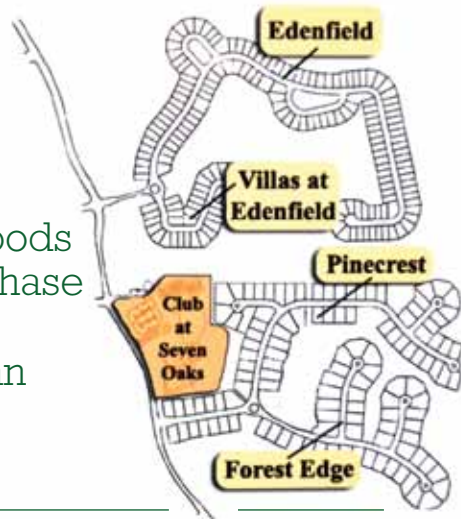


OAK TREE REMOVAL-SECOND PHASE

Seven Oaks Neighborhoods in Second Phase of Oak Tree Removal Plan



This article is about the Second Phase of a five phase plan to remove the oak trees between the sidewalks and streets in the neighborhoods as well as planting 2,237 trees consisting of 11 different species suited for these areas. Since residents are familiar with the plan from previous articles, I will not repeat it.

You may find background information on this plan in the CDD articles in the published seven Seven Oaks News listed below. If you do not have these newsletters, you can read the articles on the Seven Oaks Website (<http://mysevenoaks.com>). Click on "Community Development District", then click on "CDD Newsletter Articles".

Seven Oaks News Articles

- 1) February 2012 (pages 6 and 7)
- 2) December 2012 (pages 6 and 7)
- 3) March 2013 (pages 6 and 8)
- 4) September 2013 (pages 4 and 5)
- 5) December 2013 (pages 4 and 5)
- 6) February 2014 (pages 4 and 5)
- 7) March 2014 (pages 4 and 5)

The Second Phase of the Oak Tree Removal Plan contains Edenfield, Villas at Edenfield, Pinecrest, and Forest Edge (see above drawing). In these four neighborhoods, there will be 385 oak trees removed between the streets and sidewalks and 395 new trees planted in February/March 2015. There are 11 different species of trees that will be planted between the sidewalks and streets in all five phases. In the Second Phase, there will be 9 of the 11 different species. Here's the nine species of trees and the numbers that will be planted:

- 1) Bottle Brush (4)
- 2) Nellie Stevens Holly (112)
- 3) Yaupon Holly (43)
- 4) White Crepe Myrtle (15)
- 5) Lavender Crepe Myrtle (39)
- 6) Ligustrum (89)
- 7) Walters Viburnum (67)
- 8) Red Maple (10)
- 9) Bald Cypress (16)

As you might recall, the 354 oak trees for the First Phase were removed in December 2013 and the 380 new trees planted in January 2014. As

with any project, we discovered in the First Phase a few ways that we could execute the remaining four phases better (see list of lessons learned below).

In selecting a company to remove the oak trees and plant the new trees in the Second Phase, the Board felt that Arbor-Tech had done a great job in the First Phase. This was confirmed by Scott Brizendine (District Manager), Tyree Brown (Rizzetta employee responsible for Seven Oaks landscaping), and Ron Litts (arborist). They monitored

Arbor-Tech very closely during the First Phase and briefed the Board that Arbor-Tech had done extremely well with removing the oak trees and planting the new trees. Based on this feedback, the Board decided to use Arbor-Tech for the Second Phase -- "a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush".

After the First Phase was completed, Arbor-Tech said they would require a 40 percent increase per tree for the Second Phase. Based on the steep increase, the Board decided to get other bids (see chart below).

BIDS FOR SECOND PHASE

| | Luke Brothers | Valley Crest | Arbor Tech |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Oak Tree Removal | 10 Days | 15 Days | 14 Days |
| Cutting and Disposal | \$31,044 | \$23,880 | \$22,606 |
| Stump Grinding | \$11,940 | \$11,940 | \$8,883 |
| Soil and Sod Replacement | \$6,100 | \$19,502 | \$24,027 |
| SUB-TOTAL | \$49,084 | \$55,322 | \$55,516 |
| Install New Trees | 8 Days | 25 Days | 16 Days |
| Install | \$26,975 | \$62,665 | \$61,109 |
| Fill Gator Bags for One Year | \$52,000 | \$36,864 | \$39,425 |
| Prune Trees | \$2,000 | \$2,000 | \$4,565 |
| One Time Fill Gator Bags | \$500 | \$2,048 | \$1,500 |
| SUB-TOTAL | 81,475 | \$103,577 | \$106,599 |
| TOTAL | \$130,559 | \$158,899 | \$162,115 |

Lessons Learned from First Phase

- 1 Due to weather, better to remove the oak trees and plant the new trees in February/March instead of December/January.
- 2 Pine bark will match landscaping of yards better than pine straw so pine bark will be used for remaining phases.
- 3 Debris from oak trees being removed was left too long on the streets. New contracts will require it be picked up sooner.
- 4 Homeowners not clear on their responsibilities concerning the new trees -- letters to homeowners will explain before new trees planted.



The Board was prepared to select Luke Brothers which was \$31,556 less than Arbor Tech. At the CDD meeting on July 9, 2014, our District Manager briefed the Board that Ron Litts had a concern with using Luke Brothers to do the work so the Board eliminated them from consideration. The Board considered Valley Crest but using the “bird in the hand” proverb, we did not feel that we should go with them to save \$3,216 (\$162,115 - \$158,899). Therefore, at the July 9, 2014 CDD meeting, the Board approved a motion for Arbor-Tech to remove the oak trees and plant new trees for the Second Phase.

The decision on selecting nurseries to provide the new trees for the Second Phase was a lot easier than the decision on which company would remove the oak trees and install the new ones. The Board decided to use the same nurseries (i.e. Marshall Tree Farm and Aventura Nursery & Landscape) used in the First Phase for two reasons. First and most important, these nurseries provided quality trees. According to Ron Litts, both of these nurseries provided trees for the First Phase that were at least, if not better, than Florida #1 and they were grown correctly. This solved two of the problems identified by the arborist concerning the existing oak trees.

The second reason was the cost. Both of these nurseries would provide the trees at the same cost as they did for the First Phase. The Board knew that the price they were charging was very competitive from the bid process used in the First Phase. We had considered four bids in the first phase but eliminated one based on input from Ron Litts.

At the February 28, 2014 CDD meeting, the Board approved a motion to purchase the Second Phase trees from Marshall's Tree Farm for \$89,055 and the two species (i.e. Viburnum and Bottle Brush) that they did not have from Aventura for a total cost of \$121,435.

The Seven Oaks website has drawings that show where each tree will be located. On the home page, click on “visit this page” under the heading “Street Tree Project”. Then click on the neighborhood to see the drawing of that neighborhood.

On this page are pictures of seven of the nine species of trees for the Second Phase (Bottle Brush and Lavender Crape Myrtle not pictured). ❖

NEW TREES

EDENFIELD - 95

- Nellie Stevens Holly (36)
- Yaupon Holly (23)
- Lavender Crape Myrtle (13)
- Ligustrum (23)

FOREST EDGE - 100

- Nellie Stevens Holly (22)
- Lavender Crape Myrtle (14)
- Ligustrum (33)
- Walters Viburnum (31)

PINECREST - 130

- Nellie Stevens Holly (34)
- White Crape Myrtle (15)
- Lavender Crape Myrtle (12)
- Ligustrum (33)
- Walters Viburnum (36)

VILLAS AT EDENFIELD - 70

- Bottle Brush (4)
- Nellie Stevens Holly (20)
- Yaupon Holly (20)
- Red Maple (10)
- Bald Cypress (16)



Ligustrum Springwood



Red Maple
Ancient Oaks Blvd at Brookforest



Nellie Stevens Holly
Springwood



Bald Cypress
Ancient Oaks Blvd at Brookforest



Walters Viburnum
Coventry



Yaupon Holly
The Laurels



White Crape Myrtle
Amberside