

Sandestin E-News
Written by the Staff and Volunteers
Sandestin Owners Association
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Trails of the One Sandestin Project

The One Sandestin Committee, in conjunction with the Traffic and Safety Committee and a number of interested homeowners, has reviewed the existing trail system and approved the following improvement projects:

1. Blue Heron Drive: Last year One Sandestin constructed a wooden boardwalk along Blue Heron Drive to improve the safety of pedestrian and bike traffic by providing a landscape buffer between the trail and the road.
2. Baytowne East Lake: The new lake on Baytowne Avenue will include an eight-foot wide concrete trail around its entire perimeter. This trail, which is being built by the Howard Group, will serve as a recreational destination as well as a termination point for the bike trail on this side of the property. The loop will be designed to direct bike traffic around the lake and back down Baytowne Avenue, discouraging bikers from continuing north through the Baytowne Neighborhood.
3. Club Drive Loop: The designated bike path on Baytowne Ave. West ends just south of Club Drive, however the sidewalk continues to the north. A small sign currently indicates this end point, but is ineffective in deterring guests from riding bikes north into the Burnt Pine and Baytowne communities. This section of the trail will be redesigned to create a small loop that will direct bike traffic back down Baytowne Ave. A smaller pedestrian sidewalk will continue to the north for residents to use.
4. Audubon Drive Pool Loop: The designated bike path on Audubon Drive currently ends at the SOA pool. Space restrictions and liability issues prevent it from connecting to the bike rental facility at Linkside Center; however the existing signage is insufficient to prevent guest bike traffic from continuing on through the Fairways neighborhood. A small loop, similar to the one proposed at Club Drive, will be constructed just east of the SOA pool to encourage bike traffic to continue back down Audubon Drive. A pedestrian connection will be maintained between the loop and the pool.
5. Audubon Drive Trail: The trail section that runs along the power easement between the Links Golf Course and Audubon Drive is nicely laid out but lacks landscaping. Groups of trees and shrubs are proposed along this stretch to provide shade and enhance the aesthetics of the trail.
6. Sandestin Blvd. North Trail: Landscape improvements will be made along this portion of the trail as part of the Phase 4 Landscape Contract. The trail will be re-aligned at the Northshore entrance to direct bike traffic across Sandestin Blvd North so guests can easily and safely make their way back to the bike rental facility.

In addition to these projects, the One Sandestin Committee is reviewing the feasibility of widening the trail down to the beach, constructing additional crosswalks at key locations, improving visibility and sight lines and installing safety, directional and interpretive signage along the trail system.