

It's My Park Day!! Come volunteer on March 2 at Gillis Park!

Last year more than 2,000 people volunteered in over 70 park-improvement projects. This is Austin Parks Foundation's largest single volunteer event of the entire year.

Dawson Neighborhood Association has registered a project to mulch the trees in Gillis Park. Would you like to volunteer in your park? **It's My Park Day** is made possible because of neighborhood volunteers.

To volunteer, please e-mail Marisa at mfushille@gmail.com or call 512-431-3357. We will be mulching trees from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at Gillis Park on March 2. We'll meet on Durwood St. near the swimming pool.

Please, Scoop the Poop

Dogs and their owners have privilege to use the Dawson Elementary School ground to exercise their dogs. It is a good open grass area and is fenced in so great for dogs to run off the leash.

Some owners are not picking up after their dogs! This is a very bad situation. Thanks to Julie Woods who is involved with the PTA, Scoop the Poop bag dispensers have been purchased and are being installed at the area. It is important that all dog owners take the responsibility for keeping the area clean. Please use the bags provided!

Front/Side Yard Parking Annual Vote

The City of Austin's Restricted Front Yard /Side Yard Parking ordinance prohibits parking a motor vehicle in the front or side yard of a residence except in a driveway or a paved parking space. Neighborhoods within an adopted planning area and a recognized contact team have an opportunity each February to adopt this ordinance. For more information, go to <http://austintexas.gov/departments/front-yard-parking>

FREE TREES FOR YOUR YARD!

NeighborWoods is sponsored by the City of Austin's Climate Protection Program to lower summer temperatures and reduce energy consumption by investing in tree canopy cover that will shade paved streets. These trees help decrease energy bills for residents, add beauty to our neighborhoods and increase property values.

TreeFolks' staff survey's yards in specific neighborhoods from July through January. If you would like to have your yard assessed to receive a free street tree please visit our www.treefolks.org to fill out the request form and we will add you to our waitlist. A staff person will have a look at your yard and, if you are eligible, will leave a yellow or blue flag in the appropriate location and a postcard on your door handle. Please mail that postcard to TreeFolks and you will be added to the next available delivery list. Please note that we will be delivering trees only during the planting season from October until March.

To minimize water loss through evaporation and runoff, TreeFolks is partnering with Austin Water Utility to distribute free TreeGator Jr. slow release watering bags at various sites between October – March. We will also be available for additional tree questions you may have. Visit our website to learn more about upcoming TreeGator distribution events.

Greg Mast, TreeFolks: 512-443-LEAF or greg@treefolks.org

Dawson Neighborhood Association Meeting Draft Minutes – December 10, 2012

The meeting was called to order and officers were introduced.

Minutes from the October meeting were approved.

New Business:

Election of Officers: President – Myron Smith, Vice President – Mitchell Harrison, Secretary – Sandy McMillan, Newsletter Editor – Carmen Hernandez. All were approved by acclamation.

Old Business:

1. A sign-up sheet for help cleaning at the new community garden was discussed.
2. Thank you to the Crow Bar for hosting the neighborhood picnic.

Issues in the Neighborhood:

1. Concerns were raised regarding repaving of streets after the road work is complete and the need to have speed bumps repaired and reflectors replaced. The entire project will probably take another 2 years before everything is complete.
2. Concerns were raised regarding dogs off of their leash on the school property and the need for poop bags.

Dawson Neighborhood Planning Contact Team (DNPCT) Draft Minutes – December 10, 2012

Minutes approved from the October meeting.

Membership Report: New member tonight: Khaira Al-Kahlili (first meeting); Daniela Ochoa

New Business:

- 1) election of board members; Mike, Julie, Donna, Peter and Myron will stay on for the second year of a two-year term; Marty will stay for a second term, Becky and Sandy will step down; Steve Gee, Mitchell Harrison, Marissa Fushille and Ted Finkbeiner will serve a two year term; motion carried unanimously.
- 2) MedSpring clinic is almost done, will be opening soon; Myron volunteered to take them a copy of the next newsletter and say hello.

Old Business, with a review of the last year: Dawson is now officially a Green neighborhood; 500-some apartments opening on Post Road, plus the complex on Wilson Street; car sales on S. Congress on the Ng property; discussion of development of 3800 Congress, with more apartments—neighborhood opposed the rezoning, so the owners tidied up the lot and are considering a smaller project; rumors still going around that Ruta Maya might be interested in a property in the neighborhood; invitation to Stephanie's Flamingo bash distributed.