

From: "Mochrie, Paul" <Paul.Mochrie@vancouver.ca>
 To: "Direct to Mayor and Council - DL"
 Date: 11/19/2024 8:48:30 AM
 Subject: Update - maintenance of planted medians

Good morning Mayor and Council,

I am writing in follow up to a question regarding the outcomes of the additional investment that Council has allocated toward the City’s Street Horticulture program. As you will recall, Council approved the addition to the 2023 operating budget in the amount of \$600,000 to address identified gaps in maintenance of planted medians over the preceding decade.

As shown in the table below, maintenance visits where the crew typically weeds, prunes, and mulches have been provided to 91% of median gardens at the end of Q3 2024. These visits are on track to exceed 2023 visits to end of Q3, and visits in both 2023 and 2024 represent a significant improvement over 2022 before the additional funding was implemented.

Completed Maintenance Visits

To end of	Q3 2022		Q3 2023		Q3 2024	
	% of Assets Serviced	# of Assets Serviced	% of Assets Serviced	# of Assets Serviced	% of Assets Serviced	# of Assets Serviced
Median Gardens	58%	92	89%	141	91%	144

Further, it is expected that approximately 15% of median gardens will receive two service visits by the end of Q4 2024. Each visit that crews make presents an additional opportunity to optimize growing conditions and improve the appearance of the garden.

The majority of infill planting takes place during fall service visits and, as a result the greatest impacts of the 2024 service visits won’t be seen until the next growing season in spring 2025. Through the month of November, 12 median sites along Kingsway and King Edward Avenue will have plants added and should begin to look more full by the spring.

In addition to regular maintenance, 13 capital-funded median renovations are scheduled for the fall across the City. Once complete, these locations should see an immediate improvement in aesthetics which will continue as the plants grow.

Our team is confident that the additional funding will make a significant, visible impact in median condition citywide. This will become more apparent in the coming years as previously minimally maintained sites begin to show the benefits of regular service.

Please do not hesitate to let me or Lon know if you have any additional questions regarding this matter.

Best,
 Paul

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The City of Vancouver acknowledges that it is situated on the unceded traditional territories of the x m k y m (Musqueam), S wxwú7mesh (Squamish), and s lilw ta (Tseil-Waututh) Nations.