MLK Center Campus - Waterwise Landscape Beautification

Water Conservation

Principle #1 - Planning & Design
Landscape design should meet the needs of the community who will use and maintain the area while incorporating the site’s existing environmental conditions into the design.

Principle #2 - Soil Preparation
The most basic component of a landscape is the soil. Many landscape problems can be avoided if an adequate amount of time is spent on properly preparing the soil before the landscape is installed.

Principle #3 - Plant Selection
Plants have been thoughtfully identified for this site based on community feedback, soil types, climate, access to light, and overall water and maintenance needs.

Principle #4 - Practical Turf Areas
Lawns have many benefits including cooling effects, erosion control, water filtration and water infiltration. Lawns can withstand trampling and play that no other plant can handle. Lawns also need a lot less water than they are given. With careful and efficient watering, lawns can be an important part of the low-water landscape.

Principle #5 - Mulch
Mulch can provide many benefits in water-wise landscapes. Mulch covers the soil and prevents crusting, compaction, and water evaporation, while also providing an important visual design aspect. Choosing the right mulch for the situation is dependent on plant selection, watering regime and site use.

Principle #6 - Efficient Irrigation
Scheduling irrigation according to landscape plant water needs can reduce excess water use. In addition to conserving water, proper irrigation can encourage deeper root growth and healthier, more drought tolerant landscapes.

Principle #6 - Landscape Maintenance
A benefit of established water-wise landscapes is they require less time and money to maintain than a traditional landscape. This assumes limited turfgrass areas, native plants, and that landscape plants are grouped by water, soil, and sun exposure requirements.
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Project Summary

HISTORY & INTRODUCTION

The MLK Community Center is part of the division of the City of Dallas Department of Housing and Community Services; where over 300,000 Dallas citizens are receive services annually. The Center is located on 10.5 acres and is comprised of five separate buildings. Each facility offers a variety of services. This allows users throughout its history in coordination with water-wise principles.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Dallas Water Utilities Department is partnering with the Planning and Urban Design Department, Park and Recreation Departments, and Housing and Community Services Department to deliver a water-wise landscape project. This project focuses on the renovation of MLK Community Center located at 2922 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, Dallas, TX 75215. This is an opportunity not only to improve awareness of water conservation and reduce water usage but also to leverage this unique location to increase its function as a community center.

Funding has been secured through the Water Conservation City Leadership & Commitment Grant Program from Dallas Water Utilities Department, which serves as a reminder to the public that the city “leads by example” in the wise use of our water resources.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

- MARCH - APRIL 2018: Identify vendors; encumber '17-back funds.
- MAY 2018: Identify contractors; finalize engineering and construction preparations.
- JUNE 2018: Finalize landscape design with planning and urban design.
- SEPTEMBER 2018: Finalize construction.
- OCTOBER 2018: Finalize planting.
- NOVEMBER 2018: Finalize irrigation.
- DECEMBER 2018: Finalize soil and planting.

COMPREHENSIVE GOALS

1. Reduce and conserve water through innovative and quality solutions such as, planting with locally adapted plants, utilizing permeable surfaces, and creating a green roof.
2. Create spaces that are welcoming, safe, and safe for all ages, abilities and cultural groups.
3. Enhance neighborhood quality of life by reducing traffic and noise through innovative and quality solutions such as, permeable surfaces, and landscape design.
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The project site is located in the context of the overall Dallas/Fair Park Neighborhood. The project will incorporate water-wise landscape solutions throughout the site and streetscape. The project will be under the direction of the Planning and Urban Design Department in partnership with the Planning and Urban Design Department.