

## February 2020 Update

This has been a busy year for the Long Term Landscape Group. About fourteen months ago the Group was empowered by the Board as a design committee to develop a 10 year plan for the community's landscaping infrastructure. We were asked to develop a comprehensive plan to address the future needs of the community for all the common areas which included the front and rear gates, the Boulevard, the Amenities Center, the buffer zones, the exterior walls, and to the extent possible, the areas adjacent to the preserve. The plan required assessing where we are now, where we needed to go, and the steps needed to get us there.

We broke the plan down into multiple phases that were spread out over a ten year period. In the first 6 to 12 months we began the job of establishing community-wide goals and reaching out to Landscape Architects for design advice.

The following year, Phase One was put in place to coincide with the opening of the new Amenities Center in the fall. Overgrown and aged out trees and shrubs were removed and a new design put in place for the front and rear of the clubhouse.

Phase Two, the landscape areas from the rear of the clubhouse to the lake continued the design goals of Phase One, emphasizing that "less was preferable to more" by allowing room for plants and trees to grow and mature before needing replenishment. The choice of landscape materials reflected a desire to contain maintenance costs and to plant shrubs and trees that were considered cold hardy as well as wind, disease, and drought-resistant. Aging Palm trees with deteriorating trunks that needed costly pruning were replaced with Foxtails and Pygmy Palms that are self pruning and have done well over the years in Lakeridge Falls. A number of Dwarf Firebush were planted, hardy shrubs that bloom most of the year and attract butterflies and hummingbirds. Pink Hibiscus and Lily of the Nile Agapanthus will add colorful blooms throughout the year near the lake roundabout. Most of Phase Two is now complete with a few adjustments still needing to be done.

The Long Range Landscape Group has now begun discussing Phase Three which will include the twenty-eight beds lining Lakeridge Boulevard from the front to rear gate. We are hoping to expand on the basic design already in place at the Clubhouse first by removing the aged-out, overgrown landscape material and then slowly replacing them with aesthetically appealing new plants and shrubs.