

Willowbrooke Landscape Committee 2022 Annual Report

Landscape Committee: Patty Clark, chair 785-217-1122; Sue Gerke 660-596-3155; Mike Blau/Kathy Blau 620-260-7296/620-260-7299; Trudy Vanderweide 913-963-4877; Cindy Shriver 785-787-9421; and Dawn Crumpley 913-232-6016.

Landscape Enhancements: We removed old shrubs and perennials from both the east and west entrances. After amending the soil to improve the tight clay characteristics, both entrances were re-landscaped with stone (which was recovered from Google fiber installation), new mulch and shrubbery, as well as new annual and perennial flowers. Special thanks to Sue Gerke for the landscape design at the west entrance. All materials and labor were donated by Committee members and HOA residents. Committee members also donated the annual flowers for enhancement around the pool and clubhouse. Special thanks to Trudy Vanderweide and Cindy Shriver for their donations of plants, pots and soil, but also for their summer long watering.

Weeding/Trimming: We weeded around homes and in common areas throughout the summer. Weed killer was applied by volunteers in areas where weed infestations were notable, especially around the townhomes. Special thanks to Mike Blau for all the trimming and weeding at the east entrance by the rail fence and along the island between the gas station and the apartment complex. Kathy Blau weeded throughout the complex all summer and helped various homeowners with perennial and shrub trimming. All these volunteer efforts help keep our entrances neat and ensures overall aesthetics are maintained.

Tree Trimming: Committee members trimmed the tree canopy along sidewalks to minimize the branches that were obstructing walkers/runners. Professional tree trimming is done as needed to prevent home damage, remove dead trees and ensure proper growth patterns.

Tree Replacement: The Committee has begun to grow replacement trees from seedlings. These trees are used to replace trees that died and were removed by the HOA. Tree varieties include pines, redbuds and maples. If homeowners are interested in having trees replaced they can contact any of the Landscape Committee members for assistance.

Consultation and Light Duty Landscape Assistance: Committee members have provided plant selection/landscape design assistance to homeowners throughout 2022. We have also performed weeding, transplanting, trimming and planting services for homeowners when requested. Our committee is happy to assist with small tasks in exchange for a free-will donation to the Landscape Committee. All donations will be reported to the Board and proceeds will be spent to replace trees and shrubs in the common areas throughout the HOA.

Turf Management and Irrigation: 2022 was a difficult year for landscape maintenance throughout the HOA. The drought conditions persisted through a record-setting hot summer. Google Fiber installation caused major issues with the irrigation system and we have a new lawn care service provider whose crews are getting to know the property. Messenger's has nearly completed the mapping of our irrigation system which was no small task because it was installed during three/four different home construction periods. They also have been trying to repair the damage from the Google Fiber installation.

The Irrigation Field controls are not consistent. The Rene'/Summit irrigation field has one control, the townhomes have exterior controls by sections and the newer patio homes have one control per four-plex inside a garage. At times, this causes significant challenges with repairs, winterization and spring start up. Committee members met with Messenger's this fall to talk about improved irrigation management in 2023.

The aeration done in October will help irrigation efficiency next year. Overseeding was not completed because so much of the HOA was without irrigation and seed application would have been a wasted investment. In the spring, Committee members will accompany Messenger's as they test and start the irrigation systems. We can help complete the map, inclusive of controls; check spray patterns to limit wasted water; repair sprinkler heads; and determine the best irrigation schedule to provide for efficient use of water and maintain appearances. We will also help align the mowing schedule with the irrigation schedule. Water/Sewer/Wastewater are a significant expense for the HOA. With a more conscientious monitoring of irrigation and turf management, we believe we can reduce the annual expenditures.

Charitable Donation Drives: During the calendar year, the Committee has facilitated food drives for the New Hope Food Pantry, a school supply drive for a Title Nine School in need and a Christmas Toys for Tots donation drive. We deeply appreciate the generosity of our Willowbrooke homeowners and we know that the recipients of our goodwill are grateful beyond words as they strive to feed and educate families in our communities, as well as make the holidays and bit more special for those in need. THANK YOU!!!!!!