

Landscaped Areas

Overall design and suitability of landscape, turf and ground covers.

Does it look right for the area? Is the scale proper? Is there too much turf? Does it have to be mowed too often or could it be converted to a prairie, meadow, forest or community garden? Will ground covers add or detract and can they grow there? Will English Ivy become invasive?

Use of native plants.

Some plantings can have natives incorporated or be all native. Are they appropriate? Invasive? Does it look unkempt? Does it need signage? Is the right plant in the right place?

Overall design and suitability for location/use;

Is it strikingly great? Does it seem proper for the setting? Wheel chair accessible? Paths?

Good use of design principles (i.e., balance of plant material and constructed elements, harmony, color, texture, shape, etc.).

Is the design appropriate for the site? Does the hardscape add to the design? Are the larger plants blocking the shorter ones? Does it have color, texture, shape.....

Sustainability.

Will it require constant maintenance? Are there resources available to care for it? Will it grow? Is water nearby? Should different plants be used instead? Too many annuals?

Integration of hardscapes, lighting, site features, sculpture.

Is there too much of each? Are they sited properly and to scale? Is it mishmash or tasteful?

Maintenance (weeds, mulching practices, edging);

Are the plantings in good shape and well cared for? Many weeds? Is the mulch appropriate, natural, too deep, on the tree boles? Does it look well cared for? Are the trees and shrubs pruned properly and at the right season? Have plants been deadheaded? Watered? Diseased?

Site rejuvenation and rehabilitation.

Was it a brown field, dump, parking lot, building site? Is the soil compacted or compromised? Was the soil tested for contaminants before food was grown, before it was used to landscape a schoolyard? Is it graded properly? Is what there is now appropriate?

Efforts in strategic planning.

Is there a plan? Does it tie to a grander scheme? Is too much being done at once? Is it really feasible? Are things being phased in sequentially or in a haphazard manner? Is it a political football? Are the residents involved and signed on? Is there money or a means to get funding?

Community gardens, children's gardens, public gardens and zoos.

Are there any? Enough? Properly cared for? Resources available to fund and continue? Master plan for the community? Enough staff and volunteers and supplies?