

## Chapter 27 - Landscaping and Exterior Finishes

### Things to Consider

#### Components

Finish Grade Mailbox	Stepping Stones House Numbers	Landscaping Materials Grass
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### Timing & Prerequisites

- All the exterior painting should be completed before this phase can begin.
- The House/Project Lead will work with the Habitat Supervisor to co-ordinate these volunteer activities.

Materials Needed	
Landscaping	House Accessories
Landscaping Plants Mulch Grass Seed Stepping Stones	House Numbers Screen Doors White Caulk for Under Sills White Putty Mail Box 4x4 for Mounting Mailbox* Quickrete* * (if mail box is along the street)

Phase Specific Tools Needed	
Description:	Quantity:
<b>Framing</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Post Hole Digger</li> <li>○ Shovels</li> <li>○ Rakes</li> <li>○ Mattock</li> <li>○ Garden Hose</li> <li>○ Tiller</li> <li>○ Wheel Barrows</li> <li>○ Seed Spreader</li> </ul>	

### Activities

10 55 00 - Postal Specialties

Contractor shall install standard postal mailbox. A Metal Mailbox is to be installed as per postal requirements with street number and road visible and easy to read.

**House Location:** Install mailbox on the siding to the RIGHT of the front door; 44" above the porch floor. 3" of siding should be visible between the mailbox and the door brick mold.

**Mailbox:** Gilraltar; Townhouse; Steel Wall Mount Mailbox

**Post Location:** Install mailbox at the street; at least 6' from driveways, alleys and cross streets. Install the post 12" from the curb. Install the 4x4 post a hole at least 18" deep. Set the post in concrete. Install the mailbox per the manufacture's specifications.

**Mailbox Post:** Step 2; MailMaster Trimline; Spruce

### **10 56 00 – House Numbers**

Contractor shall install the house numbers on the front porch post to the right of the front stairs. The numbers shall run down the post starting with the middle of the first number at 72" above the porch floor. Leave 1" between each number. The numbers shall be 4" numerals, non-script, on contrasting color base.

#### **Install House Numbers**

- Install the numbers on the porch post to the right of the door.
- The numbers will run down the center of the post.
- The middle of the first number should be 72" from the porch deck.
- Leave 1" between each of the numbers.
- Leave the numbers in the package and mark the holes. This will allow the numbers to be easily aligned with the edge of the posts.
- Remove the numbers from the package and install the numbers using the nails that come with them.

#### **Install Screen Doors**

- Note - Refer to the supplier's instructions for assembly / installation of the doors.
- Verify you have the correct door with regards to size, hinged side (if applicable), amount of glass in the storm door, etc. (The more decorative door will go to the front).
- Before mounting the screen door you must verify the brick molding around the exterior door has been properly nailed into the 2x4 door framing. If in doubt put more nails into the structure. Use 16 penny finish nails. Fill the holes with white putty.
- After assembly / installation adjust the closer so the door closes nicely.
- Store the screen / glass panel in the basement if the door is not self storing.

### **Install Final Grade**

- A Habitat contractor will install / remove soil to bring the yard up to the final grade. The contractor will use large power equipment to roughly even off the ground.

### **Install the Mail Box**

Note: In some neighborhoods the mail box will go out along the street. In other neighborhoods it will go near the front door mounted to the house.

#### **Install Mail Box Near the Front Door.**

- Refer to the detail sheets for your plan for the location of the mail box.
- Mount the mail box using the screws in the package if possible. If the screws are too short (they must pass through siding and Dow board to get to wood) use others. They should be at least 2" long.

#### **Install Mail Box Near the Street.**

- Refer to the manufacturer's instructions regarding assembly, depth of hole, etc.
- Check with your Habitat contact for a specific location for the box.
- Use post hole diggers to make a hole deep enough.
- Place the 4x4 mounting pole in the hole. Back fill the hole a bit to temporarily hold the post in place.
- Ensure it is plumb.
- Pour pre-mixed Quickrete into the hole.
- Allow the Quickrete to set up before proceeding.
- Complete assembly

### **Prepare Area for Landscaping Plants**

Reference the landscaping plan which has been prepared to adhere to the recommendations from the Green Communities and the Franklin County's AWARE manual. The plan was developed from the plant list below. These plants are at least 50% native species, non-invasive and are 100% appropriate to the site's soil and microclimate. The plants used are intended for Zone (5) and are generally low maintenance, hardy, and mostly drought tolerant.

- Carpinus Hornbeam
- Amelanchier Serviceberry
- Viburnum
- Aronia Chokeberry
- Hydrangea
- Clethra Summersweet
- Thuja Globe Arborvitae
- Spirea Little Princess Spirea

- Spirea Goldmound
- Liatris
- Rudbeckia Black Eyed Susan

The placement and selection of the plants will depend on the homes orientation, and like substitutions can be made due to availability.

- All new plantings of trees and plants are to be native species and 100% appropriate to the site's soil and climate. Do not include any invasive species. Consult a professional with expertise in Ohio native plants. Any turf must be drought-tolerant.
- Do not use turf in densely shaded areas.
- NOTE: No Silver Maple Trees are to be planted or retained on the property.
- Remove large stones, sticks, miscellaneous construction material, etc. from the area.
- Place the plants based on the Landscaping Plan.
  - ◆ Consider how large the plants will be in a few years. Don't put them too close together or too close to the house. Normally a tag on the plants will advise you of how close together they should be planted.
  - ◆ No plants should be placed closer than 2' from the foundation.
  - ◆ Set the plants on top of the ground where you think they will look good. Stand back and give it a good critical look.

### **Plant the Plants**

- Dig holes deep enough so the most of the "ball" is buried.
- Remove any twine from the "ball".
- Mix some peat moss with some dirt in the hole.
- Set the plant in the hole.
- Turn the plant so its best side is out toward the street.
- Back-fill.
- Repeat this process for all the plants.

### **Mulch the plant area**

- Spread mulch around the plant area to a depth of a few inches,

### **Prepare Lawn Area**

- Remove large stones, sticks, etc. from the area. A bobcat with a rock hound may be used on occasion.
- Till the entire area.
- Rake out clumps and smooth the area.

### **Install Stepping Stones**

- Starting at the porch lay stepping stones in a roughly straight line toward the shed or garage.

- Remove the stone then use a scrap 2x4 to compress the soil where the stepping stones will be placed. Beat the soil level then replace the stone.
- The stones should be placed so that the centers are approximately 2' apart. This will make for an easy step for most people.

### **Spread Grass Seed**

- Use a hand held seed spreader to evenly spread seed over the lawn area.
- Crisscross the yard. Walk back and forth in one direction and then walk back and forth the other direction.
- The seed container will tell you how heavy to apply the seeds.

### **Water Plants and Seed**

- Water the lawn area and the plant area rather heavily.
- Tell the home owner to water every other day until the grass is tall enough to mow.

## **Tips & Techniques**

### **Quality Assurance Checklist**

- ◆ After finished leveling the soil, stand back and check the grade to be sure the water will run away from the house.