



September 2020

Board of Trustees,

The Town of Erie Tree Board, Open Space and Trails Advisory Board (OSTAB), and Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) are supportive of the Town's Median Policy. Our boards endorse all three pillars of this Policy; Placemaking, Sustainability, and Development. The Policy thoughtfully takes in to consideration beautification, development costs, pedestrian comforts, aesthetic appeal, water conservation. It further institutionalizes Town Ordinance 8-1-11 Waste of Water and prioritizes adopted values in our Town's Water Conservation Master Plan, Drought Mitigation Plan, Sustainability Master Plan, WaterWise Landscaping Best Practices Manual, and Resolution 19-299 Promoting the use of native landscaping and low-irrigation practices.

This policy directly supports Resolution 19-299 and will be an important tool for Erie to use as the Town continues to become a leader in promoting native landscaping (including trees) and low-irrigation practices. This Median Policy is a visible way for Erie to promote the Colorado character of our community, enhance natural habitat values, promote native pollinator-friendly plantings, conserve diminishing sources of water, promote safety through reduced maintenance, and save money on maintenance. The logo of the Town itself displays a tree in silhouette. As a community along the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains, our identity is closely tied to our geographic location. Emphasizing native plants in Erie demonstrates that we value our unique regional "place" and seek to preserve and enhance it.

The Town has this unique opportunity to set forth a median policy that establishes a placemaking identity and works to incorporate the sustainable practices that are consistent with other Town policies as many of the Town's arterial roads are not yet built out to their ultimate configurations identified in the Master Plan and do not yet have medians. Raised medians provide many community benefits, including improved pedestrian safety, access control, environmental 'cooling', visual aesthetics and placemaking. They can be hardscaped or landscaped, wide or narrow, elaborate or simple – the design possibilities are endless. A set of standards will help ensure that medians are designed to meet the individual micro-climates in a context-appropriate manner that takes into account the many different types of median materials and configurations available. Medians are infrastructure that we all interact with and observe every time we leave our homes. This Policy, along with many other strategies, greatly reinforces the Town's social, economic, and environmental priorities.

We are excited at the prospect of the Town of Erie Board of Trustees adopting this Median Policy and will continue working alongside staff to promote and celebrate best management practices as this new Policy is implemented. Thank you for your consideration and please contact our Board Chairs with any questions or comments.

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