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# THE WOODCREEK UPDATE

## A Monthly Newsletter of Woodcreek, Texas



### Note from the Mayor

Greetings, Woodcreekers!

I hope everyone had a great Labor Day weekend, spending time with friends and family during the unofficial transition from summer to autumn. Rodeos and cookouts inevitably give way to school activities, shorter days, and (hopefully) chillier nights.

Woodcreek's end-of-summer bash at Camp Young Judaea is coming up on September 14th... read on for all the details of this much-anticipated family festival. And this month, we're introducing a newsletter series called "Tree Talk," featuring many of the trees and plants found throughout Woodcreek, written by Shannon Suberbelle-Claussen.

Some other items of note this month:

- We're making great progress on the improvements at Creekside Park! The new ADA-compliant public restroom facility and the rainwater collection system are nearing completion. The park may temporarily close before its anticipated completion in October, so keep an eye on your inbox for the latest updates.
- The City Hall remodel is also nearing completion. It features several technology upgrades and ADA improvements that bring our city up to code. We plan to host an open house in October.
- At a special Council meeting, the city voted to participate in the Texas Public Utility Commission's administrative process with Aqua Texas regarding their proposed rate increases. By intervening, we can collectively advocate with other municipalities and non-governmental organizations. We will schedule a public comment session as the process unfolds.
- Join me this evening at the Lions Club Community Forum on "[The Wimberley Flood - Progress Since 2015 and the Road Ahead](#)," from 6-7pm at the Community Center. The seminar brings together local leaders, experts, and residents to discuss flood preparedness and response.
- The November 4th election ballot is set! Two candidates have declared for Mayor: Debra Hines and Linnea Bailey. Four residents are running for an at-large City Council position: Krista Richardson, Ryan Lynch, Linda Swedberg, and Jose Tomo. Candidates are listed in the order they were drawn for the ballot. [Read more about election details here.](#)

- Hats off to Tatum Davis, from Girl Scout Troop 1699, who made a presentation on pollinators at our August 13 meeting. She provided expert guidance and tips for creating a Monarch Waystation that supports pollinators, particularly monarch butterflies, through informed plant selection, proper care, and practical habitat management. [Check out her excellent presentation!](#) And stop by the waystation she created in Augusta Park for her Girl Scout Gold Award.

Finally, if you haven't already, please [sign up for alerts](#) on our website. It's an easy way to keep informed about Woodcreek happenings. And while we appreciate phone calls and emails, [the most efficient and trackable way to provide feedback is by using one of our online forms](#). These forms allow us to be more responsive to your needs and provide the most efficient and trackable way to report issues and provide feedback.

Thanks as always, and enjoy your fall.

Jeff Rasco  
Mayor

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## Say Aloha To Luau Day!



The City of Woodcreek and Camp Young Judaea are rolling out the tropical vibes with Luau Day at CYJ on Sunday, September 14th from 2-6pm! Grab your flip-flops, pack up the family, and get ready for an afternoon of sunshine, splash, and island-style fun.

Dive into the pool, sway to the tropical tunes provided by the Island Texas band from 3-5pm, cool off with a sweet treat from Wimberley Shave Ice, and challenge your neighbors to a friendly round of yard games. Hungry? No worries—free food will be waiting, beginning at 2pm. And yes, it's BYOB, so you can sip your favorite refreshment while you relax.

So mark your calendars, spread the word, and let's wrap up summer together—Hawaiian shirts, good friends, and plenty of aloha spirit included!

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## Tree Talk: What's A "Tree City USA?"



*Thanks to Shannon Suberbelle-Claussen, Woodcreek resident and Trees and Parks Board Secretary, for providing this new feature on one of Woodcreek's most prized assets, our trees. We hope you find it both enjoyable and informational!*

If you've noticed the signs around our neighborhood, you know that Woodcreek is officially recognized as a Tree City USA. True to our name, we're home to an impressive number of trees—especially live oaks—and we're darn proud of the beautiful canopy they provide. So, what does it mean to have an actual designation as a Tree City USA?

Well, the [Arbor Day Foundation](#) founded Tree City USA (a national recognition) back in 1976 as a way to recognize communities of all sizes throughout the United States that are committed to protecting and nurturing their population of trees and green spaces.

Beginning in 2023, Woodcreek was designated as a Tree City by meeting specific requirements that ensure the city has a viable tree management program, prioritizing its green canopy. As we all know, it's the trees that really make our neighborhood beautiful!

Woodcreek is proud of our status as a Tree City USA and continues to meet and exceed these standards:

### **STANDARD 1: A TREE BOARD OR DEPARTMENT**

*"Establishing authority and responsibility over public tree care decisions helps community officials and leaders determine who is responsible for public tree work. The public will also know who is accountable for decisions that impact community trees. Involving residents and business owners creates wide awareness of what trees do for the community and provides broad support for better tree care."*

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communities maximize the benefits of community trees, creating more livable communities.

*The Arbor Day Foundation recognizes the complexity of developing an ordinance in the diverse legal, cultural, and political landscape of communities. Standard 2 is intentionally broad to allow communities of all sizes to participate in the Tree City USA program.”*

**STANDARD 3: ANNUAL EXPENDITURE OF \$2 PER CAPITA ON COMMUNITY TREE CARE ACTIVITIES**

*Budgets and expenditures require planning and accountability, which are fundamental to the long-term health of community trees and community forestry programs.*

*By providing support at or above the \$2 per capita minimum, a community demonstrates its commitment to community trees and forests as valuable public assets.*

**STANDARD 4: AN ARBOR DAY OBSERVANCE AND PROCLAMATION**

*To generate excitement, publicity, and educate community members about the value of trees, the importance of tree care, fire prevention, conservation, and other community tree and forest topics.*

*Gain the support for the community tree program from public officials by passing and reciting an official Arbor Day proclamation.*

Our public spaces -- including Augusta Park, Triangle Park, and Creekside Park -- are the focus of the Trees and Parks Board of Woodcreek. Thanks to that board and others in our community, we host an annual Tree Giveaway in November, an Arbor Day Celebration in April, and other educational events and celebrations throughout the year for Woodcreek residents to enjoy.

Together, these efforts ensure that Woodcreek not only preserves its beautiful tree canopy but also fosters a stronger sense of community pride that comes with it. By continuing to invest in our green spaces, we're building a healthier, more vibrant future for generations to come.

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## Get Involved! Join a Woodcreek Committee



Woodcreek's heartbeat is its volunteer spirit. Our city thrives because neighbors like you step up to serve on boards that shape our community's future. Whether you're passionate about smart growth, preserving natural beauty, or curating community fun, we have a place for you!

Three primary, permanent boards exist in Woodcreek:

**Planning & Zoning Commission**

- What they do: This advisory group reviews zoning changes, updates our [Comprehensive Plan](#), and evaluates plat proposals—playing a key role in how Woodcreek grows and evolves.
- Why volunteer: Be on the front lines of smart development and ensure Woodcreek's charm is preserved.

- What they do: This five-member board advises on everything tree and park-related—from planting and preservation to park equipment, expansion, and maintenance. Plus, they plan programs like tree giveaways, wildscaping, and educational events.
- Why volunteer: Help shape and sustain our green spaces for families, wildlife, and future generations.
- How to join: Apply to be appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council.

### **Community Relations Committee**

- What they do: This committee plans, budgets, and promotes citywide events—from July 4th parades to recognition parties and neighborly gatherings at Camp Young Judaea.
- Why volunteer: Bring Woodcreek's community spirit to life and help neighbors connect.
- How to join: Members are appointed by the Council. City staff, the Mayor, and City

### **How to Volunteer**

- [Complete the Volunteer Application Form](#) – You can indicate interest in any of the three committees and other city-support roles.
- Stay Informed – Attend meetings ([agendas and minutes](#) are on the city's website).
- Reach Out – Contact City Hall (512-847-9390) or [email city staff](#) to express interest or ask questions.

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