

# Landscape Design Checklist

By Jake R Brady

- Pollution Prevention
  - 'Grasscycle' as often as possible.
  - Reduce fertilizer and pesticide runoff.
  - Phase out the scheduled application of synthetic fertilizers and pesticides.
  - Use environmentally-sound fertilizing practices.
  - Reduce potential pest problems by planting a variety of species.
  - Limit habitat and breeding areas for rodents, mosquitoes, and flies.
  - Use natural herbicides and beneficial nematodes.
  - Use climate appropriate, hardy, pest-resistant plants.
  - Spray compost tea for disease management and nutrient cycling.
  - Change chemical spaying frequency from periodic to 'as required'.
  - Use proper pruning technique.
  - Keep gas mowers well-tuned and in good repair.
  - Schedule excavation and grading projects for the dry weather season.
- Waste Reduction
  - Incorporate into design the protection of established trees and native soils.
  - Space plants properly.
  - Use plants that will not grow too large for their space.
  - Use trees and shrubs that do not require frequent shearing.
  - Plant species that are appropriate for the microclimates.
  - Do not use invasive plant species.
  - Save soil for use at a different site.
- Water Conservation
  - Use low and medium water use plants.
  - Use hydrozoning - group plants with similar water needs on the same irrigation valve.
  - Use mulch in all non-turf planted areas.
  - Use design elements that prevent water run off.

- Use professionally certified irrigation technicians and/or landscape water managers to install the irrigation system.
- Install drip irrigation systems.
- Use reclaimed water for irrigation.
- Install rain shut-off devices.
- Install irrigation controllers.