

Sanderson Subdivision Update

The Sanderson Subdivision is a testament to the growth of The University of Alabama in Huntsville and to the vagaries of real estate development in Huntsville and Madison County. The subdivision was originally built in the mid-1950s, and consists of 35 lots on Erskine Street, Tatom Street, and Austin Avenue. At the time of its original platting, the Sanderson Subdivision was nowhere near the fledgling University, which was then holding classes in Huntsville high schools. Following Morton Hall's dedication in 1961, the University campus still did not even adjoin the Sanderson Subdivision. Since 1961, the University has experienced tremendous growth and now completely surrounds the sub-division.

Over the course of many years, the University has been buying the houses and lots within the subdivision as the owners have decided to place them on the market. Presently, the University owns 28 of the 35 lots and has pending contracts to purchase two additional lots. Until recently, the University rented the houses it owns to various people, including faculty, staff and students. There are still tenants in some of the University-owned houses.

Recently, the University decided to remove the Sanderson Subdivision houses that it owns. Following that decision, the University announced a competitive bid for contracts to move those houses it owned. Kennedy House Movers was the successful bidder and was awarded the contract. Under the terms of the contract, Kennedy is purchasing the houses from the University and moving them at the contractor's expense. Kennedy is required by the terms of the contract to clean the vacant lots and restore the vegetation.

Presently, the University plans to maintain its vacant lots in the Sanderson Subdivision as a green space. It is anticipated that the green space will provide a needed sense of connection between the northern portion of the University's campus and its southern portion. The current transition is, understandably, difficult for the subdivision residents who have elected not to put their houses on the market, and all University personnel traveling through the Sanderson Subdivision are encouraged to be respectful to our neighbors still living there.