

City of Avondale Estate Lake Beautification

RoLanka International, Inc. 2000

The historic city of Avondale Estates is a planned suburban town with an “English Village” theme and was developed in 1924. It is located seven miles east of downtown Atlanta and approximately a mile and a half east of Decatur, Georgia. The commercial center consists of three blocks approximately 15 stores arranged in a dense grouping (Figure 1). The oldest structure was built in 1908 and is located at the West-end of the commercial row. To fit in with the neighborhood’s English village theme, a great number of the historic houses are designed with medieval English references. Several of the larger houses are examples of English Cottage-style structures. As a result of the rich architectural variety of Avondale Estates, many movies, television features and commercials have been filmed here.



The Avondale Lake Park, a man-made lake created in the 1920’s, is located in the heart of the city and is an essential part of the residents (Figure 2). The original plan for the city fully integrated the concept of preserving green space and providing natural areas, open plazas and parks for the quiet enjoyment of residents. Residents enjoy fishing, walking, picnicking and feeding the ducks and swans at the lake.

The south bank of the lake (about 300 feet) was restored using rock-gabions (Figure 3). Even though the rock-gabions supported the lake bank, it was not aesthetically pleasing and was not sufficient to stop sediment going into the Lake.



The City Council worked with Ms. Mary Heine to improve the condition of the South bank with biodegradable natural products and plants. They decided to use 2” thick pillow of coconut fiber (coir) mat to cover the rocks and 12” diameter coir wattles to prevent sediment entering the lake. Upon placing the coir wattles and coir pillows in place, about 2”- 4” thick layer of topsoil was placed on coir pillows (Figure 4). A variety of hardy, native and non-native plants were planted. The native plants included Muhlenbergia capillaries ‘Pink Muhly Grass’, Hypericum ‘St John’s Wort’, and Erigeron ‘Daisy Fleabane Profusion’. The non-native plants were chosen for their hardiness and beauty and were planted along the wattles and in drifts on the bank above the wattles. There include ‘Conversation Piece’ azaleas, ‘Knockout’ roses, Perovaskia ‘Russian Sage’, lavender ‘Provence’, spirea ‘Goldmound’, rosemary ‘Officinalis’, verbena ‘Dorothy Burton’, creeping sedum ‘Tetractimum’, ‘Stella’ daylilies, and Ceratosigma plumbaginoides ‘Leadwort’. There were also some established trees on the bank. These trees included crapemyrtles, cherry trees, dogwoods, and Carolina Sapphire Cypress. Construction was completed in May 2002 (Figure 5). These natural products helped to bring the natural beauty back to the lake.

For more information on the Avondale Lake, call Ms. Lyda Steadman or Ms. Mary Heine at 404 294 5400.