

# Memorandum

## Public Works & CED Departments



**To:** City Manager  
**Subject:** Against the Grain Rain Garden on City ROW  
**Date:** August 6, 2014  
**Number:** 2014-167

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In 2013 Against the Grain, 1340 31<sup>st</sup> Street, installed a rain garden in the boulevard next to their building adjacent to 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. This included native plantings, stepping stones, and accent lighting. The City does allow softscape (plants) in the city ROW, although this is typically done in residential areas. We have received some complaints on the appearance of the plants but the plantings are in line the City's rain garden program and stormwater control initiatives, and are similar to those found in rain gardens throughout the City. Pictures of the current rain garden are included as Attachment 1. Unfortunately, the plants have grown significantly this year and have become a hindrance to passengers exiting their cars from the adjacent parking spaces on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In an effort to find a compromise, Against the Grain has submitted a proposed redesign which will allow drivers and passengers to have full access to their vehicles while allowing some of the plantings to remain. A sketch of the proposed design is included as Attachment 2. The design is acceptable to both Public Works and Community and Economic Development provided the plants are trimmed when needed so they do not obstruct drivers or pedestrians.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that City Council allow Against the Grain to leave the rain garden in the ROW adjacent to their property provided that they make the modifications in accordance with the approved design and keep the plants trimmed so as not to obstruct pedestrians or motorists.

Attachment 1: Current Rain Garden

Attachment 2: Proposed Design

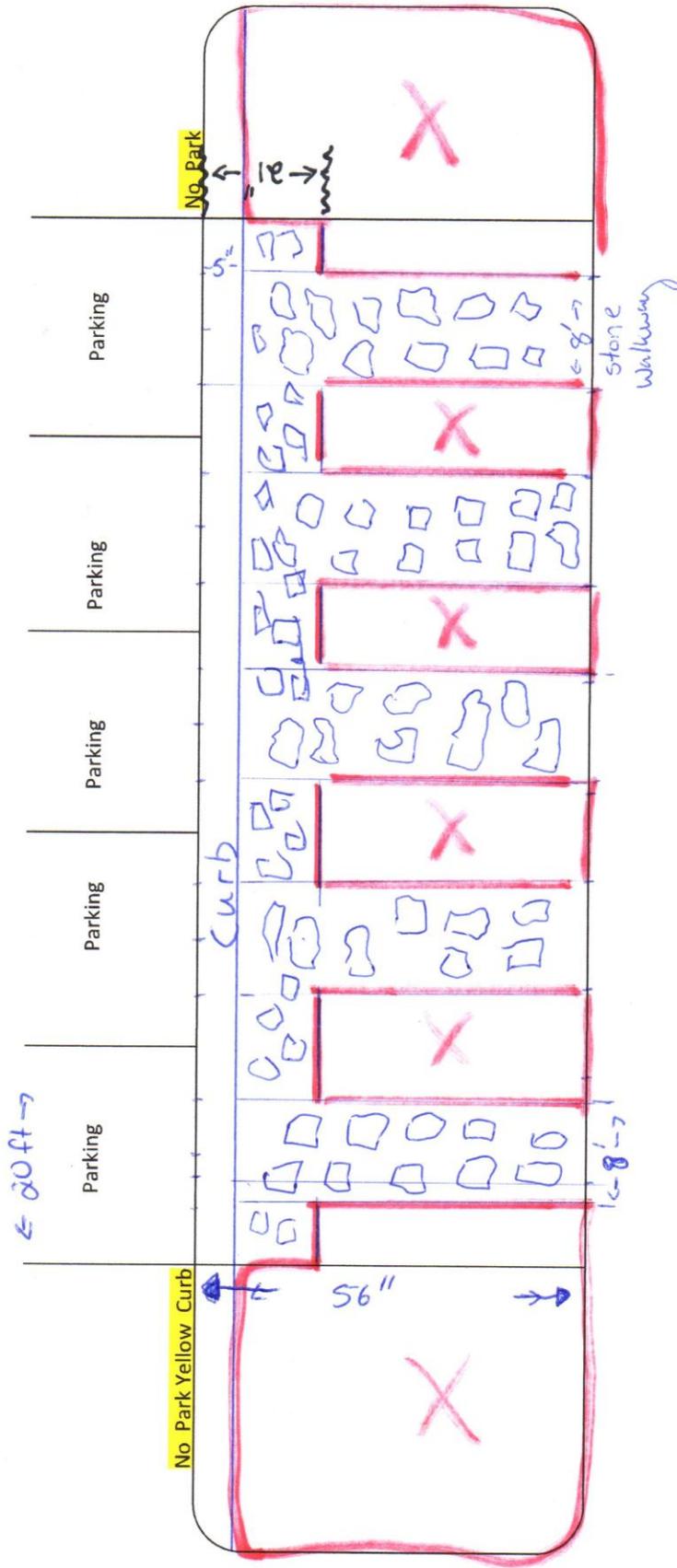
**Submitted by:** Jeffery A. Eder, Assistant City Manager / CED Director  
Randall D. Tweet, Public Works Director  
Michael J. Kane, P.E., City Engineer

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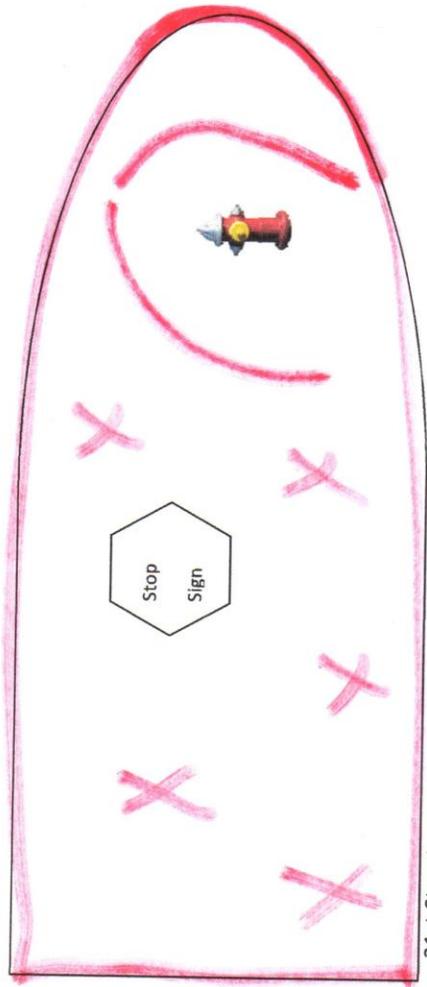
**Approved by:** Thomas Thomas, City Manager



14th avenue represents approx 150 feet of space



X = Garden



31st Street