River Hills Ecoregion - Suggested Phases of Plantings

Phase 1) Front yard – Everything up against the house could be planted first to frame the front of the house. If the oak tree is not already present in the front yard, the oak tree & the redbud can be planted in this phase also to give them some time to establish. **Take care to not plant too close to the tree trunks, staying at least 4-5 feet away from the trunk at time of planting so as not to damage tree trunks or shallow roots.

Phase 2) Back yard – Plantings around the deck (glade, glade transition to woodland to the east, and upland woodland to the west) could be planted first to frame the existing gathering area and to bring wildlife activity closer to the house for you to see!

Phase 3) Back yard – Plantings in low-lying area could be planted next. If the oak is not already established here, then plant the oak first and wait to install these plantings until the oak tree is well established and shading this area of the yard as most of the plants in this corner prefer shadier conditions.

Phase 4) Back yard – Hardscapes (circular patio/fire-pit area) & pond-less water feature may be added at this time with the surrounding plantings to follow as soon as construction is complete (from the redbud to all plantings surrounding the water feature to approximately the southernmost vine on the east fence). Right after construction can be a great time to plant since you have a blank slate to work with.

Phase 5) Front yard - Once more shade is established in the front yard by the oak tree & redbud, everything else may be planted.

Phase 6) Back yard – Once more shade is established in the back yard under the swamp white oak, everything else may be planted in this corner.

Phase 7) East & West sides of house – Aesthetically this is the lowest priority – Not very visible and not the most heavily used section of the yard, so this may be planted last. **Mulch or flagstones may be used for walking paths.

Phase 8) Turf replacement – Remaining turfgrass areas may be replaced with buffalograss or other native turf alternative to reduce watering, fertilizing, and mowing for a more sustainable lawn.