

# WHY RANCHO SIENNA™ NATIVE LANDSCAPES?

Here are ways you can help to maintain the natural beauty of Rancho Sienna:

Rancho Sienna is situated on the eastern edge of the Texas Hill Country, a region featuring rugged hills consisting of thin layers of soil atop limestone which contributes to its unparalleled diversity and beauty. In the spring, roadsides and fields are splashed with colorful wildflowers. Autumn brings vibrant reds, oranges, and yellows as the vegetation announces a new season. Although winters are usually mild with few hard freezes, summers usually mean drought and extreme heat. The native plants of the area are those that can survive and thrive in these extreme conditions. It is difficult for most non-native plants to survive without a lot of supplemental water and soil improvements and fertilizers.

## TREES & TURF

Plants that are native to where you live have been growing there successfully for millennia and are well-adapted to the soils, temperatures, and annual rainfall.

**Turf in front yards** and areas visible from the street must be Bermuda hybrid seed or sod.



Homeowners may use alternate grasses, such as Zoysia or buffalo grass, **in rear yards.**



We love trees!  
**Remember to plant trees 4' behind the sidewalk** and an ample distance from the home foundation.

Plant no more than **50% of your yard** in turf grass.

Mulch trees and plant beds with a **3" deep layer of high quality organic mulch** to preserve moisture and combat weeds.



## PLANTING

At minimum, **90% of plant material shall come from Suggested Plant List** located in the guidelines. No invasive plants or plants from the Do Not Plant List are allowed.



Give them room—**plants need sufficient space** from structures and other plants to grow to full size.



**When installing rock mulch/river gravel** a subsurface weed barrier fabric should be used.



**Non-native topsoil shall contain** no less than 20% organic matter (compost) that is blended through the soil.

**Topsoil shall be native soil** from the site, or fertile, friable, blended sand/loam/compost topsoil.

**Deeper soil helps with water conservation.** Soil in planted areas, including turf and plant beds, shall be augmented soil, using a combination of on-site and/or imported, to provide a minimum depth of 6 inches of quality loosely aerated topsoil.

**Rock mulch or river gravel** may be used in areas that are narrow or areas with foot traffic and/or seating.



**No more than 20% of a yard within public view may contain an unplanted area**—an area of more than 30 square feet without a plant. If rock mulch is used, plant material shall be incorporated to soften these spaces.

**Group plants** based on sun and water requirements.

## WATER

While creating habitats and maintaining the natural characteristics of the region are important, the most compelling reason to use native plants is water conservation.

**Native plants can exist on rainfall alone.**



Rain barrels, tanks, and bladders are encouraged, but **must be screened** from public view.



**Irrigation systems are not required** at Rancho Sienna. Use of low-flow (drip or microspray) irrigation is encouraged.



**RANCHO SIENNA™**  
by  
Newland COMMUNITIES

To support water conservation while enhancing the natural beauty of the landscape, Rancho Sienna has developed community Landscape Guidelines. The full document can be found on the Community Association website, [www.ranchosiennaca.com](http://www.ranchosiennaca.com).

