COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE RECOGNITION AWARD

PURPOSE: This document defines a process to nominate and make awards to developers for excellence in commercial and public landscapes. Awards will be made for landscapes that reflect and support the mission and goals of the Native Plant Society of Texas.

It is hoped that by bringing attention to landscapes which meet the award criteria and are judged of outstanding quality we can accomplish the following:
1. Give developers deserved recognition for doing the right thing.
2. Serve as another means to educate the public by “adopting” successful commercial landscapes as demonstration gardens which exemplify desirable alternative landscaping choices available locally.
3. Demonstrate to builders and developers the possibility of aligning the aims of builders into a common purpose which optimizes quality of life for all citizens.

SELECTION CRITERIA
1. Nominations can be made by any current member in good standing of the local Chapter.
2. Nominations can be made for any area commercial or public landscape.
3. Landscape must be primarily made of native species but may include well-adapted, non-invasive non-native species.
4. Landscape must be free of invasive and poorly adapted exotic species.
5. Plants should be healthy and the overall effect should be attractive to the eye.
6. Maintenance must reflect good-to-best practices (e.g. methods for pruning trees and managing tall grasses).
7. A landscape providing habitat for birds, butterflies, and other fauna native to the surrounding area is a positive.
8. Identifying signs, information plaques, etc. for public education are positives.
9. Demonstration of drought tolerance and water conservation are positives.
10. Prudent use of irrigation is a positive.
11. Minimal use of synthetic fertilizers and synthetic pesticides (includes insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, etc.) is a positive.

AWARDS
1. Awards should be made on the basis of nominations meeting the Selection Criteria. As many or as few that prove qualified should determine the number and frequency of awards.
2. Either the nominator or a screening committee or both should interview the individuals responsible for the design, selection, installation, and maintenance of the landscape.
3. A panel of qualified members should screen the nominations submitted and then make recommendations for making awards at a monthly meeting. Determination to make an award should be by vote of members attending the monthly meeting.
4. Suitable plaques and letters should be the physical awards.
5. The plaque should be awarded at the recipient's location with as many builder/developers, their employees, business owners, city officials, or others connected with the winning landscape in attendance as practical.
6. Media reporters and photographers should be notified and invited to attend the award presentations to record and publicize the event. This is very important.
COMMERICAL LANDSCAPE RECOGNITION AWARD
NOMINATION FORM  (Add additional pages if needed. Attach photographs.)

Name of nominee:

Address:

Location of landscape:

Description of landscape (include species planted, terrain, special structures or features, etc.)

Description of maintenance methods:

Use of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides?

What’s not being done right? What could be improved?

Other comments:

Submitted by: Phone number: e-mail:

WILLIAMSON COUNTY NPSOT CHAPTER LANDSCAPE RECOGNITION AWARD (sample)

Native Plant Society of Texas
Dennis Perz 8/1/14
COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE RECOGNITION AWARD
NOMINATION FORM  (Add additional pages if needed. Attach photographs.)

Name of nominee: WOLF RANCH - Simon Properties; Hodges and Associates (lead architects); TBG Landscape Architects (designer and continuing consultant); UNICCO (operations); Native Land Design (maintenance)
Address: 1015 West University Avenue  Georgetown, TX 78628
Location of landscape: Throughout the grounds of the mall.

Description of landscape (include species planted, terrain, special structures or features, etc.)
1. Extensive use of native grasses, annuals, and perennials in beds.
2. Significant effort to preserve existing live oaks (including two Heritage Trees). Tree wells built in parking areas for this purpose. Maintained under supervision of certified arborist. Trees vary from very good condition to a few that died.
3. Some non-native species used. No invasive plants used. Operations and maintenance efforts balance good plant selection and maintenance with looking good all the time.
4. Plans to redo rainwater holding ponds. Interest in doing wetlands type native landscape. (We recommended David Mahler).
5. Developing a plant list of what they have.

Description of maintenance methods:
1. Tall grass maintenance excellent. Little evidence of cutting back, shaping, etc.
2. Fully automated irrigation systems abandoned in favor of human investigation of water needs and irrigating accordingly.
3. Maintenance contractor gives the owner “what he wants”. Contractor is very knowledgeable regarding proper care of natives.
4. Beds are kept attractive year round. Plants which suffered from winter freezes have been quickly replaced, sometimes by non-native annuals. Operations and maintenance people have plans to replace natives lost at proper planting time.

Use of synthetic fertilizers or pesticides?
2. Major pests are fire ants and some aphids. Broad spectrum insecticides used when needed.
3. All beds heavily mulched with Texas hardwood mulches. Roundup used only when weeds get out of control.

What's not being done right? What could be improved?
1. Add more plant identification signs. Eliminate all plant shaping.
2. Problems with people tramping beds and deer feeding and sleeping in beds.
3. Some older trees reflect various stages of stress induced by tree wells, paving, cut roots, etc. Original design by certified arborist.

Other comments: Knowledge and attitude of operations and maintenance personnel extraordinary. NPSOT comments and suggestions are welcome. Vision driven by Simon Properties, Inc. This is an unusual store layout and landscape for them.

Submitted by: 
Phone number: 
e-mail: 
Name 
xxxx xxxx xxxx 
xxxxxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxxxxxxxxx

NPSOT COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE RECOGNITION AWARD

Native Plant Society of Texas
Dennis Perz 8/1/14
COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPE RECOGNITION AWARD

The PLAQUE can read:

In recognition of outstanding
Selection, Design, Installation, and Maintenance
Of the Native Landscape located at
XYC Corners on ABC Road in Taylor, Texas,
This award is presented to Smith Development Corporation
and
Jones Landscape Architectural Partners, LLC
By the Williamson County Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas
On the 29th day of March, 2007

LOCAL CHAPTER CONTACTS

Name, chapter president
Phone
E-mail
Name, chapter recognition process leader
Phone
E-mail

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