WootenNews

Serving the Wooten Community

Join the Association!

Wooten Neighborhood Association is open to all that live or work within Wooten Neighborhood.

To join our association, scroll to the end of the newsletter.

WOOTEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

President's Corner

Hi neighbors! It's my pleasure to introduce myself as the new president of the Wooten Neighborhood Association. I've lived on Burrell Drive for about six years and love this place we all call home. I've gotten to meet many of you while walking my dog Clue and at various local events, and have so appreciated the friendly spirit at the heart of our neighborhood.

I want to give a big thank you to our most recent WNA officers - President Sandra Menjivar-Suddeath, Vice President Melinda Taylor, Secretary Ryan Nill, and Treasurer Phil Simmons (who continues to serve in this role) - who have done an incredible job helping us better meet the needs of the neighborhood.

We see exciting opportunities on the horizon, including potential improvements to Wooten Park, new ways to connect with neighbors, and special guests at WNA meetings. I'd love to see you at our December 14 Wootenanny at Nosh & Bevvy and our January 11 WNA meeting where we'll have a special guest from the Austin Parks Foundation.

Wishing you and yours the happiest of holiday seasons.

Josh Levine
WNA President

In this newsletter you can expect:

Meet the New President!

Neighborhood Developments

It's My Park Day

Holiday Markets

Nature Watch

Spooky Season Wrap Up

Association Dates and Activities

Community-Centered Developments: What's going on in Wooten

By Laws

The team updated its bylaws to reflect its expanded mission and changes in how it works. Five proposals moved forward in October, and members voted on them in November:

- **Broader mission (approved)**. The team is now a community point of contact on land use, zoning, transportation, environmental, urban design and planning issues, working with any impacted parties, not just neighboring Crestview.
- **Flexible elections (approved)**. The fixed September election date is gone. The Chair and Vice-Chair may serve up to three full consecutive terms and stay in office until a successor is elected.
- **Conflict of interest (approved)**. The rules now cover rezonings, conditional use permits and conditional overlays. Members with a stake in a project may discuss it but not vote.
- **Decision-making and quorum (tabled).** Members will take this up in December.
- **Member proposal (failed 0–8**). One member, one vote, with a 10-person quorum.

Elections

Megan Pritts was elected Secretary 8–0, succeeding Sandra Menjivar-Suddeath, who did not seek another term. Ryan Nill was reelected Chair 7–0 for a second term.

Current cases

2020 W. Anderson Lane (former LA Fitness). The owner seeks a density bonus allowing 45 more feet of height, which would raise the allowed homes from 134 to 350 apartments. The team offered conditional support in October, before the October 27 Planning Commission hearing. The developer has since agreed that no parking garage will face the neighborhood. If parkland dedication applies, it will also build a trail along the drainage easement from Anderson Lane, with future links to Belford and Sales Streets. It declined underground parking, a request the team will drop if the trail is committed. The team is now contacting neighbors next to the trail route.

WNPCT: Advocacy and Community Engagement

Wooten Neighborhood Plan Contact Team (WNPCT) provides input on city planning priorities and recommends amendments to city staff, specifically in rezoning cases. The team seeks representation from property owners, residential renters, business owners, and any neighborhood members who rent or own property in Wooten. The contact team advocates for our neighborhood, ensuring our interests are represented, especially if neighborhood-based intervention is necessary.

There are no membership dues. The team meets on the first Monday of each month, typically at a local eating establishment.

The team has four positions: chairman, vice chairman, secretary, and attendance keeper. The website provides more information, including contact information and team activities.

Toyota dealership conditional use permit. After three meetings on lighting, landscaping, noise and garage screening, Toyota agreed to the team's requests except a masonry wall, which faces foundation, easement and tree issues. If the wall can't be built, the team will ask for a 12-foot solid fence, or the tallest the City allows.

Website changes

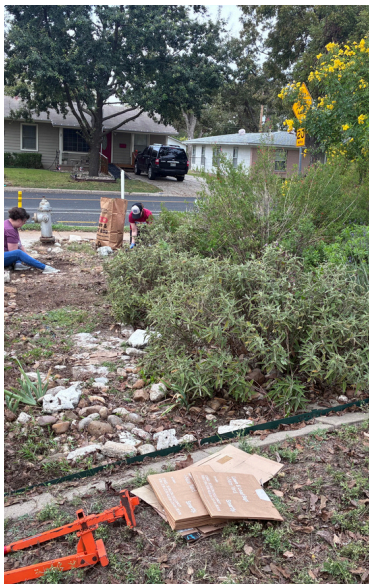
WNPCT is working with the WNA communications team to add pages that bring together information on every case the team has reviewed.

Weeds Out, Neighbors In

More than 30 volunteers came out for It's My Park Day to give Wooten Neighborhood Park a much-needed refresh. Volunteers came from all over the Wooten neighborhood, along with neighbors from surrounding neighborhoods who joined in to help.











What is It's My Park Day?
It's My Park Day is a citywide volunteer day organized by the Austin Parks Foundation, where community members come together to care for and improve their local parks.

For this Park Day, our volunteers tackled four big projects across the park: they pulled weeds and laid river rock over the bare spots in the corner garden, spread mulch around trees throughout the park to hold in moisture and protect roots from the Texas heat, and picked up litter to leave the park cleaner and more welcoming for everyone. Neighbors from one of the Braker Lane neighborhoods also led a bike lane cleanup, sweeping up litter and debris so riders have a clean, safe path.

Thank You, Volunteers!
A huge thank you to everyone who showed up and pitched in. Projects like this only happen because neighbors are willing to give their time, and the results speak for themselves. Next time you stroll through Wooten Park, take a moment to admire the corner garden and the freshly mulched trees. You helped make that happen!

See more photos from the day in our **It's My Park Day** album.

Want to Get Involved Next Time?
It's My Park Day returns in Spring 2027. Volunteer registration typically opens about four weeks before the event through the Austin Parks Foundation. Keep an eye on our website once we have a solid date and plan! We'd love to see even more neighbors join us!

Holiday Cheer

Deck the halls, fill the stockings and skip the mall! The holidays are sneaking up faster than a cat toward the Christmas tree. The good news is that your neighborhood has everything you need to deck, snack and shop, and every purchase helps a local business.



Mini Market
Saturday, November 28
9 am - 12 pm
8104 Burrell Drive





Pottery Sale
Saturday, November 28
10 am - 2 pm
8211 Easter Cove



Holiday Plant Sale
Pick Up
December 2 -5
$13 each
[Holiday Plant Sale Order Form]



Christmas Bazaar
Sunday, December 6
10 am - 2 pm
8312 Burnet Road,
Unit 101

Nature Watch
Protect Wooten's Oaks: A Few Simple Habits Can Save Them

By Patty Colligan

Trees do a lot of quiet work in a neighborhood like ours: shade for sidewalks, cooler summer afternoons, lower cooling bills, higher property value and less runoff after storms. City data from 2014 put the Wooten planning area at about 24% tree canopy and 60% impervious cover, compared with 27% canopy and 40% impervious cover for Council District 7 as a whole. Wooten also has less canopy and more pavement and rooftops than our nearby friends: Allandale (39%) and Rosedale (53%) have noticeably more canopy. With less shade to spare, every healthy tree here matters more.

One of the biggest threats to our oaks is oak wilt. It is especially widespread in Central Texas and kills millions of oaks every year. The fungus invades the tree's water-conducting system and disables it, and it can affect every oak species. It can also hit your wallet, since forest service experts warn it can reduce property values and cost thousands of dollars to treat.

The good news is that prevention is cheap and easy. Here is what to do.

- Avoid pruning or wounding oaks from February through June. Wounds are the best entry point for the disease, and they can come from pruning, construction, lawnmowers, string trimmers, and storms. Winter is a good time to prune.

Texas A&M Forest Service experts say the best pruning time is the cold of winter, when insect activity is minimal. But make sure your pruning implements are clean and sterilized! Dip them in an alcohol solution or household disinfectant like Lysol or Pine-Sol between cuts.

- Paint every oak wound, any time of year. Immediately apply a thin coat of latex or pruning paint to fresh wounds that expose inner bark or sapwood. This matters because paint keeps contaminated sap beetles from infecting the wound with spores. Any kind of paint will do the job. The forest service recommends painting anything larger than the diameter of a pinky.

- Know the warning sign. In live oaks, oak wilt often shows up as yellow and brown veins in the leaves. If you see it, call a professional promptly.

Where to get help

Texas Oak Wilt (texasoakwilt.org) has information and a tool to find your local Texas A&M Forest Service oak wilt forester. The Forest Service also helps administer a federal cost-share program, the Texas Oak Wilt Suppression Program.

A few minutes of care, a bottle of Pine-Sol and a can of paint can help keep Wooten's shade standing for decades.

Platinum Sponsors





Spooky Season 2026: Wooten Lights Up for Halloween

Halloween 2026 was a big night in Austin. The Longhorns hosted Mississippi State, ghost tours were running, and trick-or-treaters packed the sidewalks. It was a warm one, too: the thermometer hit 80°F, so plenty of capes and witch hats went jacket-free. But here in Wooten, the night belonged to candy, costumes and creepy front yards.
In that spirit, the second annual Wooten Spooky Season Map was back to help little ghouls plan their candy routes. This year, 29 houses on 15 streets signed up, and Easter Cove and Pompton Dr went all in, with entire blocks handing out candy.



The loot was legendary. Our 29 stops handed out candy, trinkets, bubbles and toys, and one house on Polar Dr even served hot dogs. Nine houses earned a teal pumpkin on the map for allergy-friendly or non-candy treats, and one had sensory-friendly options for kids who may be neurodivergent, so every kid could join the fun.

The yards brought the spooky. Twenty houses decorated, and Polar Dr stole the show with four decorated houses in a row.



Thank you to every neighbor who signed up, decorated, stocked up on treats or walked the map with a tiny superhero in tow. The Spooky Season Map will rise again in 2027! Have ideas or photos to share? Contact the Wooten Neighborhood Association at wooten@wootenna.com..

THANK YOU TO THESE BUSINESSES FOR SUPPORTING US!

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING IN OUR NEWSLETTER?

REACH OUT TO WOOTEN@WOOTENNA.COM

Redeemer AUSTIN

Nosh & Bevvy

FIND US ONLINE!

WOOTENNA.COM

WOOTENATX

WOOTEN--AUSTIN--TX

Save on Wastewater Costs All Year

In addition to all the fun festivities in the Winter, it's time for your wastewater bill average to be calculated!

Austin Water sets your monthly wastewater charge for the next year from how much water you use over three winter months, between December and March. Cutting back on outdoor use like irrigation, filling pools and washing cars during that time can lower your bill for the whole year.

To find your averaging dates and learn more, visit the City of Austin's Wastewater Averaging site

Thank you for reading!

Upcoming Neighborhood Meetings

All neighbors and businesses are welcome to participate! All events impacting the neighborhood are posted on our **website**.

Wooten Neighborhood Planning Contact Team Meeting

- December 7, 2026
- Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Location: Nosh and Bevvy , 8440 Burnet Rd #100, Austin, TX 78757

Quarterly Wootenanny

- December 14
- Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Location: Nosh and Bevvy (Upstairs)

Wooten Neighborhood Association Meeting

- January 11
- Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Location: TBD

BECOME A MEMBER

Be a part of our inspiring mission to inform, connect, and beautify our community. Memberships are just **$5** per person per year.

Submit the form to the right or Pay online via Zeffy: **WNA Membership Sign Up**

BECOME A SPONSOR

Sponsors support the community and help sustain the association and create events that connect our neighborhood.

Participants will receive complimentary advertising in our quarterly newsletter, on our sponsorship page, and on our social media channels. Learn more on our website: Sponsorship Program.

Submit the form to the right or Pay online via Zeffy: **WNA Sponsorship**

SUPPORT OUR PARKS

Supporting our Park through donations is a wonderful way to contribute to the well-being of our community and the environment.

Submit the form to the right or Pay online via Zeffy: **Park Fund**

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **WNA** AND MAIL TO:

P.O. Box 10171
Austin, TX 78766

WOOTEN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

- ☐ **Annual Membership – $5**
- ☐ **Extra Donation – $_____**
- ☐ **Park Fund - $_____**
- ☐ **WNA Sponsorship:**
  - ☐ **Bronze – $250**
  - ☐ **Silver – $450**
  - ☐ **Gold – $600**
  - ☐ **Platinum – $1000**

Name:_____

Email:_____

Address:_____

Company Name: _____