

NorthPark Centennial Oaks

Bayou Terrebonne

4463 West Park Ave

Hwy 24, Gray, LA

[Google Maps](#)



Progressive Bank thought so much of these trees that they used the image of one of them as the perfect Live Oak specimen to represent the bank in their logo and featured the trees in cover photos for some of the banks publications.

The properties surrounding these trees once housed an official drag strip and for years in the 60s and 70s, neighbors could hear the sounds of racing on the weekends. Local racers included Joe Teuton, Earlis Allemand, Mike "Duck" Hebert and Sammy Pizzolato, many winning national titles.

Once called the 'Falterman Oaks' for the family who owned the property located at today's North Park Subdivision in Gray, LA, these Live Oaks left to nature developed as a centerpiece amid the cattle which grazed for years and took shade under these magnificent trees.

The Falterman family migrated from St. Mary parish to Terrebonne parish in the mid-1930s. Dennis Falterman married Doris Domangue of Terrebonne parish and their children were born and raised in Terrebonne parish. They had six children sons, Dennis, David, Mark, Michael, Tim and daughter, Doris Falterman who married a Hello. In the 1940s, these trees were standing as Dennis purchased the property from Ivy and Marie Ayo and were once part of Evergreen Sugar Plantation.

Immediately following Hurricane's Katrina and Rita in 2005, this property sold to NORTH PARK, LLC, where partners, Henry J. Richard and Barry J. Blackwell developed the old farmland into the NORTH PARK Subdivision. He explained that he saw people migrating from south of the parish to the north and the land had been put up for sale so his company bought it. The 165 acres located near Hwy 90 had high elevations with great drainage, potentially just right for a residential community. With Blackwell's passing in 2011 and other setbacks, Richard finally fulfilled their dream opening Phase I of the subdivision in 2014.

Richard maintained these trees as a major feature front line and center of the subdivision, Richard respecting the rights of the trees and honoring their presence, reserved over an acre of land for the three centennial Live Oaks to remain unharmed by the traffic and construction. He mentioned that he would register them with the Live Oak Society. "The largest of the three is estimated to be about 650 years old" Richard said in a 2015 Courier article. According to Richard the oldest tree measures over 23' in circumference and said to be one of the oldest in the parish. Story written by Trudy Voisin Hebert



Photos by Trudy Voisin Hebert

