

A healthy landscape is an asset that can attract residents and guests to your community.

Spring Cleaning

Landscape Edition

By Duane Faloni

De-thatching and turf aeration.

Thatch buildup can attract pests and bring harm to your turf. Aerating turf in the spring allows oxygen to reach the soil. Because grass and soil compact in the winter, de-thatching and aerating in the spring gives soil and turf the chance to loosen up, accept more water, and repel harmful insects. Community parks and outdoor lawn areas should be de-thatched and aerated once a year to promote healthy growth patterns and prevent heavy patches of insect-friendly thatch from building up. Schedule your annual de-thatching and turf aeration in the spring season to prepare your grass for the rest of the year.

Mulching.

While there are many kinds of mulch to add to your landscape, arbor mulch is most beneficial. Benefits include temperature moderation, weed control, and root system protection. Additionally, mulch can regulate moisture intake, which is especially important during the increased spring rainfall.

If your landscape already has mulch, consider re-mulching in the spring. Old arbor mulch can rot and decompose in less than a year. For best results, add about 2-3 inches of mulch to the landscape and re-mulch as needed.

Color Planning and Plant Selection.

Picking a wide variety of plant materials for spring planting is essential to building a vibrant and sustainable landscape. Mix annuals and perennials into your landscape for a healthy diversity of plant types throughout the year. Some low-maintenance, water-conscious options found in Northern California include:

- Blue Aroma Grass
- Ivy Leaf Cyclamen
- Coral Fountain
- Hybrid Soapwort
- Aztec Lily
- Giant Chain Fern
- Snow-In-Summer
- Lavender
- Day Lilies
- Salvia
- Breath of Heaven
- Cordyline

Work with your landscape professional to develop a diverse palette of colors and plant types that accentuates your property.

Irrigation tune-ups.

After spring preparation is completed and your landscape is revitalized, the last thing you want to deal with is a faulty irrigation system. Make sure a licensed irrigation technician inspects your system and checks for the following items:

- Clogged or broken sprinkler heads/nozzles
- Mainline/lateral line leaks
- Non-responsive controllers
- Missing or non-responsive rain and freeze sensors
- Backflow testing
- Head adjustments for proper watering

A healthy landscape is an asset that can attract residents and guests to your community. Taking these steps early in the spring season will prepare your landscape for a year of successful growth and beautiful blooms. Consult your landscape professional today to develop a plan that will enhance the look and feel of your community for you and your guests. 🏠



DUANE FALONI is a Branch Manager at LandCare – North Bay. He graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Ornamental Horticulture. He has 23 years of experience in the industry & numerous credentials, including: Certified Irrigation Contractor; Certified Landscape Water Manager; Certified Landscape Irrigation Auditor; Landscape Industry Certified Manager; Landscape Industry Certified Technician – Exterior Turf & Ornamental Maintenance; Qualified Applicator License; Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper; Certified Arborist; and Qualified Bay Friendly Landscape Maintenance Professional.