

## **Salt & Flood Tolerant Landscape OSLR Meeting – March 16, 2018**

### **Discussion**

### **Salt and Flood Tolerant Landscape Options for Kiawah Island Property Owners and Others**

#### **I. Issues**

- Salt and water intrusion
- Runoff from rain on roofs/driveways
- Runoff from homes/roads into the marsh (and ponds?)
- Runoff from roads
- Runoff between houses and lots
- Lot topography

#### **II. Topics discussed in meetings**

- Use of salt and flood tolerant plants
- Important to encourage the use native plants
- Houses and lots with marsh border - use plants that will decrease flooding (not grass) on this border
- Possible use of rain gardens and rain barrels to minimize flood problems
- Making sure the landscape plan does not cause problems for neighbors (drainage issues)
- Use less mulch and pine straw near road to prevent the washing of this material into the roads/ drains. Use more plants as road borders.
- Use less grass (requires maintenance – i.e. water, trimming, fertilizers, pesticides/herbicides)
- Promote the installation of porous driveways and walkways

#### **III. Possible Options/Ideas**

##### **A. Gather knowledgeable experts/stakeholders\* to:**

- produce a database of salt/flood tolerant plants with a variety of information on each (let this be searchable not only by plant names but also habitats - such as plants that do well in partial shade, full sun or sandy areas) (\*\*This database should be easy to find on the website and easy to use.)
- showcase landscapes that demonstrate plantings for different scenarios/habitats
- produce areas (possibly around town hall) that mimic island habitats with plantings appropriate to reduce effects of SLR
- encourage the use of native plants where possible
- discourage the use of invasive plant species
- encourage habitat for wildlife (i.e. native plants and milkweeds)
- find desirable plants for yards at reduced prices or provide them free
- look into ways to help owners replace older landscaping that is unsightly, undesirable and/or dying (possibly provide an easy and cost effective plan for homeowners to upgrade their landscaping)
- provide a list of plants that are not salt, flood and deer tolerant and do not survive well on Kiawah
- provide preapproved landscape plans

\*Knowledgeable experts/stakeholders could include:

- Town biologists
- Conservancy land preservation coordinator (Justin Core)
- KICA landscape experts/representatives
- Local landscape architects/ecologists/designers
- Resort landscape experts (such as Kiawah Island Golf Resort's Director of Landscaping, Mark Elingburg)
- ARB representative (Jennifer Hayes)
- Others – (i.e. Spring Island Landscape Ecologist Karl Ohlandt)
- Garden Club Members
- Master Gardeners

**B. How do we encourage island property owners (homes and lots), resort, partners, landscape companies to “buy in” to the use of landscapes discouraging flooding and run off?**

**Education!!**

- Publicity
- Workshops
- Demonstration landscapes
- Incentives/rewards for the use appropriate landscaping (i.e. decal for landscape companies who promote the use of landscaping meeting certain criteria)
- Use of Deterrents – KICA, ARB, and Town have some effective tools here (i.e. loss of licenses for landscape vendors)

**C. References and Resources**

- ARB material on website [http://arb.kiawahisland.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/kp\\_14\\_5452\\_insights\\_ARB.pdf](http://arb.kiawahisland.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/kp_14_5452_insights_ARB.pdf)
- Conservancy Website <https://kiawahconservancy.org/habitat>
- Clemson material <https://www.clemson.edu/extension/hgic/plants/other/landscaping/hgic1730.html>
- Spring Island List
- Invasive Plant Species List <https://www.se-eppc.org/southcarolina/Publications/InvasivePlantsBooklet.pdf>
- Others