

# ARAIYS NEWS

SUMMER NEWS LETTER 2016



## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Welcome to our Summer 2016 newsletter. It is a very exciting time here on the east end as we embrace the beauty of the summer season. Garden enthusiasts of all sort turned out for the annual Landscape Pleasures program hosted by the Parish Art Museum last weekend. The program featured presentations by Darrel Morrison, Andrea Cochran, and Charles Birnbaum. The collective work of these three prominent landscape architects provides inspiration for our work at Araiys Design and illustrates and reinforces the positive, life enhancing effect of good design on people and place. Mr. Morrison is an advocate of using native plant communities in design. He has recently designed native gardens for the NY and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens. Ms. Cochran is a gifted designer who seamlessly blends architecture and art to create landscapes that resonate with the sacredness of place. Mr. Birnbaum is the president of the Cultural Landscape Foundation. He invites us to see the landscape as a palimpsest with layers of cultural and environmental history that silently articulate our shared landscape inheritance. This summer newsletter focuses on environmentally sensitive paving options and solutions that can be used in a variety of settings. We hope you have a great summer!

## Permeable Paving

Permeable paving is an environmentally friendly technique of paving. This type of paving is made up by a variety of sustainable materials and allows the movement of storm water to reach the underlying soils through its surface. The permeable paving system helps to reduce the need for irrigation and creates an organic way to reuse storm water. In addition to reducing runoff, this material effectively traps suspended solids and filters pollutants from the water. Some examples where permeable paving can be used to contain storm water runoff includes roads/paths, lawns, parking lots, residential sidewalks, driveways and more.

Although some permeable paving materials are almost impossible to differentiate from nonporous materials, their environmental effects are incredibly different. Permeable paving materials such as concrete, asphalt and paving stones all allow storm water to penetrate and infiltrate the surface areas that are traditionally water resistant so that the water can reach the soil below them. The goal with permeable paving is to control storm water at the source, reduce runoff and improve water quality. Permeable paving saves water, money (as it is virtually maintenance free) and it helps the environment by recycling materials that would otherwise have ended up in a landfill.

## PLANTS OF THE SEASON



Common Name: Nikko Blue Hydrangea  
Scientific Name: *Hydrangea macrophylla* 'Nikko Blue'  
Size: 4-6 feet wide and tall

The Nikko Blue Hydrangea is a well known ornamental plant as it is easily recognized for its large and beautiful ball-shaped blue flower clusters. The intensity in colors may vary depending on the soils it is planted in. When planted in highly acidic soils it blooms in an intense blue color versus when planted in alkaline soils it blooms in a lighter blue/pink color. The Nikko Blue Hydrangea grows well in semi shaded areas and requires irrigation in the hot summer months.



Common Name: Oakleaf Hydrangea  
Scientific Name: *Hydrangea quercifolia*  
Size: Can grow as large as 26 feet tall with an open crown and flowers as large as 6-12 inches

The Oakleaf Hydrangea is a commonly grown flowering native plant originating from the South-eastern parts of the United States. The Oakleaf flower starts out as a creamy white color in the spring and in to summer it shifts to a pink shade. By fall the pink fades into a beautiful rusty-brown tone that last through winter. A distinctive feature of the Oakleaf Hydrangea that sets it apart from other hydrangeas, whom typically have ball-shaped or flat-topped clusters of flowers, is its cone-shaped flower clusters. The Oakleaf grows best in natural or landscaped woodlands that offers almost/full shade areas. The Oakleaves are tolerant plants that can handle drought well.



### Spotlight: Grass Grid Permeable Pavers & Fiber Soils

#### Grass Grid Pavers:

Grass grid pavers are a plastic 3D grid-cellular system that consists of a thin-walled plastic structure which provides load bearing strength from heavy use on lawns and driveways. The 3D system distributes the heavy weight over a larger area which helps protecting the root system of the grass that is exposed from parking, driving, walking/playing etc. The surface layer of grass grid pavers can be composed of compacted gravel or topsoil, which is seeded with grass and fertilizer, but it functions as asphalt or concrete pavement. The 3D-grid system is designed as a storage capacity for stormwater while it slows down the movement of the water through and across the grass grids which deposits suspended residue and increases its time to discharge. The pollutants from engine oils and other contaminants are consumed by the active soil bacteria which are supported by the systems oxygen exchange capacity.

BEFORE



DURING



AFTER



#### Fiber Soils:

Fiber soils are a new innovative way to reinforce green areas, such as lawns and sports fields. They allow for a stronger base for parking, sports, biking, playing and more. Fiber soils are safe non-toxic polypropylene fibers that get incorporated with existing earthwork into the upper six inches of turf soil in high use lawn areas and steep slope areas to create a stronger base. Fibers soils are becoming increasingly more popular to use in municipal common areas such as parks and schools. Some recent fiber soil projects are Brooklyn Bridge Park, Teardrop Park NYC, Four Freedom Parks NYC, Queens NY Police Academy and Harvard Business School. Araiys Design is very excited to implement this new technique at one of our current projects.



Strength increase by

**215%**

\*based on data from stabilizersolutions.com