

WLCA NEWSLETTER



Woodlawn Lake Community Association

Special Neighborhood Edition

Spring 2014

San Antonio, Texas

SPRING MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

SPECIAL NEWSLETTER EDITION

The bi-monthly WLCA Newsletter is sent only to paid members. In the Spring, however, we print a special edition to introduce our entire community to our Association. It is our hope that our neighbors will choose to become a part of WLCA.

If this Newsletter was delivered to your home, you reside within the WLCA boundaries. You may also be in the Monticello Park Historic District or the Woodlawn Lake Area Neighborhood Conservation District (NCD) or the Jefferson NCD. These are not associations but are zoning overlays which WLCA helped set up to protect the characters of these communities.

Please take some time to read this Newsletter. It tells about WLCA and also about the Park and neighborhood that we strive to enhance, protect, and preserve.

SOME RULES AT WOODLAWN LAKE

Alcohol. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the Park.

Animals. Any dog taken into the Park must be restrained on a leash and the handler must pick up after his/her animal.

Boating. You can use a non-motorized boat or watercraft of any type during daytime hours. A permit is no longer required. Each participant must have a personal flotation device and the craft must be removed from the Lake when boating is done.

Curfew. The Park closes from 12 midnight to 5 am, every day.

Refuse. Blue recycle containers are for empty cans and uncapped bottles only. All other refuse goes into the green trash cans. Glass containers are not allowed at the Park. (If Park cans are full or if you have other types of recyclables, take your refuse home for proper disposal. Do not litter.)

Trail. The trail is for walking, hiking, or jogging. Bicycles, skateboards, roller blades, or non-motorized vehicles are prohibited. Children on tricycles or bicycles with training wheels are allowed so long as they are under immediate adult supervision. (WLCA favors a bike path on the streets around the Park.)

ABOUT WLCA

Who we are: WLCA was organized in the late 1940's but residents have been working together to preserve and improve our community and Park since 1920. It is a voluntary, non-profit organization. Our goals are to maintain the character and history of Woodlawn Lake Park and its surrounding community while enhancing the beauty, security, and tranquility of this area.

Area: Our geographic boundaries are Donaldson (north), Culebra (south), Zarzamora (east), and Gen. McMullen - St. Cloud (west). You do not have to live within this area to be a member; your interest in our Park and this community is sufficient.

Dues: Dues are for the calendar year. Payment makes you an active member. Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings, but only active members can hold office or vote on issues presented. Dues amounts are on the form on the back of this page.

Meetings: We meet at 6:30 pm on the last Tuesday of every month, except in December when we hold our Christmas party. Meetings are held at the Woodlawn Lake Park Wi-Fi Room next to the Gym, by the Josephine Tobin Drive street arch.

Can't make it to the meetings? We do not require our members to be at our meetings nor to participate in any of our activities. We try to make our meetings relevant, with speakers who bring us up to date with City functions and area developments and who listen to our concerns and answer our questions. We also keep you up to date via our newsletter and e-blasts.

More Info? Write to us at WLCA, PO Box 28374, SA 78228, or email us at wlca@att.net. Or visit us at one of our meetings. On line, WLCA is on Facebook and at neighborhoodlink.com.

Visit our Earth Day Booth

Saturday, April 12th, 9 am to 1 pm; Woodlawn Lake Park

We will feature kid-friendly recycle crafts by the TJHS National Art Honor Society. Bring the family—learn how to make the crafts and take a sample home. Get more information on WLCA and on how we are working to protect and improve our Park and our community.

Woodlawn Lake Community Association—Membership 2014

We safeguard your personal information.

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Name: _____ DOB Mo & Day: _____

Address: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Membership type: _____ Individual [\$5.00 per year], _____ Family/Household [\$10.00 per year]
(please check) _____ School, _____ Non-Profit, or _____ Business [each \$10.00 per year]

CLIP
OR
COPY

Make your check payable to the Woodlawn Lake Community Association

TO JOIN WLCA, fill it in this Application and mail it with your dues to WLCA, P.O. Box 28374, San Antonio TX 78228; or bring the form and dues to our Earth Day booth on April 12th or to a WLCA meeting (next meeting: April 29th).

WLCA EFFORTS & SUCCESSES

Community Preservation. Fighting to control traffic speed and volume in neighborhood streets. Working to save area historic structures and to keep out development not complimentary of this area. Helped to expand the Monticello Park Historic District. Initiated and led the effort to establish the Woodlawn Lake Area NCD and participated in creating the Jefferson NCD.

Park Enhancements. Sponsor Woodlawn Lake Park clean-ups, including Basura Bash and Adopt-a-Park. Campaign for Park improvements and preservation of Park's historic, recreational, family-friendly, and green character. Pursuing a bicycle trail on streets around Park. Active in Park Watch program.

Civic Involvement. Active part of the Westside Creeks Restoration Project and in getting it funded. Active in west side revitalization efforts. Give financial help to neighbors in need. Many members hold elective office, serve on City boards and commissions, and are involved with our schools and charities. Active voice in City bond issues. Heading petition drive to make City parks tobacco smoke free.

Safety. Work with our SAPD SAFTE Officer to enhance crime prevention efforts. Led the fight to stop a drug rehab center from opening in area. Active in neighborhood watch. Led efforts to set curfew and have Park Police stationed at Park. Got slower speed limits and all-way stop at south side of Park. Stopped alcohol use in all Park areas and activities.

Local Improvements. Initiated efforts to return quality retail shopping to our area while setting standards for commercial development. Worked to bring improvements to the Fredericksburg Road Deco District. Pursuing an area trolley that would connect the Park, area schools, the Deco District, and any future bus rapid transit or light rail system. Fighting to keep stray dogs, parked semi trucks, and bandit signs out of neighborhood.

One new member present at our April 29th meeting will win a \$15 HEB gift certificate. Join and be there for the drawing!

LAKE & PARK HISTORY

The land on which our communities now sit was originally part of the eight leagues of public domain granted San Antonio by the King of Spain and later deeded to it by the First Texas Congress. Early land investors were Samuel Maverick and David Alexander. In 1887, the West End Company bought 1000 acres of the land. It dammed the gully through which the Alazan Creek ran and sank two artesian wells, thus creating an 80 acre lake. Dirt for the dam was dug from what became the casting pond. The dirt dam would also serve as a roadbed for the trolley that would run from downtown to the new suburb.

The lake was improved as the area developed. In 1918, the park was given to the City, with the proviso that "this property is to be used for park and pleasure purposes for the benefit of the residents of San Antonio, Texas, and the public generally, and for no other purpose." In 1920, the name was changed to Woodlawn Lake.

In the 1960's and 1970's, we dealt with silting, overgrowth, and maintenance problems. In 1981, the lake was drained and excavated to a 10 foot level. In 1994, voters approved \$2 million in bond money for the park. Area residents asked for clean water, better lighting and security, a nature trail, and bike and running tracks. Many of these requests have been realized. More improvements and planning are taking place as more bond money for the park has been approved, including \$1 million in 2012.

AREA CONSTRUCTION

Park. The Seeling Channel is being deepened and widened to control flooding upstream. The first phase of the project, from the Lake to Mistletoe, will be completed by the end of this year. The two new bridges, one for cars and bicycles and one strictly for pedestrian traffic, will open before July 4th of this year.

Shopping Center. A new Family Dollar is nearing completion at W. Woodlawn and Bandera. When done, the old store will be razed and construction of the Walmart store will begin.