

## SVHOA Community Announcement

Hello summer!

With the spring planting season fading into our rear view mirrors and the toasty days of summer bearing down on us, it's time to update everyone on the progress that's been made on clarifying our community's landscaping guidelines for our street-side "Strip Areas".

As you may recall, earlier this year the Southern Village HOA updated the community's March, 2011 landscaping guidelines for "Strip Areas" by further defining the meaning of "low growing ground cover" as plantings not greater than 6 inches in height. This clarification was well received by the community.

As often happens when reviewing planned community guidelines, our initiative to better describe ground cover heights generated requests for further clarifications regarding the use of ground covers, mulch and stepping stones in our "Strip Areas". The following clarifications have been proposed to more specifically describe some of the general terms used in our existing guidelines. Please note the following are not guideline changes but simply clarifications intended to make our community standards clearer and less subjective.

### **1. Ground Cover:**

*Current guideline – "Ground cover must be of a type that will not spread to areas surrounding the Strip Area. Ground cover should be low-growing plantings not greater than 6 inches in height, drought resistant, and evergreen or semi-persistent."*

Clarification – “Gravel, decorative stones, river rock, boulders, lights, lighting, reflectors, landscape borders, railroad ties, landscape decorations and other artificial or non-living materials are not considered acceptable ground covers in the context of the Southern Village Strip Areas that are part of the public right-of-way.”

## **2. Mulch:**

*Current Guideline – “Mulch may be used in conjunction with interspersed plantings, ground cover or grass. All mulch utilized in the Strip Area must be brown in color.”*

Clarification – “Mulch must be composed of natural wood byproducts. It is recommended that mulch be used as root crown protection surrounding the bases of street trees.”

## **3. Stepping Stones:**

*Current Guideline – “Stepping stones for a walkway from the street to the sidewalk are permitted.”*

Clarification – “Stepping stones must be flat and installed flush with the ground to avoid creating walking hazards.”

Everyone is invited to review and comment on these proposed clarifications to our “Strip Area” landscaping guidelines. Please e-mail any questions you have or inputs you would like to make to:

[manager@southernvillage.org](mailto:manager@southernvillage.org) .

For complete guidelines regarding all Southern Village landscaping, including the “Strip Areas”, remodeling projects and paint choices, please go to: [www.southernvillage.org/arb](http://www.southernvillage.org/arb) .