

E co-friendly Landscape Priorities

- 1) Preservation
- 2) Restoration
- 3) Conservation



Preservation First



- ☞ Site the house on least ecologically significant part of lot
- ☞ Site house to take advantage of natural buffers, vistas, and foci
- ☞ Carve out only enough for your housepad, ingress/egress
- ☞ Nestle the house in the natural community

Take Lessons from Nature

✈ Use your imagination –

✈ Clues from natural communities

✈ Treasures in the wild

✈ Trees

✈ There are more than just Oaks!

✈ Evergreen Flowering: Magnolia, Bays

✈ Deciduous trees

✈ Small Trees

✈ Conifers



Set Goals & Design

- ✿ Start with the framework and anchors – large trees
 - ✿ Preserve first – check tree structure, prune
 - ✿ Space apart for mature spread
 - ✿ Plant right tree in right place
- ✿ Assemble appropriate shrubs in masses or clusters
- ✿ Plant or augment existing native ground-covers to tie together the bigger elements

Creating layers
within islands

Slash Pines,
Wax Myrtle in
background

American
beautyberry in
foreground



Lawns and Substitutes

- ✿ To mow or not to mow
 - ✿ Exhaust all possible native substitutes that serve as hardy 2-4" ground covers
 - ✿ Dicanthelium (basket grasses), other native grasses, mulch, sunshine mimosa, and many others
- ✿ If you intend to keep some lawn
 - ✿ Minimize it
 - ✿ Shape it so it is diminutive and the landscape hugs it

Minimize or Eliminate Lawn

Create beds according to your master design
Start by expanding beds with more plantings
Edge grass away from native landscape beds



Theme, Style, & Feel

Examples of themes

- ~ Primitive
- ~ English garden
- ~ Courtyard- examples: Moorish, Renaissance, etc.
- ~ Arts & Crafts – Impressionist
- ~ Victorian
- ~ Traditional – formal & symmetrical

Tools:

- ~ Texture & grain
- ~ Colors & greens
- ~ Light – dark, shady, dappled, sunny
- ~ Moisture & dryness – ponds, wetlands, water edges to mesic to upland dry areas

Primitive Theme



Swamp Fern in wet, shady area

Tropical Feel



Shoe string
fern growing in
Cabbage Palm



Firebush



Simpson's Stopper



Rugged, Arid
Style
Sandy Sites



Informal Garden Paths – Loose the Boundaries





No Sod

2 kinds of good mulch
(pine straw has finer
texture for paths and
pine bark better for
beds)

Mulch driveway and
paths

This newly planted
example contains 100%
native plants and no
lawns.



More Ideas Coming

- Please check back for updates and more ideas
- We are always striving to improve this website
- In the future we will provide a special do-it-yourself landscaping module