

Oak Forest Homeowners Association
Beautification Committee Guidelines

Approved Species For Planting

Our primary goal is to plant large trees that, with proper pruning, will grow up and out of the way of vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Our other goals include: planting trees that are indigenous to Houston, planting trees that are adapted to the soil conditions found in esplanades, planting trees with a long life-span and to plant trees with minimal pest/disease problems. It is also our goal to create a minimal amount of maintenance while maximizing opportunity. By restricting planting to the following species, we will create continuity and relationships throughout the neighborhood.

Trees (Note: Oaks are preferred when possible)

Planting spaces with no overhead utilities:

- Bald Cypress
- Bur Oak
- Green Ash
- Live Oak (Note: Live Oaks may be planted on esplanades greater than 10' wide)
- Mexican Oak
- Overcup Oak
- Shumard Oak
- Texas Ash

Planting spaces with overhead utilities:

- Mexican Plum
- Texas Redbud

Shrubs

- Dwarf Gardenia
- Dwarf Nadina
- Dwarf Yopon
- Indian Hawthorn

Ground Cover

- Asian Star Jasmine
- Liriope
- Mondo or Monkey Grass

Planting Guidelines

Esplanades less than 10 ft in width should be mulched from curb to curb with 50' of each nose of the esplanade left as grass. The area of grass must remain free of any trees. Trees can be planted in a forest-like setting or on 40' centers, down the center of the esplanade.

Esplanades 11-15 feet wide can have tree planted in a forest-like setting, in a continuous bed of mulch or on 40' centers, down the center of the esplanade. No

trees are allowed within 50' of the nose of the nose of the esplanade break or within 100' from an intersection.

Esplanades greater than 15 feet in width shall have trees planted in a forest-like setting, in islands defined by a continuous bed of mulch. Islands must be a minimum of 40' apart with no islands/trees planted within 50' of the nose of the esplanade break or 75' from an intersection.

Trees must not be planted within 10 feet of a water main or within five feet of a storm sewer.

If mulch is used, mulch must be of hardwood mulch. Additionally, no containers can surround mulch bed. Mulch beds must initially be sprayed with weed killer to create a minimum 18' area absent of grass around the border of the bed. The mulch bed must subsequently be treated with weed killer every 3-5 months for upkeep.

All planting and landscape activity must meet with all city procedures and regulations. Including authorization by the Parks and Recreation Department.

Planting Tips

- Burr Oak and Bald cypress trees are especially recommended for areas that are not irrigated and that will not be watered regularly in dry weather.
- Try to create low-upkeep landscaping.

Caretaker Guidelines

Caretakers are responsible for oversight of designated esplanades with duties to include; ideas for new landscape activities, aid in maintenance and management, report irregularities and problems.

Authorization

All landscaping efforts must be approved to the Beautification Committee. Once approved by the Committee, a complete landscaping plan created to scale must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department before implementation can take place. For questions call Angela Solis, Adopt-an-Esplanade Coordinator at 713-845-1050.