

**Shearwater Landscaping Committee Report**  
**April 2015**

❖ **Grounds maintenance**

- ◆ Since March, our landscape contractor, Highlands, has been busy cleaning, raking, edging and mulching planting beds.
- ◆ Lawn mowing has begun and our lawn areas are looking lush and green following aeration and seeding, fertilizing, and treatments to suppress weeds and crabgrass
- ◆ Shrubbery and small trees have been pruned, inspected and given spot treatments for pests and diseases.

❖ **Landscaping Improvement projects**

Projects to replace/restore/refresh plantings damaged or destroyed by weather events, human intervention or the ravages of time have begun and will continue through the growing season. This year we will focus on:

- ◆ Removal and replacement of overgrown, deteriorated or diseased shrubs and ornamental trees along community pathways and shared common areas
- ◆ Enhancement of the front entrance, both outside and inside the gate
- ◆ Dividing and transplanting overgrown perennials and/or inappropriately planted or volunteer shrubs and ornamental trees to other areas within the community

❖ **Trees**

In follow-up to the tree removal and trimming work performed by Davey Tree Experts last December, replacement trees will be installed on a 1:1 basis per City of Annapolis requirements. Replacement trees have been identified and mapped in collaboration with City arborists as part of the permitting process. Maryland native trees will be planted in early May, to include willow oaks, river birches, hemlocks, and flowering trees (serviceberry and redbud). The new trees will be planted in locations that will benefit wildlife and enhance our landscape but not adversely affect views.

❖ **Irrigation**

Our irrigation contractor, Terra Nova, has been contracted to provide the same level of service as last year, which includes Spring Start-Up, Mid-Season Tune-Up and Fall Winterization.

- ◆ Spring start-up, which includes servicing and activating the system, is scheduled for Monday, April 27.
- ◆ For greatest efficiency, we plan to regulate water usage in each zone so as to ensure that all planting beds and lawn areas get the water they need but water resources are not wasted. Residents are encouraged to monitor planting and lawn conditions in their area and notify the landscape committee if they feel that adjustments are needed. This is especially important during times of drought or sustained rains.

**❖ Shoreline Stabilization**

- ◆ We've been working with the Maryland Department of Agriculture to eradicate invasive Phragmites grasses colonizing along Shearwater's shoreline on the eastern side of Hawkins Cove. Next step is to provide more beneficial grasses.
- ◆ Through his volunteer work for the Rhodes Riverkeeper, David Densmore has identified an opportunity to obtain free plugs of *Spartina patens* grasses. These will be planted at or immediately above the mean high water line behind Buildings 7 and 8 to stabilize the shoreline and mitigate erosion while improving its habitat and aesthetic values.
- ◆ In addition, we have applied to the Forestry Section of the Department of Inspections and Permits for 100-200 plugs of free *Spartina Alterniflora* grasses to be placed within the upper intertidal zone to further enhance the area.
- ◆ We are still awaiting word on whether our request has been granted, but hope to plant the grasses in early May with the help of volunteers. If you are interested in coming out to help preserve, protect and beautify our shoreline, please contact Deborah Birch.

**❖ Landscaping Committee Procedures**

- ◆ All changes to general common elements of the landscape (lawn areas, trees and shrubbery) must be submitted to the Landscaping Committee for review and approval. Changes must be consistent with the overall theme and plan for Shearwater's grounds.
- ◆ Requests for landscaping work in general common areas shall be submitted via work order. Work orders may be submitted via the Shearwater website at [www.shearwatercondos.com](http://www.shearwatercondos.com) or by other means as determined by Metropolitan Management Group.
- ◆ Metropolitan Management Group will review all work orders on a regular basis and will promptly forward all work orders that directly involve or may have an impact on Shearwater's landscape general common elements to the Shearwater Landscaping Committee for review and coordination.
- ◆ The Landscaping Committee will promptly review all work orders forwarded by MMG and will coordinate with MMG on appropriate action, within the overall context of Shearwater's landscaping theme, planned landscaping activities and available budget.

**❖ Landscaping Committee Members**

The Shearwater Landscaping Committee is composed of the following volunteers: Deborah Birch (Chair, MaryAnn Cummins, Pat Duval, Ron Faulkner, Charlotte Featherstone and LeAnn Myhre.

If others are interested in joining the committee or contributing ideas, please contact us. As always, we encourage all members of the community to come forward with their ideas and concerns. *This is your community.* If you have suggestions, please contact:

Deborah Birch, Chair, Shearwater Landscaping Committee

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