

# E co-friendly Landscape Priorities

- 1) Preservation
- 2) Restoration
- 3) Conservation



# Preservation First



- ☞ Site the house on least ecologically significant part of lot
- ☞ Site house to take advantage of natural buffers, vistas, and foci
- ☞ Carve out only enough for your housepad, ingress/egress
- ☞ Nestle the house in the natural community

# Take Lessons from Nature

✈ Use your imagination –

✈ Clues from natural communities

✈ Treasures in the wild

✈ Trees

✈ There are more than just Oaks!

✈ Evergreen Flowering: Magnolia, Bays

✈ Deciduous trees

✈ Small Trees

✈ Conifers



# Set Goals & Design

- 🦋 Start with the framework and anchors –  
large trees
  - ⌘ Preserve first – check tree structure, prune
  - ⌘ Space apart for mature spread
  - ⌘ Plant right tree in right place
- 🦋 Assemble appropriate shrubs in masses or clusters
- 🦋 Plant or augment existing native ground-covers to tie together the bigger elements

Creating layers  
within islands

Slash Pines,  
Wax Myrtle in  
background

American  
beautyberry in  
foreground



# Lawns and Substitutes

- ✿ To mow or not to mow
  - ✿ Exhaust all possible native substitutes that serve as hardy 2-4" ground covers
    - ✿ Dicanthelium (basket grasses), other native grasses, mulch, sunshine mimosa, and many others
- ✿ If you intend to keep some lawn
  - ✿ Minimize it
  - ✿ Shape it so it is diminutive and the landscape hugs it

# Minimize or Eliminate Lawn

Create beds according to your master design  
Start by expanding beds with more plantings  
Edge grass away from native landscape beds



# Theme, Style, & Feel

## Examples of themes

- ~ Primitive
- ~ English garden
- ~ Courtyard- examples: Moorish, Renaissance, etc.
- ~ Arts & Crafts – Impressionist
- ~ Victorian
- ~ Traditional – formal & symmetrical

## Tools:

- ~ Texture & grain
- ~ Colors & greens
- ~ Light – dark, shady, dappled, sunny
- ~ Moisture & dryness – ponds, wetlands, water edges to mesic to upland dry areas

# Primitive Theme



Swamp Fern in wet, shady area

# Tropical Feel



Shoe string  
fern growing in  
Cabbage Palm



Firebush



Simpson's Stopper



Rugged, Arid  
S t y l e  
S a n d y S i t e s



# Informal Garden Paths – Loose the Boundaries



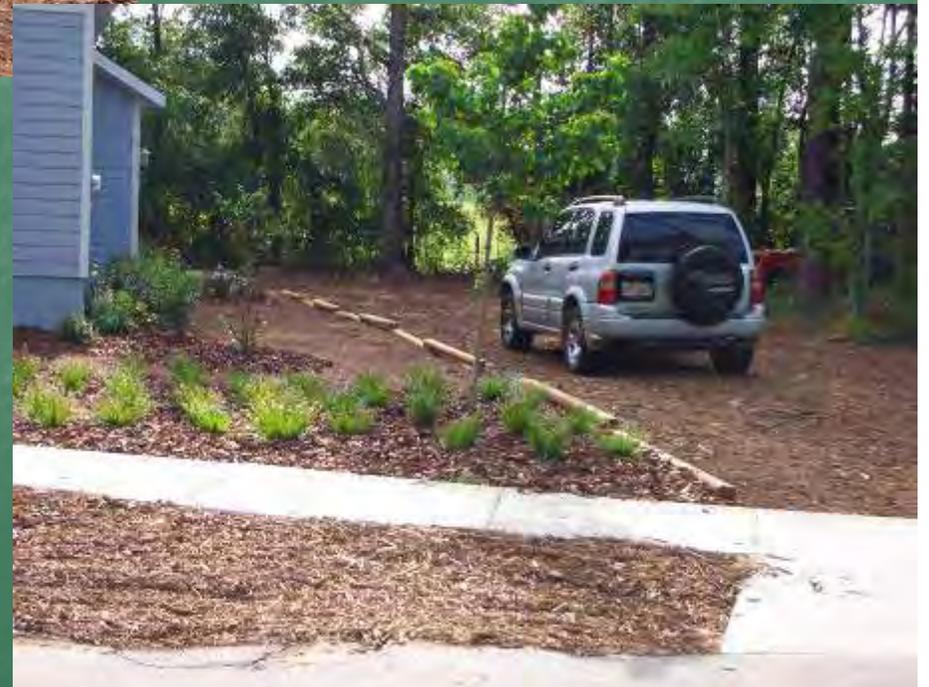


No Sod

2 kinds of good mulch  
(pine straw has finer  
texture for paths and  
pine bark better for  
beds)

Mulch driveway and  
paths

This newly planted  
example contains 100%  
native plants and no  
lawns.



# More Ideas Coming

- Please check back for updates and more ideas
- We are always striving to improve this website
- In the future we will provide a special do-it-yourself landscaping module