



Q: Why Are Folks In My Back Yard?

By the Rivendell Ponds & Preserves Committee

[Woodlands Word – September 2020]

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A: Your HOA is Responsible for Ongoing Maintenance and Inspection of Ponds and Preserves.

The HOA has two companies, under contract, that send technicians on ATV-type vehicles around and within our community on behalf of Rivendell Community Association. In both cases, the technicians commonly pass over “back yards” on community common ground.



As a reminder, the Association has the obligation to manage our ponds and our preserves. And, in accordance with our community documents, to go on community common ground (and, if necessary, on private property in order to reach common ground) to conduct the business of the community. RCA does not have an obligation to notify all affected individual homeowners in advance of these required community-support activities.

PONDS: Company under HOA contract is Solitude. There is usually one technician on an ATV going along the pond shorelines, on community common ground. The technician typically sprays for invasive grasses and pond algae.

PRESERVES: Company under HOA contract is Aquagenics. There may be one or two technicians on an ATV who travel around the preserve perimeters where the vehicle can reach. Techs may also get off the vehicle to access the preserve and/or to conduct management operations in accordance with requirements set forth by Sarasota County. They are typically controlling invasive plant species. They are also inspecting the preserves for incursions. Any activity beyond the homeowner’s property line will be considered an incursion and subject to enforcement.



Additionally, representatives of the Ponds and Preserves Committee, other contractors (such as those representing the County), County representatives and RCA Board members may, from time-to-time, inspect pond shorelines or preserve perimeters, typically on foot. These actions are all done on behalf of RCA in the interests of the entire community.