

Crown Harbor Landscape Annual Report 2012

The following is a summary of the work that has been done this past year. We would really like to thank Val Boone for her years of leadership at the Chair of the Committee. Many positive changes have been made under her leadership. We also would like to thank the Crown Harbor residents for their suggestions and comments. Finally, thank the HOA Board for their continued support.

Front Gate: The tree removal at the front entrance area is on hold for now. The remaining Alder and Pine trees are in good enough shape so they will stay for this year. The new screening trees planted along the doing nicely. The Azaleas are in bloom this spring and add nice color to our main entrance. The roses bloom next.

Crown Drive Tree Removal and Replanting: We continue to have pine trees along the entrance have problems. One near the front gate is stressed. It will be pruned. At some point it had been topped and a bunch of branches are grown together and are not happy. One on down on Crown has grown around a big Eucalyptus branch which has created a weak trunk. It will be removed.

Queens and Kings Road: Work to prune and remove overgrown bushes and tree along two roads was continued this year. This action has given us better water coverage with our sprinklers and opened up two very large over grown areas along our property lines.

Hard Pruning: Extensive pruning along both of the large lawn area has been done with the intent of opening up the bushes, finding sprinkler heads and adding new plants. This work is now complete and the gardeners will maintain the more open appearance of the grounds.

Sprinklers: Our old system continues to give us problems. We have had to fix several broken main laterals. The cause usually is just old age or a tree root lifting the pipe. The old backflow anti-siphon valves continue to fail. We have thought of trying to replace all the remaining old valves but the cost is quite high. The Committee has instead transferred money into the reserve to pay for higher priority item. If residents see a sprinkler zone sticking on, or a lateral gushing water try to contact David Eck at 522-5010 before Massingham. There are manual turn-off valves and we can save the cost of an emergency visit from Massingham.

Xeriscaping: The Committee has continued to plant drought tolerant plants. The Committee has also received proposals for better sensors for the moisture level in the ground or a possible GPS weather detector which would automatically shut down the irrigation system. These proposals are being reviewed. The conservation of water not only saves us money but also keeps us in line with the environmental goals EBMUD imposes on us. They are considering a proposal to reduce our water allotment by up to 20%.

Mulch and Compost: The work during prior "Mulch Madness" days has resulted in many areas of the grounds having a very nice layer of mulching material. It has helped with the watering needs, our weed control and provides a very pleasing look. This year's version more limited version of "Mulch Madness" will occur in early April. Watch for an update in the Clarion or piles of bark in the parking lots.

Respectively submitted, the Landscaping Committee