

Bell Tower Park Landscape Committee Update

October 2025

Submitted by Committee Chair Dan Kerinuk on 10/13/2025.

Hello Everyone,

It's time for another Landscape Committee update to keep you informed about what's happening with the Landscaping around Bell Tower Park!

Weed Control & Fertilization

If you've noticed weeds in your beds or turf, don't worry — micro weed killers are scheduled to be applied throughout the community now. This is a dry product and is inert to humans and furry friends within an hour or so. The fertilizer ban has also ended, and our grounds will be fertilized shortly.

Please remember: weed killer is only applied where needed, not as a preventive measure, in accordance with environmental regulations. Fertilizer, however, is applied throughout all areas.

Budget & Irrigation Repairs

As we've mentioned before, this year's landscape budget has been fully spent. A significant portion went toward **irrigation repairs** — including electrical, piping, mainline, timer, and valve replacements. These unexpected issues pushed us over budget several months ago, and we're currently exploring ways to prevent this in the future.

We will install an "Irrigreen" system around the small pool area after the first of the year as an experiment to see how it works, cost of maintenance. This system is new to the market with computerized heads, distribution and timing. They claim a 60% reduction in materials, and 40% reduction in water use. We'll see!

You may also have seen updates about **pump repairs and replacements**. All of the irrigation pump stations are about 20 years old and are being replaced with new, energy-efficient models. These will reduce repair costs and improve water delivery to our plants and turf.

Unfortunately, FPL's delay in providing the necessary electrical connection has prevented the first of the new pumps from operating at full capacity — but we hope to have both systems fully functional before year-end.

Turf & Ground Cover

We know many of you are concerned about the condition of our turf. Replacement has been delayed several times due to recurring irrigation issues — we didn't want to install new sod only to lose it again.

The good news: we've found a **more affordable vendor** than GreenScapes, allowing us to stretch our budget further. Beginning next year, we plan to replace turf **quarterly**, grouping areas together to take advantage of volume pricing.

Ground cover installations will follow the same quarterly schedule.

Wildflower Project

We're excited to begin our **wildflower experiment!** The seeds are ready, and planting will start soon. This project should add color, reduce mowing areas, and lower sod replacement costs. We look forward to seeing how it grows!

Complaint Resolution Log

Our **Complaint Resolution Log** is now fully operational. Every reported issue is entered, reviewed, approved, and marked as completed once resolved.

To ensure your concerns are captured quickly, please use the **Zen Desk form** on the website. We also plan to publish the log online for transparency, so everyone can follow progress and priorities.

Upcoming Projects

Looking ahead, our focus will shift toward **front yard updates**. Some homes have landscape areas that are tired and in need of renewal.

Instead of investing in larger common-area projects (like the proposed bamboo screening along US 41), the committee voted to prioritize updating the **POA plantings in front of homes**. This approach enhances the overall appearance of the community and directly benefits residents.

Based on our budget we may be able to do a major project.

Trimming & Maintenance

Trimming has been a frequent topic of discussion this year. Some residents feel GreenScapes trims too aggressively, while others feel it's not done often enough — and both views are understandable!

GreenScapes has now added additional onsite staff to get back on schedule. Once caught up hopefully we can stay on schedule.

To improve trimming consistency, we've created a **comprehensive trimming log** that lists every plant species on the POA's property, along with its recommended trimming specifications. Our onsite liaison is currently reviewing this list to ensure horticultural accuracy. Once finalized, it will be shared with both GreenScapes personal and residents via the website.

Please remember not to direct trimming crews to alter POA plants to individual preferences. Consistency helps maintain the landscape's overall health and appearance.

Hard Cuts & Tree Care

We've received questions about "hard cuts," and we want to assure you these are **necessary for healthy plant growth**. For example, the bougainvillea near the annex entrance rebounded beautifully within 30 days after a hard cut.

You can expect to see hard cuts applied to the following plants:

- Firebush
- Bougainvillea
- Plumbago
- Mexican Petunia
- Gold Mound
- Hibiscus

Our newly installed **Crepe Myrtle trees** will also be pruned following horticultural best practices — a process called *buck horning*. This involves removing smaller branches and suckers to create a healthy, umbrella-like canopy.

Additionally, some **dead or diseased trees** will be removed in the near future for safety and aesthetics.

Stay Involved

That wraps up our update! We appreciate everyone's patience and support as we continue improving Bell Tower Park's landscape.

You're always welcome to reach out to any committee member, attend our monthly meetings, or even join the committee to share your input.

Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM in the clubhouse.
We hope to see you there!

Bell Tower Park Landscape Committee
Working together to keep our community beautiful.