

*Citizen Comment  
2/25/02*

# LANDSCAPE PLAN

**SOUTH MAIN STREET (S.R. 329) MEDIANS**

**SW 16<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE (S.R. 226) TO  
WILLISTON ROAD**



**GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA**

**Noel R. Lake, ASLA**

630 SW 26<sup>th</sup> Place      Gainesville, FL 32601

Landscape Architect      Consulting Arborist

352/336-1288

October 3, 2001

**Beautification of South Main Street**  
from SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Williston Road  
a distance of 1.2 miles

This is a proposal requesting the Florida Department of Transportation and the City of Gainesville to plant trees and ground covers in the medians of South Main Street. It is a simple plan using a very low maintenance combination of wild date palm trees and perennial peanut ground covers. Once established these plants do not require irrigation, and there will be a symbiotic relationship between the palms and the perennial peanuts. The palms will have at least eight feet of clear trunk affording clear sight and an immediate effect.

Recently the perennial peanut was named the plant of the year by the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association. Wild date palms (*Phoenix sylvestris*) are similar but smaller in scale than the Canary Island date palms which grow in the narrow strips along Main Street between Depot Avenue and SW 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

An optional tree for the more narrow medians at the south end of Main Street is the hybrid crape myrtle cultivar *Biloxi* which I have planted and watched in my yard.

I started this project about three years ago, but shelved it after little interest was shown and after being coaxed away into several paying projects. We need our most articulate neighbors to help me present this proposal; therefore, I am requesting such help from Dr. Michael Resnick and Dr. Melvin Fried from Colclough Hill-- plus any other volunteers.

**Noel R. Lake, ASLA**

630 SW 26<sup>th</sup> Place      Gainesville, FL 32601

Landscape Architect      Consulting Arborist

352/336-1288

September 10, 2001

MEMORANDUM

to: Florida Highway Beautification Council  
Gainesville City Commission  
Gainesville City Beautification Board  
Kirkwood Environmental Improvement Association  
Colclough Hill Community Association  
Florida Department of Transportation Representatives – Dick Bush and Ken Cheek

Re: Proposal for the Landscape Development of the Medians of South Main Street from SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Williston Road, Gainesville, FL.

This is to ask your support for the beautification of an overlooked Gainesville gateway. Enclosed is a proposal that I have drawn up for the medians of South Main Street from SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Williston Road – a distance of 1.2 miles.

This proposal is to plant 50 (to 100) Wild Date Palms and 2 rows of perennial peanuts in these medians. The number of palms will vary according to spacing and funds available. *Phoenix sylvestris* is similar to *Phoenix canariensis* but is smaller in scale (mass); therefore, they will fit better in these medians; and, since they are smaller, they will cost less and be easier to plant than the larger *P. canariensis* and *P. dactylifera*.

The Canary Island date palms of NE 1<sup>st</sup> Street have made this perhaps the most spectacular street in Gainesville for almost a century; but, alas, they have faded away as they succumbed to old age, soil compaction, and Ganoderma butt rot disease. As mentioned in my original proposal three years ago, it is not advisable to replace these date palms in the same soil with more palms since plant pathologists tell us that all palm species are susceptible to this fungus which persist in the soil for many years. We should look for another parkway type street in Gainesville away from this diseased area where we have space to establish a row of these stately palms. What better place than South Main Street where a high hill affords a splendid vista; and, after all, this is Main Street. Eighteen *Phoenix sylvestris* palms in a double row have been growing south of Bryan Hall on the University of Florida campus for about 32 years with no evidence of cold damage.

Palms are more readily transplanted in larger sizes than most other trees; therefore, this planting will give an immediate effect with better traffic sight that cannot be obtained with other trees. Several mature Phoenix palms exist in the narrow spaces between the sidewalk and curb along South Main Street from Depot Avenue north to SW 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue proving the adaptability of this species to this area and these conditions (no irrigation). The best time of the year to plant palms in this area is late spring or early summer.

Perennial peanut, *Arachis glabrata* can make this Gainesville's street of gold as the golden flowers bloom all summer long. It is a plant that thrives under such conditions as are found in the median isles along South Main Street. Whereas annual wild flowers may be harmed by the routine mowing of the medians, perennial peanuts need this routine pruning of competitive taller weed growth. Once established perennial peanuts do not require any irrigation and can out-compete most other plants in periods of drought. Also, they do not require any fertilization although fertilization is desirable. Since peanuts are legumes, they put nitrogen into the soil, and nitrogen is always deficient in the sandy and often calcareous soils of Florida roadsides. Nitrogen is the expensive fertilizer element that will benefit their companion palms. This symbiotic relationship in lawns can be observed where grasses growing among perennial peanuts are darker green. Examples of perennial peanuts as ground covers can be seen at the corner of Mowry and Hull Roads and along the north side of Radio Road at the Central Stores Building on the U.F. campus. Those growing at Central Stores are the source of an ornamental cultivar named Eco-turf. The best time of the year to plant perennial peanuts is January or February; however, container grown plants or deep rooted plugs (chips) can be planted any time of the year, and this could be a more economical method if enough volunteer laborers are available. Otherwise, peanut sod one foot wide should be planted in continuous rows along each side of the medians about three feet back of the curbs. To give them a head start the existing weeds should be eliminated with glyphosate (Roundup), and they should have July and August applications of Fusilade herbicide as well as the spring fertilization of Sulpomag. It should be noted that the Florida Nurserymen and Growers Association has recently named perennial peanut the plant of the year.

This combination of wild date palms and perennial peanuts is a good example of simplicity as the essence of landscape design – the KISS principle.

At the south end of Main Street, where the median isles narrow from 15 feet to 11 feet and the roadway bends to the west, we might prefer to have a highway type crape myrtle. If so, the cultivar of choice for such a location as recommended to me on November 30<sup>th</sup> by Dr. Gary W. Knox, IFAS expert on crape myrtles, is *Biloxi* (*Lagerstroemia indica* x *L. faurei* 'Biloxi'). They would require only the same low maintenance.

After the palms are growing and the peanuts are blooming along the south end of Main Street, enough public interest probably will be generated to demand that South Main Street from Depot Avenue to SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue also should have medians with trees and flowering ground covers.

A brief note to the following organizations stating your support or the support of your organization will be appreciated:

Florida Highway Beautification Council  
c/o Ken Cheek, District II Landscape Manager  
Florida Department of Transportation  
PO Box 1089, 1901 South Marion Street  
Lake City, FL 32056-1089

Gainesville City Commission  
c/o Mayor Tom Bussing  
City of Gainesville  
PO Box 490  
Gainesville, FL 32602

Project Costs  
City of Gainesville  
South Main Street Beautification Project

Ground Covers:

5000 sq. ft. Perennial Peanut sod @ \$1.00/sq. ft. (2500 chips @ \$2.00)	\$5,000.00
Labor for preparation and planting plus profit @\$1.00/sq.ft.	5,000.00
(or 2150 one gallon plants @ \$3.25 delivered and watered, but planted with volunteer labor.)	\$6987.50

Trees:

50 Wild Date Palms, 8 ' to 10 ' CT; 14" to 20" caliper Supplied, planted, and guaranteed @ \$3692.00 ea.	\$184,600.00
17 Crape Myrtle standards, Biloxi, BR, 6' to 8' CT @ \$400 ea.	11,900.00

Irrigation:

Water (from city) trucked for planting and establishment	9,500.00
117 drip irrigation bags @ \$17.00 ea.	2,000.00

Weed Control:

Spraying strips with glyphosate (Roundup)	1,000.00
---	----------

Plant Material Specifications:

Perennial peanuts (*Arachis glabrata*) shall be a dwarf or lawn type cultivar such as Ecoturf as well matted sod (or Fla. No.1 or better one gallon container grown plants or 4 inch plugs/chips). Sod shall be thoroughly watered in, top-dressed, and rolled when planted.

Wild Date Palms (*Phoenix sylvestris*) shall be Florida No. 1 or better with at least 8 feet of clear trunk. The buds shall be treated with a palm weevil preventive such as Lindane. The palms shall be thoroughly watered-in at the time of planting; and to facilitate and reduce watering frequency and transplant shock during establishment a drip irrigation device such as two "Treegators" shall be provided for each palm. Bracing for each palm according to FDOT specifications shall be provided if necessary to insure that each palm shall still be plumb at the end of the first year. The palms shall be guaranteed survival in good health for one year except for "act of God" or man caused accidents.

Crape Myrtles, Biloxi and/or Miami hybrids (*Lagerstroemia x Biloxi or Miami*) Fla. No.1 or better, 6'-8' clear trunk, standards, BR. Include one drip irrigation bag per tree and guarantee for one year.

Annual Maintenance Costs:

Palm fronds shall be trimmed or removed as they turn brown or hang down to be a nuisance. This is estimated to cost approximately.	\$1600.00
Palms shall be fertilized the second year (none the first year) in late spring with a palm special fertilizer with secondary elements or a 10-10-10 with minor elements at 4 lbs./ tree or 200 lbs. Supplied and spread @ \$25.00/ 50 lbs.	\$100.00
Perennial peanuts shall be fertilized once a year in May with a sulfur-magnesium-potassium type fertilizer such as Sulpomag at the rate of 2.3 lbs/1000 sq. ft. or 200 lbs. Supplied and spread @ \$25.00/ 50 lbs.	\$250.00
Since date palms are susceptible to magnesium deficiency and should be fertilized after cold weather, they will benefit from this same regimen.	
The U.F. Agricultural Extension Service recommends spraying perennial peanuts with the herbicide Fusilade in the first July and August to control weeds and facilitate the establishment period.	\$2500.00

Proposal:

Landscape Development of the Medians of South Main Street  
Gainesville, Florida

Location of the Project:

County: Alachua

S.R. # 329

Length of Project: 1.2 miles, 6400 feet

From: SW 16th Avenue, S.R. #226

To: Williston Road, S.R. #331

Summary of Eligible Grant Project Costs (to be paid for by the Grant):

Irrigation system—permanent: none.

Temporary: 50 drip irrigation bags (Irrigators) \$ 2,000.00

Plant materials:

Palms--- delivered \$ 116,600.00

Perennial Peanut Ground Cover---delivered \$ 5,000.00

Crape Myrtles---delivered \$ 3,400.00

TOTAL ELIGIBLE COSTS \$ 125,000.00

Summary of Applicant Matching Project Costs (local Government Share, not including continuing maintenance):

Site Preparation: \$ 7,500.00

Irrigation (watering)—water trucked for planting and establishment \$ 9,500.00

Plant materials:

Palm planting and establishment \$ 68,000.00

Perennial Peanut planting and establishment \$ 5,000.00

Crape Myrtle planting and establishment \$ 3,000.00

Herbicide—supply and apply \$ 1,000.00

Traffic control \$ 4,500.00

Administration Costs \$ 11,500.00

Landscape Design \$ 15,000.00

TOTAL APPLICANT MATCHING COSTS \$ 125,000.00

TOTAL PROJECT COST \$ 250,000.00

Proposal:

Landscape Development of the Medians of South Main Street  
Gainesville, Florida

Estimate of Applicant Annual Maintenance Costs:

Fertilizer

Palms: First year---

none

Second year +---

\$ 250.00

Perennial Peanuts---

\$ 100.00

Herbicide – perennial peanuts –first year

\$ 1,250.00

(Spray Fusilade in July and August.)

Water – after establishment

none

Mowing – less than has been routine

\$ 11,800.00

Safety – Remove dead palm fronds and overhanging frond tips.

\$ 1,600.00

(Self pruning as they establish and grow taller.)

TOTAL ESTIMATED ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS--

\$ 15,000.00



**South Main Street**  
looking south



**South Main Street**  
w/ palms & ground cover



**Landscape Plan**  
**for the Medians of South Main Street (S.R.329)**  
**from SW 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue (S.R.226) to Williston Road (S.R. 331)**  
**Gainesville, Florida**

September 10, 1998      Landscape Architect:  
*Noel R. Lake*, ASLA  
Fla. Reg. No. 365

**Legend:**

50 to 100\* *Phoenix sylvestris* (Wild Date Palm),  
Fla. No.1 or better, 8'-10' CT  
or *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Date Palm)  
\* Number planted will depend on available funds.

**Note:**

*Phoenix sylvestris* which is smaller  
in scale (mass) than *P. canariensis*  
will fit better in these medians.

4300 sq. ft. Perennial Peanut (*Arachis glabrata*) sod--  
a row down each side of median isle 3 feet from curb.

OR

2150 one gallon container grown perennial peanuts  
if volunteer labor for planting is available.

South Main Street Speed Limit: 45 MPH except  
35 MPH at top of hill heading south

**Traffic Count (1995):**

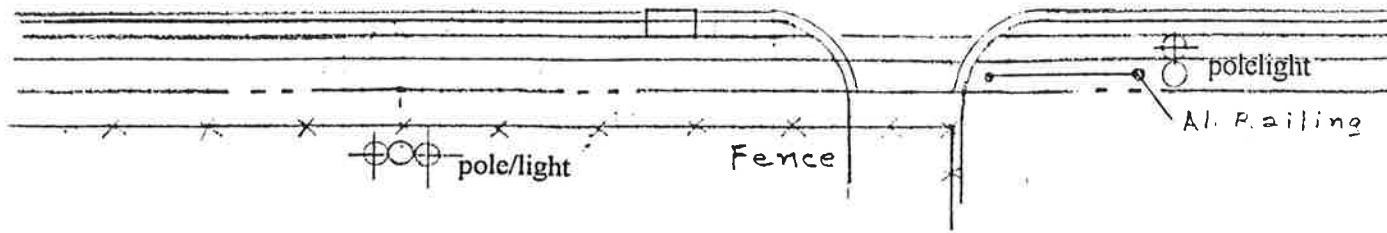
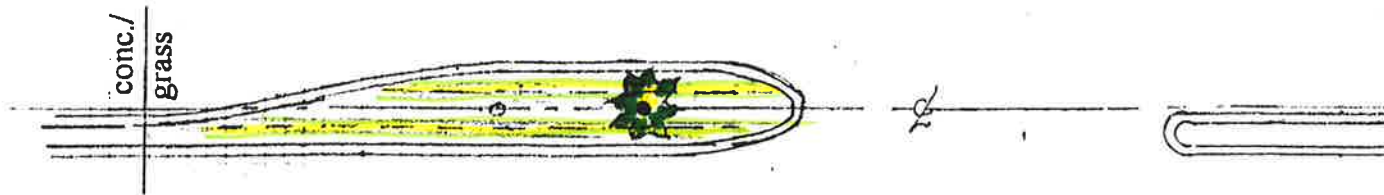
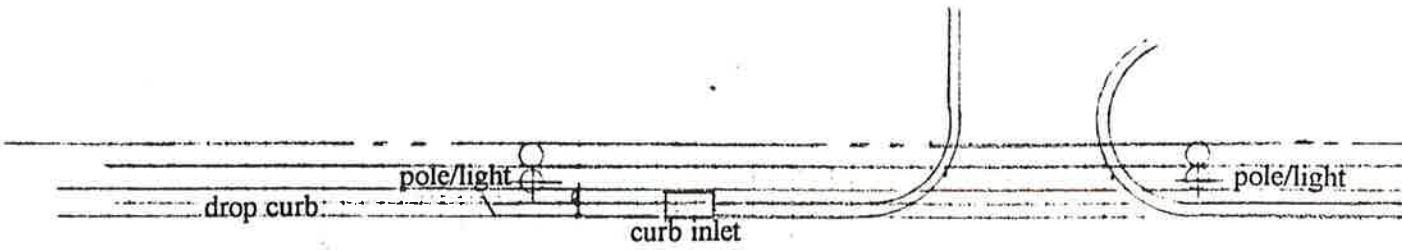
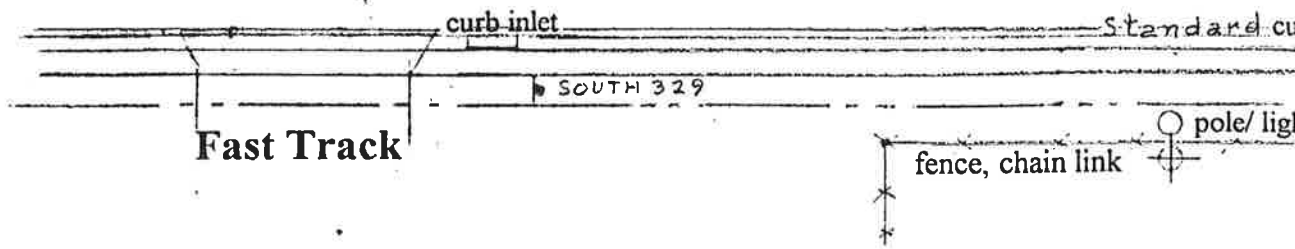
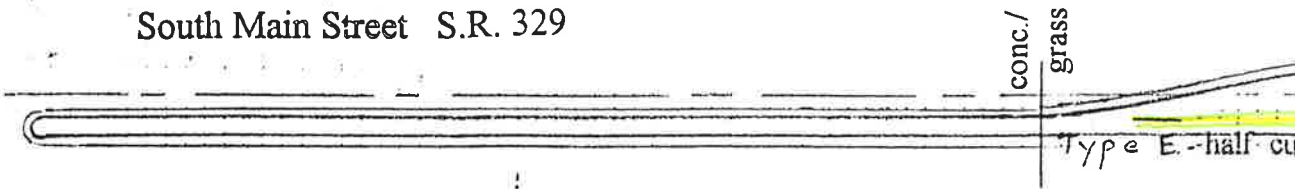
S. Main St. = 11,100 per day  
Williston Rd. = 10,900 " "  
SW 13<sup>th</sup> St. = 15,300 " "  
SW 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. = 19,000 " "

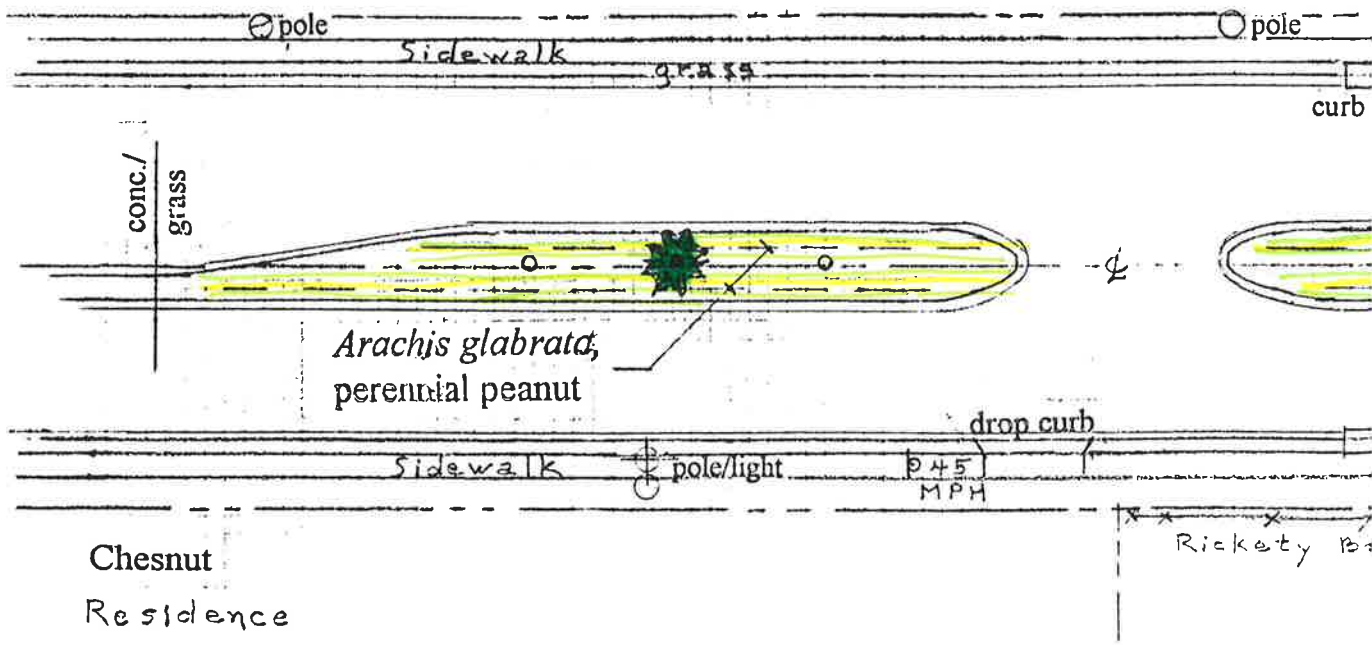
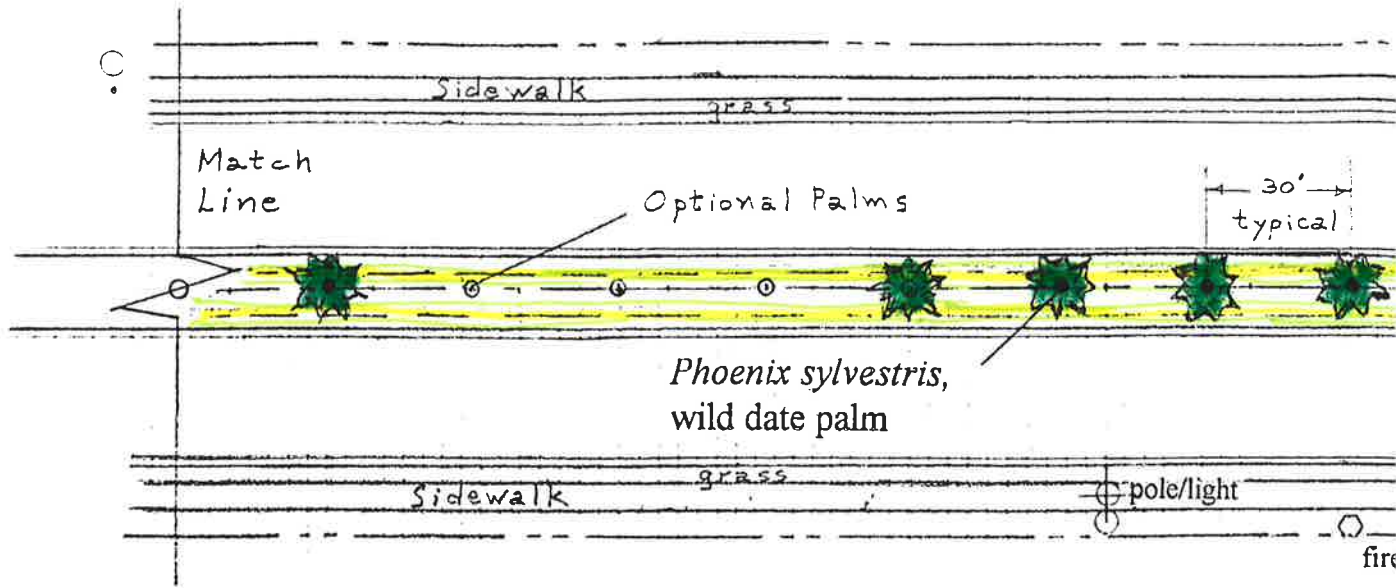


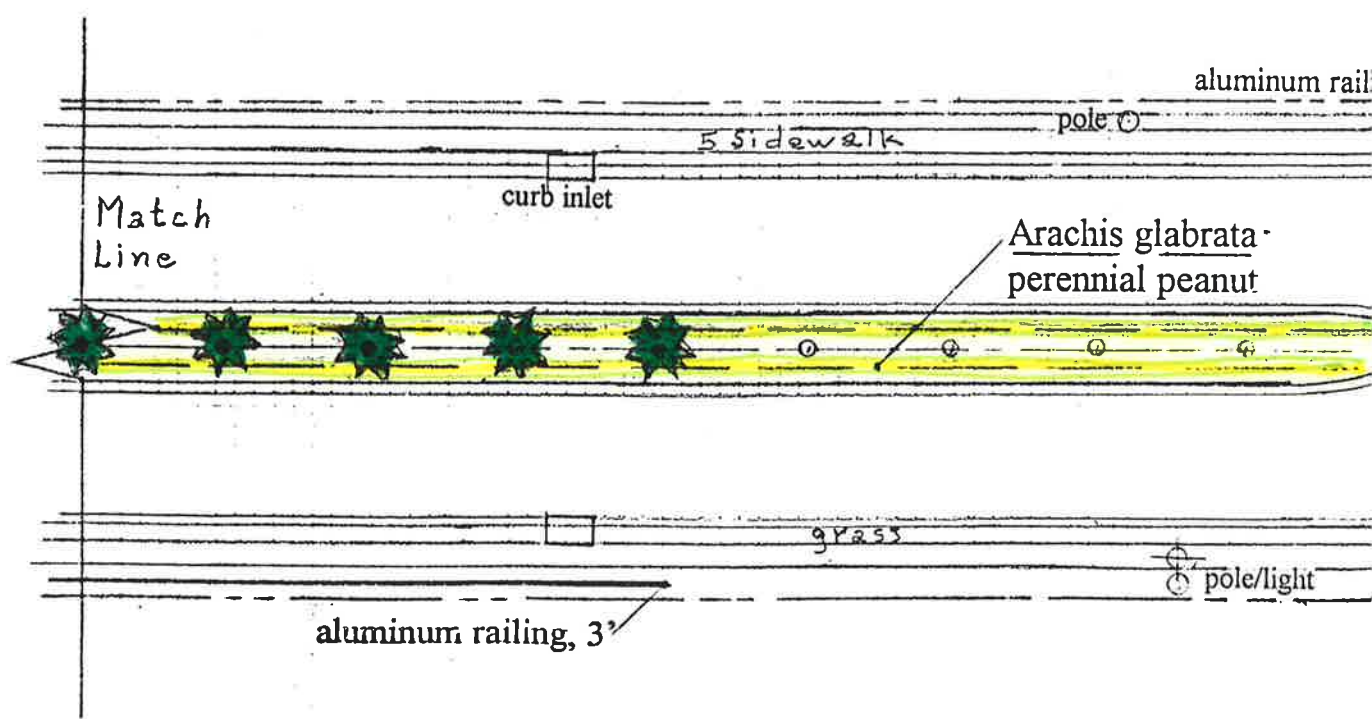
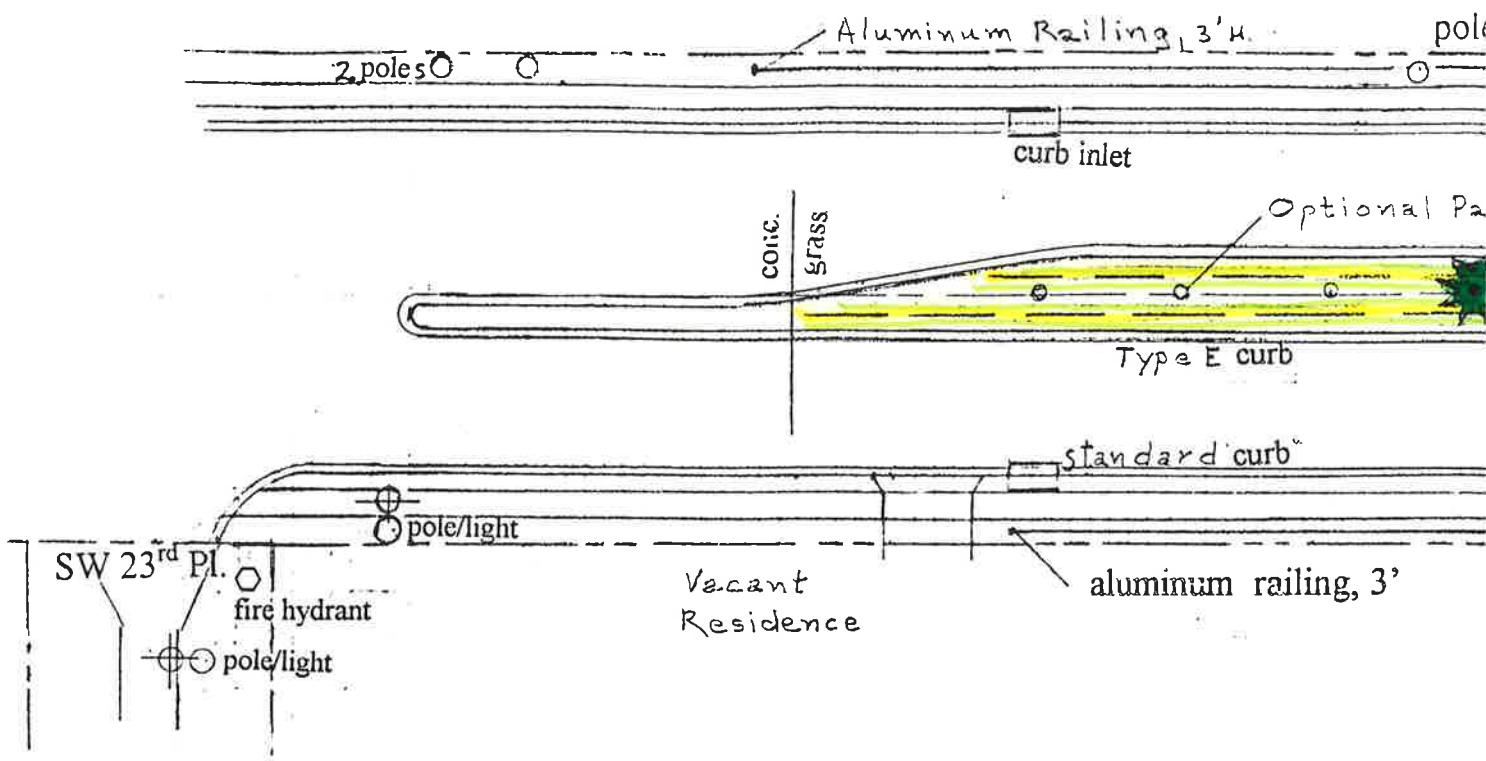
SW 16<sup>th</sup> Ave., S.R. 226

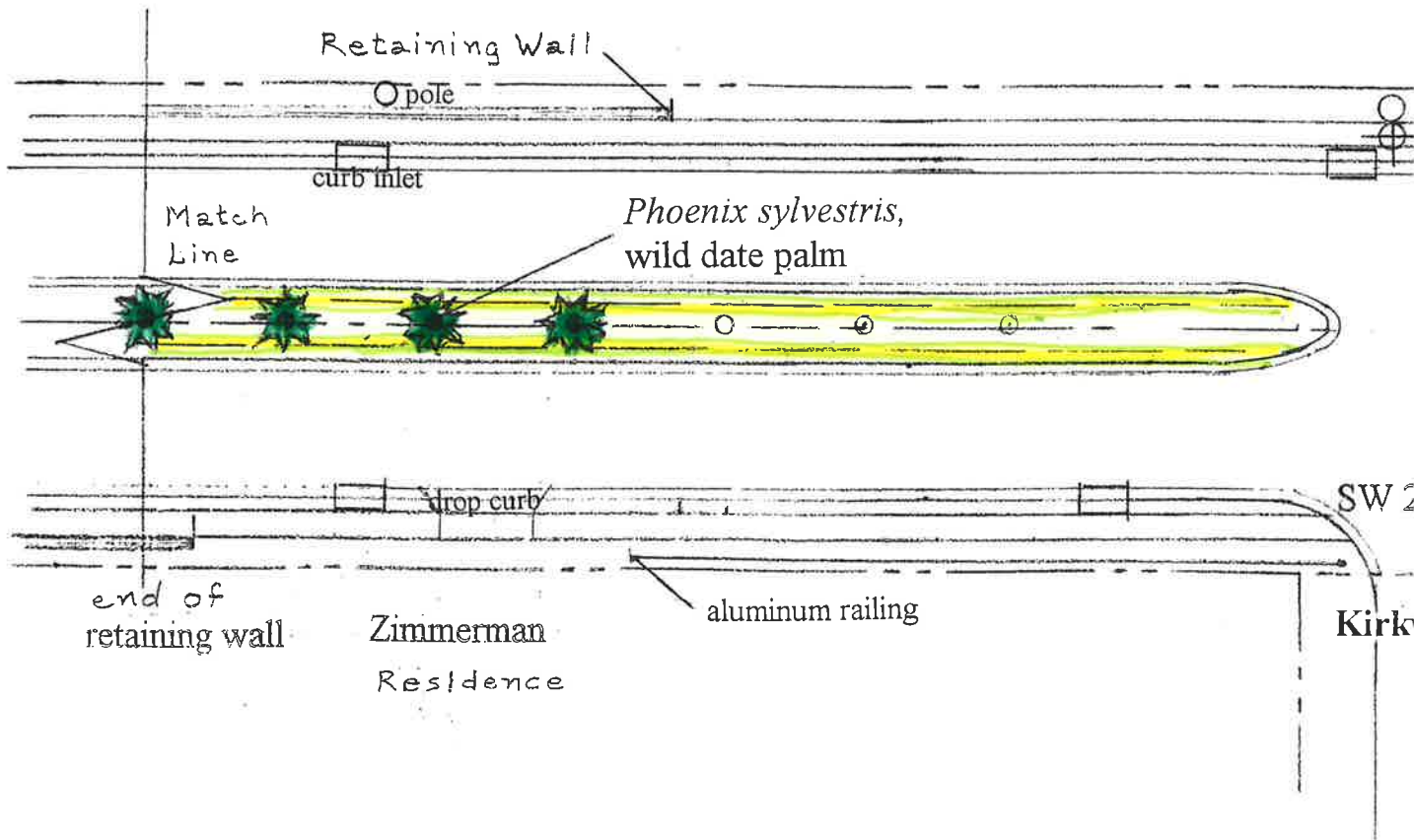
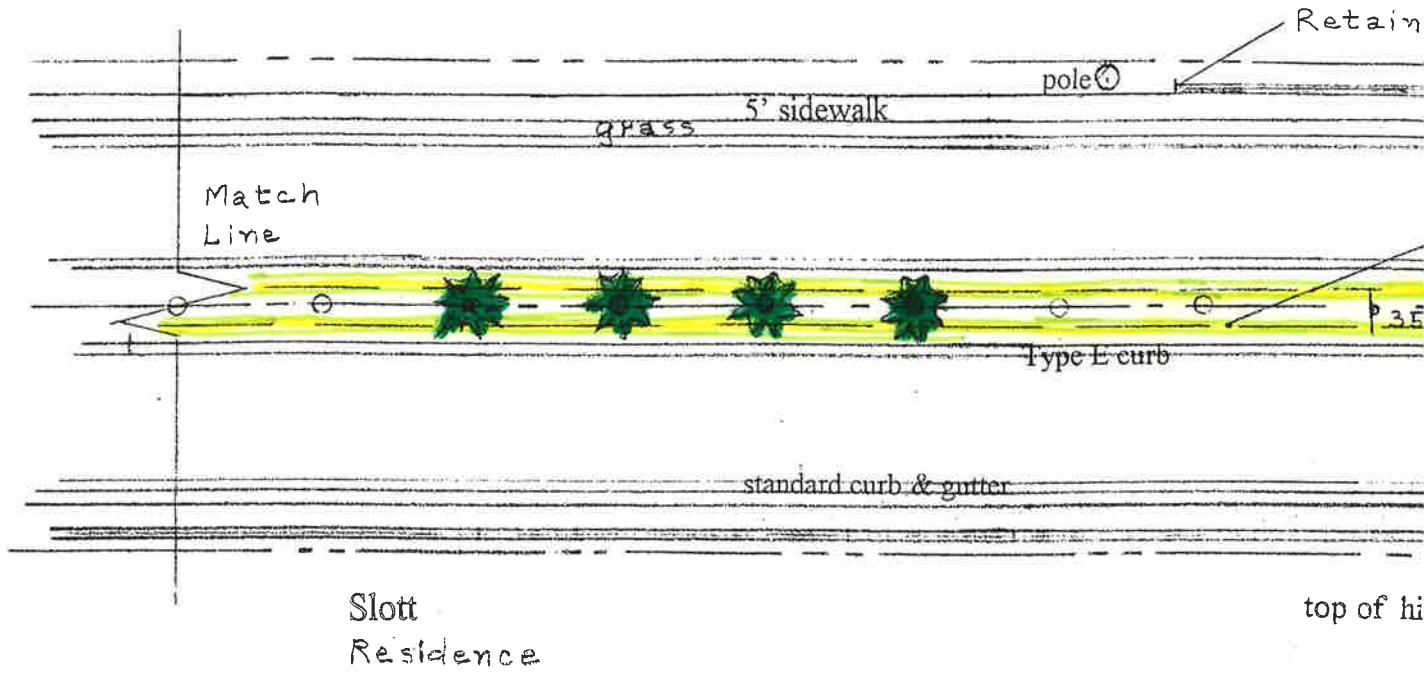


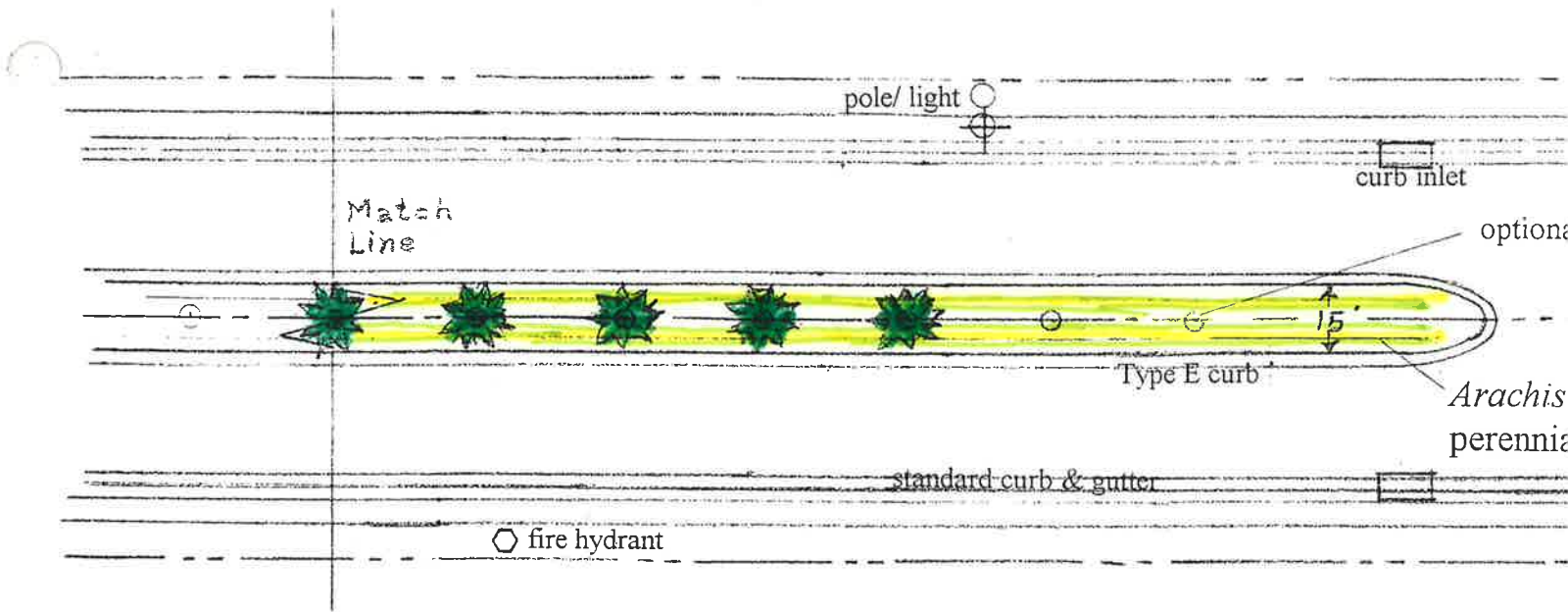
South Main Street S.R. 329



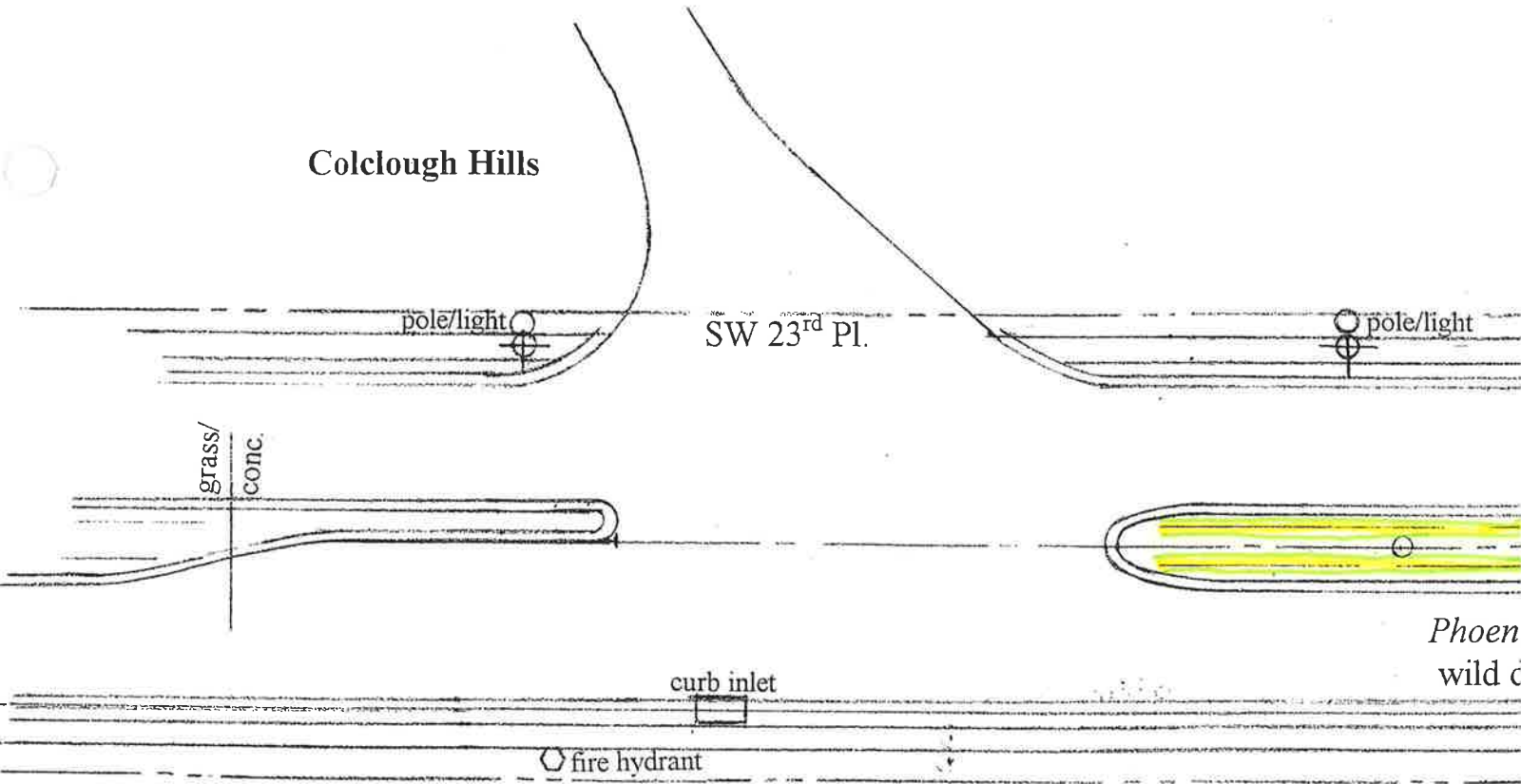








**Colclough Hills**



Oak Point  
Office Park

