

2013 Neighborhood Habitat Challenge

City of Austin and the National Wildlife Federation challenge our Neighborhood to create homes for wildlife by taking the HABITAT CHALLENGE!

Take the Challenge, it's easy ...

1. Provide these habitat basics:
 - Food: Native plants provide a buffet of nectar, pollen, seeds, berries and more
 - Water: A key element for a variety of wildlife
 - Cover: Evergreen shrubs and rock walls offer wildlife shelter from predators and bad weather
 - Places to raise young: Dense shrubs, a nesting box or pond are examples of places wildlife need to mate and raise their young
2. Neighborhood participates in a community habitat project such as removing invasive plants, planting trees, restoring a creek area, or planting a neighborhood butterfly garden.
3. An article about the habitat challenge is published in neighborhood newsletter and/or website.
4. Neighbors certify their properties with the National Wildlife Federation at www.nwf.org/gardenforwildlife or with a COA pre-paid application by November 15, 2013.
5. Celebrate! The top three neighborhoods that complete all the requirements and certify the most new habitats between March 15th and November 14th 2013 will be recognized by the City of Austin and eligible for prizes.
6. Share your habitat and/or your experience with the neighborhood! To share, post a message on our Yahoo! site (instructions for non-members on page one).

To request a pre-paid habitat certification application or for contest details:

www.keepeaustinwild.com

The Public Right of Way, Sidewalks & Plants

The public "Right of Way" is City property that includes the street and also 10-15 feet from the curb to your property line. You are responsible for this public area from your property line to the street curb. So you can get a citation for not cutting the grass or keeping it tidy.

With so many streets having no sidewalk, many of us have added plantings outside our property line and the city does not stop this. With no visible property edge the plantings add beauty and personality to the street. If you have plantings in the Right of Way you must accept that city crews and contractors will need to dig in this area and use the space for street work. Crews are usually considerate about your plants and may resituate them once they have finished.

Our official Neighborhood Plan page 37, <ftp://ftp.ci.austin.tx.us/npzd/Austingo/dawson-np.pdf> identifies priority needs for sidewalks. The City is close to installing some of those sidewalks on Euclid, Wilson and Cumberland. It has been a long time coming. The city should give some warning for you to remove plants prior to starting work and if you don't move them they may disappear! City staff will locate the sidewalk to avoid large trees but anything smaller must be moved out.

Incidentally, we are voting to amend our Neighborhood Plan to add paving of the alleyway between Wilson and Durwood as a priority. This is used very frequently as access to Gillis Park avoiding Oltorf and dust thrown up from the unpaved surface is a nuisance.

Dawson Neighborhood Association Draft Minutes – April 8, 2013

Minutes from February meeting approved as printed in newsletter.

New Business: a) Kam: Watershed to shore up creek bank in Brinwood area due to erosion as result of geyser, Myron to contact supervisor for more information; b) Marty: ongoing problem of people hanging around Pickle Rd long after closing hours, regular calls to APD; c) Marty: work now occurring at 3800 S. Congress as well as 400 block Alpine; Rick & Myron: tagging along Ft. McGruder and Reyna, ask city to address lighting area; d) Ruta Maya still plan to open on Pickle Rd, will be community oriented; e) new member Ronnie asked how to get ally between Wilson & Durwood paved, Myron to follow up with city; f) flooding along creek after hard rains and blockages created at bridges making it worse; g) Reliant bleach odor discharge due to water main break, repaired.

Old Business: a) illegal tree removal at 118 Havana, after many calls to city, resolved with owner required to plant replacement trees or pay fine, new trees now planted; b) Bob: Sycamore development removed all but one sickly tree; c) Marisa passed out various flyers on trees, etc.; d) Julie: Scoop the Poop signs available from city on request, now posted at Dawson Elementary.

Issues in the Neighborhood: a) Cynthia: residents should not plant trees in public right of way, which generally is 10' between property line and curb. Tree Folks now advises citizens where to properly plant trees. When city installs new sidewalks on Wilson & Euclid, will work around trees whenever possible; b) Donna: bus stop on S. Congress at La Vista called Cap Metro about homeless loitering; c) Kam asked if APD can notify residents to stay inside when searching but Rick said no; d) APD wants to attend next meeting to address DNA about budget.

Dawson Neighborhood Planning Contact Team Draft Minutes - April 8, 2013

Meeting called to order. Motion to approve the minutes approved.

Membership Report: New members present: Bob Fry and Ronnie Lamone; noted suspended members: Cole and Julie Alexander, Diana Claitor and David Haun

New Business: a) Cynthia moved that we ask the city to pave the alley between Durwood and Wilson S of Oltorf Street, if there are no objections from property owners along Oltorf. Motion to request that the city do so passed unanimously. b) Regarding the building on Congress between Lessig and Ft. Magruder: activity has been observed, wondering if there are any permits in place. c) Remodeling has been observed at the Green Muse and lots have been cleared and expect to see development soon: properties on El Paso, Euclid, for example.

Old Business: Re. the car dealership on the Ng property on Dunlap and Congress—the city is working on getting the permit issue resolved; presently operating illegally but the city can't shut it down until they have given the owner the opportunity to bring the business into compliance; at the moment, there is no permanent electricity or water connection.