

Art in the Park

What constitutes art? Art comes in a variety of sizes, colors, shapes and mediums. Art can be a single element, a group of related elements, the expression of a thought or even a landscape that causes one to pause and “smell the roses”. According to Tolstoy, art must create a specific emotional link between the piece and its audience, one that “affects” the viewer. Many of our larger public projects feature art as displayed through various mediums. The intent is to create an experience that will positively affect the visitor and draw them back time and time again. Many times the artwork is a natural outgrowth of a function or a need on the site.



For instance, the need to retain a slope at a park created an opportunity to provide artistic relief, color and texture to the wall integrating it into other surrounding features. The art in our projects typically uses raw materials in interesting ways that you can look at and enjoy time and time again. Reunion Trails Park has naturally weathered wavy pipe walls, crushed glass in the sidewalk in colorful patterns and textured concrete walls. Charlie Frias Park features over one-half mile of low gabion walls as art. A commercial property we designed displays various colored rock in geometric patterns along with formal plantings of architectural plants at the main entry. Many times the use of public funds requires that a percentage of the monies allocated go for the installation of artwork. Focus on creating an “art element” for your next project whether it is your home or a public plaza.

“Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn’t.”
— Erica Jong

FAVORITE FLORA: FESTUCA OVINA GLAUCA - BLUE FESCUE



This month’s favorite flora is the Blue Fescue (*Festuca ovina glauca*). This clumping ornamental grass stands out in the landscape with its distinct blue coloring. Contrasting this foliage are spikes of manila colored blooms in the spring. Blue Fescue is evergreen, a welcomed quality when compared to most ornamental grasses, lending its color to the landscape even in winter. Fast growing, this plant reaches a mature size of 8 to 12 inches tall and wide forming a dense mound. Blue Fescue prefers partial sun areas but can tolerate full sun locations as well. This grass can be planted in a variety of soil conditions and can be drought tolerant once established. Maintenance is almost nonexistent with Blue Fescue as it needs no pruning and produces very little litter. Clumps can be divided every 2-3 years if desired.

Blue Fescue can be planted as a border along turf or a flower bed. It can be planted in mass to create a swath of blue through a landscape. This grass is at home among perennial flowers to provide winter interest when other plants die back. Blue Fescue

looks great paired with river rock, around boulders and among succulents. This all around grass can compliment an Asian themed garden or a desert oasis, the possibilities are endless.

Photo of the Month

Boat with Eyes
Red Sea, Egypt
Matt Durham

