

Hope Valley Green Front Landscaping Fact Sheet

Discussions about improving our front entrance have been ongoing for several months. A committee of neighborhood volunteers has been looking into the issue with the initial goal of removing the dead, diseased, overgrown or unattractive plantings and replacing them with more attractive plantings. Installation of an irrigation system was also a goal, but with the current water restrictions, the city of Durham will not approve new taps. Therefore the committee researched the feasibility of planting new shrubs and trees now taking into consideration the current drought conditions. Below is a list of the facts that we have assembled through research and discussions with several landscapers, arborists and the North Carolina Extension office.

- A number of drought-tolerant (mostly native) plants can be safely planted and will adapt to the current conditions. Every plant included in the HVG proposed plan is on the list of "Drought-tolerant plants for North Carolina". Sufficient water will be required until root systems are established (3-4 months).
- The North Carolina Extension office reminded us that development has not slowed in the Triangle and builders are continuing to landscape the shopping centers and housing developments with success.
- An arborist was contacted to inspect some of the current plantings that we have been told by landscapers may be diseased (specifically the redbuds). The arborist confirmed that the redbuds are diseased and should be removed.
- Basic recommendations for landscaping changes include the following:
 - Removal of the large pine tree and sweet gum tree on the right side of the entrance (as you exit the neighborhood). Removal of the diseased redbuds.
 - Removal of the overgrown variegated privet currently planted along the stone wall. The stone wall is an attractive part of our hardscape and the committee feels it should be featured, not obscured.
 - Removal of the spirea located above the retaining wall. The committee feels that they are overgrown and unattractive.
 - Relocate the red nandina that are currently located in front of our sign (and actually obscuring it such that the neighborhood name cannot be read) to where the spirea are currently located.
 - Plant new drought-tolerant specimens consisting of magnolias, white-flowering dogwoods, Nellie stevens holly and dwarf yaupon holly,
- Five landscape companies were asked to bid on the work. Three proposals were received. Two of the 3 have the capabilities to complete all requested work.
- Estimated costs for the improvement are \$10-12K. HVG HOA currently has just shy of \$30,000 in the bank with additional funds of \$14,000 to be collected in September 2008. An irrigation system is estimated in the \$5-6K range. **Recall that the front entrance is currently the only designated common area in the neighborhood. There is an area behind Lot #s 47 & 48 that is designated as Open Space on the Final Plat. This area contains overhead power lines as well as a sanitary sewer easement and is maintained by Duke Power and/or the City of Durham.**