



LARMAC has entered into a contract with an expert from Osborne Organics. Organic Landscape Solutions is facilitating the pilot. The purpose is to consult with the administration and define a process of transition to Organic Landscape Management. Selected areas have been identified for this transition as follows:

1. Founders Park (sports field/school site/community park)
2. Oso Grande Park (sports field/school site/community park)
3. Chaparral Park (sports field/school site/community park)
4. Cambridge Greenbelt (community park)
5. Wagsdale Park (sports field/dog park/community park)

Highlights that define Organic Landscape Management:

- Organic landscape management follows an organic systems approach that is designed to put a series of preventative steps in place that will avoid or reverse problems.
- Organic landscape management follows site-specific organic land management practices.
- It is a systems approach and is not a product replacement strategy.
- It is based on three distinct concepts:
 - Site-specific and sound horticultural practices.
 - The exclusive use of organic compatible product(s) where use is governed by soil testing and site considerations.
 - The recognition that the soil biomass and microbial activity play a critical role in soil health and fertility.

Essential organic landscaping practices include, but are not limited to:

- Regular soil testing.
- The use of approved materials for soil fertility and plant nutrition.
- The selection of plantings using criteria for hardiness, suitability to native conditions, disease and pest resistance, and ease of maintenance.
- The modification of outdoor management practices that comply with organic horticultural science including scouting, monitoring, watering, mowing, pruning, proper spacing, the use of physical controls, and mulching as might be needed.

The work that is beginning this year is part of a transition process. Soil tests have been completed and once the results have been analyzed, a preliminary program will begin. When moving from a chemical program to an organic one, it should not be expected that everything is completed by the end of Year One. We will be entering a period of transition.



This transition process is generally described as a three-year process when new practices are introduced. This will include improving soil health, introducing new product, and ultimately looking to have a healthy, biologically active soil that will improve plant health and vigor and maintain expectations. Throughout the transition we will set goals to create a soil and plant environment that will require less input in the years that follow.

We will begin this year with some preliminary steps. The determination of a management level depends upon the communicated individual site expectations. Site expectations govern the level of cultural intensity. Cultural intensity is described as everything that goes into managing the site. This includes labor, product input, and water.

Product applications will be natural, organic and preferably Organic Materials Review Institute (OMRI) approved. If a product is not able to be sourced to meet the above criteria, an organic compatible product that is not OMRI certified will be allowed. This includes fertilizers, soil amendments, microbial inoculates, and those amendments that are considered to be microbial food sources.

For more information on Organic Land Management you may visit www.OLCproject.com.