Lost Creek Limited District Election Passes

Lost Creek voters passed a referendum to form a Limited District that will go into effect Dec. 15, 2015, when Lost Creek is annexed by the City of Austin. The election was held May 11, 2013, and voters overwhelmingly approved the measure. Lost Creek residents voted 810 in favor and 409 against.

The Limited District will retain ownership and provide maintenance of local parks, greenbelts and the Community Building on Quaker Ridge Drive. The City will assume operation of the water and wastewater utility Dec. 15, 2014, which is a year earlier than the previous annexation agreement, but we will not pay Austin city taxes until after December 2015. Although the City would operate the utility system effective December 2014 and collect water and sewer payments, Lost Creek will continue to operate park-related facilities and the Community Building until the full purpose annexation on Dec. 15, 2015, at which time Lost Creek MUD will convert to Lost Creek Limited District.

The Limited District will continue several important programs including operation and maintenance of parks, greenbelts, the entry median on Lost Creek Boulevard and continue many existing projects, such as removing brush from local trails to minimize risk of fire to our properties and deed enforcement.

Lost Creek Projects Still on Hold

In the January newsletter we informed residents that Lost Creek had placed several projects on temporary hold pending bids to repaint the interior of the water ground storage tanks next to the District’s offices. The cost to paint the tank’s interior will be $245,000 and now that the costs are known, Lost Creek is reviewing all capital projects during the budget cycle that started in June.

Lost Creek Will Hold August 19 Town Hall Meeting to Seek Input on Sidewalk Project

We are always seeking input from you on projects to make sure we are moving in the direction you think we should be going, and to that end, we are holding another town hall meeting to seek your feedback on the sidewalk project. Information about the sidewalk project is on our website at www.lostcreekmud.org.

The meeting will be held to provide interested parties with information, then we will hold a grassroots poll/vote on the project in September. The Town Hall meeting will be held August 19 at the Lost Creek Country Club at 7 p.m.
8 Ways to Save Energy, Money This Summer

Temperatures aren’t the only thing that tend to soar during a Texas summer. Residents usually see a spike in their electric bill during these hot months. Here are some easy ways you can conserve energy and reduce your bills during the summer:

1. If your thermostat’s programmable, use it. Creating a program that sets the temperature higher while you’re at work or out of the house can save you money on your electric bill. And if you can, try to set your thermostat higher when you are home (78 degrees is the number suggested most often during the summer).

2. Cracks along window and door frames can cause cool air to leak right out of your home. A little caulk and weather-stripping can go a long way to keeping your house nice and cool.

3. Try to limit the use of heat-generating appliances, such as the oven, dishwasher and dryer, during the daytime hours when temperatures are hottest. And wash clothes in cold water.

4. Keep any shades or blinds closed to help keep rooms cooler.

5. Using ceiling fans can make rooms feel a few degrees cooler. But be sure to turn it off — and any lights — when you leave a room.

6. Unplug any unused power sources when you can. Electronics like cellphone and laptop chargers draw energy even when they’re not being used.

7. Check your air filters monthly and change them when they’re dirty. A dirty air filter blocks the air flow, causing your air conditioning unit to work harder and use more energy. Also, having your unit checked out once a year by a professional isn’t a bad idea. The more efficiently the unit runs, the less energy you waste.

8. Create shade around your home by planting trees or shrubs. Planting them around your air conditioning unit can also improve its efficiency, although make sure the plants won’t block the unit’s airflow.

Stage Two Landscape Watering Schedule Still in Effect

Lost Creek is still under its Stage 2 watering schedule of once per week watering. The schedule was triggered when the LCRA reservoir system reached 900,000 acre feet of water or less. Here is the once per week schedule:

- **Single family residents** may only water outdoors once a week.
  1. Odd addresses: Saturday
  2. Even addresses: Sunday

- **Businesses and multifamily units** may only water outdoors once a week.
  1. Odd addresses: Tuesday
  2. Even addresses: Friday

- Watering by sprinkler or irrigation system is allowed on an assigned day only before 10 a.m. or after 7 p.m.

- Hand watering is still allowed anytime.

Please adjust your watering to no more than the maximum allowed once per week schedule as indicated above to avoid penalties and potential loss of service for noncompliance.

We also ask that you keep this new schedule in mind when planting new landscaping or lawns and that you install a rain sensor on your sprinkler that turns off your sprinkler when it is raining.

Lastly, please remember to check your sprinkler timer after a power failure because sometimes the clock will reset during a power failure and cause the sprinkler to water at the incorrect times.


Additional water conservation and schedule information can be found at [http://austinwateriqknowyourwater.org](http://austinwateriqknowyourwater.org) and [www.lcra.org/water/save/index.html](http://www.lcra.org/water/save/index.html).
Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution!
Here are some simple steps to help prevent stormwater pollution in Lost Creek:

1. Make sure to follow the directions and application rates when applying fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals to your lawn or around the house. If you apply too much, water runoff will wash the chemicals into local waterways.

2. Don’t blow leaves into the street when mowing or trimming. Lawn clipping will clog local storm drains and also pollute local waterways.

3. Conserve water by turning off the tap when running water is not necessary. This helps prevent water shortages and reduces the amount of contaminated water that needs treatment.

4. Be careful about what you flush down your sink or toilet. Don’t throw paints, oils or other forms of litter down the drain.

5. Use environmentally safe household products, such as washing powder, household cleaning agents and toiletries.

6. By having more plants in your garden you are preventing fertilizer, pesticides and contaminated water from running off into nearby water sources.

7. Don’t throw litter into rivers, lakes or oceans. Help clean up any litter you see on our trails and local parks. Please make sure it is safe to collect the litter and put it in a nearby trash receptacle.

Other News and Notes
Online Bill Pay is here! You can now pay your water bill online with a credit card at www.lostcreekmud.org.

Vendor and Contractor Advertisement Signs If you are remodeling or constructing a home improvement, please note that it is a violation of the deed covenants to display a vendor or contractor advertisement sign. The Deed Enforcement Officer will ask you to remove them and issue citations for non-compliance.

ACC Approval and MUD Permits Make sure to submit any home improvement or remodeling projects to the LCNA Architectural Control Committee and secure the appropriate permits from the MUD.

Non-Emergency Sheriff Department Contact Need to report or need non-emergency assistance from the Sheriff’s department? Call 974-0845 Extension 3 for a direct line to dispatchers.

Be Firewise and Protect Your Property In the Event of a Wildfire
The wildfires in Bastrop and Oak Hill last year have gotten everyone’s attention and there are many ways to protect your property in the event of a wildfire.

The District has pamphlets available at its office to assist you and more information is available on the Firewise website at www.firewise.org. We have also provided some useful tips below:

1. When constructing, renovating or making an addition to your home, use fire resistant or non-combustible materials.

2. Choose a good location because fire will spread up a slope more rapidly than on flat terrain.

3. Set the structure at least 30 feet from a cliff or ridge.

4. The primary goal needs to be recucing exposure to fuel and combustibles where possible. Some examples include using Class-A asphalt shingles, using smaller glass panes in windows, using non-flammable shutters, cover under floor and attic vents to prevent sparks from entering the home, and make sure to install at least 2 ground level doors for easy safe exit in an emergency.

5. Remember, any structures attached to the home such as a deck, porch or fence can act as a fuel bridge if constructed from flammable materials.
Burn Ban Lifted
Travis County lifted its ban on outdoor burning April 2013. However, we do not encourage burning brush or leaves due to potential wildfire in the greenbelts.

Vandals in the Parks
Please report vandals in the parks by calling 911. We are having an issue with vandals clogging the restroom facilities in the parks. If you witness anyone applying graffiti to any public property or vandalizing district facilities, please call 911.

Oak Wilt Remediation
In every newsletter we remind Lost Creek residents about oak wilt remediation and tree replacement. Oak wilt season is here so please spray the wound of any oak tree immediately upon pruning. Unfortunately, the MUD is prohibited by statute to spend funds to remediate oak wilt on private property; however, the Texas Forest Service has an Oak Wilt Assistance Program that provides training, assistance and advice on identifying, treating and stopping the spread of oak wilt. This information is available on their website located at http://www.texasoakwilt.org/assistance/assistance.html and LCNA has a representative to help with identifying possible oak wilt problems. The Lost Creek Neighborhood Association helps spread the word on oak wilt remediation so please contact their representative Jenni’er Lamm at jenniferplamm@yahoo.com.

ABOUT LOST CREEK MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
Lost Creek Municipal Utility District is the local government serving more than 1,250 families in the Lost Creek neighborhood by providing drinking water, wastewater, solid waste collection, deed restriction enforcement, beautification and recreational services.