

NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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Petanque Courts and Paths.

Cementing the paths at Natures has been on our wish list for some time, and it was decided that this summer we would tackle this project. However, we had to be careful not to get the cart before the horse!



Breaking up and Disposing of the old Concrete

Although the playing surface of the Petanque Courts was good, the cement surrounding the courts was dreadful and replacing this was also on our wish list, although it was a lower priority than the paths. However, we had to consider the limited access for the cement truck in the inner common area. Once the paths were cemented the cement truck would not be able to get anywhere near the petanque courts – so they had to be done first!

The messy, time consuming part of the job was removing all the old concrete, being careful not to disturb the playing surface of the courts. The old concrete was jack hammered into pieces, then loaded into a bobcat which dumped the chunks into a trailer for disposal.

Although the old ball racks worked well, they required painting once a year to keep them looking decent, so it was time for something different. With many brains at work

new, maintenance free ball racks were designed, constructed and then planted into the ground prior to the new cement being poured.

Pouring the cement was a long job because of the limited access to the petanque courts as well as the fact that the cement had to be smoothed around all the poles of the scoreboards and ball racks. We were grateful that this was spread over a number of days so that we could keep the cement watered in the hot weather.



Cement being poured around the Petanque Courts

Once the cement was poured suddenly we had really good looking Petanque courts.

Now it was time to tackle the paths. Although this seems like a very straight forward project, there was concern about how they would affect the flow of water during a heavy rain. With this in mind the north/south paths were laid out with a slight dip running down the middle of the path, so that during heavy rain the path would act as a channel for the water.

On the east/west path strategic dips were made so that the natural flow of water would not be impeded.



Prepping the ground prior to pouring the path

The east/west path is 10 ft wide which will allow room for pedestrians as well as golf carts. By necessity the north/south paths are only about 6 ft wide so golf carts and pedestrians will have to use extra care.



Ten Foot wide paths running east/west

The "New" Natures is 5 years old!

To celebrate our 5th anniversary we had cake and ice cream in the clubhouse.

We are amazed to find that it is 5 years since Natures changed owners and Frank

switched from a silent partner to a very active and vibrant part of the 'new' Natures owners' team.

Since that day, July 3rd, 2007, there have been many changes and improvements to Natures, the biggest of which was our expansion project which increased the size of our Natures family. But many things have stayed the same. The most important 'sameness' is that in spite of our larger family, we remain the same warm, friendly place where people care about people, where people help people and where people continually volunteer to do things around the park to keep it looking good for everyone. The nature of Natures has not changed!

We would like to thank everyone for their continued support and encouragement. We appreciate each and every one of you.

Tidbits from Speckles, Natures Proud Cat

Oh, the lazy days of summer! I love it! Between catching mice and keeping track of everything that is going on here, I enjoy the hot sunshine or just relaxing in a nice shady spot. Don't you wish you were here?



- I July 4th was a blast. We had flags down the driveway and flags in front of the Welcome Home sign, and an indoor potluck picnic hosted by Ron & Jill. Besides the sausage and brisket everyone brought their favorite dish and we had a wonderful spread. Lots of fun and fellowship! Thank you Ron & Jill

and your helpers. You did a wonderful job

- found out what all those orange paint marks were for. They marked out where the new cement paths were going. Now I can walk on the paths without stepping on sandburs! I think the paths are great! I bet the puppies will think so too.

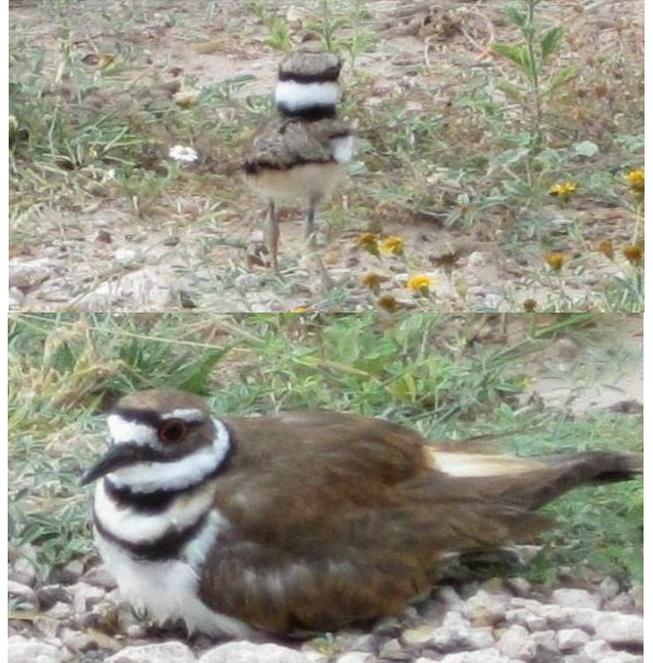


New Cement Path between Dog Run and Gazebo

- There has been a changing of the guard at Natures. Richard and Connie have headed north, and Frank has set off for some unknown destination, so Misty is back here holding the reigns.
- Thanks to the great efforts of Richard, Barb and Mike, all the plants that were taken out of the pool area when the cool deck was laid have been put back around the pools. It looked very bleak without the greenery.
- Many of the pool plants had to be re-potted as some of the clay pots were disintegrating, and some plants had to be divided as they had out grown their pots. This was a huge and time consuming job. Thanks to Richard and Barb this job has been completed, and

all the plants around the pool are doing well. Thank you Richard and Barb.

- The Killdeer eggs hatched! They are the cutest little baby birds and they look exactly like their parents. As I promised you, I didn't hurt them!



Killdeer Mom & Baby (Photo by Doug)

- Alan and JoAnn were away on vacation. During their absence Pool Richard stepped up to the plate and kept Natures clean and tidy. Thank you Richard!
- Can you believe it! Just as Frank was about to leave for vacation he received the dreaded blue envelope calling him for jury duty. This is the third time in five years that this has happened! The good news is that he was excused – so he was still able to leave!

I hope that all our Natures family are having a wonderful summer. That's all from me!

