

Sheraton Oaks Provides Tranquility Amid City Living

To see the heartland of America, leave the main highways. To see a gem in Greater Inwood, drive off Houston's busy commuter corridors to the seclusion of Sheraton Oaks.

Sheraton Oaks is located in the 6300 block of Antoine, just east of the hand-built cedar entranceway. Moving beyond the entrance, the visitor enters a quiet world of gracious old pecan, magnolia trees, towering native pines and spreading live oaks. Neighbors greet each other from front porch swings. Just about everyone walks or bikes with family, friends, and pets around the "oval" formed by Sheraton Oaks Drive and the true-to-its name "Winding Way." Adjoining the neighborhood are entrances to the parkland of White Oak Bayou and its grand vistas where, after work, a couple can watch the sun set and the moon rise as they catch the cool breezes of evening and see the white egrets and whistler ducks fly overhead while catfish jump in the flowing water and turtles scurry for the banks. Wildflowers, planted and maintained by our residents produce spectacular spring color and provide a perfect setting for bluebonnet family photos and community Easter Egg hunts.



At the west end of the subdivision is our private park with a covered meeting area and plenty of room for community gatherings, volleyball games, Halloween costume parades, and pot luck dinners. Some of the best cooks in Houston proudly bring barbeque, beans, potato salad, cupcakes and cookies to share - and there's always leftovers! Our children, young and old, have celebrated scores of birthdays there, have busted piñatas and scurried for candy, and have played horseshoes and softball. The land, once home to dairy farming, is still fertile for building lives and relationships.

Sheraton Oaks is a prime example of "new urbanism" - a small town atmosphere in a great metropolis. Most homes have backyard garages, so neighbors tend to park their cars off the street, allowing everyone to enjoy the beauty of our landscaped lawns and plantings. Neighbors watch out for each other: informally - like during Hurricane Ike when residents pulled together to share generators, chain saws, and emergency supplies - and formally through our neighborhood watch programs, National Night Out, and community-paid security. (Sheraton Oaks was the first subdivision in Houston to operate a Citizens on Patrol program.) Our sense of community helps make Sheraton Oaks a safer place to play, walk, garden, and enjoy each other.



Pride of ownership prevails. Among the 121 homes, built at various times during the past 40 years, live some of the original residents, contributing to a feeling of continuity. A few of the original gas lamps that first illuminated the neighborhood still glisten. The Homeowner's Association has been active for over 40 years, staffed with a loyal stream of volunteers spanning several generations of dedication. The Association and the high level of volunteering help keep dues and fees, even in 2009, at a relatively low \$150/yr. During the Christmas holidays, the Association sponsors decoration contests, and during the year, it sponsors awards for garden-of-the-month. Amid our community spirit, homes are exceptionally well-maintained, lawns are manicured, and our deed restrictions are strictly enforced.

Sheraton Oaks is a short commute from Downtown and 35 minutes from the Airport. Park-and-Ride at Pinemont is a convenient and responsible choice for commuting. A wide range of churches, eating venues, daycare, and supermarkets are nearby. Sheraton Oaks is not just a nice place to visit - it's a great place to live!!

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