

Native Plant Horticulture Foundation
2018 SHOWCASE NATIVE LANDSCAPES PROGRAM
Bradenton Area Convention Center

LANDSCAPE DESIGN GUIDANCE

The existing landscape includes many native plants. It is desirable to conserve existing native trees and palms, but conservation should not interfere with the concept of right plant, right place, as well as encouraging plant diversity and creativity in the design.

EXPOSURE: All subject areas are east or south facing, relatively close to the building. Near the coast and river, the location is somewhat cold sheltered.

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS: There is existing irrigation, mostly drip irrigation, in the existing beds. The facility operators desire low to no water use after establishment. The facility operators also wish to avoid the use of pesticides and fertilizer as much as possible.

AREA #1 PERGOLA AREA

There are some existing Saw Palmettos, Live Oaks and some reasonably healthy Dwarf Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria 'nana'*.

We would like to eliminate the small lawn areas between the pergola and sidewalk.

The pergola and tree canopies shade this area at the foundation -- it is generally dark and oppressive and needs a design and plants that enliven the space.

The foundation beds need a total rethink and redressing. Some existing plants are in poor condition. There are mostly non-native plants that need to be replaced.

A couple of beds at either end of the Pergola area have some fencing covered with non-native Confederate Jasmine, *Trachelospermum asiaticum*, to obscure the wall and downspouts. We would like to see the jasmine and possibly the fencing replaced with more appealing native plantings.

The dwarf Walter's Viburnum at the south entrance to the pergola is mostly in poor condition and feels unwelcoming.

AREA #2 RAISED PLANTERS

Raised planters are a great opportunity to show off native plants as a very visible feature on the promenade to the main building entrance.

Non-native variegated *Schefflera arboricola* 'Trinette' is planted at the base of Royal Palms in three raised planters on both sides of the main entrance.

Non-native Confederate Jasmine, *Trachelospermum asiaticum*, is planted in the other two raised planters closest to the building and shaded by surrounding structures.

We'd like to see both the Trinette and Confederate Jasmine replaced.

AREA #3 CORNER BED / LAWN AREA

This is an existing bed framed by dwarf Yaupon Holly, *Ilex vomitoria* 'Nana', and based with a Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*. You can opt to retain, or not, the existing framework of dwarf Yaupon Holly.

We would like to see the void in front dressed.

Do not let the current shape of the bed dictate your design.

AREA #4 FOUNDATION AREA MAIN ENTRANCE

This is mostly shaded by roof line and tree canopies of Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*, that anchor the space.

There is an existing void of plants at the end of the bed closest to the main entrance, duplicated by another existing void previously mentioned in Area #3 Corner Bed / Lawn Area.

The remainder of the bed features an existing triple layer hedge arrangement: a front layer of dwarf Yaupon Holly, a middle layer of Firebush and a background layer of Simpson Stopper. The Firebush masks and overwhelms the Simpson Stopper. This arrangement encourages unnecessary maintenance and represents a lack of diversity. Your design should rethink this arrangement.

AREA #5 SOUTHEAST CORNER FOUNDATION and OFFICE ENTRANCE/SOUTH FOUNDATION

We would like to see a change in the Southeast Corner Foundation planting, which simply continues the three layers of dwarf Yaupon Holly, Firebush and Simpson Stopper described previously for Area #4.

This area receives more sunlight since it faces the south. It is anchored by a Live Oak, *Quercus virginiana*, and Cabbage Palms, *Sabal palmetto*. You will need to eliminate a small area of lawn and a framing of unsuccessful roses.

The Office Entrance and South Foundation Area are important to the staff and visitors to the facility offices. There is a planting of very healthy Coontie, *Zamia pumila*, along the intersection

of the sidewalks. The office door is anchored with a line of Live Oak trees , *Quercus virginiana*, and flanked with Cabbage Palms, *Sabal palmetto*.

A problem with the current landscape is that the native Marlberry, *Ardisia escallonioides*, is used in mass under windows that are only 4 feet from the ground. The Marlberry plants are too large to be used in mass and as a continuous line under 4 foot windows. Marlberry is a magnificent native plant, but this area needs rethinking with appropriate plants and diversity.

Continuing down the foundation, there is a figure 8-like patio that has a door opening out from the staff offices. It is framed with a low hedge of native Simpson Stopper, *Myrcianthes fragrans*. These plants are all in poor condition. We desire a more creative, diverse and appropriate design here.