

Grand Haven Landscape Audit Phase 1

North Gate, Main Gate, South Gate , Waterside Parkway & Village Entrances

When Grand Haven was conceived its mission statement was one of beautiful oak lined streets, graceful palms and a lush landscape boasting of a Florida lifestyle many longed for. The community attracted people wishing to live in a place where their friends would envy them and their family would flock to visit. The builders boasted of upscale homes placed in a setting where a lush landscape dominated their views. Somehow the view started to change, the vision was forgotten and time, weather and stress played its toll on the landscape. As the landscape grew it changed, we forgot that it was a living entity and that with out changes it would not remain a beautiful inviting feature of Grand Haven. This audit will help you understand what needs to be changed and allow you to schedule the changes as time and budget allows. The audit will put the areas in a category where we can pick the projects and budget for them according to there priority in the community. We will also make simple changes to the community that will greatly enhance views and simplify there presence as you walk and bike throughout the community.

Phase One will review and walk you through the Main Gate the North and South Gate, Waterside Parkway and the Village entrances for each section.

Phase Two will review the Village Circles, Coquina Trail, The Crossings and the remaining common areas in the community.

In doing the landscape audit I would like you to remember that these changes will not be done all at once but planned and budged over a period of time. They will pull the community together and create a theme in the landscape that will be done with great thought to a sustainable landscape. I will make changes to control excessive maintenance, wasteful fertilization and over irrigation. The plants used in the landscape changes will grow with the landscape not outgrow the landscape.

This audit is done with a series of photos and word documents to go along with the photos so everyone can see an example of the areas in question.

Main Gate & South Gates – The Main gate and South gate are in very poor condition ranging from poor growing conditions, wrong plant wrong place, and environmental stress. Overgrown plants along with insect and disease damage are present through out both entrances. There is a lot of plant material that needs to be removed and replaced. A major renovation to the Main & South gates using plant material I recommend along with there placement in the new plan is the number one priority stemming from the audit.

In walking the community I found several trees that should be removed from there location due to poor growing conditions and relocated in areas where they would thrive. The Main & South gates being some of those areas where we could reuse Crape Myrtles found on Waterside Parkway growing in shade.

The Medjool Palms are very crowded and should have the plant material removed from the root zone along with an adjustment to the irrigation reducing the amount of irrigation they receive. Mejools are desert palms and these are receiving far too much water stressing the trees. These palms are the focal point of the entrances and are beautiful; there trunks have interest and show great age making them graceful giants to be admired. They do not need unnecessary clutter around them. If we remove the material around then leaving them standing alone the bed would be much improved.

The soil level in the center islands housing these palms should be lowered at the edges so the mulch doesn't continually wash into the street. By simply removing a few inches of soil in the beds it would drop the level down below the curb and the mulch can be reinstalled allowing it to remain in place behind the curbing.

North Gate – The North Gate is a dappled light condition which is an environment conducive to good growing conditions for landscape plants. Most of the plants located at the north gate are doing well. They appear to be less stressed than other areas in the community. There should be corrections to how these plants are pruned so they remain healthy and allow the proper amount of sunlight to reach the interior of the plants. Aside from filling in a few areas with Flax Lily for color and transition from one bed to another the gate is fine for now until budget allows us to work on pulling the three gates together by theme.

Waterside Parkway- Waterside Parkway was walked and each area was viewed and photos were taken. An overall picture of the parkway is one of poorly placed plants for Example: Spartina planted too close to the sidewalk and road curbing, too much irrigation which has caused more of the Liriope to thin from crown rot leaving the beds sparse and unevenly planted. I have noted the beds along Waterside Parkway that need Spartina removed and thinned and in some areas pulled and replanted. African Iris falls in the same category sparsely planted beds resulting from plants that have died and left hollow spots in the bed.

All along Waterside Parkway the vines have been allowed to grow and damage the natural areas killing trees and covering the plant material growing in these areas. The Natural area should be viewed as the landscape and used as a focal point. Once they are cleared of vines and dead material the view comes alive.

Trees planted too deep, over crowding of shrubs and lack of sunlight also play a roll in plant decline along the Parkway.

The following detailed description of each area will help you understand the findings and the recommendation for repair of each area. A question and answer period will follow.