

Tom MacCubbin
Horticultural Consultant
1526 Royal Circle, Apopka, FL 32703
407-293-8171

Client Harmony CDD
Contact Scottie Feliciano
Teresa Kramer
Address Harmony Square Drive
Harmony, Florida 34773

Telephone 386-804-3419

Date June 29, 2021 Time In 8:43 AM Time out 11:37 AM

Re: Landscape review. A three hour tour of Harmony was taken with Scottie Feliciano and Pete of Servello & Sons and Teresa Kramer of Harmony.

Overall evaluation: Harmony is about a 20 year community built in stages often with the home builders supplying the trees in front of the homes. Community trees appear to have been selected at random or supplied as they come from the nurseries. They appear to have had little training before being installed. Luckily most of what appears to be a majority of the street trees are live oaks which are very durable even when having imperfections. Other trees in the Community include but are not limited to sycamores, Drake elms, laurel oak, red oaks, pines, magnolias and tree form crape myrtles. Some of the trees are starting to cause sidewalk concerns which are normal when they are planted in more narrow strips between the sidewalks and road.

Still Harmony has a very attractive landscape. Recent rains have helped regreen the turf and is flushing out the foliage in shrubs and trees. It should be noted many of the plantings are reaching a stage in their life where decline is normal. They can only take so much continual pruning before they start to decline. Replacements shrubs will be needed in the future. Some are become covered with shade and others have too much adjacent plant competition. New landscape plans will be needed in many areas. More immediate needs can be discussed during another visit.

During this tour it was noted the Community is being well maintained and those providing the maintenance are applying acceptable and appropriate horticulture practices.

Regretfully rains towards the end of the tour did not allow taking of community pictures that would show the good care of the plantings.

Concerns and discussions from the tour.

1. Harmony Square Park trees. Some of these trees are under stress from the planting site. Two oaks in the center of the park are struggling. Most likely a root problem where the roots are too restricted. Also, a nearby elm is in decline.

- Prune dead out of oak and try to supply fertilizer
- Remove dead from elm – May have to replace. Lots of trees in area so may not have to add a new tree. These are shorter lived landscape trees.
- All three of these trees may eventually have to be replaced. When the time comes, I suggest replacing the oaks with crape myrtles that are doing fine.



Pruning and fertilizer may help save oak with declining branches in photo on left. Remove dead from elm but may have to remove in photo on right.

2. Boulevard turf visited. St. Augustine turf was making a good recovery now that the rains have returned. The turf was becoming weedy with beggar weed one of the main broadleaf weeds. The turf also needs fertilizer.

- Apply fertilizer to regreen and keep the turf vigorous
- Apply a broadleaf weed control herbicide. Avoid products that might affect the trees or keep them away from the tree roots.



Turf making a recovery but filling with broadleaf weeds.

3. Berm St. Augustine visited. The berm is planted to mainly turf and pines. Regretfully pines

often struggle under landscape care conditions. They do not like lots of fertilizer and are subject to borers during winter and spring dry weather. It would be nice to encourage the turf to make better growth.

- Make a half rate fertilizer application so not to over fertilize the pines.
- Apply weed control as needed noting and restrictions for use near pines.
- At best these pines are temporary trees and will gradually have to be replaced in 10 or more years.



Berm needs light fertilizer application to encourage turf

4. Pines in decline on berm. Pines often struggle in urban landscapes. They do not like the growing conditions provided. Some start to decline in about 20 years. Use of pine straw mulch and limited amounts of fertilizer prolong pine tree life. Also, keeping moist during dry times reduces borer activity. Pines on berms where the soil dries rapidly seem to have a more difficult time surviving. Knots often called cankers form on trunks when the trees are affected by diseases and insects. Some trees survive with the knots and others decline over time and need removal.

- Make sure trees have adequate water
- Remove dead or severely affected pines.



Pines starting to decline in photo on left. Knot in trunk likely caused by fungus.

5. Oak at 3366 Cat Brier Trail damaged. Pruning work was performed on this tree that has severely weakened the tree. Cuts were made too flush with the trunk and an under cut was made

into the trunk. These cuts all leave wounds that won't heal properly and eventually result in trunk rot.

Most likely this tree will become a hazardous tree and eventually have to be replaced. The tree is likely valued in the 5 to 10 thousand dollar range. Due to the confined area the cost of a new one of this size moved and established is estimated at 10 to 12 thousand dollars -- it would be about impossible to find and replace the tree. This cost would not include old tree removal and sidewalk repair.

When needed it is recommended a 100 gallon trees at about 14 feet in height be planted. Cost of the tree and planting would be about \$2000 not including removal of the existing tree and roots. Some sidewalk repair may be needed too which could run the cost into the \$5,000 range.



Flush cuts and undercut leave wounds that lead to rot and eventually make this a hazardous tree.

6. Tree trimming needs and problems. Many residents would like to have their trees trimmed as they approach their home. A general rule is to keep tree limb outward portions five feet from the home. Many residents are having work performed but it is often not done using good pruning practices.



Limbs not properly pruned from tree

Recommendation:

- Have Maintenance Company with qualified arborist do all the needed pruning of

Community trees.

- Have tree limbs trimmed 10 feet over side walk and 15 feet over streets.

7. Shady areas where turf in decline. Trees are growing larger and casting shade over turf in areas between sidewalk and street. Turf in these areas is declining. Recommended turf replacement is Asiatic jasmine and lirioppe.

8. Bedding plant use discussed and recommendations made. Colorful plants that do not need frequent replacing are being sought for beds of color. Some that can last for several seasons include pentas, coleus, blue daze, angelonia and alternathera. With proper care these can last spring through early winter. Short term bedding plants of petunias with dusty miller and snapdragons may be needed for cooler months.

9. Laurel oaks at park at Cat Brier and Oak Glen Trails. Laurel oaks are struggling with one in major decline and others with yellowing foliage. A root ball problem is suspect. One appears to have mushroom root rot.



Laurel oaks in the park are struggling.

Recommendations:

- Remove declining oak – dig and check root ball for planting problem
- Make plans to replace others as they decline.
- Use of three magnolias was discussed in the center and small expansions of existing beds on the outer portions of median with shrubs. Bracken’s Brown Beauty or D.D. Blanchard or similar varieties of magnolia were discussed.

10. Soccer field improvement needs. The field is becoming weedy and bermuda turf thinning. This is a good play area for the youth. Weeds found included Virginia buttonweed, goosegrass, and old world diamond flower. Fire ants and mole crickets were present the field needs fertilizer.

Recommendations.

- Control weeds immediately with herbicides of Revolver and Dismiss. Could also select Solitare as a substitute. Follow label rates and hot weather precautions.
- Apply a 24-5-11 or similar fertilizer with up to 65% slow release properties and minor

nutrients.

- Control fire ants
- Apply Dylox for mole cricket control when needed following label instructions



Weedy soccer field with turf trying to fill in.

11. Trees of concern near Pond Pine and Beargrass Roads.

- Elm trees have trunk cankers of unknown origin but commonly affects the Drake elms. May be a fungus or virus origin. Elms may live with the disease for some time but eventually have to be removed.
- Magnolias struggling and filling with moss. With all in the planting slowing the same symptoms after about 15 years in site this must be a root ball problem. Most likely they have not grown out of the root ball significantly.



Elms in decline with trunk cankers

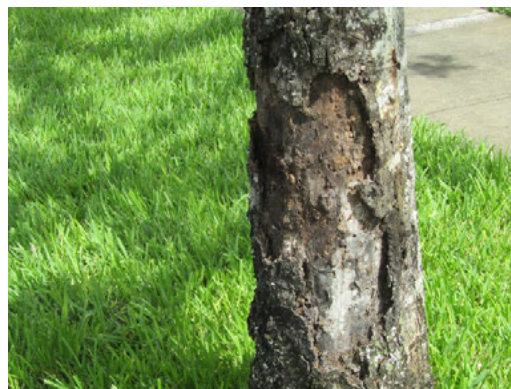


Magnolias struggling years after planting.

Recommendation.

- Remove elms and replace if needed as they decline. Native winged elms would be a good replacement.
- Control moss in magnolias with a copper fungicide following label instructions. Give extra fertilizer to see if growth can be encouraged.

12. Red oaks on Cupseed with borer damage. Borers were found in the trunks and a number were declining. Some are doing very well. It was noted the builders added the trees as new homes were built. Feel this is a planting or root ball problem that has produced weak trees susceptible to borers.



Struggling oaks with borers in trunks

Recommendations

- Remove declining trees with borers. Replace with live oaks

13. West Five Oaks turf decline. Turf was examined at site. Irrigation needs renovation for turf between sidewalk and fence. Tree roots are preventing turf growth at one site.

- Replace rotor heads with popups to give better irrigation
- Add up to 2 inches of soil in depressed area at tree and resod with shade tolerant St. Augustine turf of Palmetto or DeltaShade.



Irrigation needs renovation in photo on left. Add soil and sod in depressed area at tree.

14. Sycamores on Bracken Fern Drive with wax scale. The trees have wax scale on the foliage and stems. This is a soft scale that produces excreta to feed the sooty mold fungus. Many of the leaves have this dark sooty mold covering.



Wax scale on stems and leaves with dark sooty mold fungus growing on excreta.

Recommendation

- Control with Safari systemic insecticide treatment applied to the ground under trees following label recommendations.

**** All pesticide recommendations are made using labeled products for the use specified on the label at the time of this report. All label instructions must be followed by the applicators. Do note labels are updated and must be consulted when products are purchased to determine changes prior to use. Use of products should be discontinued where there are concerns about label changes, their use or safety.**

**** Consultation is recommended on quarterly bases. If desired the next visit would be Thursday October 14, 2021. Consultation is available at any time.**