



Window n Windsor

A LOOK INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD THAT NEVER GOES OUT OF STYLE

VOLUME

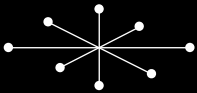
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AUG 2025

NEXT
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION
MEETING

SATURDAY
AUGUST 9th
10 AM



NEXT
MEETING
FOCUS

Back to
School and
Vote on
Dispersing
Parks
Funds



Building Community For Good Times & Bad

BY LAUREL CHESKY

In recent weeks, as Texas has once again faced the challenges of severe flooding, the idea of community rises into sharp relief. Nothing can undo the horrific suffering and loss of precious life in Kerr County and elsewhere. Yet it's during these dark times that the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors truly shines. From volunteer search and rescue efforts to preparing meals for the displaced, communities came together in the wake of tragedy to support and heal one another.

While it's inspiring to see how we rally in times of crisis, remember that these bonds aren't forged overnight. True community is built steadily, day by day, year after year, through active participation and shared experiences. This is precisely where the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association plays a vital role.

Our neighborhood association provides a platform to foster a vibrant and supportive environment for

all of us. Whether it's working together on our Small Area Mobility Plan or Eco Fest, fundraising for scholarships, or meeting up at social gatherings, like our recent open mic and coffee in the park events – you are building community every day in Windsor Park.

One gap you've identified in our community-building efforts is welcoming new residents. We heard you. We are initiating regular, casual happy hours for that purpose. We'll host the first one at Hank's Austin on Wednesday, Aug. 27, 4:30-6:30 p.m. (Watch our Facebook group for updates.) We invite all new residents to join us, and "old timers" too, to help us welcome our new neighbors.

When we build community in the good times, we create connection to help us through the bad times.

Looking for Shade Brigade Volunteers

BY MARTIN LUECKE

Upcoming Event - Save the Day: ECO Fest 2025
November 1st at Bartholomew Park

Last year the Shade Brigade made Shade the Streets a success. Due to their efforts, hundreds of trees were planted across the neighborhood. This year we hope to repeat and are asking for your help to canvas a section of Windsor Park and locate yards to plant trees. Contact me at martin@windsorpark.info. We will organize and train the Brigade in August and September.

Attention tree owners: please remove the wood stick holding up your tree. It's bad for the roots. If necessary, post a 5' stake three feet away and tie it up with soft materials or cotton string. Please install some more mulch around the base if necessary.

And please take a picture of you and your tree and post on social media, tagging us and using #shadethestreetsatx and #survivedhailpocalypse.

Can't post? Send us the pics and we'll share. Follow us on Facebook (Shade the Streets - Windsor Park ATX) and Instagram (#shadethestreetsatx) for updates on climate initiatives.

Also, please take the Rain to River survey to provide feedback on how the city can improve neighborhood creeks and waterways: <https://publicinput.com/rainriveratx>

GOT SOMETHING FOR THE NEWSLETTER? GET IT IN BY THE 15th TO: newsletter@windsorpark.info

A Little Light Rewilding, part 1

BY PAUL ALFORD, 6809 DUQUESNE DRIVE

In 2021 my husband Shiv and I moved to University Hills and next year, sadly, we have to move on. My big project in that time has been to gently rewild our plot on Duquesne Drive and try to give some of our native Texas flora and fauna a helping hand. I've loved living in the Windsor Park neighborhood and this article is a small attempt to give something back to our community.

I'm by no means an expert in this field, and most of what I have learnt has been trial and error, but I have been amazed by the results as each year the biodiversity in the yard seems to accelerate. The bird species count now stands at 95. I'm hoping to get to 100 before we leave, and there's a whole range of other critters that have made the yard their home or at least pass through.

When we moved in, the front yard was laid to grass under two young/semi mature live oaks. The backyard was a grass square with zero-scaping around the edge, a row of small magnolias at the back, and a young pear in the middle. We were fortunate that the yards around us had mature trees that provided a variety of habitat and shade. There was not too much scope for change out front, although I put in a bed of native and non-invasive adapted plants (including elbow bush, wax myrtle, and evergreen sumac) on one side and large wooden containers with native and adapted climbers (such as trumpet vine, cross vine, Carolina jasmine, and Texas wisteria) on the other.

The backyard however has been transformed and hardly any of the grass square remains. Instead, there are fruit tree varieties suited to Central Texas, herb and vegetable patches, a flower bed of native and adapted plants, a nature pond, and across the Northwest third of the plot an assortment of native shrubs and small to medium native trees. The trees and shrubs were the first things to go in the fall of 2021 and over the last year they have started to really fill out and create the environment I was hoping they would.

There are seven things that have had the biggest positive impact on the biodiversity in the yard. This month, I will outline 4 of these and the last 3 will follow in the September issue.

1 The Pond.

The pond is not as big as I wanted as I had to work around existing infrastructure and services, but it and the pump fed stream have had the single biggest positive impact on biodiversity in the garden. Migrating, seasonal visitor, and permanent all year-round resident birds use it both for drinking and bathing, and when the migration is happening we get amazing views of unusual warblers and other bird species that are thirsty and passing through. There are numerous dragon and damselflies

laying eggs, and the toads have also discovered it — 40 on one night recently. I think they have used it as a base to recolonize the street. The toads help keep insect pests under control in the yard and native mosquito fish in the pond demolish the mosquito larvae. When I laid out the stream I repurposed a lot of the zero scraping pebbles, so they have gone from being a heat trap and amplifier to a cooling aid.

2 Native Shrubs and Trees

There are some great online resources available on what natives to plant where and what birds and insects use them for food, nesting, and shelter. I planted a variety and in the last couple of years as the shrubs and small to medium trees have started to mature, the diversity of fauna that they attract has grown exponentially. This year I've noticed an increase in the amount of flycatcher species using low branches as perches and an increase in small and/or more timid bird species using the protection of low branches near the pond to brave hopping out to bathe and drink. Some of my favourite natives shrubs and small trees are: rough-leaved dogwood, which is an attractive easy to grow shrub that appeals to a really wide range of wildlife; Eve's necklace, Texas Orchid tree, kidney tree, Mexican buckeye, mountain laurel, and desert willow which all have pretty flowers; and cherry laurel, which makes a great evergreen screen.

3 No Chemicals

I don't use chemicals on the garden or grass, just a seaweed-based fertiliser on the pot plants and natural mulch to hold in moisture. This year I've noticed a sudden increase in the lizard population, which I think may be a consequence of the ground detoxifying. We have at least 4 lizard species in the garden and seeing them dart around the drive defending their territory as I walk to the front door makes me smile every time. I know the butterfly boom we have enjoyed has also been enhanced by the absence of chemicals.

4 Messy Areas

Whilst the area around the house and pond is usually pretty tidy, I've allowed areas near the back and far corners of the garden get a little messy. In one corner there is a pile of fallen branches that protect the small birds and lizards and in the other corner a compost heap that always seems to have a Carolina wren bouncing around it. The magnolias at the back are now mixed up with elderberry, beautyberry and native flowering plants that I just let alone. The result is lots of invertebrate life and increased food for different bird species.

Check back next month for my last few tips for rewilding and encouraging wildlife to thrive in our yards.

Delwood Sports Complex Restoration

BY JEANETTE SWENSON

The Delwood Sports Complex suffered significant damage to the fields and infrastructure when the freak May 26 wind and hailstorm swept through Windsor Park.

Since the storm, the Board and volunteers have been cleaning up, writing grants, and looking for funding to restore, expand and upgrade the facilities that have served generations of Windsor Park youth for seventy years. Austin Parks and Recreation Department and Austin Parks Foundation have committed to restoring the fields to be ready for fall sports. However, the Delwood Sports Complex is responsible for much of the repair.

At the July 11, WPNA meeting, Jason Adame, Delwood Sports Complex Board, talked about the efforts to restore the bleachers and concession stand and upgrade the existing facilities by adding more girls' sports and a soccer field.

WPNA has consistently supported Delwood over the years. WPNA and the WPNA Parks Committee would like to make a significant contribution. We will be voting at the August 9 WPNA meeting on the best way to contribute to Delwood's recovery efforts.

One source of funds is the Parks Improvement Fund, which is currently at \$5,218.17 and is dedicated to infrastructure improvements in Bartholomew and Pomerleau Parks. As Parks Committee Chair, I recommend that up to \$1,500 be contributed to the Delwood Sports Complex by the Parks Committee. That would leave the Parks Committee with a balance close to \$4,000, which might be spent on future parks projects like pickleball courts at the basketball courts or assisting with the in-design trail connecting Windsor Park to E. 51st and Tilley as a part of Safe Routes to School. Treasurer Sam Searle suggested that WPNA might contribute \$500.00 from the anticipated WPNA surplus.

Please attend the August 9th WPNA meeting to discuss and vote on the proposed donation. If you are unable to attend the meeting, online voting will be available for several days following the meeting. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Jeanette Swenson, Jeanetteswenson64@gmail.com or 512-627-1295.



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Trends to Note

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WP's Go-To Source For Market Statistics since 2010

WINDSOR PARK Market Statistics

LAST 90 DAYS

AVG SOLD PRICE/SQ FT (Over Last 90 Days) \$337.12

OF HOMES SOLD (Over Last 90 Days) 30

AVG SQ FT OF HOMES SOLD 1,651

AVG DAYS ON MKT OF SOLDS 43

ACTIVE LISTINGS ON MARKET 50*

*As of July 18th, 2025 - Single Family Homes.
Request a Detailed Report for Your Section of Windsor Park

Yard of the Month - 5501 Mapleleaf Drive

BY SARA JANE LEE

The August winners are Katie Houston and Cory Brim who have lived at 5501 Mapleleaf Drive since 2017. Although they love the desert landscapes of West Texas, they want to keep some grass.

Katie designed the landscape. Borders of river rocks near the street and on the north side of the front of their house, an expanse of gravel on the south side of the house, and a mulched corner spread minimize the area that Cory must mow but keep "enough grass to make Hank Hill proud." In the corner spread they planted Pink Caprice Lantana, Whale Tongue Agave, and Barrel Cactus. In the river rock borders they planted Red Yucca and Adam's Needle Yucca. The expanse of gravel with concrete pavers leads from the front to the south side of the house. This path leads to a profusion of Esperanzas and Pride of Barbados. They also have a pink Crape Myrtle and some Oleanders there. On the south side they also have two tall iron planters filled with Cordylines.

In addition to the Crape Myrtle, they also have a mature Pecan, (nicknamed Matthew Pecan-aughey), surrounded by Purple Heart, a Live Oak, and Monterey Oaks. Their favorite is their Texas Red Bud. They call it Sam in honor of Katie's father, who taught her so much about gardening. When Katie took a landscape design class at ACC, she learned to work with the land's natural drainage and to plant natives. Katie and Cory advise throwing out plants that do not work. Do not plant

poisonous plants where there is heavy foot or paw traffic. If one of you is allergic, be careful of pollinators.

Katie and Cory will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate from Shoal Creek Nursery on Hancock Drive. It has great collections of plants, seeds, pots, and garden paraphernalia including gloves in various sizes.

Do not be shy. If you like a certain yard, or more than one, tell us. Feel free to nominate your own yard. Send your nomination(s) to WPNA YOMC. P.O. Box 16183, Austin, Texas 78761, call 512-928-0681 and leave a message, or email wpna.yom@gmail.com.



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7

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For Gardeners and Birds in the Heat of the Summer

BY CHRIS WINSLOW VIA WPNA'S ENLIVENMENT COMMITTEE

For the Gardeners:

1. **Mulch and water:** Your vegetable garden, landscape, flowerbeds and trees need some help to make it through this torrid month. Mulch generously and water deeply.
2. **Lawn care:** Your grass also needs deep, infrequent watering and keep the cutting height for your lawnmower as high as possible. This will help shade the roots and conserve water.
3. **Vegetables:** This is the month to start sweet corn, okra, snap beans, cream peas and black-eyed peas from seed. Because the first frost (on average Nov. 27) is likely to occur within 120 days, use transplants for your peppers and tomatoes. During the second half of this month, plant your broccoli, cabbage and Brussels sprouts.
4. **Survive:** While it is nice of you to nurse your plants through this brutal month, it is perhaps even more important that you look after yourself. Three gardening rules for August: garden early in the morning; wear sunscreen and a large-brimmed hat; drink gallons of water.

For the Birds:

1. **Water:** Set up a birdbath in your garden. Keep it topped up every day, and clean once a week. Keep the area nearby clear, so that predatory cats have nowhere to hide.
2. **Food:** Help our feathered friends survive with good quality seeds. Buy in bulk from feed stores to save money.
3. **Hummingbirds:** Mix 4 parts water to 1 part sugar and place in a feeder, and enjoy the magic of the visiting hummers. Make sure your feeder is red (their favorite color), and you can tie a red ribbon nearby to help them find their way.
4. **Brush piles:** While out in the yard, create little brush piles here and there out of twigs and branches. This will protect the birds so they can feed on the ground, and if a cat appears or a hawk swoops down, they'll have somewhere to retreat.
5. **Native landscapes:** Our native birds grew up with native berries, and they are the best form of nourishment. Keep this in mind when shopping for plants. Sunflowers, salvias, yau-pon holly, possum haw holly, agarita, coral berry, American beauty-berry and Turks caps are all good choices.

This article was provided by the Austin Garden, a free newsletter published twice a month. To sign up, visit austingarden.org

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Mueller Update - August 2025

BY RICK KRIVONIAK

Mueller's Master Development Agreement (MDA) between the City of Austin and Catellus (now administered by Arterra Development) has an anticipated completion date of December 31, 2027, though if the sale of all the remaining City-owned land meant to be sold happens earlier, that date may move up. The Mueller Commission is tied to the MDA, so it will sunset at the time the MDA is deemed completed.

While the City will retain ownership of the Mueller Control Tower, the Browning Hangar is currently being marketed for sale - with a number of challenging stipulations. The community preference is that it remain as accessible to the public as it currently is, as often as feasible, and the buyer will be responsible for its maintenance. Any modifications to the building will require review, likely by the City's Historic Landmark Commission, but Mueller's architectural review committee also may weigh in. Prior to our demise, the Mueller Commission is researching what action we might recommend to the City Council to assure the integrity of the building is maintained for the foreseeable future.

Since it served as Austin's terminal, it is also known as the Municipal Airport Hangar. As Mueller's physical redevelopment began around 2005, the building required substantial renovation to save its unique wooden bow-truss structure. The removal of the Airport Blvd. side wall which was pulling down the trusses, the tarmac side sliding doors, and the adjacent office lean-to & very short control tower, had an impact on its eligibility for some historic designations. In 2002, a Historic Zoning case was filed for the property, but that expired in 2005. An application for it to be on the National Register of Historic Places was made around 2005, but apparently the process was never completed. A search to find the proper protections will be a Commission focus for the remainder of this year.

The Advisory Commission meets next at 6 PM on Tues, Aug 12 at the Austin Energy Building, 4815 Mueller Boulevard. Attendees may park free in the AE garage.



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We meet at 5801 Westminster Dr, Austin, TX 78723
visit austinnennonite.org for more info



WEB ————— www.windsorpark.info

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WPNA MEMBERS Wanted!

Come one, come y'all,

Welcome to Windsor Park! A throwback neighborhood with a modern feel. Please join the WPNA - we are stronger and more effective as a local voice for our neighborhood when more neighbors join.

We welcome all neighbors. Come join a meeting and see what's going on in your neighborhood. We'd love to meet you and share what Windsor Park is all about.

See ya soon!



Explore the Library in person, online or via your favorite device to access materials to read, listen to or learn from. Check out the Calendar online for activities for all ages.

Highlights for Aug 2025:

- Aug 5th at 4:30 PM Dungeons and Dragons for Tweens and Teens
- Aug 6th & Aug 30th at 10:00 AM Senior Social Hour
- Aug 6th at 6:00 PM Kicking the Bucket Podcast Club: Explore End-of-Life Decisions with Humor & Heart
- Aug 12th at 6:30 PM Book Club: The Triumph of Seeds by Thor Hanson
- Aug 13th at 1:00 PM Homeschool Social Hour
- Aug 15th at 10:30 AM Chair Yoga
- Aug 16th at 12:00 PM Pride Crafternoon: A Celebration of Creativity and Community!

UPCOMING EVENTS
library.austintexas.gov/events

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