

Do I Need A Permit? Work exempt from building or trade permits:

There are several projects that homeowners or their contractors can accomplish without the need of a building or trade permit. Below is a list of building projects that DO NOT require a permit. **Any work not specified in the list below will require a building permit.** (Be aware that the City of Austin has become much more proactive in sending code enforcement staff to search for violations and to respond to complaints made to 311.)

1. One-story detached accessory structures, provided the floor area does not exceed 200 square feet (18.58 m2).
 - Please keep in mind that although you do not need a permit to build or install the structure you must still abide by any zoning rules and regulations in regards to height, setbacks and trade permits. If you decide to install electricity or plumbing systems into the structure you will be required to obtain those trade permits. Please visit the '[Zoning](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/onestop/zoning.htm)' page, <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/onestop/zoning.htm>, to find out what which regulations apply to your home in regards to structure height and/or yard setback areas.
2. Fences not over 6 feet (1829 mm) high.
 - Please visit the '[Fences](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/onestop/fences.htm)' page, <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/onestop/fences.htm>, for additional questions about fences over 6 feet high.
3. Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet (1219 mm) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge.
4. Water tanks supported directly upon grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons (18927 L) and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed 2 to 1.
5. Sidewalks and driveways not more than 30 inches (762 mm) above adjacent grade and not over any basement or story below.
 - Any 'flatwork' including uncovered patios does not require permits. Please keep in mind that this applies to sideways and [driveways](#) within your property line. Any work performed in the [City of Austin Right of Way \(ROW\)](#) requires the homeowner to obtain a building permit. Please refer to your property survey or plot plan to verify where your property ends and the City of Austin ROW begins.
6. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.
7. Prefabricated swimming pools that are less than 24 inches (610 mm) deep.
8. Swings and other playground equipment accessory to a one or two-family dwelling.
9. Window awnings supported by an exterior wall which do not project more than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the exterior wall and do not require additional support.

For a list of the Electrical, Gas and Mechanical work that will not require a permit, call 974- 6370 or go to:
http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/development/onestop/permits_work_exempt.htm.

DNA Draft Minutes – June 13, 2011

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from the April meeting were approved.

Old Business: (a) We still need a newsletter editor. (b) The natural wildlife habitat at Dawson Elementary has been built. (c) Peter Davis and Sandy McMillan agreed to have one of the signs placed in their yard but we need someone else more south to agree to it as well. A suggestion was made to place the sign at Dawson Elementary. Myron & Becky agreed to host the sign if it must be on private property. (d) Discussion was held regarding bad disrepair at the church property on South First Street. If individuals have concerns, they should call code enforcement.

New Business: (a) Sheila brought up crime and related issues along Havana and South Congress. Discussion was held regarding inviting the District Representative or someone else to the next meeting, as well as options for contacting the City Manager or the City's Police Monitor.

Issues in the neighborhood: (a) Discussion was held regarding how to nominate trees for the City's Tree of the Year Award. A suggestion was made to nominate one of the large trees on the church property on South First Street. (b) Two islands have been installed on South Congress near St. Edwards and landscaping planned. (c) The Gillis Park pool is on the list to be permanently closed for cost savings. Discussion was held regarding maintenance issues, activities for students, etc. (d) The Live Strong marathon people are conducting a Trash Run down South First starting at 6 pm on 6.14.11.

DNPCT Draft Minutes – June 13, 2011

Minutes: Minutes from 4-11-11 were approved as written in the newsletter.

Membership Report: No new members.

Old Business: a. The Reliance Rehabilitation Hospital, a physical rehabilitation facility, is currently under construction next to Chucky Cheese on Ben White Bld. b. The property at 3715 South 1st (formerly a Baptist church) is not well kept. Neighbors should call 311, as necessary, to encourage the property owners to keep it mowed and maintained.

New Business: Members voted via paper ballots on a potential neighborhood plan amendment and zoning change for 141 W. Oltorf, currently a residential (SF-3-NP) property. The contact team voted unanimously in opposition to the applicant's request for a commercial land use designation in the form of a plan amendment and zoning change. Sandy and Peter recused themselves from the vote, per the new Dawson Neighborhood Plan Contact Team bylaws.

Rebecca Sheller, DNPCT Secretary in 2011