

## **JUDGING CRITERIA**

### **Design Category**

#### **Residential / Commercial**

##### **Design - Residential**

##### **Design – Commercial**

##### Total Category Value - 35 points

###### **Design**

Value 10 points - Overall Impression / General Appearance

Value 5 points – Degree of Difficulty / Uniqueness of Situation

Value 5 points – Harmony of Design Elements

Value 5 points – Integration of hard and soft materials

\*Value 5 points – Inclusion of unique hardscape ornamentation features such as: statuary, fountains, structure, fences, decks, gazebos, and lighting.

Value 5 points – Ecological Balance between hard and soft areas.

##### Total Category Value 35 - points

###### **Hardscape**

Value 10 points – Overall Impression and quality of materials

Value 20 points Construction and Installation techniques and correctness of all hard surfaces structures and design elements (wooden, natural or fabricated) – (excluding inert groundcover) Criteria dependent on quality if image submitted with application

Value 5 points – Capability with surrounding

##### Total Category Value - 30 points

###### **Softscapes**

Value 10 points – Overall Impressions / Quality and health of materials (Pest free plant material, cultivated / weed free / low weed pressure planting areas)

Value 15 points – Installation techniques and correctness. (Images supplemented with notes from applicant)

Value 5 points – Turf / Ground cover Installation techniques and correctness.

Quality / condition of turf and / or ground cover.

##### Total Category Value – 15 points

###### **Hardscapes**

Value 10 points – Overall Impression

Value 5 points – Maintenance of hardscape materials / features, free of debris / litter and weeds

\*If not applicable, disregard this category, and evaluate the application out of a total of 95%.

**BONUS: up to a maximum of 5 points.**

**This can be distributed as one point for each question or any combination thereof at the discretion of the judge, up to a max of 5 Total Bonus Points.**

The landscape clearly has a dynamic “wow factor” and incorporates innovative selection and use of softscape and hardscape materials.

Does the design demonstrate exemplary creativity in implementation or achieve success in overcoming site challenges?

Does the design and/or installation/construction promote a concerted effort in sustainability or environmental stewardship?

Does the landscape permit universal accessibility? (are there barriers to accessibility for wheelchairs, strollers etc)

Is there some evidence of use of recyclable materials, water conservation methods, or other like innovations?

**FOOTNOTE:**

The following definitions apply to the terms above, with the exception of aggregate mulches, where it is included for ease of evaluation within the softscaping category.

**Hardscape:** Is the inanimate element of design, construction and installation of any landscape project that includes a diversity of materials and respective technical requirements. It may include brick, stone, rock, wood, metal, and/or other natural (landscape construction aggregates) or fabricated materials used in landscape structures, furnishings, or features and includes, but is not limited to: walls, walkways, driveways, curbs, patios, living walls and green roof systems, pools, ponds, water features (waterfalls or fountains), fences, decks, structures or features (edging, plant supports, arbors, gazebos or other like décor features), drainage systems, landscape lighting and irrigation. (Also known as hardscapes, hardscaping, hard landscape and/or hard landscaping).

**Softscape:** Is the living plant and non-living elements of design, installation and maintenance of any landscape project. The living plant element includes vegetation such as: turfgrass, trees, shrubs, vines, woody tropical plants and/or herbaceous plants (annuals, perennials, bulbs, vegetables, tropical or aquatic plants). The non-living element includes: soil, growing media, soil amendments (compost, fertilizer or soil additives) and/or mulch (wood, shredded aquatic plants). The non-living element includes: soil, growing media, soil amendments (compost, fertilizer or soil additives) and/or mulch (wood, shredded bark and or decorative stone). (Also known as softscapes or softscaping).