THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

The Limited District celebrated National Trails Day by sponsoring its annual Barton Creek Cleanup Day. On June 2, approximately 40 volunteers collected 20 bags of trash from District property on both sides of Barton Creek, and along the Whitemarsh Valley Greenbelts.

The number of volunteers exceeded recent years’ events by a wide margin; especially impressive was the number of young people giving of their time and energy to beautify the greenbelts.

WHAT IS CODENEXT? By Barbara Szalay, Guest Contributor

What is CodeNEXT?

(a) The latest cool iPhone App?
(b) A must-have holiday gift? or
(c) A meme gone viral on social media?

None of the above, except that (c) is closest! CodeNEXT is just a catchy, hipster way of saying Next Code—that is, our next land development code for the City of Austin.

While CodeNEXT Draft 1.0 is out, nothing has been adopted yet, but the zoning of every lot in Lost Creek will likely change. Our lots, and the Marshall Tract, had been zoned Single Family 2 (“SF-2”) and were slated to become Low Density Residential (“LDR”). However, the CodeNEXT team have recently announced they are replacing Draft 1.0 with 2.0, which in turn replaces most of the proposed residential zoning classes, including LDR, with classes R1-4. We would likely be zoned R1B.

R1B may be like LDR. LDR was to be similar to SF-2, but would have allowed some Accessory Dwelling Units (“ADUs”) and many other uses, such as short term rentals, day cares, and group homes. Also, the nearby office area zoning would have allowed more amenities such as food trailers and restaurants. City staff did reiterate to Council that existing “valid” deed restrictions would still be in play. Some other concerns are flooding, changing parking requirements, and whether neighborhood plans will be honored.


The deadline to comment on the latest map, already outdated, was July 7th, but the comment feature remains active. Consider asking that the comment periods be extended. Then buckle up—it’s going to be an interesting (!) year, as you (literally) throw in your lot with the City of Austin.

For more information, please see http://www.lostcreekld.org/files/codenext.pdf, as well as http://lostcreekcivicorganization.ning.com/codenext.
The International Dark-Sky Association has named Lost Creek as a Dark Sky Friendly Development of Distinction. The IDA Dark Sky Friendly Development of Distinction certification program is designed to recognize subdivisions whose planning actively promotes a more natural night sky and preserves the environment from unnecessary light at night. The award is designed to garner community support for environmentally responsible outdoor lighting.

Lost Creek is the first and only neighborhood in Austin to achieve this award to date. In order to maintain this award we are asking Lost Creek residents to voluntarily be mindful of all outdoor lighting. Some of the basics include:

1. Use lighting only when needed
2. Only light the area that needs it
3. Be no brighter than necessary
4. Minimize blue light emissions
5. Be fully shielded (pointing downward)

To learn more about International Dark Skies and information about retailers who offer IDA compliant light fixtures please visit the IDA website at darksky.org.

ARCHITECTURAL CONTROL COMMITTEE

All Lost Creek homeowners are required by their deed restrictions to receive approval from the Architectural Control Committee for all structure modifications to their property. The ACC is appointed and administered by the Lost Creek Neighborhood Association. Before you begin any work, you should make an application to the ACC and wait for their approval before you begin construction. No one wants to see a homeowner having to make expensive changes to their construction to bring it into compliance with the neighborhood requirements; so please be sure you have this approval before you begin.

Your City of Austin building permit does not in any way remove the requirement to receive ACC approval for your project. You can download a Building/Remodeling Request Form from the LCNA website at lcna.com.

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BOULDER TRAIL VANDALISM

There have been several recent instances of vandalism at Boulder Trail Park. Please report any incidents that you observe to Austin 311 (or 911 if an incident is in progress, or you believe that it is an emergency or you feel unsafe). Please report any damage that you see, regardless of the cause, to the District office. Phone: 512-327-6243 Email: office@LostCreekLD.org

BOULEVARD PARK UPDATES

The City of Austin project to refurbish the water tanks on Quaker Ridge Drive has been completed. As part of the City’s agreement with the District for use of a portion of the Boulevard Park for a staging area, the contractors performing the work have resodded the open field. The temporary irrigation system and the construction fencing has been removed, and the field is now available to park-goers. The District took advantage of the resodding to improve the sprinklers for the field.

The District has also completed a xeriscaping project on a portion of the land along Quaker Ridge Drive, and has replenished the playground mulch around the playscape equipment.

BUDGET AND TAX RATE PROCESS

The Lost Creek Limited District, in accordance with the Texas Water Code, adopts a budget and sets a tax rate each September. The tax rate that is established will apply to 2017 property valuations and will fund the District operations for the 2017/2018 fiscal year, which begins October 1, 2017.

The Board is committed to continued strong support of Firewise activities, deed enforcement measures, and continued maintenance and improvements to the District’s parks and recreational facilities, including the District office and community center.

Those programs will be largely determined by input from you, the District taxpayers.

Now is the time to let your voice be heard regarding the budget and your tax dollars. All regular Board meetings begin with an opportunity for citizens to address the Board regarding their priorities and concerns. This is a great time to give the Board your input to their budgeting process. Written communications may be given to any board member or the general manager via email or postal mail, or dropped off at the District office.

DID YOU KNOW?

• The LD tax rate hearing will be on September 13, 2017. See more info below.

• APD officers now have access to an office and the kitchen and restroom facilities at the LD Office and Community Center.

• During the peak season, the LD pays for APD patrols at the LD Greenbelt to manage safety and security.
HOMEOWNER CHECKLIST

Wildfires don't have to destroy everything in their path. Science and research have proven that using Firewise principles in your landscaping can minimize damage and prevent losses. The work you do today can make a difference.

Follow these simple action steps now and throughout the year to prepare and help reduce the risk of your home and property becoming fuel for a wildfire:

» Clear needles, leaves and other debris from the roof, gutters, eaves, porches and decks. This reduces the chances of embers igniting your home.

» To reduce ember penetration, replace or repair loose or missing roof shingles or tiles, and caulk any gaps or openings on roof edges.

» Cover exterior attic vents, and enclose under-eave and soffit vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent embers from entering the home.

» Remove items stored under decks or porches; replace vegetation in these areas with rock or gravel.

» Replace mulch with hardscaping, including rock, gravel or stone. If it can catch fire, don’t let it touch your house, deck or porch.

» Remove flammable items within 30 feet of all structures including firewood piles, portable propane tanks and dry and dead vegetation.

» Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire so keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, trim it to reduce fire intensity, and don’t let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire.

» Fire can spread to tree tops. If you have tall trees on your property, prune low hanging branches 6 to 10 feet from the ground and for smaller trees, prune low hanging branches no more than a third of the tree’s height. Remove tall grasses, vines and shrubs from under trees.

» Talk to your neighbors and create a plan for how to address your wildfire safety challenges together.

Learn more about how to keep your family safe and reduce your home’s risk for wildfire damage at firewise.org.

As the summer heats up, wildfires will once again become an issue in Central Texas. While the District has spent over $120,000 in the last two years on wildfire mitigation in the District greenbelts, that work does not guarantee the safety of any home in a wildfire event. It is imperative that every homeowner does their part in evaluating their home for wildfire risk. Wildfire mitigation is truly a shared responsibility, as a single high-risk home can put an entire neighborhood at risk.

The District encourages all homeowners to educate themselves about Firewise principles and take a serious look at their property to assess their risk.