

Nature Trail and Sidewalks

A Great Way to Enjoy Seven Oaks

At Seven Oaks, there is 2 1/2 miles of nature trail and many more miles of sidewalks along the four main roads (Ancient Oaks Blvd, Summergate Blvd, Mystic Oak Blvd, and Eagleston Blvd) and secondary roads in the 26 neighborhoods with single family

homes, villas, and townhomes. These miles of nature trail and sidewalks are a great way for residents to enjoy Seven Oaks by walking, jogging, or biking. Each week, I take several 2 1/2 mile walks on the nature trail and sidewalks. There are enough sidewalks and trail

that they provide me with four different routes, but no matter where you live in Seven Oaks, you can map out a variety of paths. I also vary the time of day which gives a very different experience. One of my favorite times to walk is during sunrise when there are breath-taking

scenes such as the ones on this page. The above photo of the water fountain at the Ancient Oaks Blvd/S.R. 56 entrance to Seven Oaks was taken from the nature trail. The photos on the left and right below were taken from sidewalks.



View of pond at north traffic circle. Photo was taken from sidewalk on Ancient Oaks Blvd looking towards Willowstone at sunrise.



Nature trail between Amberside and Forest Edge at sunrise



View of sunrise over power lines as seen from Ancient Oaks Blvd.



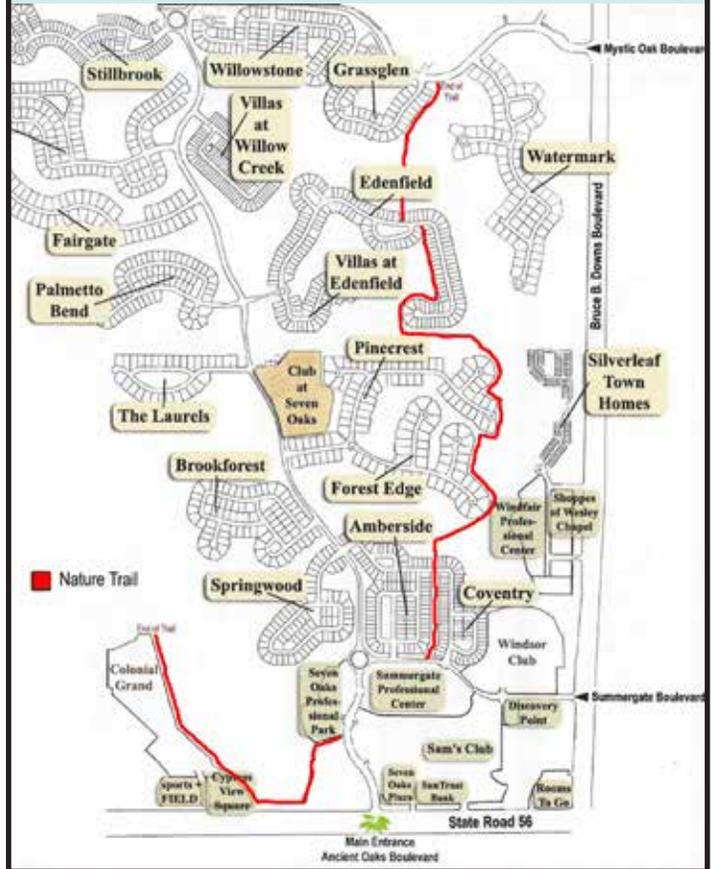
Maintaining Sidewalks



Above: Contractor cleans sidewalks on main road
Below: Contractor replacing a section of a sidewalk in Coventry.



Nature Trail -- 2 1/2 miles



Maintaining the Nature Trail

The maintenance on the nature trail is different from the maintenance on the sidewalks. Due to the sidewalks being concrete, the CDD hires a contractor to pressure wash the sidewalks on the main roads while a CDD maintenance person cleans the remaining sidewalks that are next to CDD property and the entrance areas to the neighborhoods. In contrast, the asphalt nature trail just has to be cleared with a blower periodically to remove pine straw and other debris from the trees.

There is also a significant difference in the method of repair for the sidewalks and nature trail. The CDD hires a contractor as pictured above to replace the sidewalk when it becomes cracked or a section gets pushed up by a tree root too far to grind down by CDD maintenance personnel. For the nature trail, the entire 2 1/2 miles had to be repaved in November 2012 (see picture below). The CDD maintenance staff is currently replacing 3,600 boards on the 15 wooden bridges on the nature trail. With about 1,200 boards replaced, the board replacement project is about one third completed (see picture below).



Great blue heron on pond beside nature trail in Edenfield



DuraSeal repaving the portion of the nature trail between Amberside and Coventry in November 2012



Bob Semple, Maint Superintendent, replacing boards on the bridge between Edenfield and Grassglen



Sandhill cranes roam the park in Amberside