



**OPEN MEETING**

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE THIRD LAGUNA HILLS MUTUAL  
LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, December 2, 2021 – 9:30 a.m.  
BOARD ROOM AND VIRTUAL MEETING  
Laguna Woods Village Community Center 24351 El Toro Road**

**REPORT**

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair - Annie McCary, Lynn Jarrett, Ralph Engdahl, Ira Lewis, Donna Rane-Szostak

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT**

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

**ADVISORS PRESENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Kurt Wiemann, Eve Morton

**1. Call to Order**

Chair McCary called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

**2. Acknowledgement of Media**

No media was present.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

The agenda was approved by consensus.

**4. Approval of the November 4, 2021 Report**

The report was approved by consensus.

**5. Committee Chair Remarks**

Chair McCary said it is great to see residents here in-person.

**6. Member Comments (Items Not on the Agenda)**

Member stated her Junipers were all cut down instead of trimmed. They took away her privacy and the sound barrier. She is requesting for tall shrubs to be put in their place. She spoke to Raul said last summer and he is waiting for approval to put

irrigation in that area. Now, half of those trees are dead. Mr. Wiemann stated he will talk to his staff and get back to her.

Member spoke about neighbor's landscape alteration and wanted to make staff was making sure neighbor followed plan of what committee allowed.

Member stated he just moved in June 1 and loves the amenities here. He has put in Landscape Request Form to change his landscape. He would like to encourage the use of California native vegetation in the Village. They don't have some of the pests that exotics attract. He said the California Holly may work for Member who previously spoke. Mr. Wiemann asked him to look at the list of drought-tolerant plants on Village website and give him any feedback.

## **7. Response to Member Comments**

Above.

## **8. Department Head Update**

Mr. Wiemann presented a PowerPoint of the Landscape Department's Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and answered some questions.

Mr. Wiemann presented a report on an Alternative Herbicide Trial he conducted and answered some questions.

### **8a. Project Log**

Mr. Wiemann reviewed the Project Log information with the committee and answered some questions.

### **8b. Tree Work Status Report**

Mr. Wiemann reviewed this report with the committee.

### Consent:

None

### Unfinished Business

## **9. Review Proposed Stepping Stones Resolution and Policy**

Chair McCary explained that resolution went to the Board and is back to this committee because the resolution needed more clear wording and Board requested that examples of a Landscape Request Form, a sample filled-in Landscape Request form, and a sample of a sketch showing were a fictitious Member was requesting stepping stones be allowed accompany the resolution.

Instead of a variance for stepping stone requests, these requests will now be made with a Landscape Request Form and go to the Landscape committee for consideration.

The committee agreed unanimously to recommend the updated Stepping Stones Resolution, Policy, and accompanying documents to the Board.

#### Items for Discussion and Consideration

##### **10. Tree Removal Request: 2394-1F Via Mariposa W. – One Red Bud tree**

Director Lewis made a motion to accept staff recommendation and deny this request. Director Jarrett seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

##### **11. Tree Removal Request: 3421-3H Calle Azul – One Brisbane Box tree**

Director Lewis made a motion to accept staff recommendation and approve this request. Director Engdahl seconded. The committee was in unanimous support.

#### Future Agenda Items

##### **12. Tree Replacement Program**

##### **13. Members Converting Turf Campaign**

#### Concluding Business:

##### **14. Committee Member Comments**

Director Jarrett thanked residents for attending.

Director Lewis stated that some native plants don't look too great at some points of the year.

Mr. Wiemann stated that staff is being re-trained on trimming methods. They are focusing more on quality of work and will reduce the amount of time it takes for them to trim.

Director Rane-Szostak said as Chair of the Water Conservation committee that climate change is happening faster than anticipating. Drought conditions will require water conservation and may stop any outdoor watering by residents. Please watch your water usage.

Mr. Wiemann stated that GRF has commissioned the updating of our irrigation system and he will be presenting that to the GRF Landscape Committee this month.

**15. Date of Next Meeting – Thursday, January 6, 2022 at 9:30 a.m.**

**16. Adjournment at 10:50 a.m.**

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Annie McCary, Chair  
Kurt Wiemann, Staff Officer  
Eve Morton, Landscape Coordinator – 268-2565

# Alternative Herbicide Trials 2021

Laguna Woods Village

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DECEMBER 1, 2021

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MTC LANDSCAPE SERVICES

Written by: M. Tom Carrasco, PCA, QAL



# Alternative Herbicide Trials- 2021

Laguna Woods Village

## *Introduction*

In recent years, there has been an interest in alternative herbicides, without the use of glyphosate, to control weeds in landscape, agriculture, and around residences. With the bad press regarding glyphosate, many herbicide manufacturers have entered the market with synthetic, organic, “certified organic”, natural, organically derived, and “safe alternatives.” There are over 100 legitimate “organic certifier” groups throughout the world. Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI), is the best known, but there are many other national and state “organic certifications” that, in some cases, are more thorough.

The safety aspect of alternatives to glyphosate is also a factor to be considered. Many of the organic alternatives include EPA registration numbers and strong signal words such as DANGER and WARNING are on the labels. The level of safety, according to the EPA, from least to most toxic is as follows: CAUTION, WARNING, DANGER, and POISON. These strong signal words on some of the alternative herbicides tell us that these products are not only a concern for the employee applying the product, but they are also a possible concern for the public and the environment.

Glyphosate has the lowest signal word at CAUTION, so how can these natural and “certified organic” products be considered safe? Under California Proposition 25, there is an exemption to using the signal words on the label. Products made from specific natural and organic ingredients do not require an EPA number or signal word. The EPA allows this due to the safe and natural ingredients used to manufacture these EXEMPT products.

We will test the efficacy of six alternative herbicides that fall into one or more of the above categories and use Finale as the control.

Throughout the green industry, there are different views on herbicide use; which are the most effective and which are the safest. Results have varied based on the volume of product that was used, what type of weeds it was used on, what type of weather it was used in, the type of equipment that the product was applied with, and human error. We will address each of these concerns by standardizing our trials.

**This trial is intended to look at alternative herbicides based on pricing and efficacy; to look at updated and reputable organic alternatives, as well as address the product now in use, Finale, which may have availability issues in the near future.**

Many of the natural and organic Glyphosate alternative products, as well as some of the synthetic products, increase the cost of weed control dramatically. There is the cost per gallon and the amount needed for success and re-application of the product, which increases labor costs.

The Laguna Woods Village management and landscape team, in an effort to be proactive and answer many of these important questions, have conducted another alternative herbicide trial to follow up on the first trial which was conducted in April 2019.

The first step is to consider efficacy, or how well the alternative products work compared to the standard protocol. Safety items will be outlined in this report as well. This information will be furnished for each alternative herbicide and will be copied directly from each product's label.

#### ***Trial Location and Plan-***

The location of this trial was adjacent to 3486 Bahia Blanca West. The location is Northwest facing with 6-10 hours of partial sun during February. The total square footage of the trial area is 5,852 square feet. Each product was applied in a dedicated, marked out location of 200 square feet for each product (Exhibit A).

There are seven PRODUCTS/COMBINATIONS trialed as follows:

#### **A. Drive XLR8-**

***Price per gallon of Solution \$ .975***

**Signal Word-** Caution

**Type of Herbicide-** Auxin Antagonist

**Active Ingredient-** Quinclorac

#### **B. Drive XLR8 ½ Rate in Combination with Fusilade II ¼ Rate-**

***Price per gallon of Solution \$ 1.40***

**Signal Word-** Caution and Warning respectively

**Type of Herbicide-** Auxin Antagonist- Foliage Burndown

**Active Ingredient-** Quinclorac and Flauzifop

#### **C. Finale/Oroboost \*Control Product**

***Price per gallon of Solution \$ .82***

**Signal Word-** Warning

**Type of Herbicide-** Synthetic, Locally Systemic

**Active Ingredient-** Glufosinate- ammonium

#### **D. Finale ½ Rate in Combination with Fusilade II ¼ rate**

***Price per gallon of Solution \$ 1.33***

**Signal Word-** Warning and Warning respectively

**Type of Herbicide-** Organic, Locally Systemic

**Active Ingredient-** Glufosinate- ammonium and Flauzifop

#### **E. Reward**

***Price per gallon of Solution \$3.01***

**Signal Word-** Caution

**Type of Herbicide-** Interferes with Photosynthesis

**Active Ingredient-** Diquat

#### **F. Final San O**

**Price per gallon of Solution \$22.64**

**Signal Word-** Warning OMRI Approved

**Type of Herbicide-** Synthetic, Locally Systemic

**Active Ingredient** Ammoniated soap of fatty acids

#### **G. Vinegar and Spreader Sticker**

**Price per Gallon of solution- \$11.93**

**Signal Word-** Warning

**Type of Herbicide-** Burndown only

**Active ingredient-** Vinegar

### ***Protocol***

- Separate 1-gallon identical spray tanks were used for each product. They were new.
- Products were sprayed by the same applicator to reduce inconsistencies, typically seen when trials are done by different staff members.
- Each product was sprayed at their highest labeled rate and ½ rate combo as specified.
- Each alternative herbicide was mixed with a ½ ounce of Oroboost which is a natural and “organic” surfactant. Surfactants help herbicides penetrate the weed cells.
- All plots were measured out to 200 square feet for each product.
- The chosen location turf was consistently a stand of 85% Kikuyu and 15% mixed turf.
- The wind was less than 5 mph during all applications.
- The trials began after 10:30 a.m. to ensure minimal dew which would affect efficacy of herbicides.
- Irrigation was turned off for 24 hours prior to application.
- One half gallon of mixture of each alternative herbicide was sprayed on each 200 square foot plot. This is equivalent to 2.5 gallons per 1000 sq. feet which is the standard in the industry.
- Pictures of each plot were taken prior to application.
- Each plot was sprayed once to mimic field conditions.

### ***Introduction and Protocol Summary***

With today’s environmental and human safety awareness levels, the Management Team at Laguna Woods Village took a proactive approach to testing alternatives to the herbicide glyphosate. There have been many products entering the market claiming to be an alternative to glyphosate. Each product has different costs per application, different claims to safety, different levels of efficacy, and different price levels. By creating a trial program, we addressed each of these important factors. This data will allow the Board Members and Management to make an educated decision on alternative products to glyphosate and/or alternative methods for their standard application protocol.

Thank you very much for the opportunity.

Best regards,

M. Tom Carrasco  
MTC Landscape Services  
PCA, QAL

**\*This report should not be considered a written recommendation or a legal document pertaining to the safety and efficacy of any of the above herbicides. MTC Landscape Services, Adams Landscaping, and its staff members will produce unbiased fact-based data on the trial and herbicide effectiveness. MTC Landscape Services and Adams Landscaping assumes no liability and is indemnified for the trial work, short term or long-term effects to, or damage to the environment, common area, the staff members and or residents at Laguna Woods Village.**

## A. Drive XLR8 - Four Weeks

- **Signal Word-** Caution
- **Type of Herbicide-** Auxin Antagonist
- **Active Ingredient-** Quinclorac



## B. Drive XLR8 ½ Rate in Combination with Fusilade II ¼ Rate- Four weeks

- **Signal Word-** Caution and Warning respectively
- **Type of Herbicide-** Auxin Antagonist- Foliage Burndown
- **Active Ingredient-** Quinclorac and Flauzifop



### C. Finale/Oroboost \* Control Product – Four Weeks

- **Signal Word-** Warning
- **Type of Herbicide-** Synthetic, Locally Systemic
- **Active Ingredient-** Glufosinate- ammonium



#### D. Finale ½ Rate in Combination with Fusilade II ¼ rate - Four weeks

- **Signal Word-** Warning and Warning respectively
- **Type of Herbicide-** Organic, Locally Systemic
- **Active Ingredient-** Glufosinate- ammonium and Flauzifop



### E. Reward - Four weeks

- **Signal Word-** Caution
- **Type of Herbicide-** Interferes with Photosynthesis
- **Active Ingredient-** Diquat



## F. Final San O - Four weeks

- **Signal Word-** Warning OMRI Approved
- **Type of Herbicide-** Organic based, Locally Systemic - burndown
- **Active Ingredient** Ammoniated soap of fatty acids



## G. Vinegar and Spreader Sticker – Four weeks

- **Signal Word-** Warning
- **Type of Herbicide-** Burndown only
- **Active ingredient-** Vinegar



## Summary:

In summary the product that is being used presently, Finale, in trial Plot C, and the combination of Finale and Fusillade II, in Plot D, performed equally. Each out-performed all other products/combinations in the following ways:

- The initial burndown was within two days.
- The longevity was six weeks before a small percentage of Kikuyu returned.
- The kill was to the roots.
- The pricing was similar between the two plots.
- The safety aspect was equal between the two plots.

Many of the “organic products” are acutely more toxic to the applicator and/or have an odor that the homeowners may object to. These products, as well as all other synthetic herbicides tested, would not perform under the Laguna Woods Village standards.

Quick regrowth was apparent in all other plots except, as mentioned above, Plots C and D.

The longevity of the herbicide kill is a key factor both for cost reasons as well as aesthetics. If re-application is necessary in-between maintenance schedules, the labor costs increase dramatically.

With all factors considered, Plots C and D outperformed all other plots in several different categories.

Respectfully,

M. Tom Carrasco  
PCA, QAL

Attachment 1: Cost Analysis

Brand Name	Raw Cost per Gallon	Raw Cost Difference	Price per Ounce	Rate oz/per Gallon of Finished Mix	Cost of Herbicide per Finished Gallon	Cost of Surfactant Portion	Cost of Finished Gallon of Mix Ready to Use	Est. Annual Cost (All Mutuals)	Current Annual Usage	
									400	Finale
Drive XLR8/Oroboost	\$70.85	0%	\$0.55	1.45	\$0.80	\$0.28	\$0.83	\$55,343		
Drive XLR8 w/Fusillade II/Oroboost	\$70.85	0%	\$0.55	1	\$0.55	\$0.44	\$0.99	\$50,631	200	Oroboost
* Finale w/Oroboost	\$53.78	-24%	\$0.42	2	\$0.84	\$0.28	\$1.12	\$57,274	100	*Fusillade II
Finale 1/2 rate w/Fusillade II /Oroboost	\$53.78	-24%	\$0.42	1	\$0.42	\$0.44	\$0.86	\$39,783		*Projected
Final San O w/Oroboost	\$99.49	40%	\$0.78	26	\$20.21	\$0.28	\$20.49	\$1,048,946		
Reward w/Oroboost	\$288.56	307%	\$2.25	3	\$6.76	\$0.28	\$7.04	\$360,522		
Vinegar w/ natural surfactant	\$19.99	-72%	\$0.16	40	\$6.25	\$1.34	\$7.59	\$8,532		
Surfactants										
Oroboost	\$71.25	n/a	\$0.56	0.5						
Fusillade II	\$80.41	n/a	\$0.63	0.25						
* Current Formula										

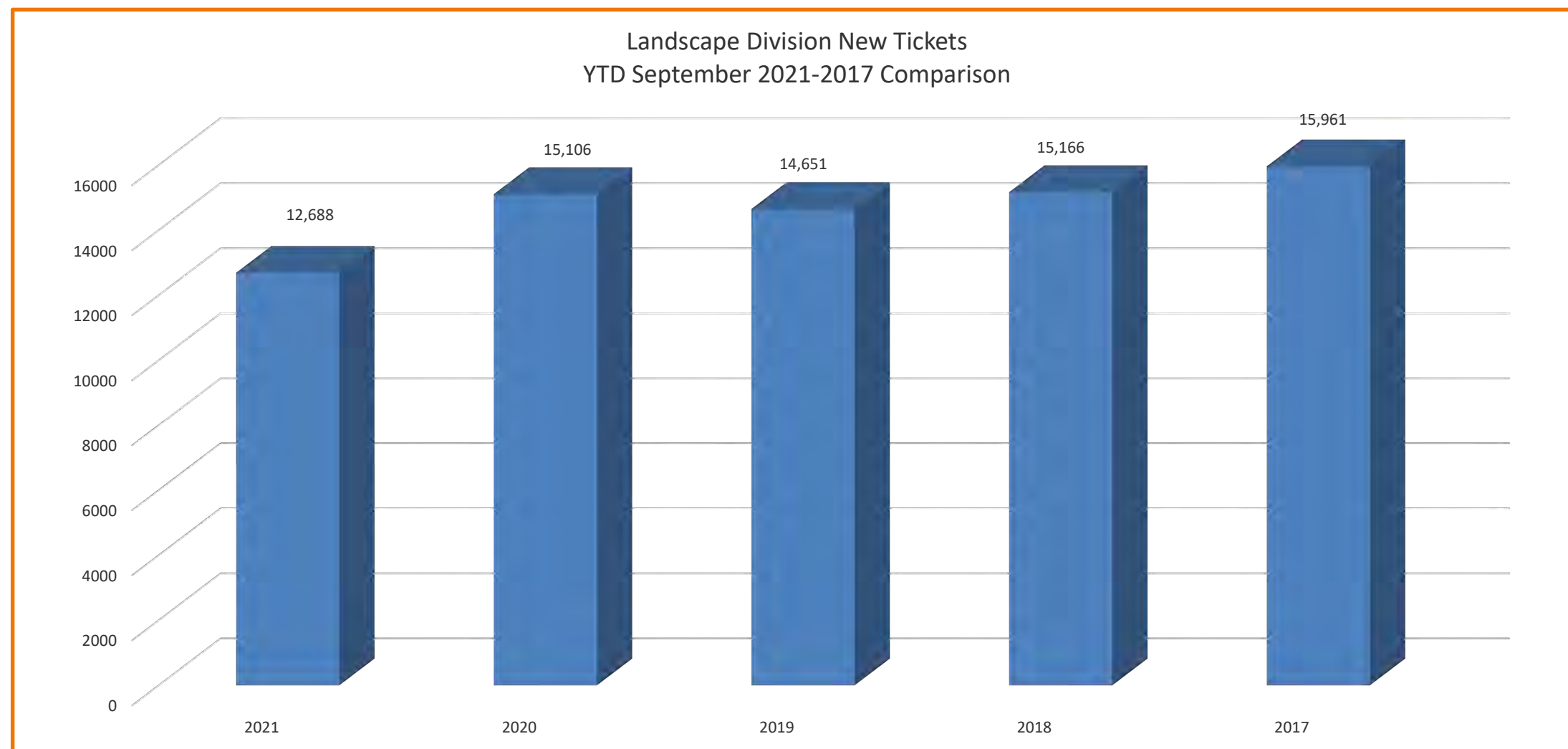
# Landscaping KPI Overview Cycles Completion and Tickets

Kurt Wiemann, Director of Landscape Services

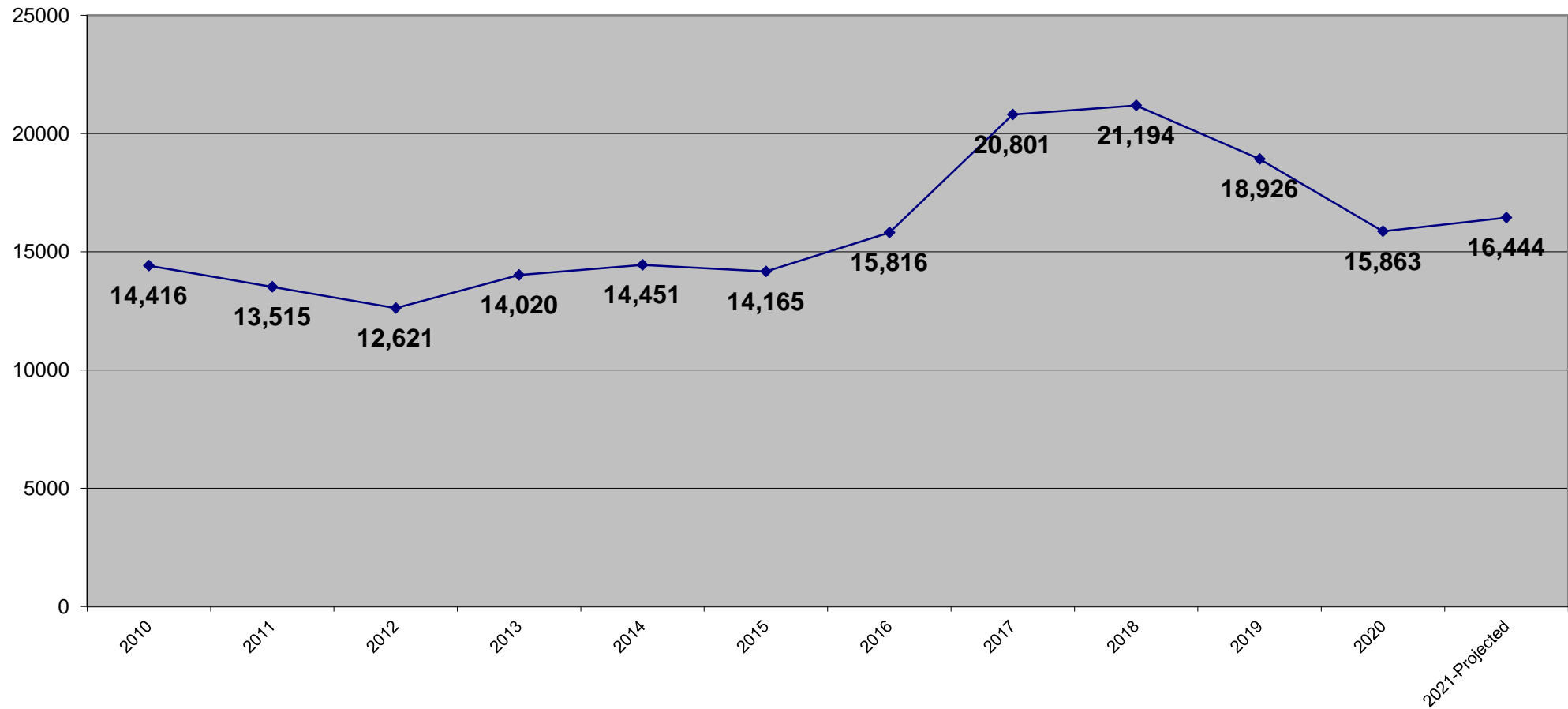




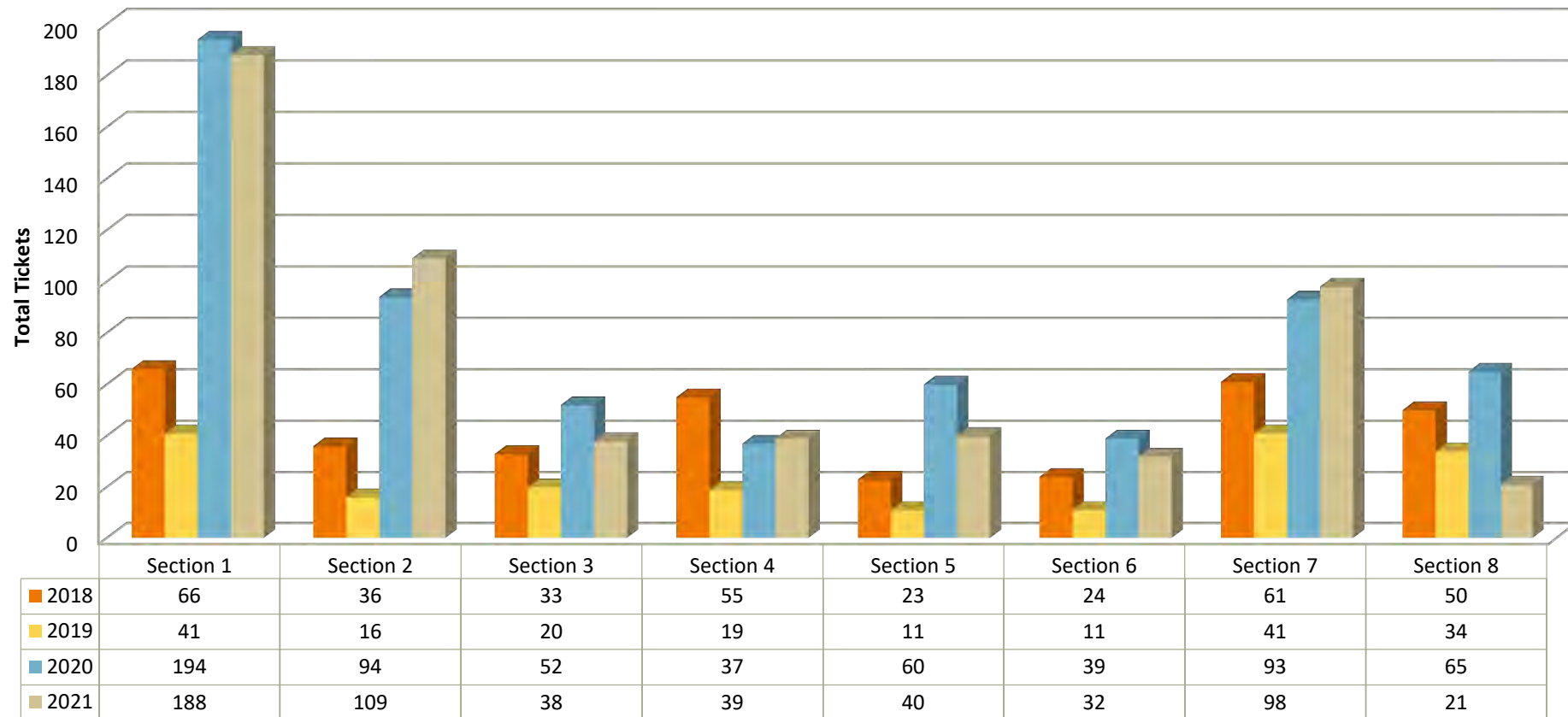
# Total Tickets Year to Date Third Quarter



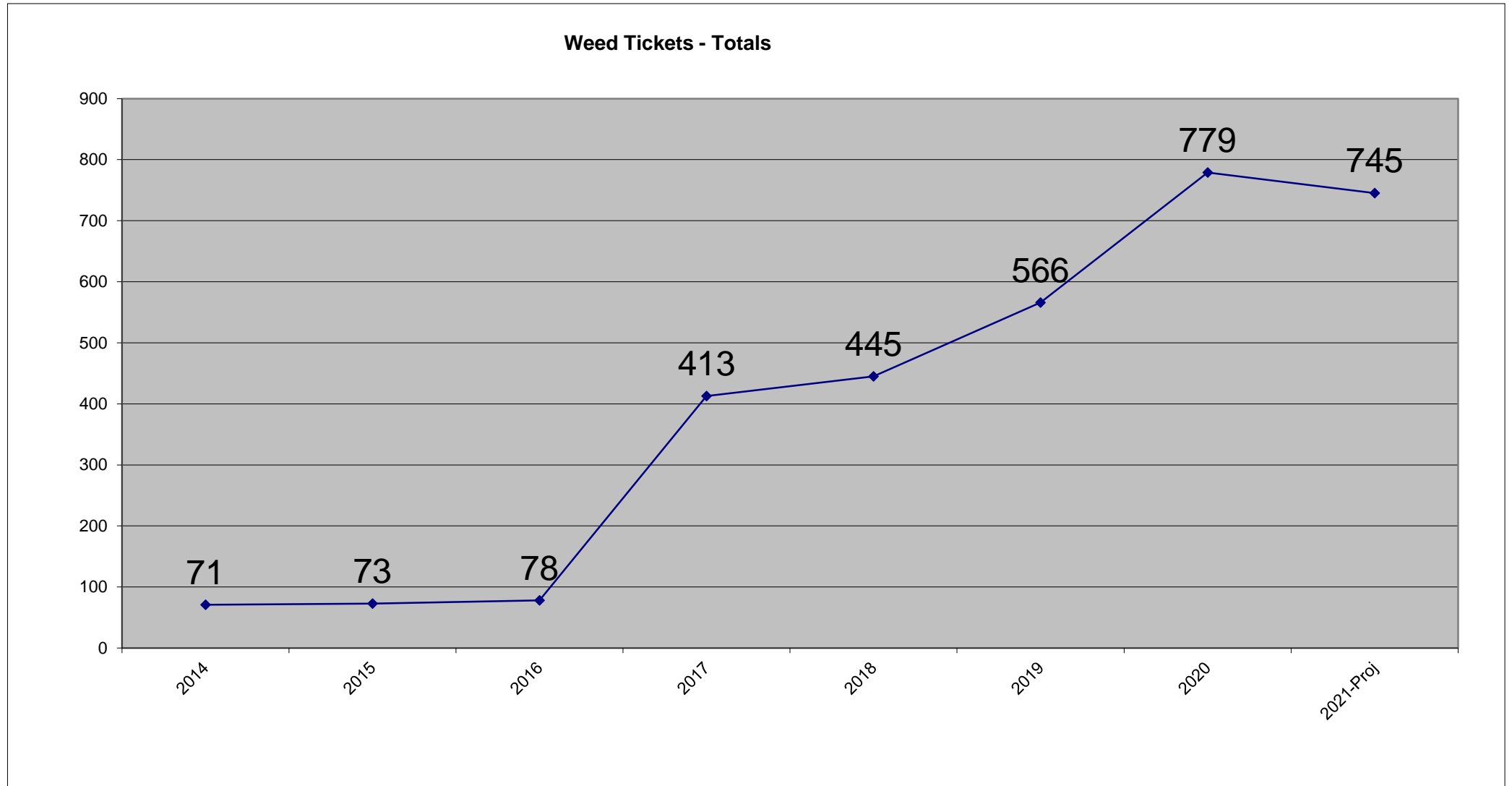
**Total Landscape Tickets - All  
2010 - 2021 (Projected)**



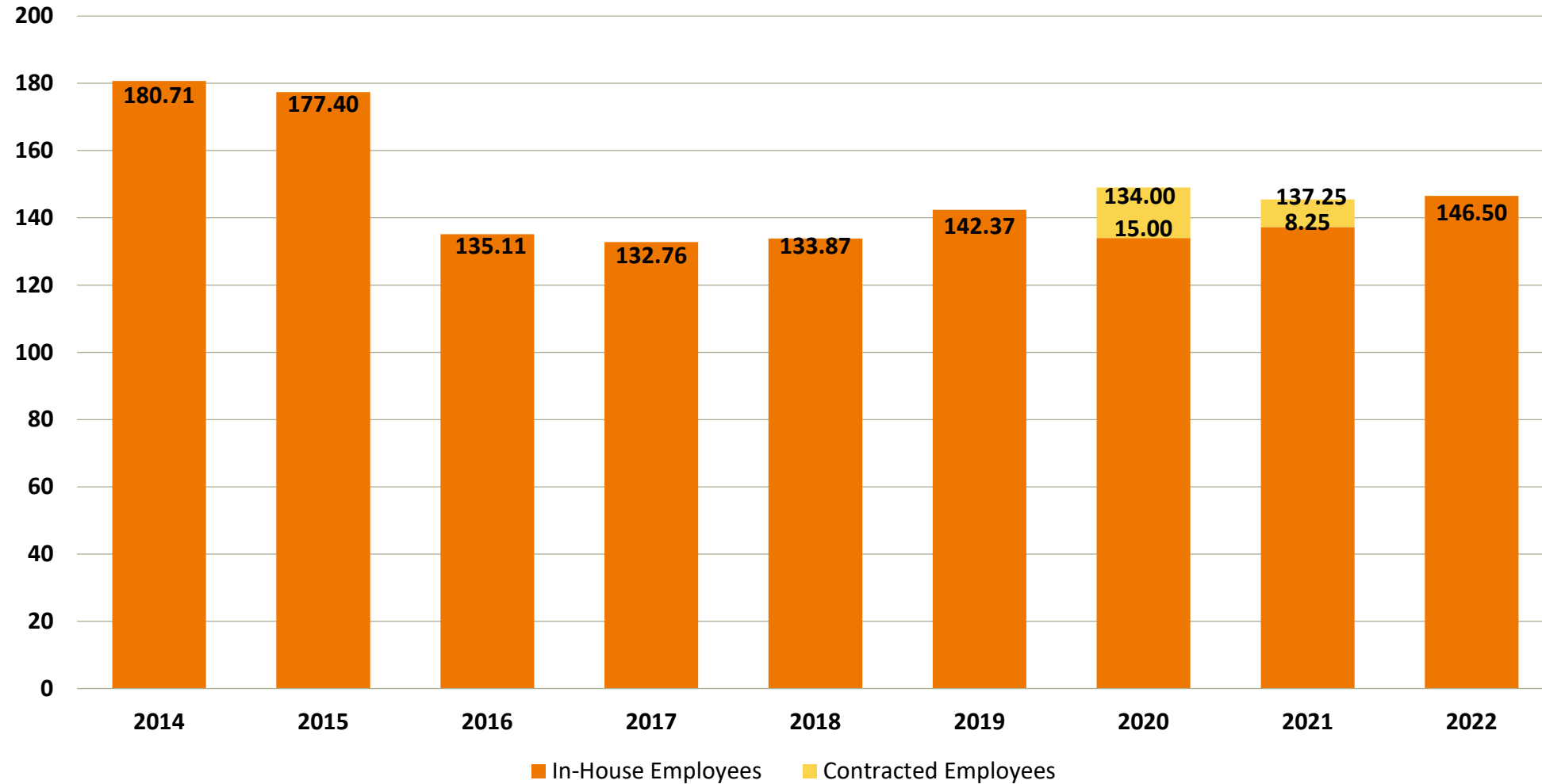
## 530 Grounds Maintenance Weeds Tickets YTD September 2018-2021



# Weeds!

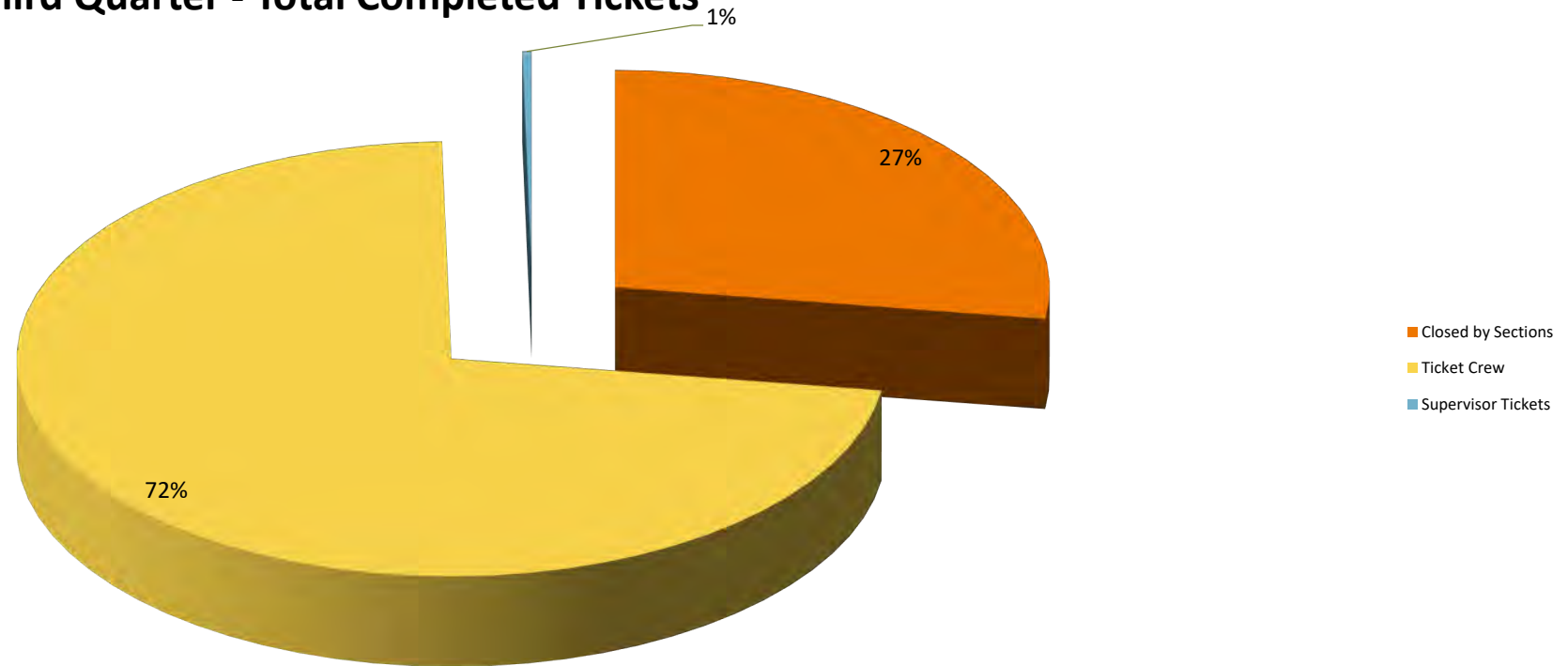


# Budgeted Employees



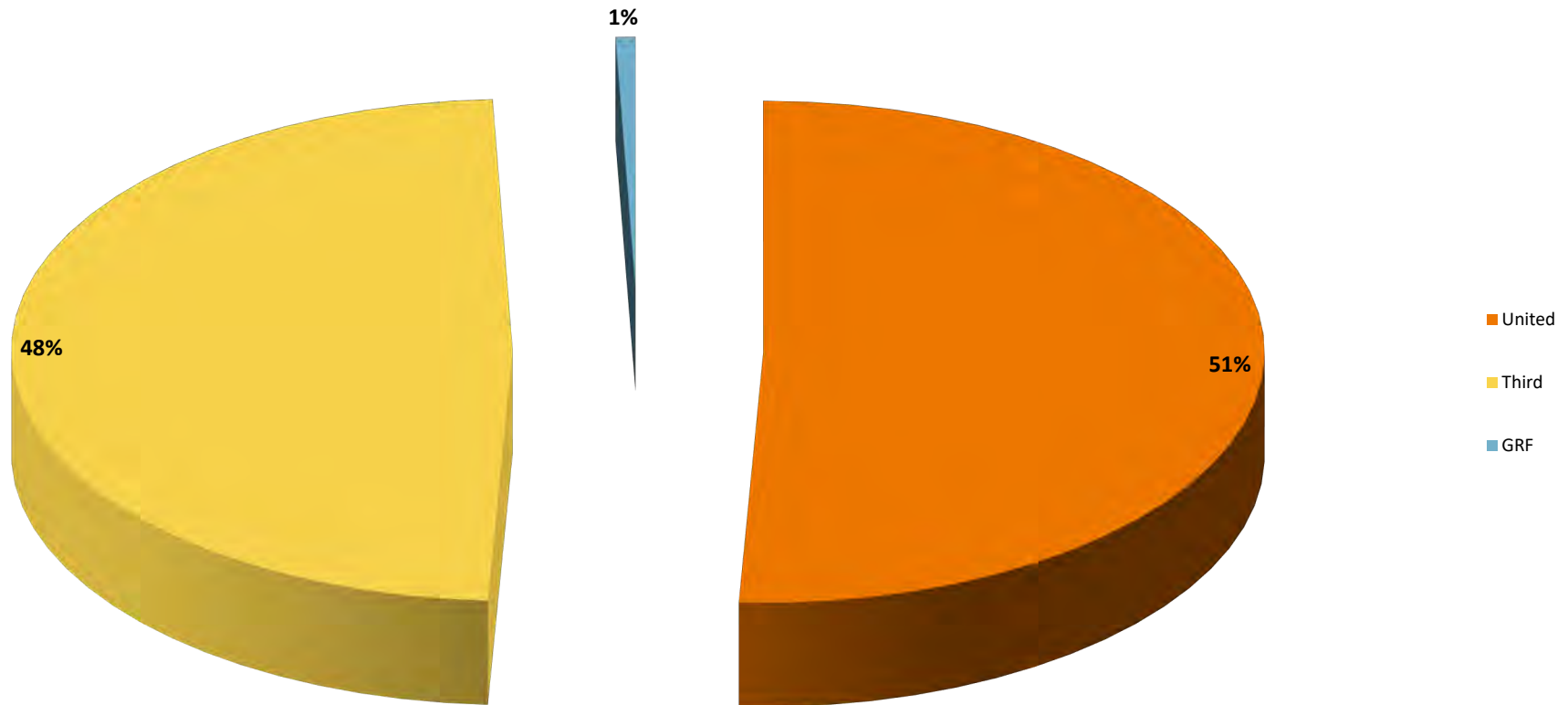
# Ticket Crew

**Grounds Maintenance  
2021 Third Quarter - Total Completed Tickets**



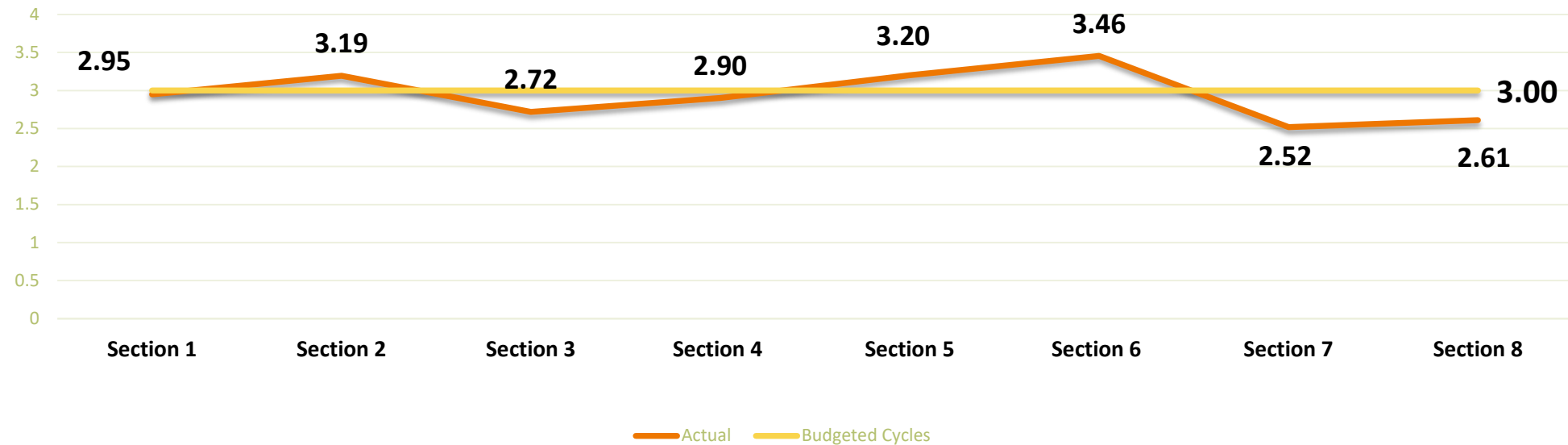
# Ticket Contest

**Landscape Division - YTD Third Quarter  
2021 Total Ticket Volume (12,412)**



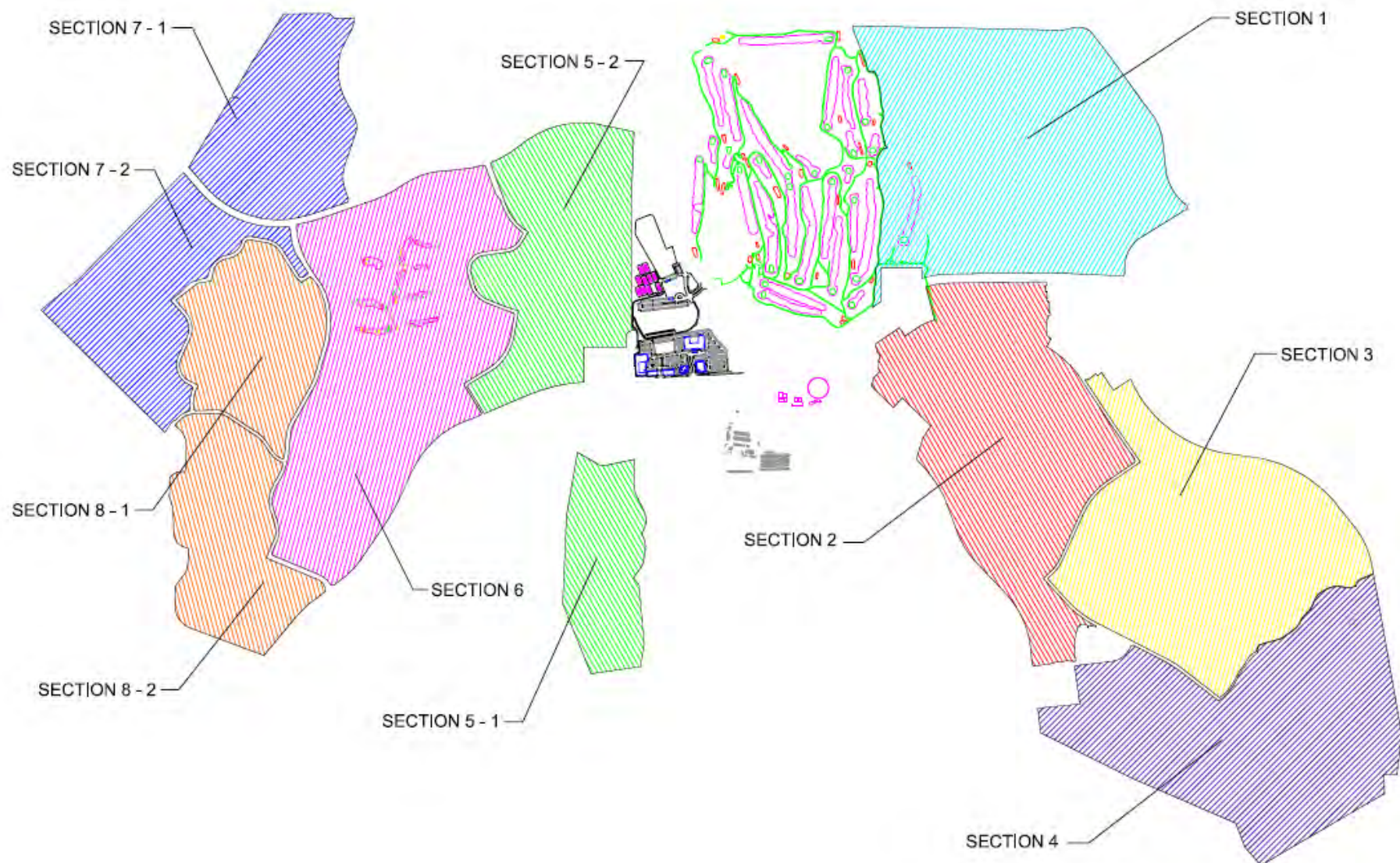
# Cycle Completion

## Complete Trim Cycles by Section Year to Date September 2021

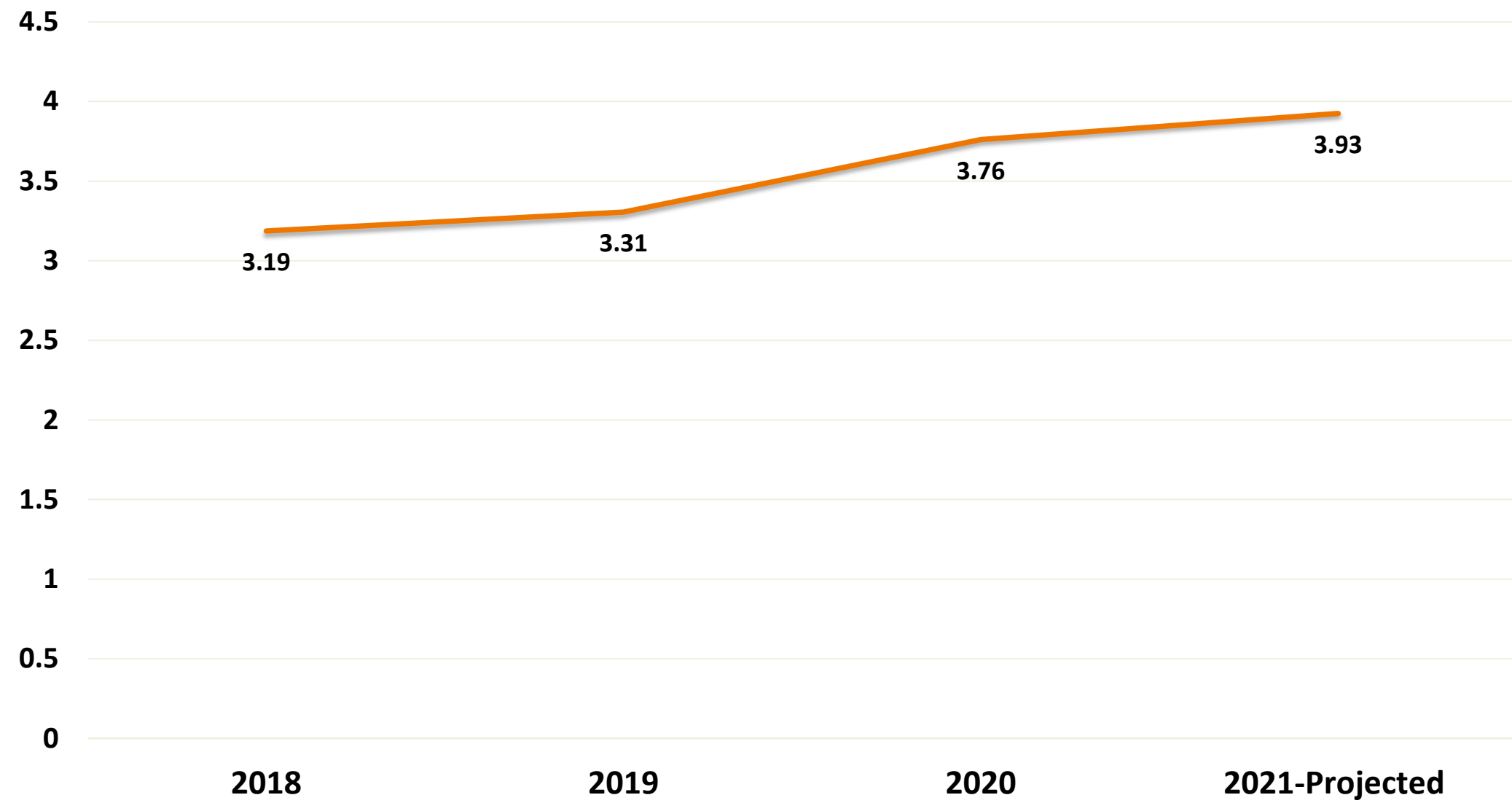


Goal = 3 Cycles      Average YTD = 2.94

# Where is my Section?

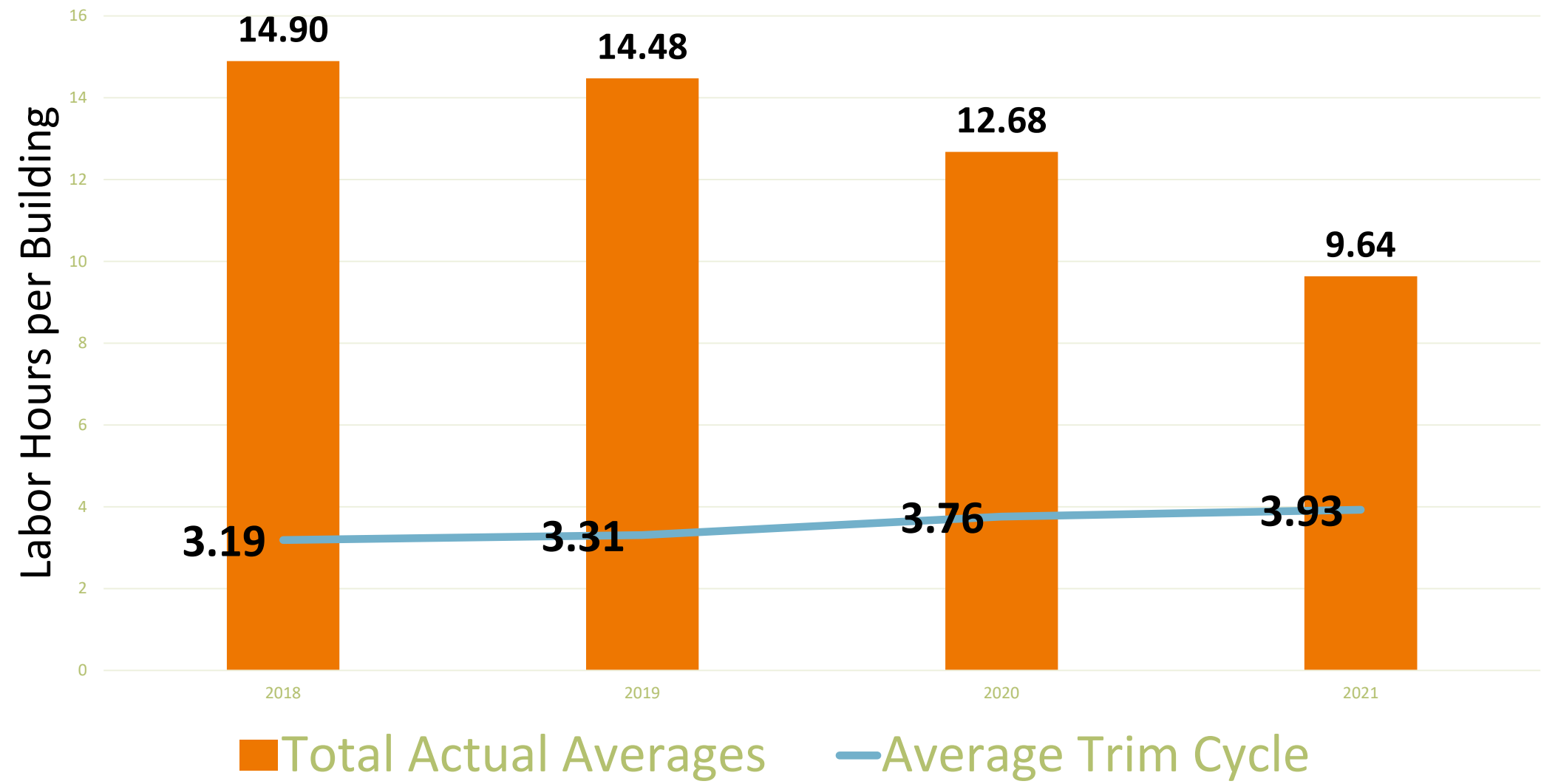


# 530 Average Cycles 2018-2021



# 530 Grounds Maintenance - YTD Third Quarter

## 2018-2021 Labor Hours per Building vs. Trim Cycles



# Operations (82.5 FTE)

