

New plantings abound

Bicentennial Boulevard is growing up

By LORRAINE McCLISH

A short trip along some of the Farmington area's main roads alerted us to the vast array of new trees that have been planted along our highways.

We started our circling tour where Eight Mile and Grand River converge; the beginnings of Bicentennial Boulevard. The Japanese pagoda trees that didn't look like much more than scrub pines not too long ago are filling out quite gracefully.

It's a heartening sight when one remembers the long months of planning and permits and costs that had to be met while the Farmington Hills Beautification Commission was still dreaming of turning the weed-filled median into a tree-lined boulevard.

Traveling west on Grand River, we noticed a few of the Chinese scholars look as if they had been hit by a car and we remembered that the entire strip had a rough go with two hard winters. But the locust and green ash are standing tall.

The boulevard continues onto Purdue where the Norway maples are reaching up and the flowering crab apples are starting to bloom.

THE POINT Grand River meets M-102 is the point that provoked the commission to get started on some sprucing up, and we have been given to understand that this is still on the agenda; by members of the Hills commission as well as members of Farmington Beautification Committee.

M-102 still looks pretty much the same, but when you turn onto I-696 massive plantings of new trees can be seen in quite lovely patterns. We spotted maples, ash, locust and some Austrian pines as close as 16-18 feet apart lining both sides of the highway as we approached Halstead.

An overview of the exit ramp onto Orchard Lake, near Oakland Community College, shows an interesting pattern of trees, still staked, in a huge triangle.

Then across Orchard Lake Road, still going east on I-696, was another

triangle of Washington hawthorns, some ash, and at least four varieties of maple that we could identify.

Then more plantings blending into the natural area on both sides of the road all the way to Southfield's Telegraph exit.



An overview from the exit ramp on I-696 at the Orchard Lake Road exit shows a multiple planting of new trees. The triangle on the other side of the road is a duplicate.



Another view, facing west on Grand River, shows that some of the trees are now producing a fair amount of shade.

Plantings as the traveler approaches Middlebelt on Grand River are starting to reach up and take shape after suffering two severe winters.

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