

A Little History of Newhall Park Maintenance
By Jory Wilke
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Mr. Thompson, the developer of our subdivision, had already done several subdivisions in Hendersonville, including Long John Mountain, when he planned for Haywood Knolls. We don't know when he discovered that the first 1/8 mile into the subdivision was on a flood plain where nothing could be built, but he worked around it by planning a park, including a tennis court. This solved his problem, and hopefully added to the desirability of the future homes.

We have no choice, really, in the upkeep of the park. It would cost a lot of money to rip up the courts, and, to drive into the subdivision and have it look rundown, weedy and pretty much derelict, would cost us all more in the devaluing of our properties than it costs to maintain. Most of our continuing costs are insurance for board members, park liability insurance, entrance mowing costs, electricity for the entrance and park lights, occasional expenses for tree removal, and a very small expense (less than \$200 a year on average) for shrubs, weed prevention and beautification.

We are able to keep this expense low because we have always had volunteers to mulch, clean up, donate plantings, and care for them on a volunteer basis. As far as I have been able to find, we may be the only subdivision that does not pay for care of common areas, although, of course, our costs would be significant with such a large area. Volunteers help keep our dues low! Other subdivisions with common areas pay as much as \$200/month, because it is hired out. When our subdivision was new, residents even did the mowing of the park.

Jim and I love to garden, we (mostly) enjoy working on the common areas. But, we cannot do it alone. We can use help! If many homeowners would volunteer a half hour a YEAR, it would lessen our work immensely. This year we had only 10 helpers, on two different days---Florence Quinzel, Ray and Lynn Conchado, Ivan Beggs, Jim and Ann Panuska, Emma and Bob Caccavale, Alice Dacoba, and Ron Fredrick.. In addition Don Phillips and Dave Cloer came in to help for special projects when I called them. All help has been much appreciated, and I hope everyone knows how much they contributed!

We can't continue to maintain the park and entrance without some more help, or more dues. We are, like everyone here, getting older, and we need your help. It doesn't matter if it is picking up sticks, putting down mulch, or weeding. Please remember, even if you never use the park, basketball or tennis courts, you probably use the lights to find the front entrance at night and your property value benefits from having a clean, maintained entrance way.

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