



## The Pathway to Success - Friendly Village La Habra

Several of the communities managed by Vedder Community Management consist of large green turf areas. Although these turf areas are pleasant to look at, they require large amounts of water, fertilization, and countless hours of labor dedicated to maintaining their overall upkeep, and aesthetic appearance. Our concern was how to replace these water and manpower guzzlers, while at the same time retaining a tranquil setting which could still be utilized by residents.

We started with Friendly Village La Habra, which had an enormous, grassed greenbelt surrounding the clubhouse. Our first task involved reducing the turf areas through the use of native landscaping and streambeds.

We finished the project by installing a decomposed granite exercise/walking path that measures six feet wide and one-quarter of a mile in length. The pathway meanders back and forth, up and down, and over a small stream as it circles around the clubhouse, pool and BBQ area, and past a larger waterfall.

The project was a success. The pathway had eliminated almost 8,000 square feet of turf, while still maintaining a picturesque setting for the residents.

In the near future, "exercise stations" will be added along the pathways, providing residents with the opportunity to stop and perform low impact exercises such as inclined sit-ups, up and over stairs, and standing push-ups during their walk.

The residents' response to the walking pathways has been fantastic. It is used daily by several residents who eagerly awaited its completion from its conception. The walking path has not only added to the many amenities that are available for the residents of Friendly Village, but it has also helped to conserve water, and reduce the labor expenses associated with taking care of large grassed areas. ■

**Special thanks to Tim Firster, Field Representative for Vedder Community Management for writing this article.**

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