

# **BELLEWOOD LANDSCAPE STANDARDS**

## **LANDSCAPE STANDARDS**

Development of landscape standards is to assist homeowners and the ARC in selecting the best plants and materials for individual yards while maintaining the overall cohesive appearance of the community. This document provides an excellent resource for maintenance and replacement of all types of plant material and ground covering.

## **BELLEWOOD DEVELOPMENT VISION**

Bellewood was developed with a vision for a cohesive landscape and architectural theme. The concept was to develop a community that feels like its residents are "living in a park". The installation of street trees has developed a canopy cover over the entire neighborhood creating a park-like setting. The close-knit relationship of each home to one another requires a unified landscape theme in order to maintain design harmony and avoid visual chaos while reinforcing the park-like setting. As with the architectural character of the homes, the landscaping of the homes facing the street should maintain a consistent theme both in design and individual plant selections.

## **LANDSCAPE TREATMENT**

The landscape treatment of the homes in Bellewood is designed to emphasize the architectural features of each home, with special attention given to the front entry porches. Signature accent plantings of Korean Boxwood, Compacta Holly or Steeds Holly shall be used to frame the main entry point to the home and to highlight architectural offsets and corners. The boxwood or holly should remain the visually dominant plant and not be in competition or masked by adjacent plant material of similar height and massing. The boxwoods or hollies will be no smaller than 10 gallons if they are a replacement, so that they are in proportion to the existing landscape, and carefully pruned as they grow to maintain their shape.



The use of taller hollies on outside corners must be used to support the corner of the home while providing visual screening of the side of the home.



### **PLANT SELECTIONS**

As the street trees have matured, shade has become the dominant factor as it relates to plant selection and survivability. The original plantings were selected to accommodate exposure for the near-term time frame of approximately 10 years. In many cases, lawn areas must now be converted to a shade tolerant ground cover. In most cases, shrub material will acclimate to gradual changes in exposure over time. Any newly installed material should be selected to withstand a shady environment.

It is important that design continuity be maintained from house to house. Large ground cover areas to accommodate shade should not abruptly end at a lot line, but should flow into an adjacent property and terminate at a physical element such as a sidewalk, driveway or fence. These hardscape elements may provide an opportunity to change plant selection if desired.



**Acceptable shade tolerant groundcovers** include English Ivy, Big Blue Liriope, Mondo Grass, Ajuga, Asiatic Jasmine and Mazus (white or purple). No variegated groundcovers should be used except as an accent to highlight an entry or architectural feature. Variegated Dwarf Sweet Flag is a good selection for a shady variegated accent groundcover. All groundcovers should be spaced to provide complete coverage in one growing season.



English Ivy



Big Blue Liriope



Mondo Grass



Asiatic Jasmine



Variegated Dwarf  
Sweet Flag



Mazus  
(White or Purple varieties)

**Acceptable shade tolerant evergreen shrubs** include Golddust Aucuba, Green Aucuba, Camellias, American and Baby Gem Boxwoods, Otto Luyken Laurel, Japanese Fatsia, Hosta, Lenten Rose, Autumn Ferns, Spreading Japanese Plum Yew, Mojo Pittosporum, Annebelle Hydrangea, Blushing Bride Hydrangea, G.G. Gerbing Azalea, Japanese Cleyera, Distylium, Gardenia, Tea Olive and Cryptomera.



Gold Dust Aucuba



Green Aucuba



Camellias



American & Baby Gem Boxwood



Otto Luyken Laurel



Japanese Fatsia



Hosta



Lenten Rose



Autumn Fern



Spreading Japanese Plum Yew



Mojo Pittosporum



Anabelle Hydrangea



Blushing Bride Hydrangea



G.G. Gerbing Azalea



Japanese Cleyera



Distylium



Gardenia



Tea Olive

The plants listed above shall be selected based on their projected growth habit, texture and color to complement the surrounding existing plant material. All shrub plantings should be hand-pruned to maintain the natural growth appearance of the plant in order to maintain the desired height.

### **STREET TREES**

The street trees providing the canopy for Bellewood are Willow Oaks. Due to the importance of these trees to the character of the community, no homeowner may prune or remove a street tree. These trees are under care by a professional arborist as contracted by the Bellewood HOA. If a tree is a concern or has created an issue for a homeowner, it should be brought to the attention of the HOA triggering an evaluation by the arborist for possible remedies or treatments. Additional information about Bellewood's signature trees may be found on the Tree Committee page of our website.



### **ACCENT TREE SELECTION**

As the street trees now dominate the front of each home, there will be very few instances that new tree plantings would be desired. If a new accent tree is needed to replace an existing tree, it is important that the tree selection be appropriate for its environment based on its growth characteristics and sun or shade tolerance. An acceptable selection of a small tree that can be used as an accent will be Sweet Bay Magnolia, Japanese Maple or Kousa Dogwood.



### **SEASONAL COLOR**

Seasonal Color may be used at ground level to highlight the main entrance to a home. It may also be placed on or in window boxes or in approved free-standing planters. Plants should be selected to work with the current light exposure and be under automatic irrigation.



### **EDGING & MULCH**

All newly planted groundcover areas should be mulched with dark brown ground pine bark. All shrub beds should be mulched with pine straw. Steel edging may be used to define bed edges.

Edging should be brown and not exceed a 2" exposure above ground. Other colors and types of edging may be considered on an individual case basis.



### **PATHS & STEPPING STONES**

If a defined path is desired for access, stepping stones should be used to create the path. "Steppers" shall be similar in shape and approximately 18" wide. They may be planted with a steppable ground cover or mulched between each stone. Steppers should be crab orchard stone in brown or grey or bluestone. No concrete steppers shall be used.



## **FENCING**

The street frontage wood fencing that currently exists must be maintained by the homeowner. This fencing is an important feature of Bellewood's streetscape and was carefully designed to provide an "edge of architectural interest" along with the low brick walls and hedges throughout the community.

Planting below this fencing has created maintenance problems over time. These groundcovers may be replaced with crushed slate or ground hardwood mulch bordered by a steel edge.



No wood privacy fencing shall be allowed in Bellewood. Ornamental iron or simulated wrought iron fences shall be used in conjunction with appropriate plantings for visual softening or screening. In rear yards and side yards, maximum height for fencing is 6 ft. Fences up to 42" height in rear and side yards can be of wood picket structure or simulated wrought iron and fences above 42" in height must be of simulated wrought iron.





### **URNS, FREESTANDING PLANTERS AND WINDOW BOXES**

The use of these items may be used to personalize a home, however, these items require prior ARC approval. Window boxes shall be a size to match the window width, a minimum height and depth of 8" and painted to match the wood trim of the home. Planters accentuating columns or

front entryways shall be urns, boxes or freestanding planters, but shall be consistent in number, size, color and style with the development-wide standard. Planters should be placed on a solid surface such as a step, walkway or brick pedestal and not placed on driveways or within the landscape, resting on soil or other groundcover. However, vessels specifically designed and commonly recognized to be incorporated within a landscape design are also acceptable with prior ARC approval. All planters must be filled with healthy, live plants that are well-maintained throughout all seasons of the year or removed when accordingly, not in use.



### **ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW PROCESS**

Any significant changes to landscaping on the personal lots within the community require ARC approval prior to proceeding with the work or installation. Please refer to the Architectural Review Process Guidelines for further information and the request form. These documents may be found in your Bellewood Homeowner's Reference notebook and on our Bellewood webpage.

### **LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE**

Please refer to the Bellewood HOA rules and the Bellewood HOA Landscape Care and Maintenance Guide for further information regarding landscape maintenance. The documents may be found on our Bellewood webpage.