

MLK Center Campus - Waterwise Landscape Beautification

Water Conservation



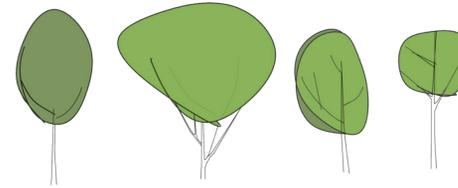
Principle #1 - Planning & Design

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 Martin Luther King Community Center is part of the division of the City of Dallas Department of Housing/Community Services; where over 300,000 Dallas citizens 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 each facility to function independently; however, collectively they provide a comprehensive service delivery system. This unique method allows the citizens of Dallas to come to one location to meet their needs, ranging from health and medical, childcare and family counseling to educational needs and leisure activity.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The City of Dallas Dallas Water Utilities Department in partnership with the Planning and Urban Design Department, Park and Recreation Department, and Housing and Community Services Department are delivering water-wise landscape solutions to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center Campus (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 stormwater runoff at the Center, but to transform MLK Community Center Campus into a welcoming central orientation point for users and to serve as a community anchor in the South Dallas Fair Park Neighborhood. The project will celebrate MLK Center's rich diversity and users throughout its history in coordination with water-wise principles. 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

- AUGUST 2017**
Finalize landscape design with incorporated community feedback
- SEPTEMBER 2017**
Identify vendors; encumber '17-'18 funds
- OCTOBER 2017**
Finalize engineering and construction preparations
- NOVEMBER 2017**
Selection and Planting of Trees
- JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2018**
Site preparation
- MARCH - APRIL 2018**
Main Planting Period

COMPREHENSIVE GOALS

Dallas Water Utilities Department in partnership with the Planning and Urban Design Department has identified the following comprehensive goals for the project.

Community Centers provide recreational, cultural, educational and social programs that perpetuate, strengthen, and serve the community. All aspects of this project shall incorporate a sense of human "belonging." This means that users will feel a sense of belonging long before approaching the front door, considering the sequence of arrival and entrance experiences as part of a holistic environment. Thoughtful design of building accessibility, openness, and public invitation to enter should be intentional when developing conceptual water-wise landscape designs.

- 1 The project site shall be in the context of the overall South Dallas/Fair Park Community with the Martin Luther King Community Center as a central gathering place and asset to its neighbors and the greater Dallas community.
- 2 As designs are developed for water conservation, the renovated site and streetscape should seamlessly integrate with the community context and reflect the needs of the neighborhood through a lens of water conservation.
- 3 Reduce and conserve water through innovative and quality solutions such as, planting with locally adaptive plants, reduce need for imported fresh water, minimize impervious cover, and direct excess urban runoff through soil and vegetation to recharge groundwater.
- 4 Create spaces that are comfortable, safe, and welcoming for all age groups and abilities.
- 5 Create flexible spaces and landscaping that can accommodate daily foot traffic as well as events.