



Ricky Guerrero Park / Photo by Desirae Pierce

Welcome to Spring!

Dear Bouldin Creek Neighbors, Spring is here, giving us a welcome break between winter's chill and the summer heat ahead. Our neighborhood is buzzing with activity, from new businesses along South 1st to community projects that keep Bouldin Creek thriving. I encourage you to explore these new spots while continuing to support our longtime local favorites.

Get Involved!

BCNA thrives on participation, and joining a neighborhood committee is a great way to make a difference. These committees, led by dedicated residents, shape everything from parks and green spaces to zoning, safety, and community events.

Here's a quick look at our committees:
Parks and Green Spaces - Maintains parks, organizes cleanups, and works with the city on improvements.

Transportation & Safety

Focuses on pedestrian, cyclist, and traffic safety.

Community Events & Engagement

Plans neighborhood events and fosters connections.

Zoning

Reviews zoning and variance requests, and monitors ongoing development in the neighborhood.

One standout effort was the recent "It's My Parks Day," where over 60 volunteers helped beautify our green spaces—thank you to all who joined!

Your Participation Matters

Bouldin Creek is shaped by those who engage—whether through committees, zoning meetings, or neighborhood events. I've built lasting relationships through these efforts and encourage you to get involved in any way that fits your interests. Looking forward to seeing you around the neighborhood!

Greg Smith

BCNA President

president@bouldincreek.com



BCNA GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING
 Tuesday: April 8, 6:45 pm
Texas School for the Deaf
 Administration & Welcome Center
 2nd Floor Conference Center
 Use the Elizabeth St Entrance

FIREWISE WITH AFD
 Wed: April 16, 6:30 pm
Twin Oaks Library
 Mary Street & S. 5th

BECKER GARDEN GALA
 Saturday: April 5, 4:00 pm
Becker Elementary

ART04 Tour
 Sat & Sun: May 4-5
 Open Studios

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BCNA MEMBERSHIP IS FREE, SCAN NOW



Bouldin Creek's Parks and Green Spaces: A Community's Commitment to Nature

By Ingrid Weigand

Parks Committee

The Bouldin Creek neighborhood has over 20 acres of parks and green spaces, which residents have maintained and improved since the 1970s. We have 3 parks, Nicholas Dawson, Mary Dawson, Ricky Guerrero, and the West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt.

In April 2004, BCNA adopted the following green space-related goals at its general association meeting:

- Maintain established parkland and green spaces, and as much wilderness area as possible
- Establish no new infrastructure other than improving hike and bike trails
- Establish/improve erosion control on both East and West Bouldin creeks
- Eradicate non-native species and replace them, if warranted, with native ones
- Maintain old-growth tree canopy
- Establish a creek crossing at the S. 6th St. entrance to the W. Bouldin Greenbelt

Annual creek cleanings started in 1991, and cover all of our green spaces. Initially, we removed truckloads of car parts, appliances, and carpet remnants from both East and West Bouldin Creeks; in recent years, we have focused on collecting trash, removing invasive plants, and maintaining trails. These creek cleanings are always a great time to be out in nature and meet neighbors. This spring, over 60 neighbors participated, including some very young helpers and a few dogs.

Here is a short description of our parks/green spaces, and our engagement in each.

1. Mary Dawson Park, with .9 acres, at 650 Dawson Rd. is often mistaken for the front yard of the Park Terrace Apartments. In 2018, we asked the city to install bigger signage to draw attention, and in 2022 we were awarded a design grant from the Austin Parks Foundation. The design, adopted by BCNA's general association in 2023, envisioned several trails, picnic benches, and access to Dawson Road. We are in search of an individual who can offer pro-bono assistance in conducting a survey and performing environmental engineering tasks to develop technical specifications suitable for bidding.

2. Nicholas Dawson Park, at 600 W. Gibson, with a second entrance at S. 3rd and James St, is a 3-acre park along East Bouldin Creek. The park is a well-known destination for birders at migration times; its creek with smaller and larger pools provides a habitat for snapping turtles, foxes, coyotes, and the occasional crane. It is often the gathering point for park activities. After a creek cleaning in the mid-2000s, a swing set, concrete, and labor were donated, and by the end of the day, we had a playground! After 10 years, the city replaced it with its playscape. At about the same time, a neighbor on Gibson installed the flower beds on S. 3rd St. Other improvements included a 2008 grant-funded "green wall" creating a border between the northern side of the park and the adjacent houses.

In 2007, when the Austin Water Utility replaced the sewer system, the BCNA Parks Committee worked with

the city to select the least damaging route through the park, saving several heritage trees in the process. Other initiatives included the 2011-12 rain garden installation to contain the stormwater run-off from James and S. 3rd St., which never quite worked, and the swing-set area continues to fill with water after heavy rains.

3. Ricky Guerrero Park, a 2-acre park at 2006 S 6th St., was the brainchild of Roy Guerrero, a decades-long staff member at the Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC). He integrated Austin's Little League games in the 1940s and established fiestas and holiday parties for "Latin American" children in the 1950s. When the Meadowbrook Apartments on Live Oak were built in 1952, Roy Guerrero advocated for turning the 'undesirable' land into a park, specifically for the use of Meadowbrook children. In 1972 Ricky Guerrero Park was officially dedicated. The park is named in honor of his son Ricky, a student at Austin High, who tragically died of a football injury in 1970 at age 17.

One point of interest in the park is the 1870s historic railroad bridge spanning the creek; it is one of the oldest surviving structures of its kind in the Central Texas area.

The neighborhood association worked with PARC to install the splash pad, a major summer attraction. In 2019, PARC started a renovation that included the sidewalks, accessible parking, more picnic tables, drainage control, retrofitted restrooms, and

new lighting to improve safety. We held a big party in May of 2022 to celebrate these achievements.

Regrettably, most bathroom improvements were undone when unhoused people began residing in that space just a short time later. It has taken years of effort by immediate neighbors to rectify the situation. Although it is not completely resolved, the park is again being used by families and their children – who are all looking forward to the reopening of the splash pad this summer.

4. West Bouldin Creek Greenbelt spans 16 acres, with entrances at 1200 S. 6th St. and 1151 Post Oak St. While the city does not maintain it, BCNA has maintained this greenbelt for years. In the past, many residents avoided the greenbelt because of encampments and BMX racing courses. This changed slowly after we started the annual creek cleanups, which drew attention to this wonderful space.

In 2009, after many years of dealing only with trash collection, the neighborhood association commissioned an assessment of the greenbelt, conducted pro bono by the UT Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. With this assessment, BCNA established several goals: maintain the greenbelt as an “urban forest” with naturalistic trails, where neighbors and other community members could take their children, watch birds, hike, or bike. We also wanted to restore greenbelt vegetation to native species as much as possible. The first phase included the removal of Ligustrum, Nandina, and Chinaberries. It took several years to accomplish most of that goal, though containing Nandina, and now Cat’s Claw is a never-ending struggle.

In 2012, we started on the second goal, establishing a sustainable trail

system in the greenbelt, an effort greatly aided by a 2016 Austin Parks Foundation grant. In 2018, we created new trail system signage. We received funding from PARD to build a rock hop at the S. 6th St. entrance, to make it easier to cross the creek. Despite an engineered design, the rock hop washed away twice after heavy rains and has since become a collection of large rocks that are moved back into place by intrepid neighbors after heavy rainfalls.

In 2018, the Parks Committee applied for a grant to enhance the Post Oak entrance including striped parking, a kiosk, a new cedar fence, and signage. The opening was celebrated in 2020.

With the pandemic came increased homelessness, and the greenbelt became a huge encampment, with close to 100 people living there in 2023.

It took several years of working with city resources until the greenbelt became part of the City’s HEAL initiative, and camp residents were relocated to temporary housing. The ensuing clean-up by the city took months, but the greenbelt is recovering nicely and is again a destination for birders, dog walkers, and hikers.

These accomplishments were made possible only with active engagement from neighbors who gave their time, talent, and energy to preserve and enhance our environment. There are too many names to list each individual who contributed, but I would like to acknowledge the contributions of past and present long-time Parks Committee members Matt Coldwell, Ronnie Dittmar, Thom Parker, and Jody Zemel.



Nicholas Dawson Park, Photo by Desirae Pierce

The Becker Green Classroom Garden Gala

The Becker Green Classroom will hold their annual Garden Gala on **Saturday April 5th 4-7**. We encourage all Bouldin neighbors (especially those with future Becker Bobcats) to attend and explore the 10,000 sq. ft garden and outdoor classroom that has served the community for over 35 years! We hope to raise funds for the garden, but the event is free to attend and will offer tastings, tours, markets, children’s activities and more! See you there!

HOWDY NEIGHBOR!
 It's the Becker Green Classroom's
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 Fundraiser



to **@BeckerGreenClassroom**
 reference 'Neighbor' in the description

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Cary Capece: Keeping Our Parks & Streets Clean

By Desirae Pierce
Communications Director

Austin’s rapid growth has made keeping its streets, creeks, and parks clean a challenge. That’s where Cary Capece steps in. As the founder of Make Austin Clean (MAC), a 100% volunteer-driven group, Cary leads efforts to remove litter and restore natural spaces.

A Passion for Bouldin Creek

Since moving to Bouldin Creek in 2017, Cary has embraced the neighborhood, focusing on East Bouldin Creek, where volunteers have removed over 20,000 lbs. of trash from Oltorf to South Congress.

The Birth of Make Austin Clean

Walking the city in 2020-21, Cary



Nicholas Dawson Park / Photo by Desirae Pierce

saw Austin’s growing litter problem. Frustrated by the lack of action, they launched MAC, a grassroots effort to clean streets, creeks, and parks.

Transforming Green Spaces

MAC has made a big impact with weekly cleanups. “With neighbors’ support,

our parks are much cleaner,” Cary says. Their work extends citywide, with over 50,000 lbs. of trash removed.

Expanding the Vision

Cary aims to grow MAC’s reach by partnering with Zilker, Galindo, Dawson, and East Cesar Chavez neighborhood associations. “The goal is broader community involvement.”

Get Involved

MAC hosts weekday morning cleanups and larger Saturday events. Volunteers can sign up at makeaustinclean.org/volunteer or through GivePulse.

Building Community

Cary’s superpower is connection. Through MAC, he’s not only cleaned Austin and Bouldin Creek but also built a movement to protect and restore its beauty.



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Who is Nicholas Amos Dawson?

By Ronnie Dittmar
BCNA Treasurer & Parks Committee

Perhaps you've seen the sign for **Nicholas Dawson Park**, at Gibson and S. 1st, with a second entrance at James St & S 3rd? And maybe you've driven on Dawson Road?

Nicholas Dawson was my great-grandfather, his son Joe Dawson my grandfather, and I live in Joe & Audrey's old house, on Ebony St. Before Nicholas died in 1939, he was a prominent builder, and a Texas state representative in 1891 and '92. He built many small houses in the Bouldin neighborhood, in association with his two sisters.

Nicholas Dawson Park occupies land previously owned by the Dawson family and had several small houses built there in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s. Those houses were inherited or

built by Grandpa Joe. When he passed away in 1982, the property went to my mother and her three sisters, who managed them for a few more years as rental houses, until demolishing them and clearing the land.

In the early 1990s, the four sisters sold the land to the City of Austin, with the condition that the land be converted into parkland and named for Nicholas Dawson. Years later, I and several other neighbors worked with the city to get signage installed, which was first done around 2000. We installed a donated swing set and made small improvements and cleanups over the following years, and the city made the larger improvements - the current swing set with a terraced pad around 2007.

The park has been a wonderful meeting place for the annual Creek Cleanup, in association with the Austin Parks Foundation, as well as a nice bit of nature with a flowing creek, close to many of us here in the 'hood.



Nicholas Amos (NA) Dawson

SECTOR REP REQUEST

Blue Sector Residents: Share Your Event Ideas!

A small budget was approved for each sector to plan an event—no BCNA membership required, just residency!

Send your ideas and first name to Terri St. Arnaud. Get creative with activities, partnerships, and locations—like teaming up with other sectors or using a nearby park. Let's plan a fun neighborhood gathering! bluesector@bouldincreek.org

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Art04 Tour: A Celebration of South Austin's Creative Spirit May 3-4

By Desirae Pierce

The Art04 Tour is more than just an art event—it's a movement to support and sustain Austin's vibrant arts community. Born from the fight to save Thornton Road Studios from redevelopment, the tour was inspired by the need to protect affordable spaces for artists. Thanks to the efforts of local creatives and advocates, Thornton Road Studios remains a thriving hub, and Art04 continues to grow, bringing art lovers directly into the studios where the magic happens.

What Makes Art04 Special?

Unlike other art tours, Art04 is artist-run and studio-focused—no galleries, just raw creative spaces where artists work and create. The tour connects the public with artists in their own environments, offering a rare glimpse into the creative process.

Growth & What's New This Year

Now in its fourth year, Art04 has hit its stride, featuring around 50 artists across 19 stops. This year, expect even more live demonstrations, giving visitors an interactive look at various artistic techniques. The website will also be updated regularly with details on participating artists and events.

Exploring the Tour

Visitors are encouraged to venture beyond familiar spots and discover hidden gems in different parts of 78704. Thornton Road Studios hosts several artists, but the tour spans a wide variety of styles and locations. No studio is more than a few minutes from another, making it easy to explore multiple stops.

ART04
Studio Tour 2025
May 3-4 11-5
FREE
art04studiotour.com
#explorethe04

The Future of Art04

The tour is just the beginning. Organizers hope to expand beyond the annual event, turning Art04 into a year-round resource for connecting South Austin artists with the community. The website will continue to promote artists and events long after the tour weekend ends—because creativity never stops.

For those new to the tour, the best advice? Check the website, find art that speaks to you, and step outside your comfort zone. There's something for everyone in Austin's thriving art scene.

Hey, Neighbor!

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- * University of Texas Alumni
- * Austin High School Alumni (Loyal Forever)
- * Bouldin Creek Resident since 1998

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Inside Music & Film:
**Baird Taylor Blanton:
 A Creative Journey
 in Bouldin Creek**

By Cynthia Pierce
 Green Sector Rep / Parks Committee

For over two decades, Baird Taylor Blanton has called Bouldin Creek home, finding inspiration in its energy, people, and sense of community. Having moved to the neighborhood in October 2005, he has woven his artistic passions—music, film, and visual arts—into the fabric of Austin’s creative scene.

A Lifelong Dream in a Musical City

Blanton’s connection to music runs deep. His journey began with a dream—literally. In 1978, he dreamt of being a guitarist, and the experience felt so real that he believed he could have played had there been a guitar in the room. It wasn’t until he moved to Austin that he finally picked up the instrument, teaching himself through what he calls “*You Tube University*.” Now a songwriter, he draws from emotion and experience, letting inspiration flow naturally into his work.

His biggest artistic influence? Frank Zappa and The Mothers of Invention. Since high school, Blanton has been captivated by Zappa’s ability to blend classical, jazz, rock, and avant-garde elements with humor and intellect. That influence continues to shape his artistic approach, guiding his work across different mediums.

A Creative Haven in Bouldin Creek

What keeps Blanton rooted in Bouldin Creek is the neighborhood’s unique balance—a growing city with a “Central Park” feel, offering a space for creativity to thrive. “It’s a respite,” he says, a place where like-minded people are dedicated to keeping art and music alive.



Though he feels a deep connection to the collective energy of the area, Nicholas Dawson Park holds a special place for him, especially as a dog owner. It’s one of the many spots where he finds both peace and creative stimulation.

Art, Empathy, and the Underdog

Beyond music, film is another major creative outlet for Blanton. His current work includes a visual accompaniment for an ambient music project with drummer Terry Vernixx and collaborations with Gerald Friend and Joe Ben Clark on short film concepts and music projects. He describes his next project as a short film for which he’ll also compose the music.

His artistry is deeply tied to empathy. “I always root for the underdog,” he says, believing in inclusivity and striving to make a positive difference in people’s day. Whether through film, music, or visual arts, he creates with a sense of purpose—using his talents to uplift and inspire.

As he continues his journey, Baird Taylor Blanton remains a testament to the power of artistic passion and community spirit, proving that creativity thrives when nurtured in the right environment.



**General Assembly
 Meetings 2025**

- April 8, 2025
- June 10, 2025
- August 12, 2025
- October 14, 2025
- December 9, 2025

Meetings are held at the
 Texas School for the Deaf
 Administration & Welcome Center
 2nd Floor Conference Center
 Use the Elizabeth St Entrance

**BCNA OFFICERS, SECTOR REPS,
 COMMITTEES & APPOINTMENTS**

Officers

- President:** Greg Smith
- VP - Internal:** Isaac Cohen
- VP - External:** Will Stewart
- Comm Director:** Desirae Pierce
- Treasurer:** Ronnie Dittmar
- Secretary:** Jesse Moore

Sector Reps

- Brown:** Dominic Deniro
- Blue:** Terri St. Arnauld
- Green:** Cynthia Pierce
- Purple:** Chris Burchsted
- Orange:** Patty McNew/Paul Strange
- Pink:** Lisa Arteaga
- Yellow:** Kym Olson

Committees & Appointments

- Elections:** Ingrid Weigand
- Community Engagement:**
Desirae Pierce
- Parks & Green Space:**
Ingrid Weigand
- PTMD:** Thom Parker
- Zoning Committee:**
Jody Zemel & Thom Parker
- Unhoused Working Group:**
Ingrid Weigand & Thom Parker

Join the Effort to Make Bouldin Creek a Firewise Community April 16th!

By Desirae Pierce

Wildfires may not be an immediate threat to Bouldin Creek today, but as we've seen in recent years, conditions can change quickly. That's why the Austin Fire Department's Wildfire Division, in partnership with the Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association (BCNA), is hosting an informational session on the Firewise USA® Program—a proven initiative that helps communities reduce wildfire risk and protect homes.

Why Now?

While we're not currently facing extreme wildfire conditions, experts warn that dry fronts in March could increase the risk. "We're not currently in a bad situation, but with dry fronts expected in March, the risk could increase," said Chris Dibrell from AFD's Wildfire Division. Recent wildfires in California and Hawaii have shown how quickly disaster can strike, making proactive planning essential.

What is Firewise USA®?

Firewise USA® is a nationally recognized program that empowers communities to take practical steps in wildfire prevention. 24 Austin neighborhoods have already completed the program, with three more currently in progress. By participating, Bouldin Creek can become part of a citywide movement to enhance neighborhood safety.



Zilker Park / Photo by Desirae Pierce

How Can You Help?

Be part of the conversation! Join us for this important informational session to learn how we can work together to safeguard our homes and make Bouldin Creek a Firewise community.

In the meantime, take action today by visiting the Austin Wildfire Hub at wildfire-austin.hub.arcgis.com and downloading the Ready, Set, Go! Action Guide to learn practical steps you can take right now.

Let's work together to protect our neighborhood and ensure the safety of our homes and loved ones!

Please RSVP:

<https://forms.gle/dUPSEegSqmCFX8RR8>

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Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Association

Committed to Celebrating and Enriching Life in Bouldin Creek



FIREWISE FOR BOULDIN CREEK

APRIL 16

TWIN OAKS LIBRARY

6:30 - 8:00

rsvp:communications@bouldincreek.org