

## **Kansas City Landscaping Company helps out Fraternity**

*Hamons Custom Landscaping is donating time and materials in order to help fraternity landscape new house.*

**March 25, 2008** - [PRLog](#) -- Hamons Custom Landscaping <http://www.hamonslandscaping.com> is helping the owner Jeff Hamons' fraternity create a new landscape around their new house. The landscape will include mulch, plants, and large trees. In addition sod <http://hamonslandscaping.com/service.shtml> will be laid around the entire house.

The landscape will be something that all of the members of the fraternity will be proud of. Jeff Hamons has been a landscaper and lawn care service for over 10 years. <http://hamonslandscaping.com/aboutus.shtml>

The landscaping of the Kansas Epsilon Chapter Phi Delta Theta Fraternity House will be what all of Emporia and what every potential Phikeia will see of our fraternity before they ever see any other part of the chapter house or meet the members. For 90% of the Emporia community, it will be the only part of the chapter house they will ever know. The challenge of designing a landscape for our chapter is to accent the new structure that shapes public perception.

The plan is bullet proof for a fraternity, our climate and for our neighborhood. This are at school to get good grades, build skills and friendships for life. It is unrealistic to think major landscape care and pampering will be a high priority or that it should be. Therefore when I designed this landscape, I designed with the idea of once-a-year maintenance. Also, it was designed using plants that could be walked on or through, would not require watering (once established), could stand up to Kansas summers and would look good year round. I have also designed it to be its prettiest during August/September and April/May when school is in session.

Here were some other design criteria of the project:

- All planting beds will be mulched and defined with steel edging. Almost all things planted save for a few trees will be in the mulched areas which will make mowing a snap. Little trimming and edging will be needed.
- Zones: the north lawn is for play, football passing, catch, Frisbee, etc. The face of that side of the house has only one window and door, no breaky!
- The future paved parking off the alley (one year from March 4, 2008) facing east and fronting the handicapped van parking space would have a future BB goal. The ADA parking must remain open and will be rarely used. This doubles as hoops space. The concrete parking tray should be designed to direct water away from the house as the east side grade slopes toward the house. The far south parking slot is reserved for the waste dumpster and a future garden shed for mover storage, etc.
- An existing sidewalk connects the ADA ramp to the house with the parking area. Another sidewalk connects the fire escape/basement stair to the parking. Between the two side walks a future patio is to be built filling the space which is to include an east border planting of small-scale woody plants to screen headlights. A small planting area is reserved to screen the HVAC units against the house. This patio will utilize the named bricks program. The east side patio will be in shade in the afternoon when the chapter is most likely to use it for August rush events.

- Along the back property border on the south will be a planting of chokecherry trees under planted with viburnums effectively creating a screen shielding headlights off the neighbor's house at night and a degree of privacy for the future patio. The chokecherries are interesting in that they bloom white in the spring, leaf out green, then leaves turn burgundy in early summer. The viburnum have white blooms in spring.
- The row of Rose of Sharons screening the parking in back would be planted at the appropriate time with the later paving. These would bloom white in late July and August when school is starting up and during rush. The sweetspires which border the north edge of the ADA parking and elsewhere in the plan bloom white in the spring and have good fall leaf color.
- The front plan has broadleaved evergreen boxwood and magnolias (symbolic 6) which bloom white in late March or early April before leaves emerge. These magnolias have great architectural structure through the winter and early spring once established. The ornamental grasses have winter interest and height.
- The front slope to the dry laid retaining wall planting bed features white Knockout landscape roses which are carefree, more sweetspire, blue hydrangeas and blue-blooming catmint. The front is planned to have a pedestrian-level colonial-style sign reading chapter name, fraternity, charter date and address posted in front of the red sprinkler shut-off valve. This will hide the eyesore from Highland St. Near the sign and inside the mulched area would be where a future flag pole would go.
- At the south west corner of the lot a locust tree would be planted to screen the neighbor's porch from our front porch. The locust has insignificant leaves and so will not contribute to fall raking. The position placement is good for solar protection in the summer and solar gain in the winter.
- Bike parking unit will be placed on the mulch under the wooden fire escape where nothing is planned to be planted.
- All lawn areas will be sod using "big rolls". These are 3' wide by 50' long rolls of sod.
- All involved hope to have this installed by the 40th anniversary/open house White Carnation.

Normally, when designing landscapes for new construction the industry recommends a figure on 10 – 15% of the home's final value for landscaping. In this case, we would have been at about \$50,000. I have put forth a plan for KSE that is conservative yet fully considered. The price information is based on the lowest from three suppliers and this is my wholesale price. This is a price not found elsewhere and when you figure the mark-up for trade and all the volunteer labor, Kansas Epsilon will realize significant value in this plan project.

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Hamons Custom Landscaping offers a broad range of landscape solutions for properties in the Kansas City area. We provide the consistently high quality and superior service that a small owner operated company can provide. Hamons Custom Landscaping specializes in providing Kansas City homeowners with the nicest lawn and landscapes.

Website: [www.hamonslandscaping.com](http://www.hamonslandscaping.com)

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