

Village Hall Grass Plan

Purpose: Progressive removal of Bermuda grass from Village Hall site

Turf grass is a landscape staple because it uniquely serves specific purposes. However, due to its need for water, fertilizer, mowing, edging, etc, lack of wildlife benefit and lack of permeability compared to other planted material, it should be reserved exclusively for areas which require clear, open sight lines, uniformity, AND sustain foot traffic. **Where low growing plant material is desired for openness and uniformity, but does not require foot traffic, PRG recommends other ground cover alternatives to turf grass.**

Bermuda grass currently dominates the Village Hall site. Bermuda grass is more drought tolerant and requires less fertilizer than other turf grasses. However, these same qualities make it invasive in our environment. It spreads both by blown seed and underground rhizomes to overtake tended and natural plant areas. **Consequently, PRG recommends the removal of all Bermuda grass at Village Hall.**

Fescue requires more water and fertilizer but is thus easier to keep under control. Fescue is also preferred because: it is more shade tolerant for the areas under the oak trees; it is green more of the year (all year with sufficient summer water); it is softer for recreational use; and it is consistent with public expectations for a lawn as set by a majority of HOA landscaping guidelines. **Where turf grass is required, PRG recommends the use of fescue.**

While the removal of Bermuda grass from the site is the long term goal, PRG does not recommend that this constitute its own project. Because Bermuda is so tough, the only successful removal is via herbicide and/or machinery. Consequently, **we recommend the eradication of Bermuda at Village Hall in phases**, largely dictated by further development of the site. Where Bermuda is removed during a project, it should not be re-introduced. Instead, fescue should be used where foot traffic is a concern and other ground covers where it is not.

Phases of removal:

Houston Ross Park- grading for the park project has removed a large amount of Bermuda grass. The event lawn and some surrounding areas have been planted with fescue. Targeted applications of herbicide should be used to keep Bermuda from regrowing in the disturbed areas that have not been replanted.

Village Hall planting beds- The planting beds between Village Hall and the parking lot contain two areas of Bermuda grass. These should be killed with herbicide, removed, and replaced with mulch as soon as Facilities and budget allow.

War Memorial- Bermuda grass which is removed during construction should not be re-introduced. Approved plans should include alternate plant material for all areas of disturbed soil, including fescue where foot traffic is anticipated. Prevention of Bermuda regrowth should be on a targeted basis.

Marvin Loop- Bermuda grass which is removed during construction should not be re-introduced. Plans should include alternate plant material for all areas of disturbed soil, including fescue only where foot traffic is anticipated. Prevention of Bermuda regrowth should be on a targeted basis.

Areas Adjacent to other parcels- Bermuda removal near the adjacent parcels should be held off pending the plan approval and development on those parcels. Any interconnectedness between Village Hall and the possible commercial developments will radically change, and possibly eliminate, existing planted areas.

Additional phases- Other discreet areas across the site should be addressed on a rolling basis as opportunity, resources, and ideas for replacement present themselves.

Alternate Ground Covers

Native

- Non-mowed grass-like plants
 - Purple Lovegrass, *Eragrostis spectabilis* <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/eragrostis-spectabilis/>
 - Muhlv Grass
 - Prairie Dropseed
 - Little Bluestem
 - Carex various options depending on amount of sun and water
 - Path Rush. *Juncus tenuis* <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/juncus-tenuis/>
 - Nimblewill, *Muhlenbergia schreberi* <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/muhlenbergia-schreberi/>
- Non-grass ground covers
 - Pussytoes, *Antennaria plantaginifolia* <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/antennaria-plantaginifolia/>
 - Robin's Plantain, *Erigeron pulchellus* <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/erigeron-pulchellus/>
 - Green and Gold, *Chrysogonum repens* <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/chrysogonum-repens/>
 - Yarrow, *Achillea millefolium*, <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/achillea-millefolium/>
 - Native Strawberry, *Fragaria virginiana*, <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/fragaria-virginiana/>
 - Phlox subulata, moss phlox, <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/phlox-subulata/>
 - Native Geranium- *geranium maculatum*
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- Shrubs and perennials
 - Creeping Juniper <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/juniperus-horizontalis/>

Non-native

- Ajuga reptans
- Mazus reptans
- Creeping Thyme
- Lamium - low growing varieties <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/lamium-maculatum/>
- Red Clover- <https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/trifolium-pratense/>
- Cranesbill/Hardy Geranium (not pelargonium)- ex. Max Frei, Rozanne, Johnson's Blue, etc

- Creeping Speedwell, Turkish speedwell, *Veronica liwanensis* and var. - ex. Waterperry blue, Tidal pool, etc.