Hurricane Resistant Landscaping

In a high wind event anything can become a dangerous flying object. Inspect your property to identify any potential landscaping issues. You can then use this document to consult with a professional landscaper if necessary.

What to look for in your trees
If you see any of the issues below, you may have a weakened tree that can potentially come down, lose a limb or cause other problems during a hurricane. Signs include:

- Cracks in the trunk of major limbs
- Trees that look one-sided or lean significantly
- Branches hanging over the house or near the roof
- Limbs in contact with power lines
- Mushrooms growing from the bark signaling decay
- Insect infestations

Caring for your trees

- Regular and proper pruning can strengthen the health and vitality of your trees.
- Removal of dead, diseased or damaged parts of the tree will also stop the spread of disease and harmful insects that can significantly weaken or destroy your tree.
- Avoid pruning branches flush to the tree. Doing so removes not only the limb but part of the trunk, opening the tree to possible decay or insect damage.

If you are planting new trees

Some varieties of trees are more prone to storm damage than others. City foresters, county extension offices, local nurseries and landscape firms can provide advice on tree selection for your area and soil conditions.
Landscaping Materials
Rock and gravel landscaping can easily go from pretty to projectile in a high wind event. Replace it with fire-treated shredded bark to reduce the risk for damage.