

Keep Dawson Wild: Neighborhood Habit Challenge 2010

Join us as Alice Nance, with the City of Austin's Parks and Recreation Department (PARC), encourages Dawson to certify the most wildlife habitats and compete to win the third annual NEIGHBORHOOD HABITAT CHALLENGE. The City of Austin and the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) teamed up two years ago in the first habit challenge and, due to its wild success, the city made the challenge an annual event. PARC's Wildlife Austin program sponsors the challenge as a means to inspire the city's citizens to create and restore wildlife habitats and become good stewards of our natural environment. A few simple things we can do include planting native plants, provide a reliable and accessible water source, and provide places for safe cover. The challenge lasts from April 12 to November 15, 2010. Neighborhoods must first register with Wildlife Austin, forms available at www.keeptaustinwild.com. Following this step, neighborhoods must certify the most NWF wildlife habitats, participate in a community habitat related project and promote the challenge via newsletters, websites or other means of communication.

Let's work together to make Dawson a Winner for Wildlife!

For additional information, go to http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/parks/park_news.cfm?nwsid=2076

Help Protect Our Neighborhood Trees

Austinites recognize that trees have economic and aesthetic value and are essential for the environmental sustainability of the region. Austin's Tree and Natural Area Protection Code is based on sound urban forest management: diversification, preservation, and replenishment. For additional information about the benefits and protection of trees, go to <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/trees/faq.htm>

A permit is required for the removal of a Protected Tree that is a tree larger than 19" in diameter (60" in circumference) measured at 4.5 feet above the ground. Also, all trees 8" in diameter and larger, are required to be accurately located on site plans submitted for development review. A tree of 24" diameter may be a Heritage Tree and have greater restrictions for removal.

Report Illegal Tree Removals

If someone is cutting down a large tree, first check <https://www.ci.austin.tx.us/devreview/index.jsp> to see if they have a permit. If they do not, then contact the city staff below anytime. The message will be received, even on the weekends.

Michael Embesi, *City Arborist* (512) 974-1876 michael.embesi@ci.austin.tx.us

Jim Gobel, *Residential Inspector* (512) 974-2639 james.gobel@ci.austin.tx.us

Tree of the Year Award

Austin's Tree of the Year Award recognizes outstanding trees within the city limits of Austin. You can nominate a tree by submitting an application which can be found at the [Tree of the Year](http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/treeoftheyear/) website here: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/treeoftheyear/> Deadline for nomination is June 30th.

In the next step of this process, the Planning Commission will recommend to the City Council which projects from the city-wide list to fund in 2011. The Council makes the final decision, therefore, can return to the full list rather than follow the PC's advice.

*Dawson's plan: <http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/planning/neighborhood/dawson.htm>

This newsletter is brought to you by:

Next Meeting

**Monday, June 14, 2010
6:30 pm**

South Austin Multipurpose Center
2508 Durwood

Meeting Agendas

Dawson Neighborhood Association

1. Call Meeting to order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Old Business
4. New Business
 - a) Alice Nance with Parks & Recreation
 - b) Capital Metro Representative
5. Issues in the Neighborhood
6. Adjourn

Dawson Neighborhood Plan Team

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Approval of Minutes
3. Membership Report
4. Old Business
5. New Business
6. Adjourn

Creek Cleanup Success

Working in three teams of volunteers--- made up of ten Dawson residents and nearly thirty other volunteers who registered with Keep Austin Beautiful to participate wherever needed--- we worked from Oltorf to Ben White to remove about 400 pounds of trash from our section of East Bouldin Creek.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible, including the Parks and Recreation Department employee who removed some of our bags of trash from Gillis Park. The city picked up the rest from the Cumberland Road bridge on the following Monday.

Mobile Food Vendor Regs Approved by City

In February 2010, the Dawson Neighborhood voted to adopt the optional additional mobile food vendor regulations and the Austin City Council approved these additional restrictions at its May 27, 2010, hearing. The regulations will go into effect June 6.

Briefly, the additional restrictions are: 1) trailers must be located at least 50' from single family (SF) properties; and 2) may operate from 6 a.m. – 10 p.m. if located at least 50' from SF properties or until 3 a.m. if more than 300' from SF properties.