

SECOND PHASE OF OAK TREE REMOVAL PLAN 420 OAK TREES OUT -- 395 NEW TREES PLANTED

The CDD article on pages 4 and 5 of the February 2015 Seven Oaks News contained the details of the Second Phase of the Oak Tree Removal Plan. It explained that there would be 385 oak trees removed between the sidewalks and streets and 395 new trees planted in these areas in Edenfield, Villas at Edenfield, Pinecrest, and Forest Edge. In addition to the 385 oak trees in the four neighborhoods, the Second Phase also included removing 35 oak trees in the clubhouse parking lot and other areas where it was not enough room for the oak trees to grow.

Removal of Oak Trees

The contractor starting removing oak trees in the Second Phase on February 16, 2015. Prior to these trees being removed, hours of planning went into the Second Phase to help it go smoothly. Tyree Brown (Rizzetta employee responsible for Seven Oaks landscaping) and Ron Litts (the arborist, hired by the CDD Board and selected to work with the county to get the Oak Tree Removal Plan approved and monitor the five phases) met with Arbor-Tech (contractor CDD Board hired to remove the oak trees and plant the new trees). They went over every aspect of the tree removal process to include dates, traffic control, safety concerns, and removal of concrete.

In preparation for the project, Arbor-Tech had also done advance planning to improve the process used in the First Phase.

During the First Phase when the oak trees were cut down, all the trees had to be fed into one grinder that turned them into mulch and blew it into a truck bed.

Prior to the Second Phase starting, Arbor-Tech purchased wood chippers and a truck with a loader mounted to its frame that can lift heavy items into the back of the truck (i.e. grapple truck). They also purchased a trailer to go behind the truck so they could load twice as much before emptying the load. By using the grinder for the smaller trees and the loader on the grapple truck for the larger trees, the time to remove the oak trees was significantly reduced.

Improvements were also made in the removal of the tree stumps. In the First Phase, Arbor-Tech subcontracted with Tampa Stump Removal. This company used a remote controlled unit to grind up the tree stumps. In the Second Phase, Arbor-Tech subcontracted with Foust Hauling & Stump Grinding. They used a much larger unit to grind up the stumps. This allowed them to complete the project in three days (see picture below).



Foust Hauling & Stump Grinding removes the oak tree stump in Edenfield



Arbor-Tech employees cut the base of an oak tree in Edenfield and push it so it falls into the street.



Arbor-Tech employees put the limbs of oak trees in a grinder which changes them to mulch and blows it into a truck.



Arbor-Tech employee uses the bucket on the grapple truck to remove debris from the oak tree cut down and dig deep enough to plant sod.



To cut down the oak trees, grind down the stumps, and remove the debris took two weeks in the First Phase where it was all done within one week (February 16 - 20) in the Second Phase. During the next week, Arbor-Tech used the bucket on the grappling truck to remove the debris from grinding the roots and dig deep enough to allow for sod (see picture on page 4, bottom right).

Planting New Trees

The preparation for planting the new trees for the Second Phase started shortly after the First Phase was completed. To insure the nurseries selected to provide the new trees would have an adequate number of new trees, the CDD contracted with these nurseries last year to provide the number of trees required for the Second Phase. This also gave time for the trees to grow during the past year so they would be larger when planted at Seven Oaks.

After the CDD ordered the 395 new trees, Ron Litts worked with the nurseries (i.e. Marshall Tree Farm and Aventura Nursery & Landscaping) to insure the Second Phase would be implemented successfully. For example, he had them prune the trees prior to delivery. He also coordinated with Arbor-Tech on the delivery to make sure trees did not sit on site for too long before going in the ground.

Arbor-Tech started planting the trees on March 3 and is scheduled to complete the project in May. Ron has very strict requirements for planting the new trees. These requirements were included in the contract. In addition, Ron Litts would contact Arbor-Tech almost daily to identify any trees that needed to be adjusted.

Implementation Issues

Irrigation Breaks: There were about 100 irrigation breaks. Most of the breaks were due to the contractor using the bucket on the grappling truck to go deeper than in the First Phase so more roots beneath the sod were removed. The other breaks were caused when the holes were dug to install the new trees.

The irrigation systems had to be repaired prior to the sod being laid. To keep the project moving, the contractor started digging holes for the new trees on March 3 which was before the sod was laid to cover up the areas where the oak trees were removed. This created the undesirable effect of having areas without sod where the oak trees were and holes dug for the new trees at the same time.



Mike Ritchie, CDD employee, repairs irrigation system damaged when an oak tree was removed.

Sod: There were three issues with sod. The first one is that the wrong type of sod was laid in the Villas at Edenfield. This had to be replaced. The second issue was about 50 percent of the sod was installed too high. These had to be corrected. The third sod issue was that a lot of the sod died prior to the CDD accepting it. Arbor-Tech had to replace the dead sod.

Open Holes: After Arbor-Tech dug the holes for some of the new trees, the trees were not planted for several days. There were two reasons why this occurred. One was that they had

anticipated a certain tree but a different species of tree was delivered. The second reason is that utilities had been cut. They had to be repaired prior to planting the tree.

Verizon Breaks: When Arbor-Tech cut seven Verizon fiber optic lines while digging the holes, the District Manager halted the project. Arbor-Tech had followed procedures for identifying the lines, but all were not found. Verizon Repair Supervisor was contacted and worked with them to be more effective identifying the lines. Work was allowed to continue.

Remaining Three Phases

THIRD PHASE: The Third Phase includes removing 398 oak trees and planting 444 new trees in Fairgate, Palmetto Bend, Shoregrass, and Stillbrook. The CDD Board is in the process of establishing contracts with the nurseries to insure that the new trees will be ready for planting in February/March 2016.

FOURTH PHASE: In the Fourth Phase, there will be 431 oak trees removed between the sidewalks and streets and 522 new trees planted in these areas in Grassglen, Villas of Deer Run, Watermark, and Willowstone. This phase will occur in February/March 2017.

FIFTH PHASE: In the Fifth Phase, there will be 483 oak trees removed between the sidewalks and streets and 476 new trees planted in these areas in Bellafield, Copperleaf, Crosswinds, Knollpoint, Sabal Point, and Stonecreek. This phase is scheduled to begin in February/March 2018.

Planting New Trees Five Steps



STEP 1: Dig hole

The hole is dug larger than the container with roots so the roots will be able to grow. It is also dug a very specific depth so the trees are planted at the correct height.



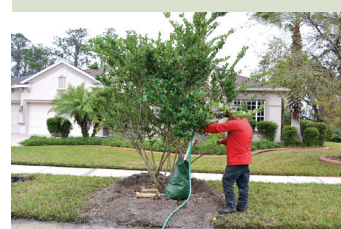
STEP 2: Plant tree

If not at the correct depth, the tree is lifted back out of the hole and dirt is added or removed.



STEP 3: Add stakes

Four vertical stakes are put in the ground and two horizontal boards are connected to them.



STEP 4: Add water bag

A slow drip water container (i.e. gator bag) insures adequate water



STEP 5: Add mulch