



**NORTHWEST AUSTIN
CIVIC ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 26654

AUSTIN, TEXAS 78755

www.nwaca.org

NWACA Annual Meeting

May 21, 2014

Agenda and Welcome – Sandy Dochen

- **7:00 Welcome – Sandy Dochen**
- **7:05 Keynote - Vince Torres, AISD School Board President**
- **7:35 NWACA 2014 Quick Overview – Joyce Statz**
- **7:40 Council Election Schedule/ 10-1 – Jen Despins**
- **7:45 Neighborhood Watch – Cuatro Groos**
- **8:00 Parks Development and Use – Caroline Alexander**
- **8:10 Wildfire Prevention Activities – Joyce Statz**
- **8:20 Board and Committee Items – Joyce Statz**
- **8:30 Visit with Committees and Guests at the Tables**

Theme for Tonight – Sandy Dochen

- **Caring for our Community**
- **Speaker Focus Areas**
 - Vince Torres – caring for our schools
 - Joyce Statz – 2014 Highlights – caring for NWACA
 - Jen Despins – council elections – caring for all of us
 - Cuatro Groos – preventing crime
 - Caroline Alexander – caring for our parks and trails
 - Joyce Statz – preventing fire in homes and property

Vince Torres

**President
AISD School Board**

Joyce Statz



NWACA **Quick 2014 Overview**

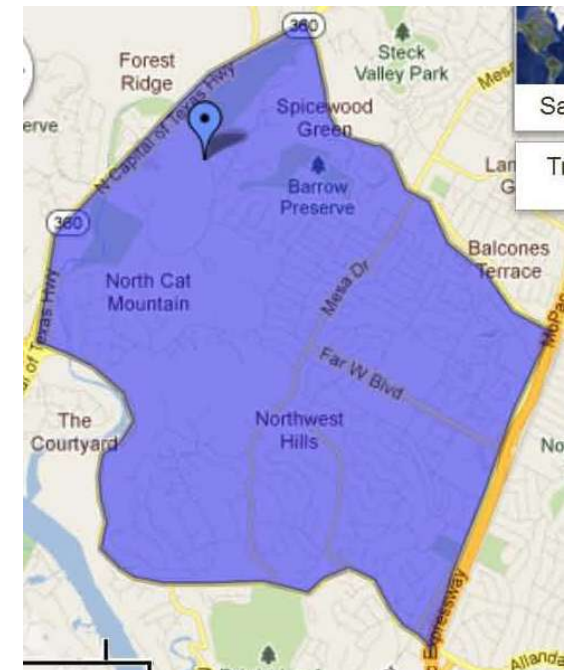
About NWACA

The Northwest Austin Civic Association (NWACA) exists to

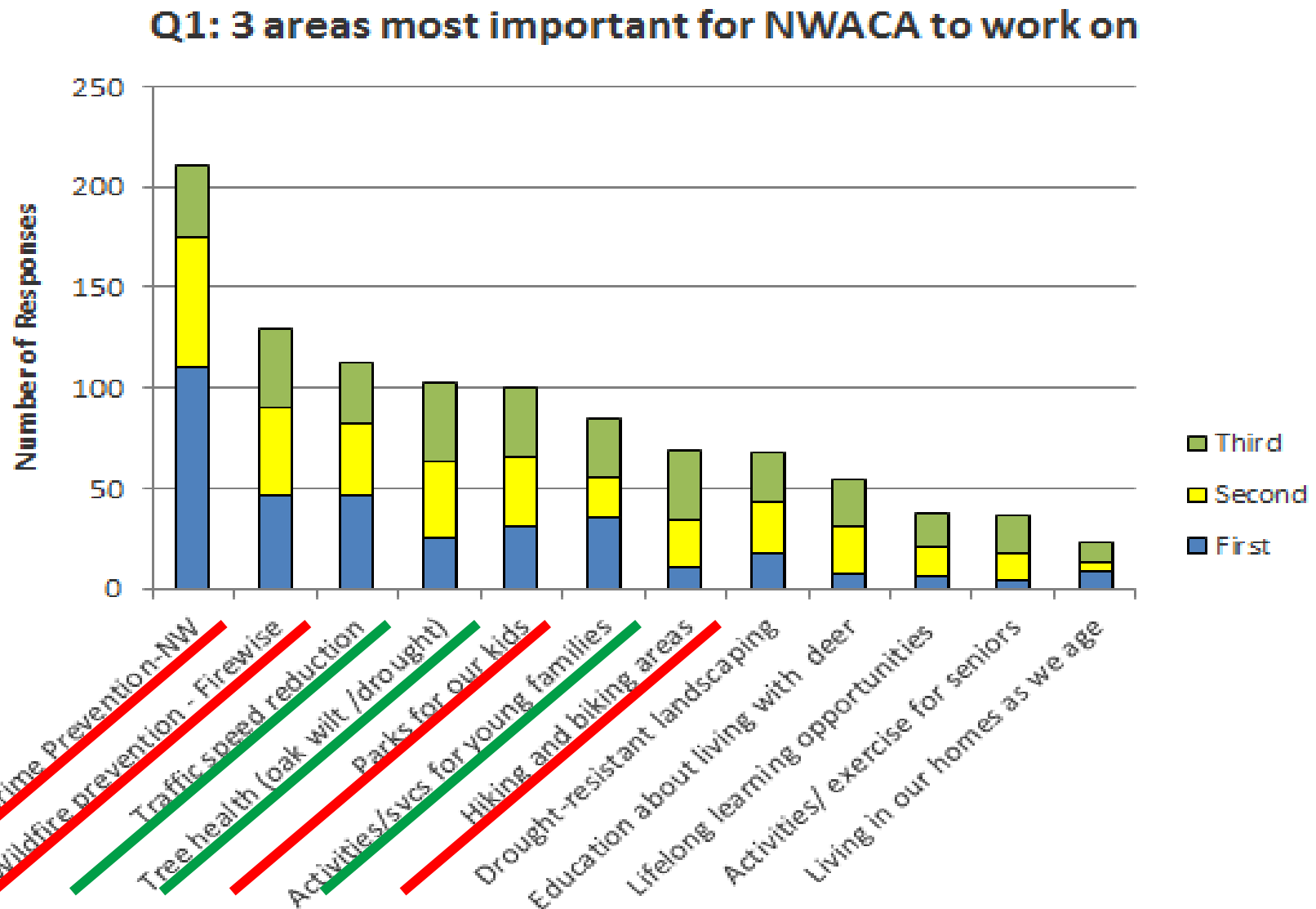
- **preserve**
- **promote**
- **and enhance**

the exceptional and unique character of the neighborhood

NWACA area includes about 4150 homes



Your Input to Us – August 2013 Survey



NWACA Key Goals for 2014

- Establish **at least 25 Neighborhood Watches** within NWACA, to help ensure that our homes are safe
- **Care for, improve, and celebrate our parks** and open spaces with work days and community events
- Raise **awareness and provide home wildfire risk assessments** to minimize risk from fire
- **Advocate with local government** entities on issues of importance and significance to the NWACA community
- **Evolve** the NWACA **website** to better support the growing needs of our vibrant community
- **Increase** the number of neighbors in our community who are involved **members** of NWACA

NWACA Event Highlights in 2014 - 1

- **Family-friendly Events**

- April – Treasure Egg Hunt
- Jun 7 – Nature Hike, Stillhouse Hollow Preserve
- Jun 14, Aug 2 – Movies at the Murchison Pool
- July 4 – the best parade in Austin!
- Oct 7 – National Night Out – throughout NWACA
- Dec 13 – Winter Light Festival

- **Community Services**

- Mar, May, Sep, Nov – Park Work Day
- May 31 – Recycling - BOPA
- Sep 20 – Neighborhood Garage Sales

NWACA Event Highlights 2014 - 2

- **Seminars and Forums**

- Feb – Forum on March primaries
- Feb, May, ongoing – Neighborhood Watch training
- Mar – Being Water-wise
- May – City-wide Firewise Seminar
- May - Property Tax Appraisal/Protest
- Fall – Forum(s) for fall elections – dates TBD

- **Collaborating with local entities**

- Jan – Panel on CodeNEXT, Open House on 183N
- Mar, May – conversations about traffic at Doss
- Several – bicycle striping changes in our area

Thinking about next year...

- **Survey to come out this summer**
- **Consider**
 - Which seminars to repeat
 - What new topics to cover
 - What events to add or change
 - What additional areas of focus you'd like to see

Jen Despins



Austin City Council and “10-1”

What it means for NWACA

“10-1”: Austin City Council Elections

- **Old method:**

- The Mayor and six at-large Council Members were all elected by citywide vote
- Elections occurred in May
 - Last May election was in 2012

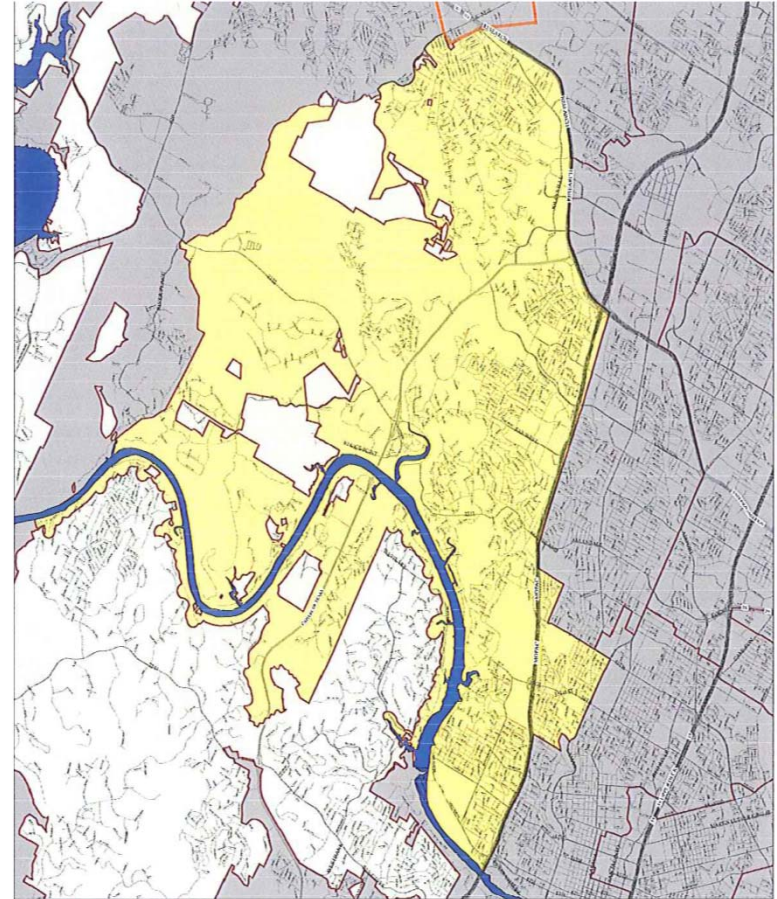
- **New method:**

- Mayor will be elected in a citywide vote
- Remaining ten Council Members will be elected from single-member districts, each with ~80,000 population
- Elections will occur in November
 - First November election will be in 2014

NWACA Is In District 10

- **Also in District 10:**

- Courtyard
- Great Hills
- Highland Park
- Jester
- Rosedale (part)
- Tarrytown
- West Enfield



Key Dates

- **May 8, 2014: Candidates begin fundraising**
- **July 21, 2014: Candidates may file for places on the ballot**
- **October 6, 2014: Voter-registration deadline**
- **October 20-31, 2014: Early voting**
- **November 4, 2014: Election Day**

Questions?

- **Look for informational handouts available at this meeting**
- **Watch the NWACA website and emails for news and activities**

Cuatro Groos



**Neighborhood Watch
For NWACA**

2014 Goals and Activities

- **NWACA Crime & Safety's primary goals are to raise awareness and increase involvement in our community to make our neighborhood a safer place to live. Our 2014 initiatives to meet these goals include:**
 - Holding events to educate, empower, and connect neighbors
 - Partnering with our Membership Committee to get more residents involved with NWACA and in the loop on neighborhood issues
 - Establishing and growing Neighborhood Watch programs

NWACA Crime & Safety Events

- **Public Forums**

- In February we held a forum featuring our APD District Reps and an expert on Neighborhood Watch to discuss crime trends in Austin and how residents can work together to create Neighborhood Watch programs to reduce crime
- We plan to hold another forum near the end of the year

- **National Night Out**

- In October we will be helping blocks around the neighborhood to celebrate National Night Out
- Tremendous opportunity to connect with neighbors, learn about crime prevention & Neighborhood Watch, and have fun!

Partnering with Membership Comm.

- **Awareness and communication are crucial for crime prevention and safety**
- **More residents connected through NWACA means more eyes and ears in our community, greater awareness of what to do**
- **Our training materials and events will feature info about NWACA and how to join**
- **Our block captains can play a crucial role in letting people know about the value of membership in NWACA**
- **NWACA membership is not required to participate in a watch program, but without membership none of our programs would happen**

Neighborhood Watch

- Proven method to reduce crime, ESPECIALLY the types of crime prevalent in our neighborhood
- Our NW will be connected with APD and NWs around us
 - Faster dissemination of information
 - Identification of patterns, what to look for
 - More chance of arrest and prosecution of criminals
- Most successful with a turnkey guide and a motivated block captain
- NWACA can be broken down into roughly 100 “blocks” of 40 households
- *Our goal is to establish NW for 25 blocks in 2014*

Neighborhood Watch Process

- **Identify and Train Block Captains**
 - NW Guidebook provided to all captains
- **Establish neighbor roster and contact list**
- **Educate neighbors on NW**
 - Block party, block walking, email, phone
 - NW Guide materials available online or printed
- **NWACA Crime & Safety will then put up NW signs**
- **Communicate**
 - Neighbors report issues to block captains, APD
 - Block captains report issues to NWACA Crime & Safety
 - NWACA Crime & Safety reports issues to APD, other NWs
- **NWACA Facebook Page - Another great resource for spreading the word**

Neighborhood Watch Progress

- **Progress**

- Over 30 Block Captain volunteers
- Two new NW blocks launched
- Two existing NW blocks being re-launched

Neighborhood Watch – Top 3 Items

- **Doors**

- Kick-Ins are the top method for recent break-ins
- Is your door frame anchored securely?

- **Making Cars Look Unattractive**

- Are you leaving change, phone chargers, bags or other items in your car?

- **Street Numbers**

- Are your street numbers visible? Could someone easily report your number in case of emergency?

Next Steps – Neighborhood Watch

- **Resources**

- See www.nwaca.org
- Follow link to the Crime and Safety Committee pages with resources and useful links
- Use the **Neighborhood Watch** Quick Link – top left of the home page – to send input on Neighborhood Watch

- **How to get involved**

- Contact cuatrogroos@yahoo.com if you're interested in getting involved in a Neighborhood Watch program.

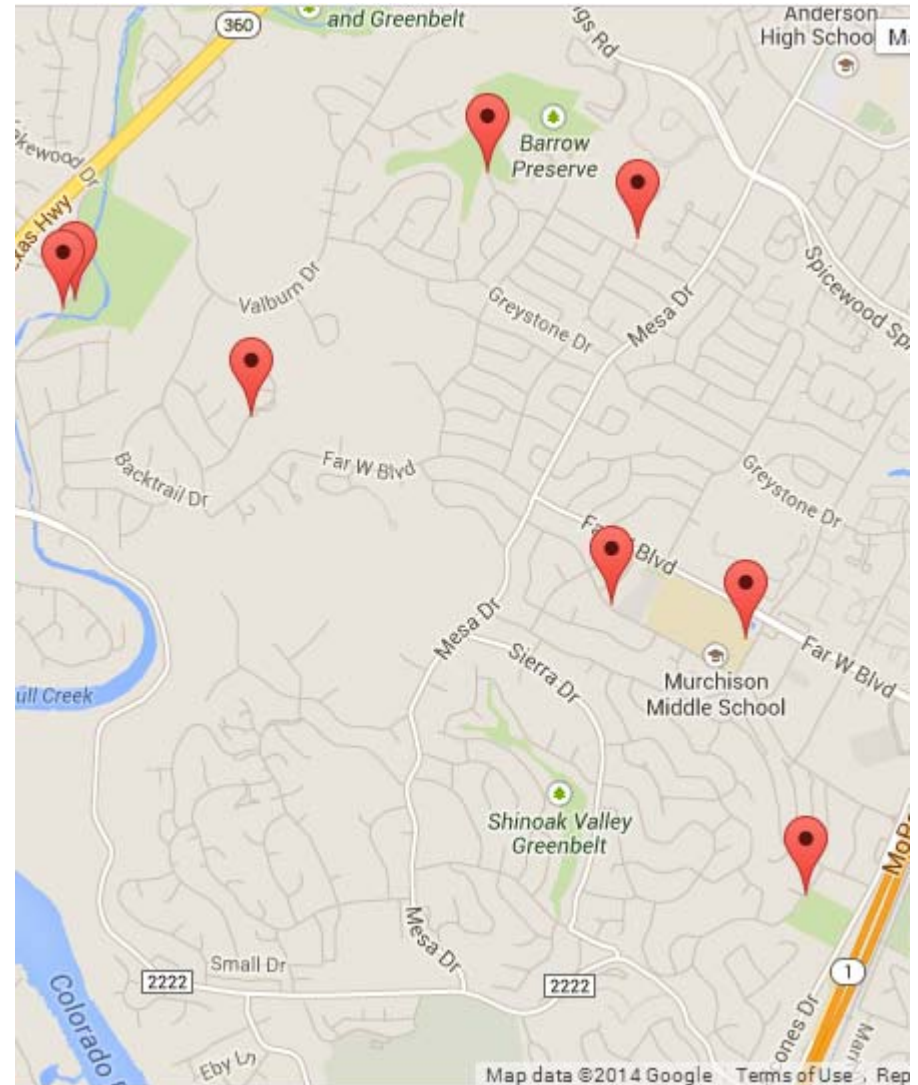
Caroline Alexander



NWACA
Parks Activities

NWACA Parks and Green Spaces

- Allen Park
- Barrow Preserve
- Bull Creek District Park & Greenbelt
- Doss Park
- Murchison Pool
- North Cat Mountain Greenbelt
- Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve



Strategic Direction

GOAL 1: Take care of what we have

- Workdays
- Community events
- Projects database for volunteer groups (e.g. Eagle Scout Projects)
- At least 3 Adopt-A-Park programs

GOAL 2: Advocate for a playground in the neighborhood

- Re-establish ties with the city and identify most feasible location
- Create design, get estimate, fundraise!

Where We Are

- **It's My Park Day at Doss Park & Allen Park**
- **Little Helping Hands at Allen Park**
- **Murchison Pool**
 - Workday May 17
 - Long-term plan
- **Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve**
 - National Trails Day event for kids & adults June 7
- **More to come...**

Murchison Pool

- **Long-term plan**
 - 2 shade structures
 - Up to 9 picnic tables
 - Additional benches around the pool
 - Hardscaping
- **Working on getting a design**
- **Will apply for grant funds**
 - Neighborhood Partnering Program
 - Austin Parks Foundation
- **Need local participation (in-kind, volunteer hours, and financial) for the “match”**

How to Get Involved

- **Join the Parks Committee**
 - Need volunteer coordinators, workday planners, grant writers
- **Join an Adopt-A-Park group**
- **Volunteer at workdays**
- **Attend events**

Joyce Statz



Wildfire Prevention in NWACA

Historically, Fire is Useful, Inevitable

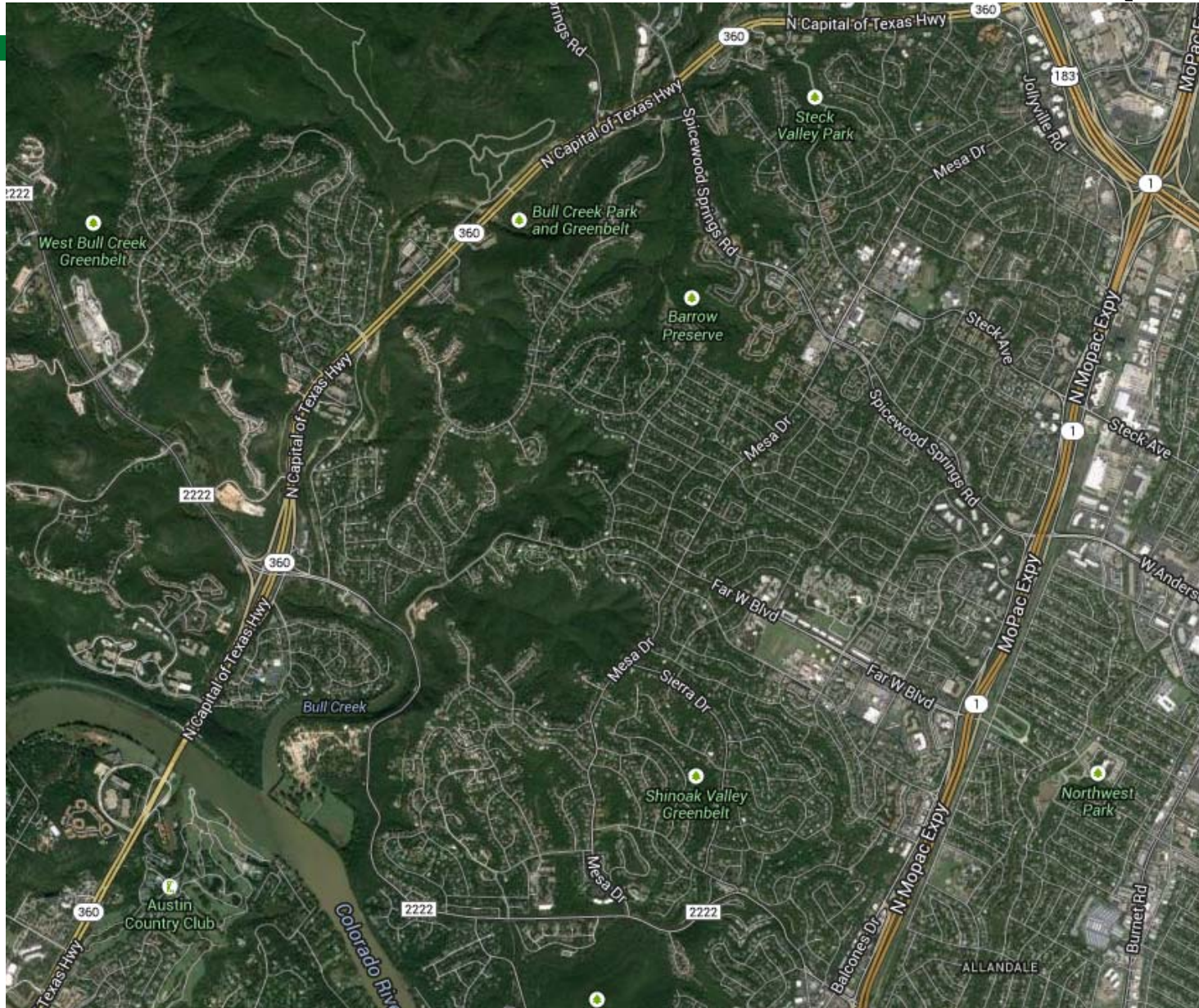


**Fire has played a role in the earth's ecosystems
for over 4.5 billion years.**

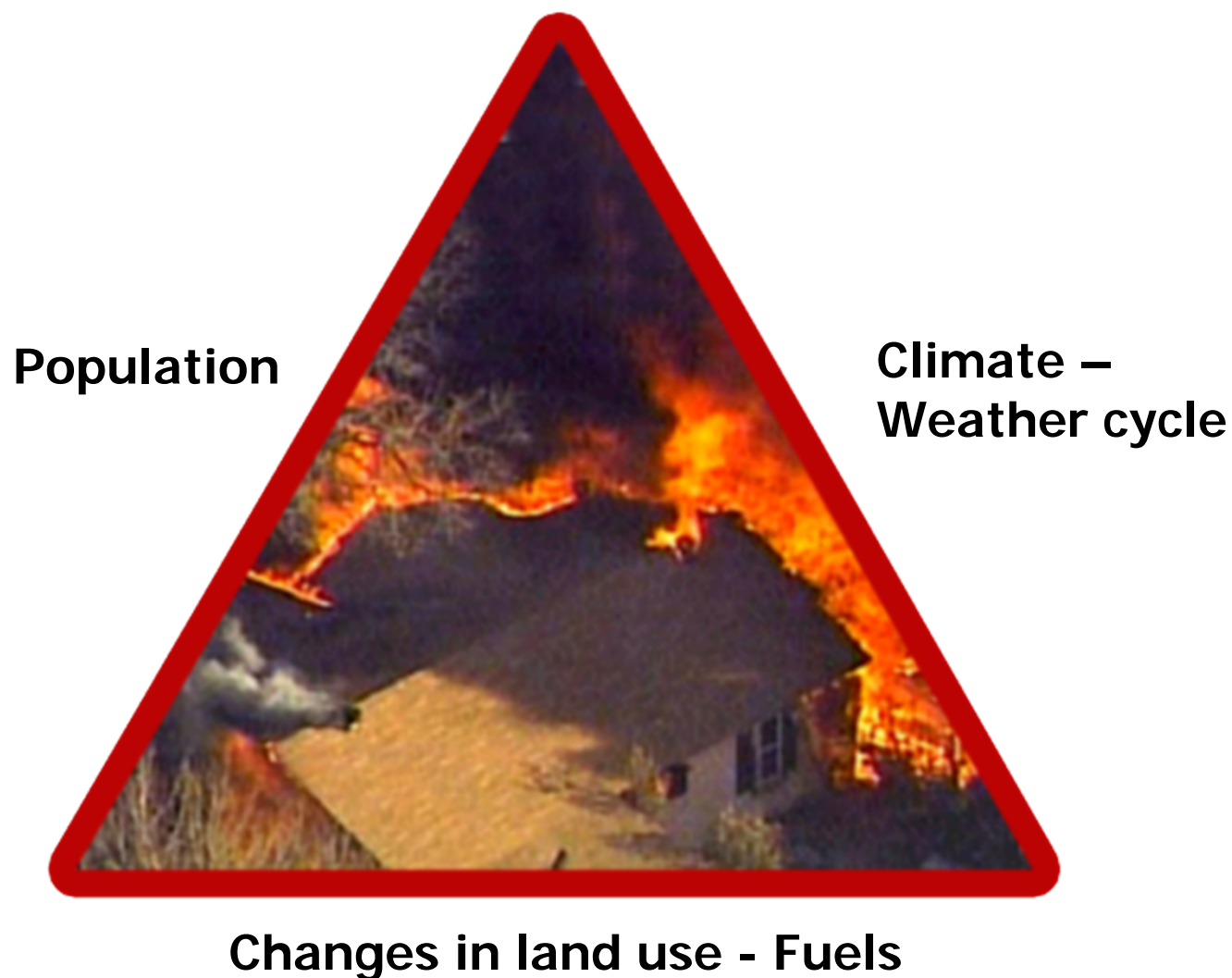
Everything above the ocean will burn.

Many species depend on fire.

NWACA is Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)



Wildfire threat... Why Now? Why Here?

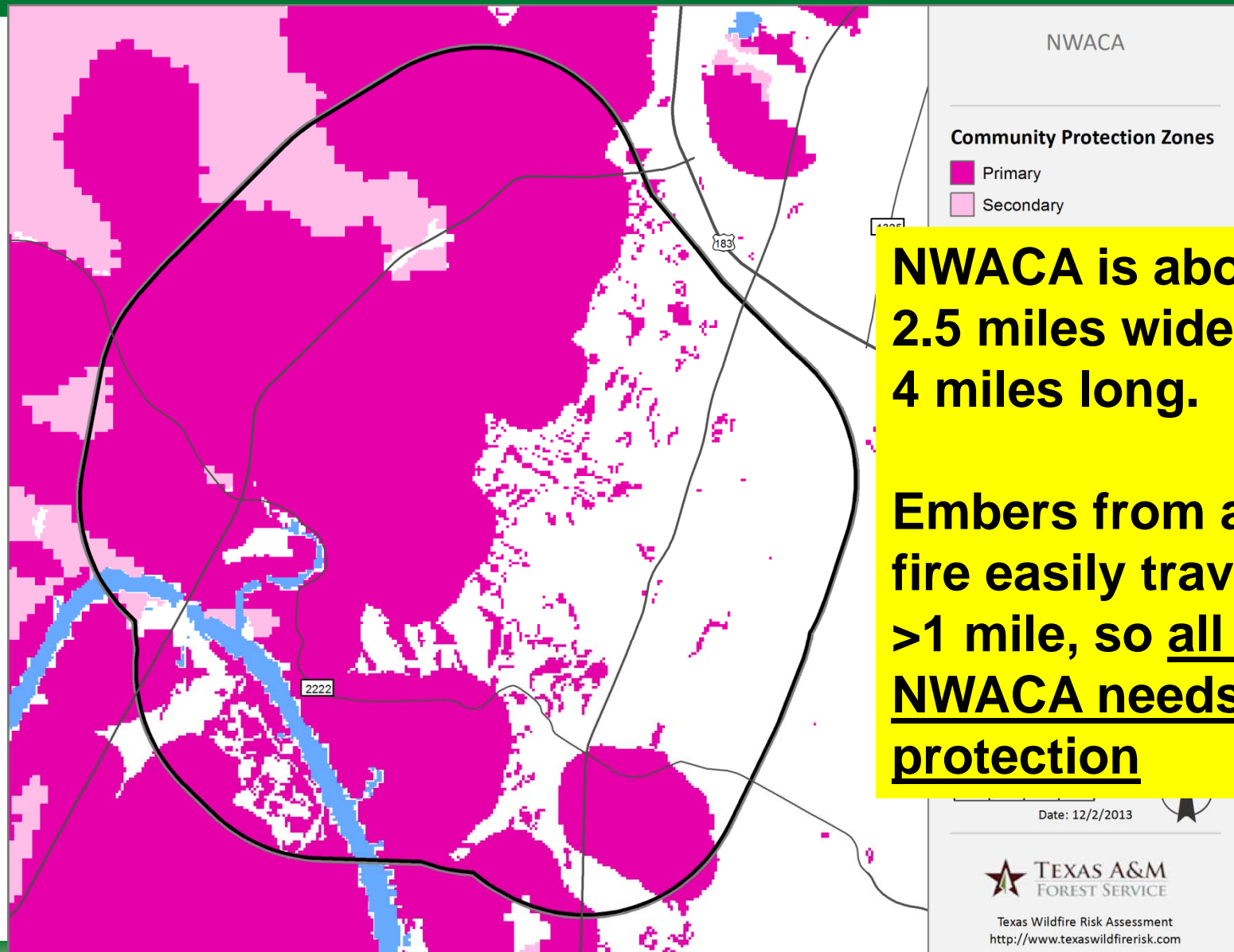


Some Fast Facts About Wildfire - TFS

- **October 1, 2010 – September 30, 2011 - worst 1-year drought in Texas since at least 1895**
 - Impact on forest and woodlands unprecedented
 - 2010-2011 fire season had 30,547 fires over about 4M acres
 - 2946 homes lost statewide
 - Bastrop Complex – most destructive wildfire in Texas history and the 3rd most destructive in the nation
- **We're in the middle of a 30-year drought cycle, so fires continue to be a threat**
- **80-85% of Texas wildfires occur within 2 miles of a community**

What can we do to mitigate our risk?

NWACA Protection Zones Pervade



NWACA is about 2.5 miles wide by 4 miles long.

Embers from a fire easily travel >1 mile, so all of NWACA needs protection

Bastrop Fire – September, 2011

Firewise Home



***Bastrop Fire – 1645 homes lost; 1157 survived,
many without the aid of suppression –
but with a “defensible zone”***

Defensible Zones for Being Firewise



- Zone 1 – HIZ - Home Ignition Zone; home and immediate surroundings, up to 30 feet away; **first area of focus – much guidance available**
- Zone 2 – 30 to 100 feet from a home. NWACA canyons and valleys are thickly populated by trees and underbrush.
- Zone 3 – 100 to 200 feet from a home; like Zone 2, likely to be thick with trees and underbrush

NWACA has Wooden Fence “wicks”



Fire can travel along a cedar fence

Protect the house with a metal section



NWACA Wildfire Prevention is Active

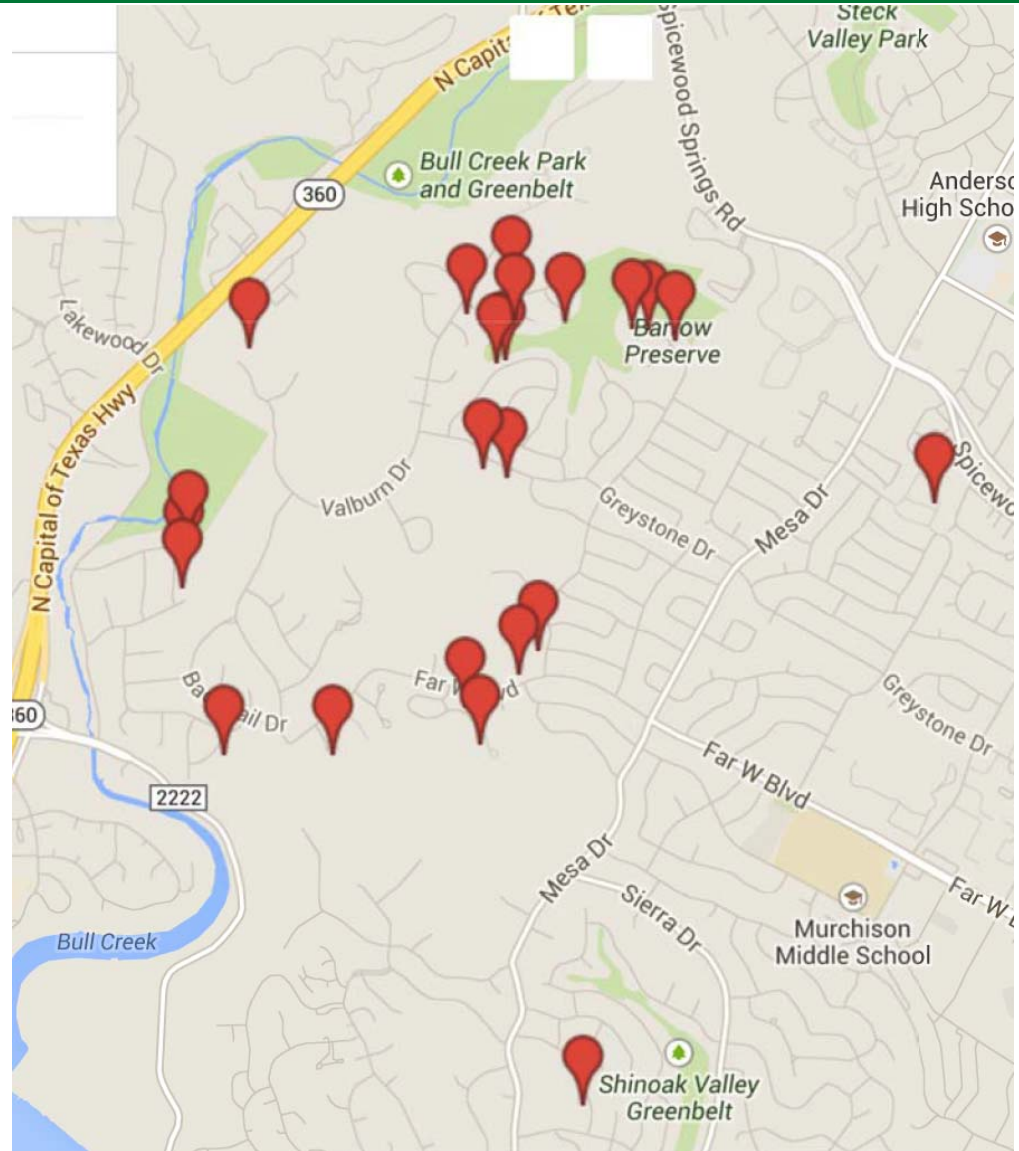
- **Educational materials being distributed**
- **NWACA is being organized in “pods” with “fireplugs” who encourage their neighbors**
 - Now about 20 active fireplugs... need many more
- **Home wildfire risk assessors available**
 - Did 75 assessments since last July; many more to go!
 - Did one for this property yesterday
 - More assessors to be trained this summer
- **Community Wildfire Protection Plan**
 - Drafted and reviewed with AFD and TFS in April
 - Need many willing hands to execute

Where do we have Fireplugs?

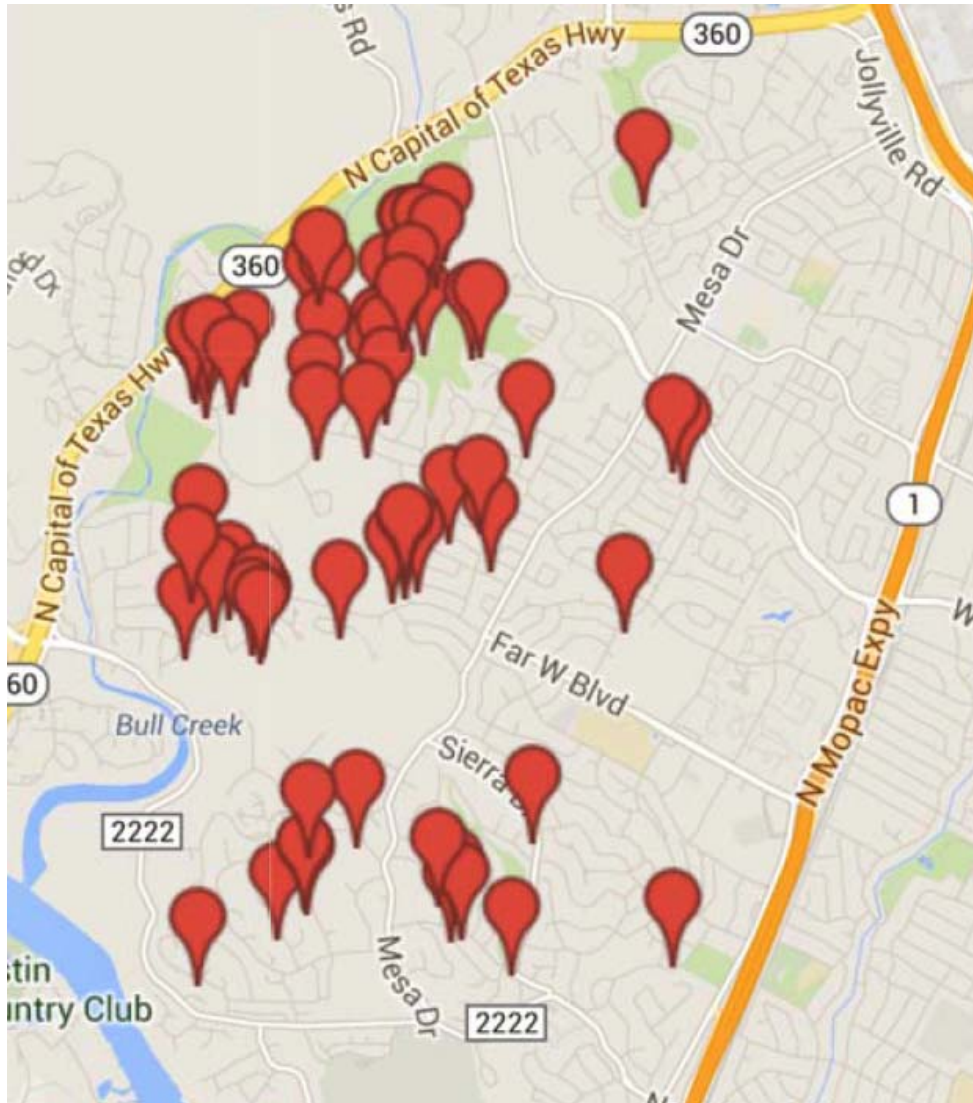
Marker show where we have advocates

Help fill in the blanks

Volunteer at the Wildfire Prevention Committee Table... or at any time, go to www.nwaca.org; and sign up there



Where have we had Assessments?



Good start, especially around the central western part of NWACA – more to go!

Sign up for your assessment at the Wildfire Prevention Committee table

45-minute walkabout with you; free of charge

What can you do?

- **Visit the Wildfire Prevention Committee table**
 - Get the info you don't yet have
 - Sign up to be a NWACA "Fireplug"
 - Sign up for a home wildfire risk assessment and address the identified risks
- **Use the monthly tips in the newsletter**
 - Archive on NWACA web site, plus much more info
- **Work on your Zone 1 – the first 30 feet**
- ***Then... we work with AFD on City land in our WUI... but first, make it worth investing in us!***

Joyce Statz



Acknowledgements

Committee Items

NWACA Board of Directors 2014-2015

- Joyce Statz, President
 - Robert Thomas, Vice-President
 - Rebecca Leightman, Treasurer
 - Stacey Brewer, Secretary
-
- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • <i>Caroline Alexander</i> | • <i>Chris Hajdu</i> |
| • <i>Kirk Ashy</i> | • <i>Carol Jones</i> |
| • <i>Stephannie Behrens</i> | • <i>Shannon Meroney</i> |
| • <i>Debra Danziger</i> | • <i>Tim Pham</i> |
| • <i>Jen Despins</i> | • <i>Miguel Romano</i> |
| • <i>Carol Dochen</i> | • <i>Ernie Saulmon</i> |
| • <i>Bridget Glaser</i> | • <i>Jack Skaggs</i> |
| • <i>Matthew Grant</i> | • <i>Steven Soper</i> |
| • <i>Cuatro Groos</i> | |

A Dozen Committee Opportunities

- Civic Engagement
- Communications
- Crime and Safety
- Events
- History
- Membership and Sponsorship
- Parks
- Transportation
- Tree and Environment
- Wildfire Prevention
- Wildlife Management
- Zoning

Visit, Gather Info, Get Involved!

If you missed the Membership table on your way in, they're still here!

Visit the Guests at our Tables

- **Vince Torres at Civic Engagement**
- **APD District Representatives at Crime and Safety**
- **Code Compliance at Wildlife Management**
- **Capital Metro at Transportation**

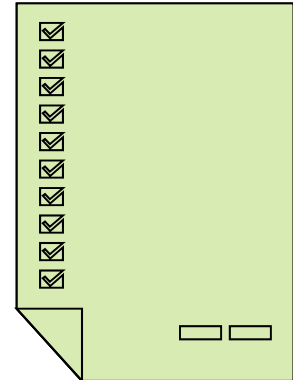
Stay in Touch throughout NWACA

- **NWACA Facebook Group and Facebook Page**
- **NWACA mailing list**
- **NWACA Notes discussion group**
- **Monthly newsletter**
 - Stringers welcome on any topic!
- **Web site**
 - Give us input for rebranding by May 28
 - Watch for new web site later this year
 - Use our current site for news and information
- **Comments/questions** [***nwacainfo@gmail.com***](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com)

Please Provide Feedback

- **Today**

- Use the evaluation form at your chair
- Please tell us how we're doing
- Please tell us how we can do better



- **Our 2014 survey will be out this summer**

- Give us your reaction to events we have done
- Tell us what else we should be doing
- Tell us about things we need to change

- **Thank you!!!**