 176 CORRIDOR CONCEPT - GATEWAY SIGNAGE

0′ 30′ 60′

ROADWAY INTERSECTIONS

Roadway intersections are also key character giving landscape areas for the Village. Intersections represent decision points and offer stopped vehicles views of the landscape. Several roadway intersections exist throughout the Village. The intersection of Green Bay Road and Route 176 is developed as a design typology and is shown below.

This is a signalized intersection that accommodates thru lanes and left turn lanes. Some areas include curb and gutter but most areas have open drainage. The North Shore Bike Path runs east-west along the south side of Route 176. A metal barrier railing is present at the south side of Route 176. Wood split rail fencing existing along the south side of the North Shore Bike Path.

The dominant landscape type is savanna plantings at the northwest, southwest and southeast intersection areas. A residential driveway and single-family home exists at the northeast corner and as such there are limited plantings in this area.

Proposed landscape treatments are oriented to the available landscape areas at the northwest, southwest and southeast corners. Landscape treatments include split rail fencing surrounded by drifts of native grasses, perennials and forbs. Plantings should be arranged on both sides of the fence so as to eliminate mowings around fence posts. Where available space allows, drifts of plantings should be applied to areas at both sides of the North Shore Bike Path as appropriate. Tree groupings should be placed strategically to maximize views to the landscape beyond. At the northwest corner, informal tree groupings should be placed to maximize views to the savanna and wetland beyond.

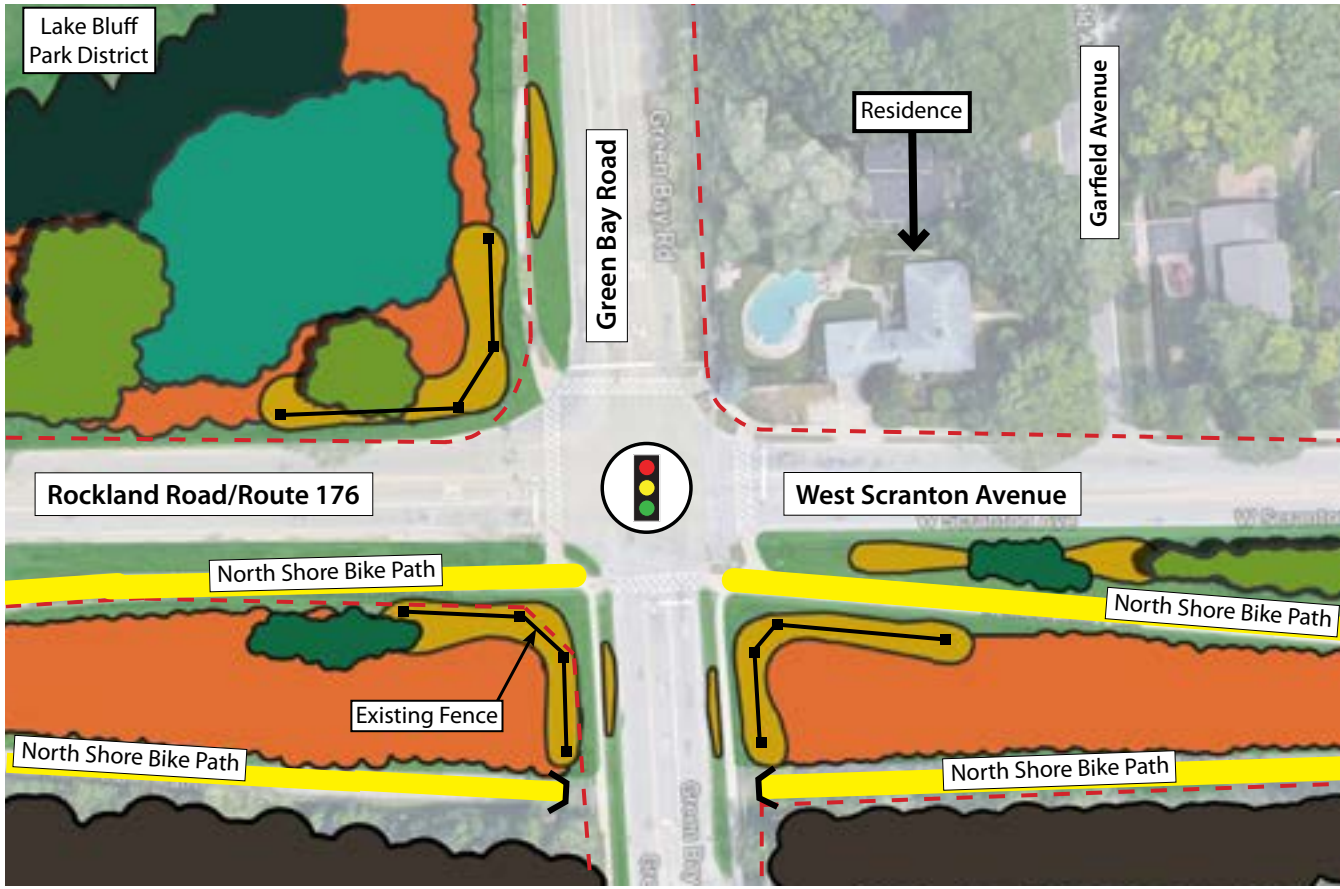
Clear and open viewsheds should be accommodated at driveway and intersection areas. Plantings should be located so as not to impede safe sight distances.

Existing Landscape Patterns

- Scrub Woodland
- Savanna
- Wetland (Lake Co GIS)
- Tree Grove
- R.O.W. Line
- Bike Path
- Gateway Sign

Proposed Landscape Patterns

- Tree Grove
- Shrub Copses
- Split Rail Fence
- Drifts of Native Grasses, Perennials & Forbs
- Mowed Lawn



ROUTE 176 CORRIDOR CONCEPT - ROADWAY INTERSECTION

0′ 30′ 60′

LANDSCAPE PRIVACY SCREENING

Many corridor areas within the Village include buckthorn often as a privacy screen. Given buckthorn's aggressive nature, it dominates and creates dense thickets along the roadside. However buckthorn is an invasive plant, which compromises the health and longevity of other native plant materials in our region. This plan offers the following screening alternatives to buckthorn.

As described in the plant lists, the following upright shrub materials are appropriate plantings for roadside screening along Lake Bluff's corridors.

Upright Screening Trees and Shrubs

Cornus racemosa, Grey Dogwood
Cornus amomum, Silky Dogwood
Physocarpus, Ninebark
Juniperus virginiana, Eastern Redcedar
Taxodium distichum, Bald Cypress
Viburnum lentago, Nannyberry Viburnum
Viburnum prunifolium, Blackhaw Viburnum

Clear and open viewsheds should be accommodated at driveway and intersection areas. Plantings should be located so as not to impede safe sight distances.

Photo example of invasive buckthorn plantings along Green Bay Road in Lake Bluff

Photo example of alternate Eastern Redcedar landscape screening plantings for roadsides

PLANT LISTS & BEST PRACTICES

One of the goals of the playbook is to encourage a Village-wide policy that is focused on primarily native plantings and the attraction of pollinator species.

Landscape plantings should also be selected for their salt and urban tolerance.

Landscape plantings should be selected and located to improve water quality by filtering and slowing overland runoff.

Clear and open viewsheds should be accommodated at driveway and intersection areas. Plantings should be located so as not to impede safe sight distances.

Best practices for corridor landscape development are outlined below. Local organizations and community groups may be engaged to participate as appropriate:

SITE ANALYSIS

- Evaluate existing landscape conditions.
- Secure permitting from jurisdictions as appropriate.
- Assess exsiting soils, solar orientation and drainage patterns.
- Identify and mark existing high quality species to be protected.

LANDSCAPE REMOVALS & SITE PREPARATION

- Identify, mark and remove invasive species.
- Apply weed management techniques as required.

PLANT SELECTION & LANDSCAPE PLANTINGS

- Based on analysis, plant availability and recommended plantings, select desired plant material.
- Install plantings as per best practices.

MAINTENANCE

- Evaluate plant growth seasonally and monitor for plant health.
- Continue weed management techniques as required.
- Supplement with additional plantings as required.

PLANT LISTS & BEST PRACTICES

The following plants are native to Lake County, IL, with the majority being native to Lake Bluff as well. While these are native plants, many have very specific requirements. As such, these plantings should not be used randomly in the landscape. The final landscape designs should include the evaluation of specific site conditions and requirements for soil types, moisture levels, and solar orientation.

Soils throughout the study area are widely variant and it is recommended that soil tests be performed to determine key factors related to plant health. Several of these areas may require soil amendments to increase the health and survivability of the plantings.

Landscape planting located within county or state controlled rights of way require permitting and approval prior to installation.

Canopy Trees:
Acer rubrum, Red Maple
Acer saccharum, Sugar Maple
Carya ovata, Shagbark Hickory
Carya cordiformis, Bitternut hickory
Celtis occiendtalis, Hackberry *
Fagus grandifolia, American Beech
Juglans cinerea, Butternut *
Juglans nigra, Black Walnut *
Populus deltoides, Cottonwood *
Quercus alba, White Oak *
Quercus bicolor, Swamp White Oak *
Quercus ellipsiodalis, Hill's Oak *
Quercus macrocarpa, Bur Oak *
Quercus rubra, Red Oak *
Quercus velutina, Black Oak
Tilia americana, Basswood *
Ulmus americana 'Princeton', American Elm *

Understory Trees:
Amelanchier arborea, Common Serviceberry *
Amelanchier laevis, Allegheny Serviceberry *
Betula papyrifera 'Renaissance Reflection', Paper Birch *
Carpinus caroliniana 'J.N.Select', Blue Beech
Cornus alternifolia, Pagoda Dogwood
Crataegus puncata, Dotted Hawthorn
Crataegus sp., Hawthorn *
Juniperus virginiana, Eastern Red Cedar *
Malus ioensis, Prairie Crab
Ostrya virginiana, Ironwood *
Populus tremuloides, Quaking Aspen *
Prunus americana, Wild Plum
Prunus serotina, Black Cherry
Thuja occidentalis, Eastern White Cedar *

Shrub Copses:
Ceanothus americanus, New Jersey Tea
Cephalanthus occidentalis, Common Buttonbush
Cornus obliqua, Silky Dogwood
Cornus racemosa, Gray Dogwood *
Cornus stolonifera, Redosier Dogwood *
Corylus americana, Hazelnut
Diervilla lonicera, Northern Bush Honeysuckle *
Hamamelis virginiana, Witchhazel *
Ilex verticillata, Winterberry *
Prunus americana, Wild Plum
Prunus virginiana, Chokecherry
Rhus glabra, Smooth Sumac *
Ribes americanum, Wild Black Currant
Rosa blanda, Meadow Rose
Rosa carolinia, Carolina Rose
Rosa Palustris, Swamp Rose
Rubus odoratus, Purple-flowering Raspberry
Sambucus canadensis, Common Elderberry *
Staphylea trifolia, American Bladdernut
Viburnum lentago, Nannyberry
Viburnum prunifolium, Blackhaw Viburnum *
Viburnum rafinesqueanum, Downy Arrowwood

Shrub Screening:
Cornus racemosa, Grey Dogwood *
Cornus amomum, Silky Dogwood
Physocarpus, Ninebark *
Juniperus virginiana, Eastern Redcedar *
Taxodium distichum, Bald Cypress *
Viburnum lentago, Nannyberry Viburnum
Viburnum prunifolium, Blackhaw Viburnum *

* indicates salt tolerant plantings

PLANT LISTS & BEST PRACTICES

A range of seed mixes are available from local nurseries that meet roadway agency standards. The following seed mixes are pre-approved by IDOT for landscape improvements within state controlled rights of way. Alterations to these mixes, subject to review by IDOT where applicable, are highly recommended to better meet the goals of the community and the specificities of the individual areas within the corridors.

Drifts of Native Grasses, Perennials and Forbs:

IDOT Class 2A Salt Tolerant Roadside Mixture:
Inferno Tall Fescue
Perennial Ryegrass
Audubon Red Fescue
Rescue 911 Hard Fescue
Fults Distans Alkaligrass

IDOT Class 4A Low Profile Native Mixture:
Andropogon scoparius, Little bluestem
Bouteloua curtipendula, Side-oats grama
Elymus canadensis, Canada wild rye
Sporobolus heterolepsis, Prairie dropseed

IDOT Class 5 Forbs with Annual Mixture:

Lead Plant	Butterfly Weed
Smooth Aster	White Wild Indigo
Prairie Coreopsis	Rattlesnake Master
Ox-Eye	Rough Blazing Star
Prairie Bergamont	Louse Wart
Purple Prairie Clover	Prairie Cinquefoil
Fragrant Coneflower	Prairie Dock
Spiderwort	Thimble Weed
Sky Blue Aster	New England Aster
New Jersey Tea	Pale Purple Coneflower
Downy Sunflower	Alum Root
Prairie Blazing Star	Wild Quinine
White Prairie Clover	False Dragonhead
Yellow Coneflower	Compass Plant
Rigid Goldenrod	Culver’s Root

NEXT STEPS & PRIORITY PROJECTS

Lake Bluff's corridor landscapes have the potential to enhance community character and express the Village's sustainable goals. The corridor experience can be significantly improved by the way that corridor landscapes are protected, edited, enhanced and maintained. Landscape treatments are not a 'one-size-fits-all' approach, but will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis, including the following considerations:

- What are the characteristics of the native landscape beyond the corridor?
- Are invasive plants present and can they be removed?
- Apply complementary landscape planting treatments as described in the typologies above.
- Apply best management practices to landscapes as described above.

Significant efforts are underway by the Lake Bluff Open Lands Association (LBOLA) to remove invasive plantings along the north side of Route 176, adjacent to the Golf Course property. These efforts should continue as resources are available to do so. Following the removals, landscape treatments and plantings should be incorporated as described above.

There are many educational and interpretive opportunities to consider, including volunteer work days, interpretive signage, educational programs and printed literature.

The Village is encouraged to share this work with the community to build interest and stewardship of Lake Bluff's corridor landscapes.

Public and private partnership opportunities exist when assessing, developing and maintaining Lake Bluff's corridor landscapes. Select opportunties follow below:

- Continue collaboration with LBOLA to remove invasives, install plantings and maintain corridor landscapes.
- Collaborate with the Garden Club to design and install plantings at gateway signage areas.
- Consider opportunities to expand Park District programming to include landscape assessments and management.
- Engage local organizations, such as schools and religious institutions, to participate in volunteer work days.
- Document progress of corridor landscapes via high quality photographs and promote via online and printed publications.

NEXT STEPS & PRIORITY PROJECTS

The following prioirity projects may be considered as next steps in implementing the Playbook:

PROJECT A: Route 176 Golf Course Frontage Enhancements

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	COSTS
1	Continue buckthorn and invasive landscape removals for the area along Rte 176 adjacent to the Golf Course.	Village / Park District / LBOLA /community volunteers	volunteer
2	Prepare detailed landscape plans and budget costs for Village approval.	Village/Consultant	$12,000
3	Install / maintain landscape plantings.	Village / Park District / LBOLA /community volunteers	TBD
4	Document progress for public communications.	Village	Staff time

PROJECT B: Route 176 / Green Bay Road Intersection Enhancements

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	COSTS
1	Prepare detailed landscape plans, budget costs and permit documents for IDOT approval as required.	Village/Consultant	$10,000
2	Install / maintain fencing and landscape plantings.	Village /LBOLA/ Garden Club	TBD
3	Document progress for public communications.	Village	Staff time

PROJECT C: Gateway Sign Enhancements

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	PARTNERS	COSTS
1	Prepare detailed landscape plans, budget costs and permit documents for IDOT approval as required.	Village/Garden Club	TBD
2	Install / maintain landscape plantings.	Village /Garden Club	TBD
3	Document progress for public communications.	Village	Staff time

APPENDIX - MEETING SUMMARIES

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P. CLIFFORD
MILLER