Dear Lost Creek Resident,

We continue to prepare for annexation by the City of Austin effective December 31, 2015. Included in this issue of the quarterly newsletter are some short articles intended to keep you informed of changes and improvements in service that we provide to you. The MUD sends many important notices and emergency information to our residents via email and e-blasts to save time and money. We request you send your email address to office2@lostcreekmud.org to ensure you are on the list. All email and personal information is kept strictly confidential.

Sincerely,
Lost Creek MUD Board of Directors

Please Adhere to the Landscape Watering Schedule

Lost Creek is diligently enforcing the two times per week watering schedule. Please water on your designated outdoor watering day. Designated outdoor watering days are:

- Single family homes have two watering days per week:
  1. **Odd addresses**: Wednesday &/or Saturday
  2. **Even addresses**: Thursday &/or Sunday
  3. No watering after 10 a.m. or before 7 p.m. on any day
  4. Watering with a handheld hose is allowed anytime
- Commercial and multifamily customers may water on Tuesdays and Fridays

Please adjust your watering to no more than the maximum allowed two days 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 your sprinkler system off when it is raining. More information on the watering schedule and conservation tips is available on our website at www.lostcreekmud.org.

Possible Addition of Circuit or Fitness Stations to Boulder Trail Park

Bored with going to your gym or working out in your home gym? If so, voice your support for the addition of outdoor fitness circuit or fitness stations to Boulder Trail Park. The Board is considering the installation of this type of exercise and/or training equipment to the trail which surrounds the park. Different types of stations are being evaluated. Some are best for stretching, balance, strength training, cardio and core work. The stations would be spread out around the trail so individuals could work by themselves or with a friend and then move on to another station. The addition of these circuit training stations would help make Boulder Trail Park more user-friendly for adults and young people interested in varying their fitness routine without having to leave Lost Creek.

Come to the Board’s July 17 meeting to express your interest for the installation of these stations at Boulder Trail Park or send an email to MUD General Manager Tom Clark at gm@lostcreekmud.org. Let’s all get and stay healthy!

Online Bill Pay is Here!

You now have several options with online bill pay. You can pay by credit card and sign up for automated bills sent directly to your email. To ensure proper credit to your account if you pay bills online through a bank, remember to change your account number as we recently changed our billing system. To set up online bill pay, go to www.lostcreekmud.org, click “Pay Your Bill” and follow the online instructions.
Being a “Good Neighbor”

Your Lost Creek MUD and Lost Creek Neighborhood Association (LCNA) spend an inordinate amount of time addressing disputes among property owners and maintaining property values in Lost Creek. The vast majority of these disputes would disappear if we all took a step back and resolved to be an even better neighbor whether you are a homeowner or a renter.

The MUD does engage the services of a property management deed restriction enforcement company to help in this endeavor. Pinnacle Texas Management Services is the District’s deed restriction enforcement company who will respond and investigate potential deed restriction violations. Complaints are kept anonymous. The contact information for Pinnacle Texas Management Services is: lostcreek@pinnacletexas.com.

Besides the formal deed restrictions which apply to the section of Lost Creek your home is located in, here are eleven “Being a Good Neighbor” common sense tips which we all know but should be reviewed occasionally:

1) YARD AND HOME MAINTENANCE  Ask yourself, are you timely maintaining and repairing your home and premises? Are you keeping your property up to the same standards as the other Lost Creek residents? A significant number of complaints concern neglected homes and yards. Mow, weed, edge and water according to the District’s current water restrictions (but do not over water) your yard on a regular basis. Trim your trees and shrubs when needed. Don’t forget that trees need occasional deep watering too in order to help them survive and stay healthy, especially in these very hot, extreme temperatures which we are already experiencing this summer. Remember, healthy trees add value to your property as well as provide help in lowering your electric bills. Consider xeriscaping or using native plants and trees in your landscaping to help reduce water usage too.

2) BOATS, TRAILERS, RECREATIONAL VEHICLES (RVs) AND JET SKIS  These are not allowed in most sections. Please be mindful of your neighbors and remove them from your premises or park them where they are out-of-sight from your neighbors or the street.

3) YARD PARKING OR PARKING ON A SIDEWALK  Don’t park your car, truck, boat, or RV on your yard or grass. It is also illegal to park a vehicle across a sidewalk which blocks pedestrian access to the sidewalk. Be thoughtful of your neighbor across the street by not parking your vehicle immediately across from their driveway. Not parking on the street at all will do much to improve the appearance and safety of our streets and neighborhood.

4) TRASH CANS  Please put your empty trash cans and recycling boxes out-of-sight the same day the trash company empties them. Remember too that you are not required to only use the large trash containers provided by the garbage company. You may use your own smaller containers which may be easier to store inside your garage and out of sight from your neighbors.

5) NOISE, MUSIC AND OUTDOOR LIGHTING  Be sensitive of noise, music and outdoor lighting so as not to disturb your neighbors. Set your motion sensors so as not to go “on with the wind” or to shine directly into a neighbor’s home or windows.

6) BE A RESPONSIBLE PET OWNER  Keep your pet on a leash when outside of your yard or walking in the greenbelts or Boulder Trail Park. No dogs are allowed in the Lost Creek Blvd. Park playground. Travis County does have a leash law and will enforce it if dogs are loose and running free in the neighborhood. Be sure to “curb your dog” and keep dog “clean up” materials with you.

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when walking your dog. Your neighbors don’t appreciate cleaning up after your dog any more than you would enjoy cleaning up after theirs.

**Barking dogs** – Please be mindful of your dog’s barking so as to not disturb your neighbors peace and quiet.

7) **FENCES** Keep yours in good repair, within the allowable height and material restrictions and within your property boundaries. If you are building or redoing your fence, make sure it does not extend over onto the property of your next door neighbor. If necessary, refer to the survey of your property plat or have a new engineering survey made. It is also “neighborly” to discuss a new or replacement fence project with your neighbors before you start so there are no misunderstandings.

8) **SIGNS IN YOUR YARD** Only “For Sale” signs are to be placed in your yard when you are selling your home. Roofing, remodeling and contractor signs are not allowed! Lost Creek is a residential not a commercial area to advertise other companies’ businesses or services in our front yards. Political signs should only be placed a few weeks before an election then promptly removed afterwards.

9) **BASKETBALL EQUIPMENT IN STREET** Basketball equipment should be located in your driveway and not out on a public street or easement where they can and are a safety hazard to drivers and pedestrians, particularly at night.

10) **DEED RESTRICTIONS** One of the responsibilities of the Lost Creek MUD is to enforce deed restrictions. They were written to keep our neighborhood attractive and to maintain property values. Know the deed restrictions which pertain to your property. As you may not have received the deed restrictions for your property at closing when you purchased your home, they are available to you online at [www.lostcreekmud.org](http://www.lostcreekmud.org). There is also a “Street Lookup” section which will allow you to look up your address and then refer to the deed restrictions which pertain to your area.

11) **HOME ADDITIONS, REMODELING AND FENCES** As a general rule, additions and changes to homes and fences require prior approval from the LCNA’s Architectural Control Committee. This three person committee will review your proposed plans for conformity to the deed restrictions and easement issues and answer any other questions you may have about your project before it is built. You may get the LCNA’s ACC Building/Remodeling Request form at the [lcna.com](http://lcna.com) website or from the MUD office at 1305 Quaker Ridge during office hours.

Thank you for your cooperation in being a good neighbor and in keeping Lost Creek a beautiful and wonderful place to live!
Lost Creek Website Gets a Facelift

We have updated our website to make it more user-friendly and to allow you to pay water bills online. For current information on water reservoir levels in the Highland Lakes, Burn Ban information, current weather and temperature, rainfall totals from the new rainfall recording station, and almost anything else you want to know, go to our website at www.lostcreekmud.org. A new feature is the Resident Dashboard. Go to our website and locate the “Water Awareness Dashboard” in the center of the home page. Just below and to the right is a box “Can I water my lawn today?”

To the right of this is a blue box that says “customize.” Type in your address and the website will tell you which day you can water and also provide deed restriction information. It will also remember you so when you come back to the website, it will automatically show your address and watering day.

Board Approves New Scout Projects

The Board has approved two Scout projects that will make improvements to local trails. The first project is an Eagle Scout project that will be organized by John Stover, who will construct a concrete pad and replace a picnic table in the greenbelt between Whitemarsh Valley Walk and Augusta National. The second is a proposed Girl Scout project being organized by Scout Troop 1991 that will remove dead trees and limbs from the greenbelt and repair a trail recently damaged by rains.

Oak Wilt

Never prune trees in the spring. Prune after a freeze or between the months of July and September when fungus carrying beetles that cause oak wilt are less prevalent. We recommend that you not prune oak trees during other times of the year but if you must prune any type of oak tree, please spray the wound immediately with pruning seal. 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. See their website at www.texasoakwilt.org or for more local assistance contact Jennifer Lamm with the Lost Creek Neighborhood Association at jenniferlamm@yahoo.com.

Updating and Re-landscaping of the Lost Creek Entrance Median

Suggestions have been made to update the landscaping and plants in the entrance median on Lost Creek Blvd. and Loop 360. With the assistance of the Lost Creek Home and Garden Club, several professional landscape contractors have been approached for input and ideas on how to re-landscape the median. At the July 17 Board meeting, the Board will be presented with a landscape design from TexaScapes. Also in the works is the revamping of the irrigation system in the median, as well as updating the lighting. Please feel free to attend this meeting to see the latest plan to improve and enhance Lost Creek’s “front door” to our neighborhood which we all share and enjoy!
Coyotes and the Greenbelt

We are again receiving complaints about coyotes in one of the greenbelts getting close to residences. Please report all coyote sightings to 311.

Sidewalks

The Board is continuing progress on finalizing sidewalk locations within the District. The purpose of the project is to fill in some gaps and provide out of the street safe pedestrian access to local parks and school bus stops. We held a Public Forum in January 17, 2012, at the Lost Creek Country Club and have made several adjustments to the plan based upon feedback received from residents at that meeting. We continue to receive feedback and will hold a second Public Forum on July 17 prior to proceeding with the construction. For additional information and to see the latest sidewalk map go to our website www.lostcreekmud.org.

Greenbelts and Trails

You may have recently seen our surveyors working in the District’s greenbelt’s locating property pins. We located the property pins to ensure that any cleanup performed by the District in the greenbelt is not being conducted on private property. We also ask that you do the same by not working in the greenbelts without express authorization of the District. Most importantly, do not dump yard clippings or debris in the greenbelt. This causes a fire hazard and you could be cited by the District.

Trail and Park Maintenance

Boulder Trail Park – Over time, sediment has changed the flow of water at the park and caused the trails to wash out during rain events. Repairs have been made to reshape the drainage at the park and correct erosion issues.

Trail Repairs and Trail Extensions

Whitemarsh Valley Walk and Augusta National Trail – Over time, sediment has changed the flow of water and washed out portions of the trail. A new rock apron has been installed to divert the water to the creek and Girl Scout Troop 1991 will begin work on its trail improvement project to continue repairs and improve the trail.

Trail Extension Behind Indian Canyon – We are extending and re-routing the trail behind Indian Canyon. This trail is accessed from Augusta National. Walking northeast, before the trail crosses the creek, stay to the left. We have started clearing the brush but the trail is currently undeveloped. We are looking for a Scout that needs an Eagle Scout project to install a park bench. The new trail extension will include a turn around and a park bench, so please enjoy this new addition as well as other portions of the nature trails that help make Lost Creek a great community.
Xeriscape Landscaping and Water Conservation

In October of 2011, Lost Creek adopted a new tiered water rate system to encourage water conservation and to prepare Lost Creek customers for eventual annexation by the City of Austin on December 31, 2015. Many local residences are taking advantage of this opportunity by installing xeriscape landscaping and native plants in order to save money and conserve water.

Recent xeriscape landscape installation at the corner of Lost Creek Blvd. and Canoe Brook.

The District is committed to continue to remove debris and “ladder fuel” from the green-belts. We all recall the fires last year that occurred in Bastrop and Oak Hill. The county has reinstated its Burn Ban, and we caution residents to not burn debris, keep close watch on any outside fire pits and use extreme caution when cooking outdoors. There is a lot of useful information on our website about how to prepare for a fire and useful links on how to recognize and remove “ladder fuel” that may save your property in a fire.

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.

Lost Creek Celebrates July 4

Lost Creek Directors Gary Sertich and Nancy Naeve toss candy to parade-watchers at the 18th Annual Fourth of July celebration in Lost Creek. The parade was followed by fun activities and music at the Lost Creek Country Club.

Have a question about your deed restrictions? Are you concerned that a neighbor may not have applied for and/or received the required ACC (Architectural Control Committee) approval prior to beginning the new construction or remodeling project that is currently underway (or about to commence)? Has that fence been approved? For these and any other questions or concerns that you may have regarding deed restriction enforcement in Lost Creek, please contact Tanya Emmons via email at lostcreek@pinnacletexas.com, by phone at 512-795-8461, by fax at 512-795-8463, or online at www.pinnacletexas.com (Residents link).