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NORTHWEST AUSTIN CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NWACA Annual Meeting

May 14, 2015

# Agenda

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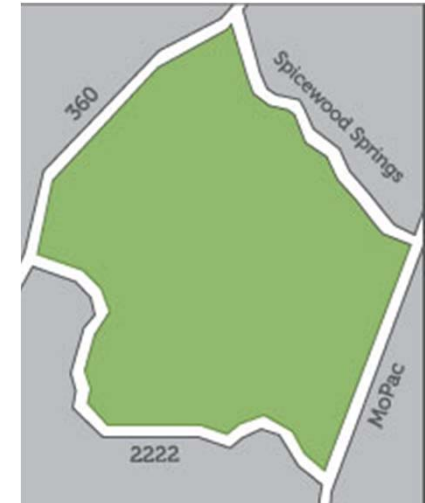
- 7:00 Welcome
- 7:05 Austin Oaks PUD Update – Joyce Statz
- 7:15 Council Update – Sheri Gallo, Dist.10 Council Member
- 7:25 Keynote – Brian Manley, Asst. Chief, APD
- 7:40 Loop 360 Plans – Bruce Byron, Improvement Studies
- 7:50 NWACA Wildfire Prevention Plans – Greg Bondy
- 8:00 NWACA Parks Updates – Caroline Alexander
- 8:05 Coexisting with Coyote – Carolyn Abernathy, Jennifer Hopper
- 8:15 AISD Update - Julie Cowan, AISD District 4 Board Member
- 8:25 Closing; Visit Committees at tables, invited guests

# Welcome, NWACA Neighbors!

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- Pleased you could join us!
- So much to tell you!
- Meeting format
  - 7:00 to 8:30 Presentations
  - *There is no time for Q/A during the presentations*
  - 8:30 to 9:00 Talk with speakers and Committees





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## Austin Oaks PUD Update

*Joyce Statz*

*NWACA President*

# PUD – What is it?



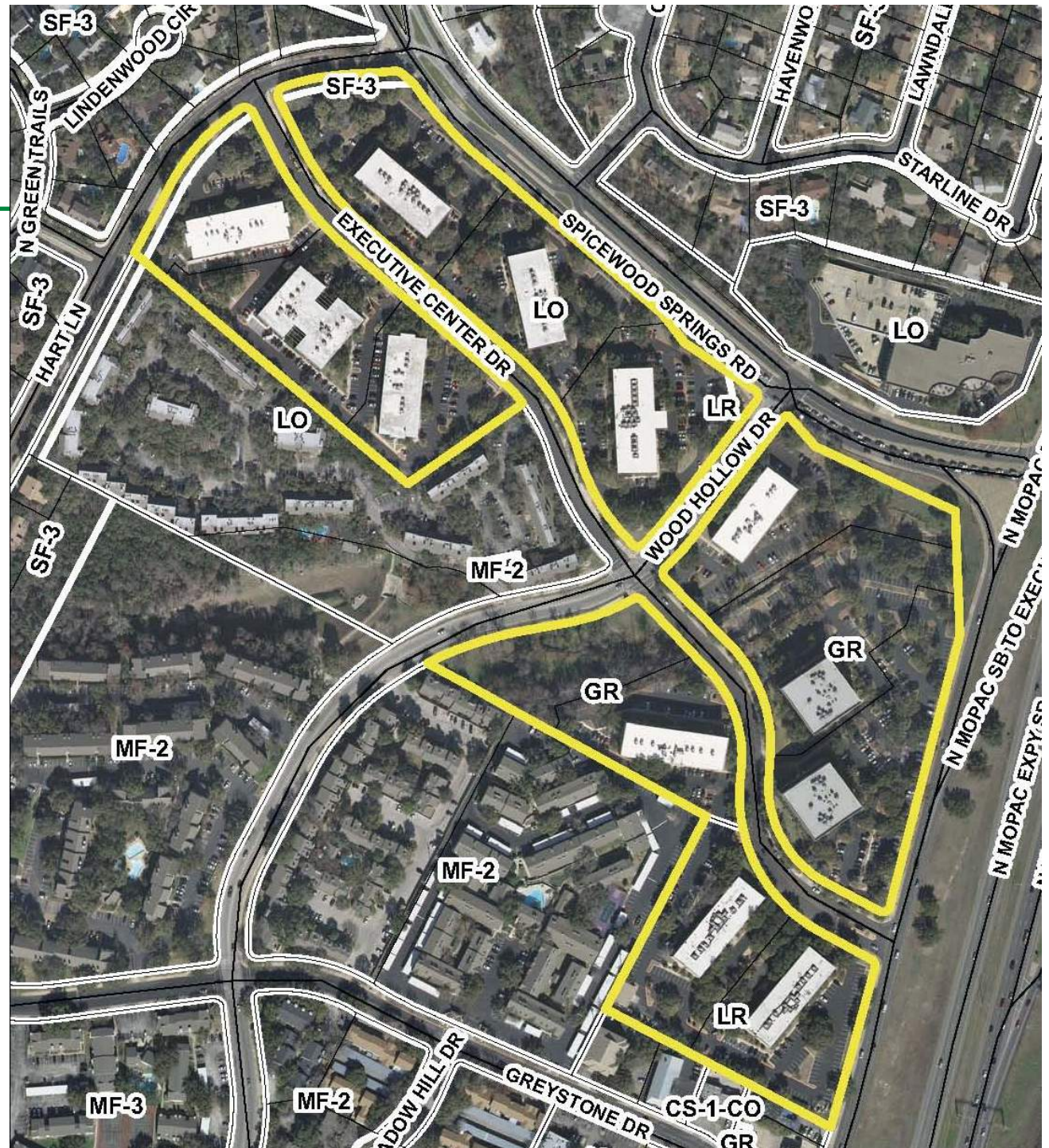
- Planned Unit Development
- Zoning classification codified in a City Ordinance, a binding agreement between the developer and the City
  - Used to customize regulations to fit the use of a site
  - Requires extra benefits to the City to merit the customization
  - May be supplemented by a Restrictive Covenant with the City, and/or one with the Neighborhood
- 16 PUDs in NWACA
  - Most are residential, most single-family developments
  - The exception; we're sitting in it – “the J”



# Current AO

- 12 office buildings
- Eight 2-story, four 3-story high
- 446,091 sq.ft. developed
- 66% impervious cover
- About 750 trees

May 14, 2015



# Latest Proposal – April 30

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- 7 office buildings and parking structures, at heights ranging from 80 feet (7 story) to 120 feet (8 story)
- 277 units of residential – maximum 60 feet
- 1.28M sq. ft. developed
- 50% impervious cover
- 70,000 sq.ft. retail, with 50,000 of it restaurant
- Removing 9 of 72 heritage trees, 22 of 44 protected ones
- 4 acres for park, plus a trails system on site



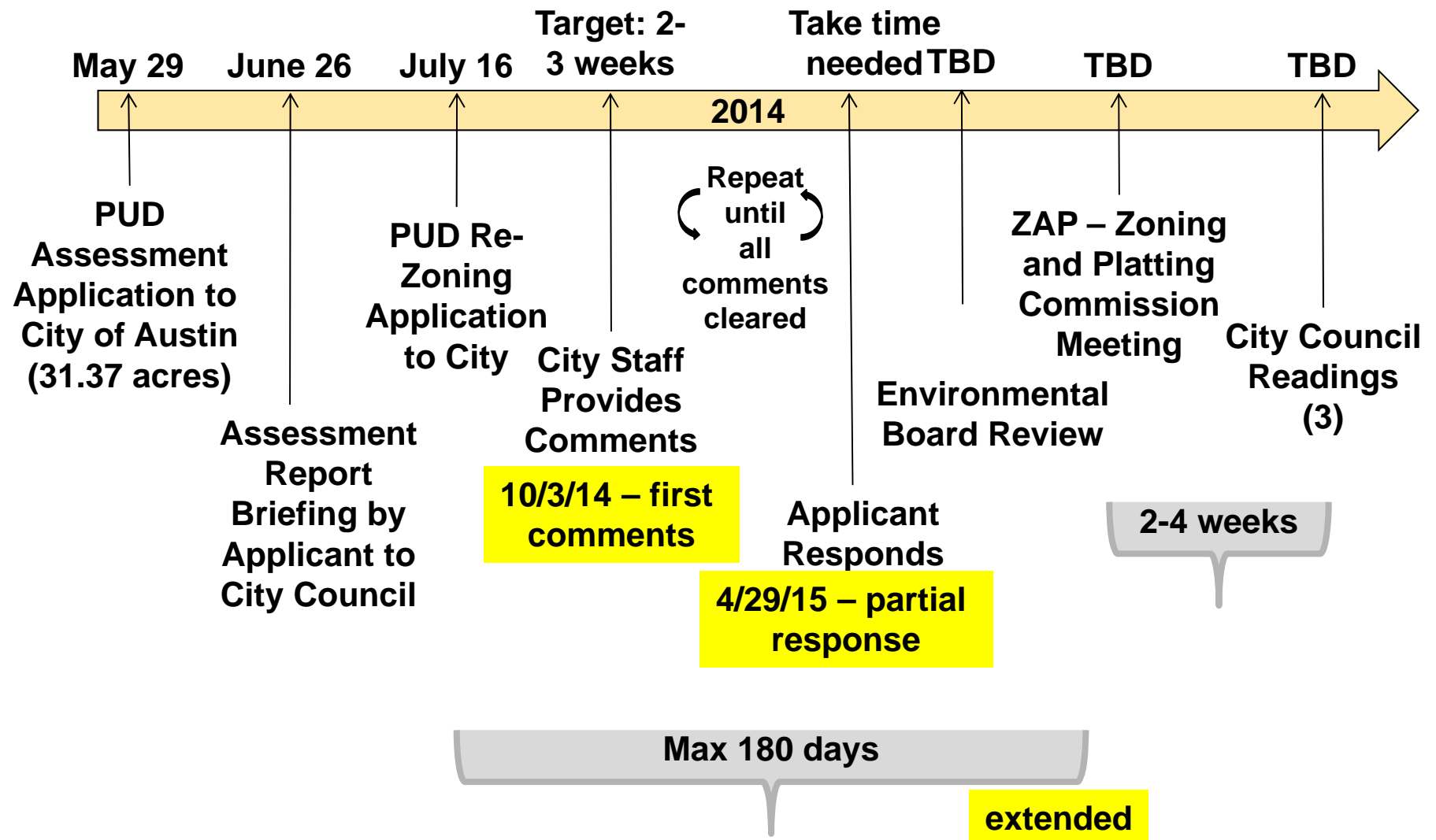
# Materials at Your Chairs



- Comparison Chart
  - Significant elements about the site: current state, updated proposals from December, April
- Key Points - NWACA and Austin Oaks PUD
  - History of our actions
  - Based on community input and survey results
  - Clearly conveying the message that the current PUD proposal is not acceptable to the neighborhood



# Timeline - Austin Oaks PUD Re-Zoning (8/19/14, yellow updates)



# Going Forward

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- NWACA mission: preserve, promote, and enhance the exceptional and unique character of the neighborhood
- Our Goal – ensure that development which occurs at Austin Oaks is consistent with that mission
- See the ongoing communications on our web site, Facebook, and email
- Participate in the community dialogue as that is led by Council Member Gallo



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## City Council Update

*Sheri Gallo*

*City Council Member, District 10*



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Keynote

*Brian Manley*

*Assistant Chief, APD*



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## Loop 360 Plans

*Bruce Byron, Project Mgr.  
Improvement Studies*



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## NWACA Wildfire Prevention Plans

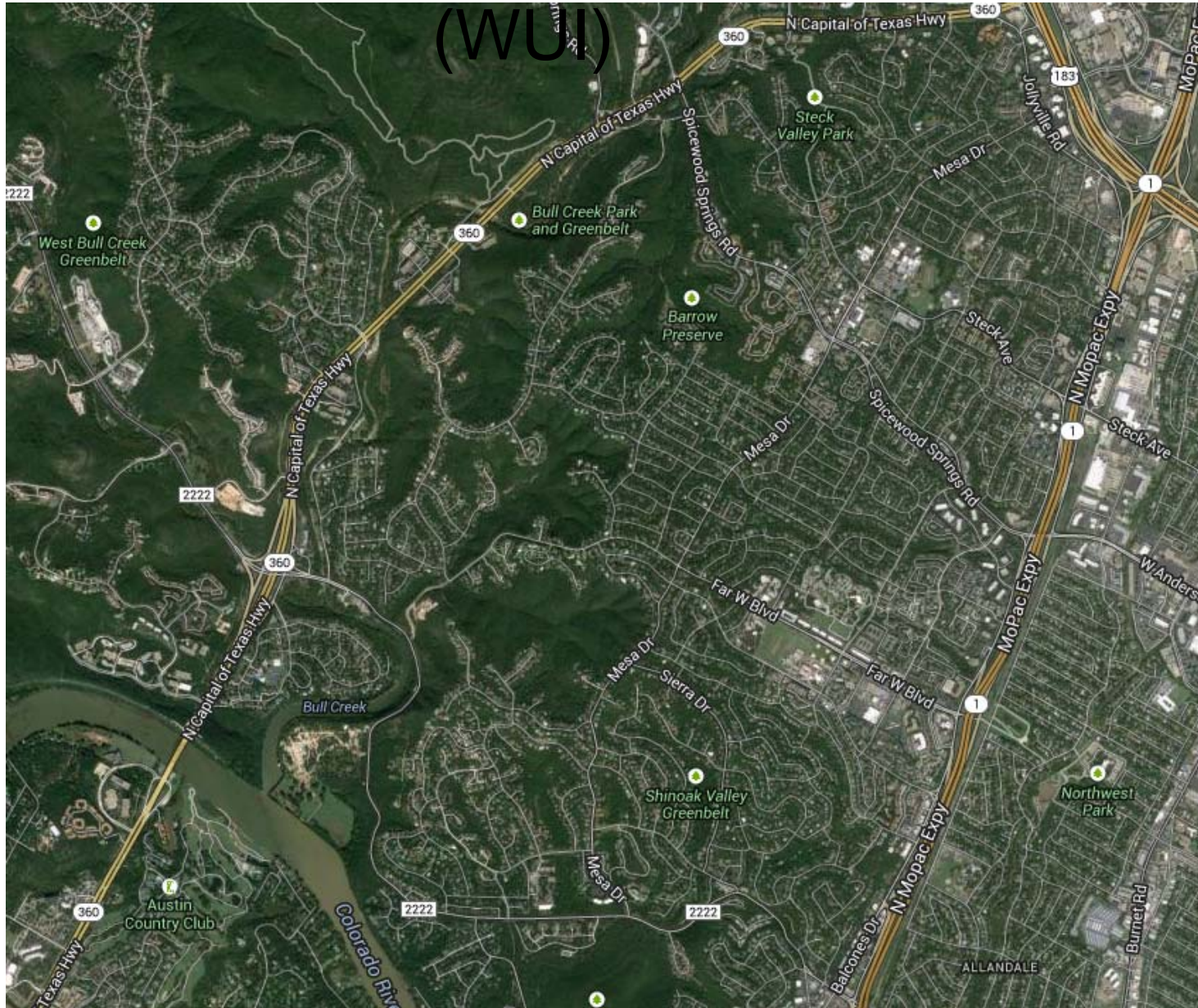
*Greg Bondy*

*NWACA Wildfire Committee*



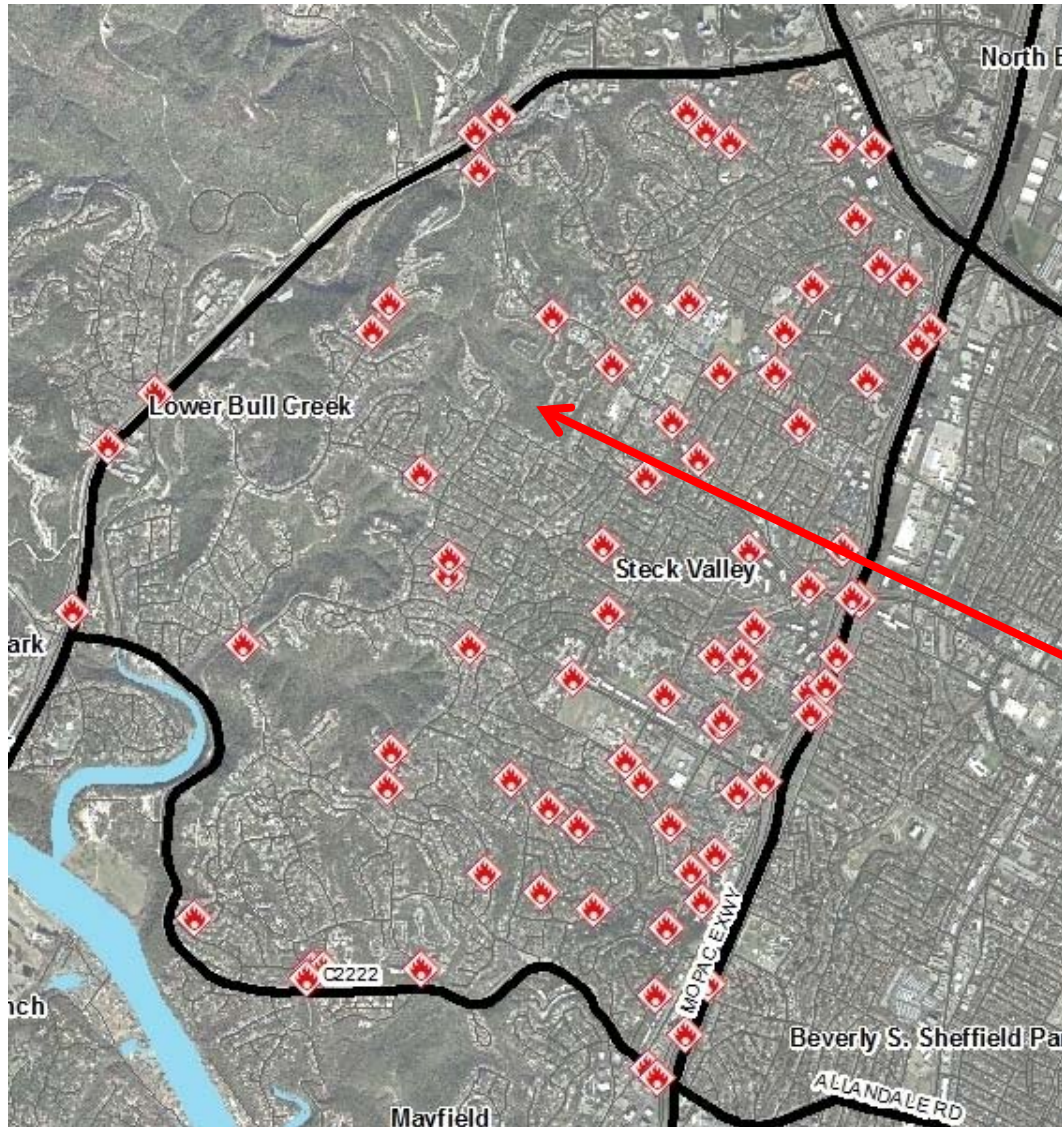
# NWACA is Wildland Urban Interface

(WUI)





# 94 NWACA Fires in 2014

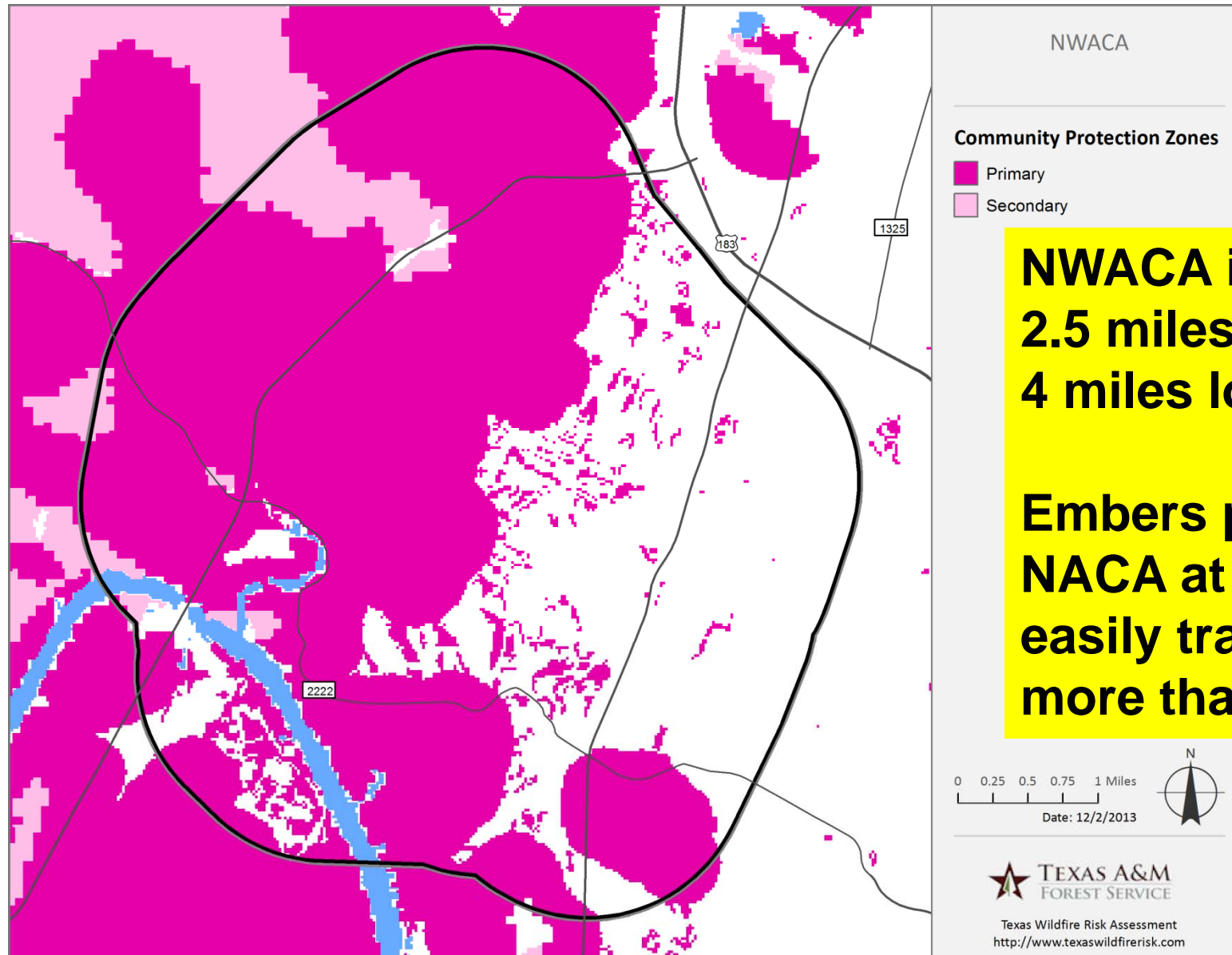


Count by Fire Type	
Electrical	32
Structure	26
Auto	15
Trash	10
Grass	5
Dumpster	3
Fire Standby	1
Brush	1
BBQ	1

8/30/14 – Stillhouse Hollow Preserve



# Fire and Embers Threaten NWACA



**NWACA is about  
2.5 miles wide by  
4 miles long.**

**Embers put all of  
NACA at risk,  
easily traveling  
more than a mile.**

# Our Defense – Firewise

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- *Firewise* = A community taking responsibility and implementing actions to protect all its members
- AFD limited resources to protect each life and home
  - AFD firefighters are trained in wildfire and structure fires
  - We must each do our part to protect our lives, lives of our neighbors, and lives of our emergency responders
- We need to harden our homes and landscapes
  - Wooden fences
  - Vegetation too close to windows
  - “Dead and down” material on our property

# Firewise Defensible Zones



- Zone 1 – Home Ignition Zone; home and immediate 30 feet surrounding; **focus here first**
- Zone 2 – 30 to 100 feet from a home. Likely to have trees and underbrush.
- Zone 3 – 100 to 200 feet from a home; may be thick with trees and underbrush



# Bastrop Fire – September, 2011



## Firewise Home



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



# Preventing Wildfire – the NWACA Plan

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- Community Wildfire Protection Plans
  - Austin / Travis County Joint CWPP for all areas
  - NWACA plan leverages Joint CWPP implementation
  - NWACA plan deployed by building Firewise Communities throughout NWACA
- Support to new Firewise Communities
  - Coaching from NWACA Firewise Committee and AFD
  - Starter kit – plan template, presentation for neighbors
  - Help with mitigation and evacuation planning
  - Free wildfire risk assessments by certified assessors

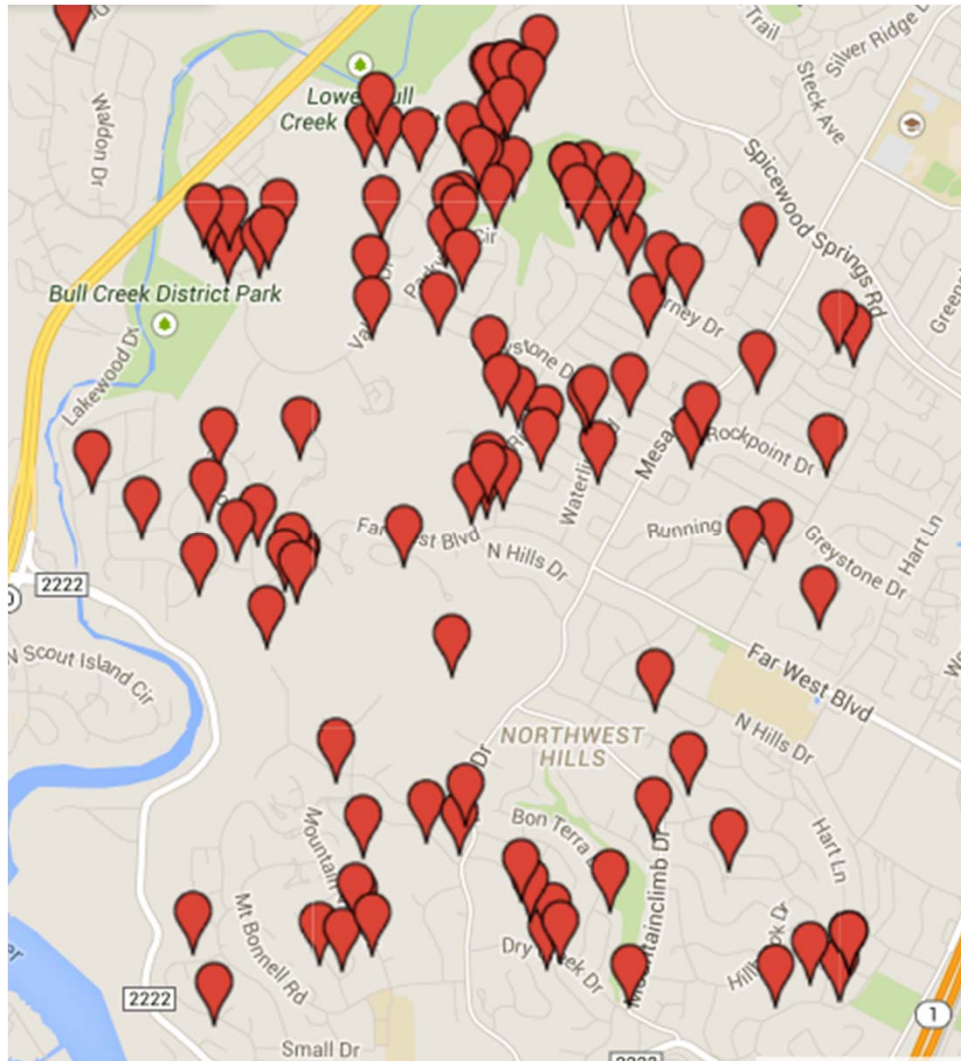
# What is a Firewise Community?

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- Small neighborhood that is fire-adapted
  - HOA or street-level community
  - Tailored plan for specific risks
  - Recognized by AFD, TFS, and nationally
  - NWACA has Meadow Mountain, Estates at the Overlook
- Why is it important?
  - Overall risk decreases as all neighbors address issues
  - Well thought out evacuation plan
  - Additional help and funding to mitigate fuel in Zones 2 and 3, first to those areas that are fire-adapted

# Progress on Assessments!



125 homes have been assessed; about 4000 more to go!

45-minute walkabout with you, going through a checklist

# Your Next Steps

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- Visit the Wildfire Prevention Committee table
  - Get the info you don't yet have
  - Sign up for a home wildfire risk assessment
  - Sign up to start a Firewise Community
- Bring up the topic at your next HOA meeting or your “front yard Friday” or with neighbors on your street
- Have one of us come and speak to your group



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## NWACA Parks Update

*Caroline Alexander*

*NWACA Parks Committee*

# Parks Activities for 2015

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- Volunteer Workdays and Park Events
  - It's My Park Day in March
  - National Trails Day in June
  - National Public Lands Day in September
- Volunteer Groups
  - Little Helping Hands
  - National Honor Society at Anderson
- Park Projects



# Allen Park

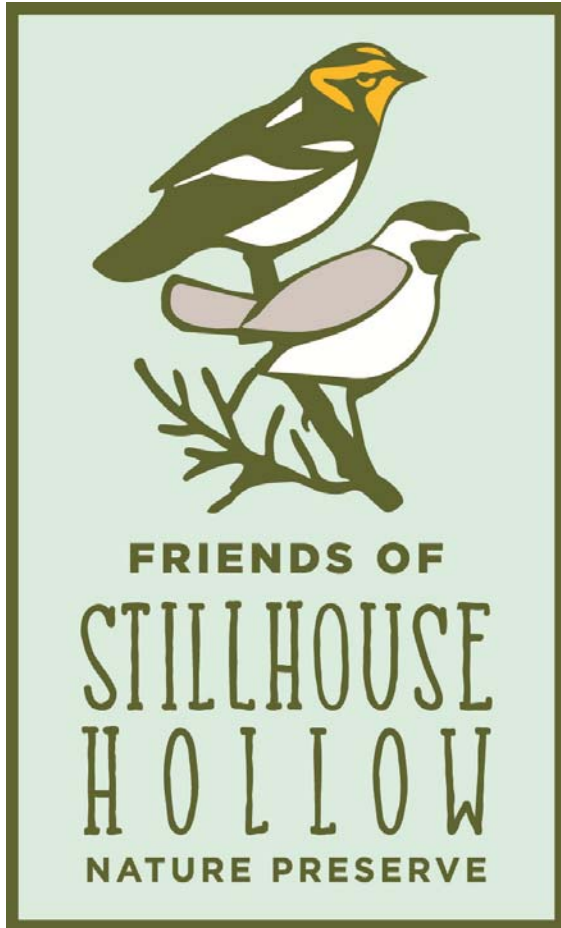
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- Still waiting for transfer from county to city
- On-going invasive species removal
- Periodic trail maintenance

# Stillhouse Hollow Nature Preserve

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- \$13,000 grant from APF  
\$ 2,000 neighborhood match
- The project
  - Information kiosk
  - 2 benches
  - New sign
  - Butterfly garden
  - The City plans to rebuild the deck
- National Trails Day on June 6

# Murchison Pool

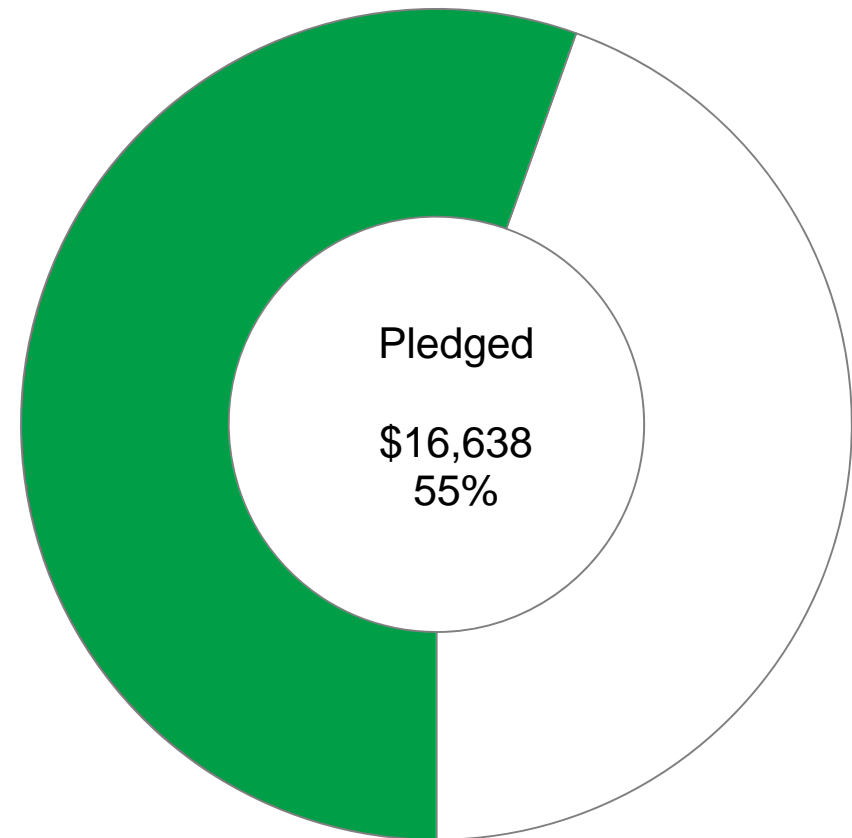
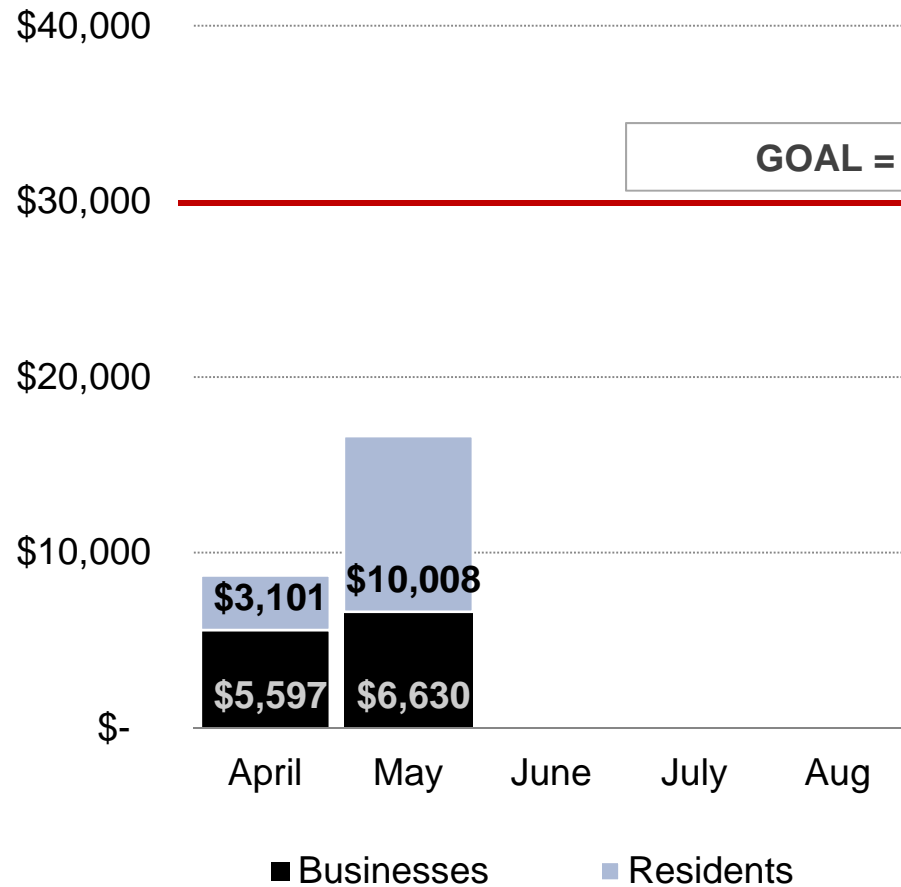


- \$57,000 grant from City of Austin  
\$30,000 neighborhood match
- The project
  - Picnic pavilion
  - 2 shade umbrellas
  - 8 picnic tables
  - 5 benches
- The City replaced tile and coping
- Pool Party and Awards Ceremony on June 20





# Murchison Pool



# Get Involved!

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- Enjoy a park
- Adopt a park
- Attend an event
- Volunteer
- Make a donation to support our projects



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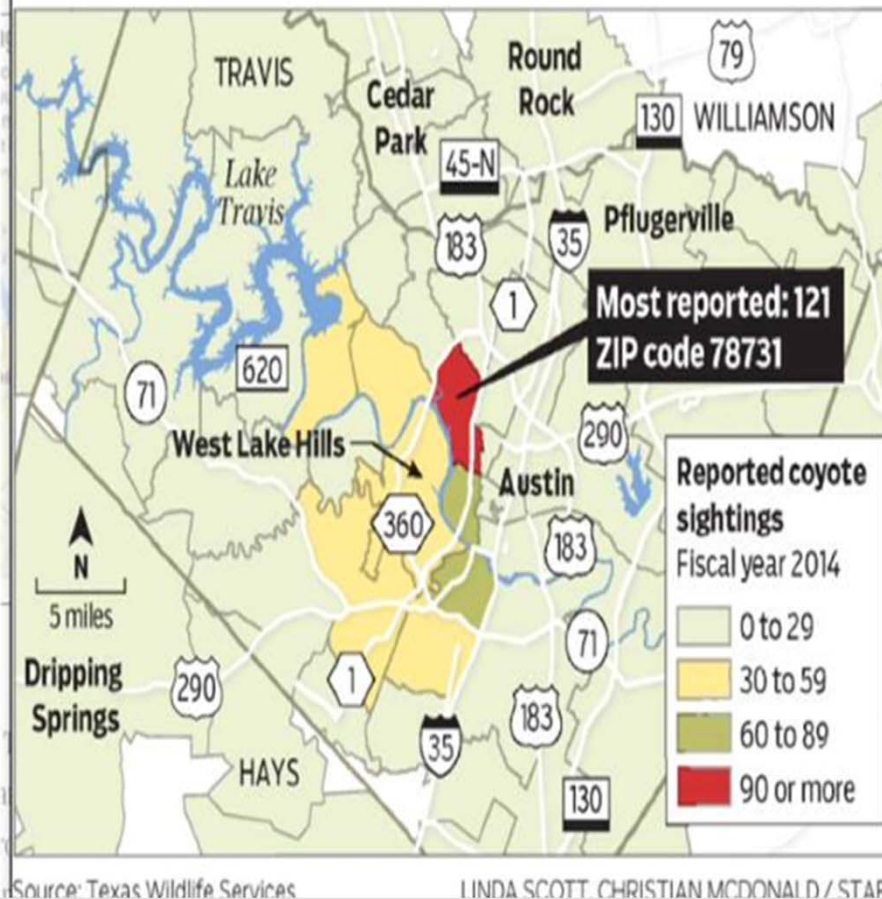
## Learning to Coexist with Coyote

*Carolyn Abernathy and  
Jennifer Hopper  
NWACA Wildlife Committee*



## Coyote sightings in Travis County

Texas Wildlife Services logged 742 reported sightings of coyotes in Travis County from October 2013 to September 2014. The agency removed 61 coyotes in the past year for aggression or where livestock safety was a concern.



# The Coyote RED ZONE

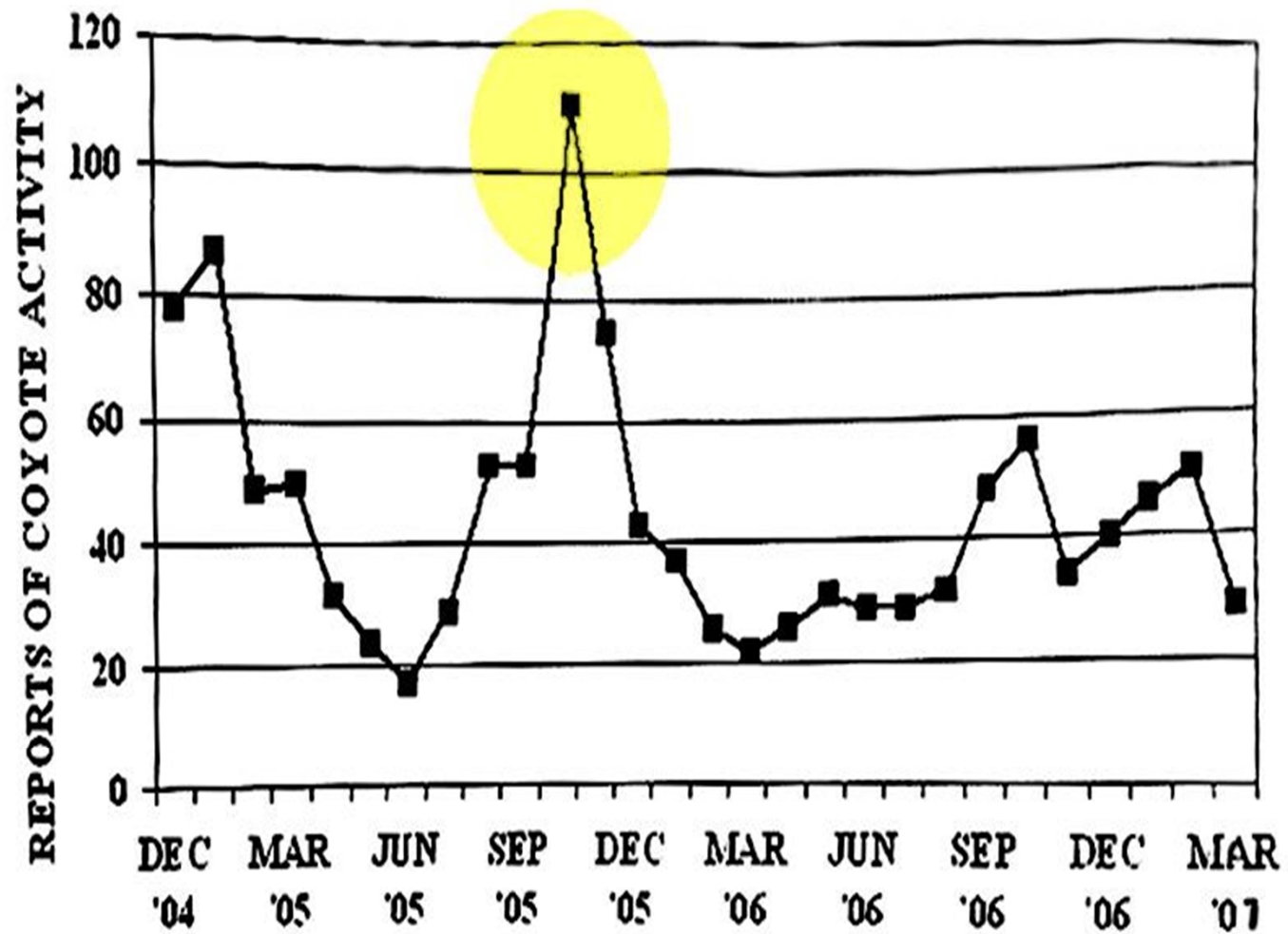


Figure 1. Constituent reports of coyote activity received December 2004-March 2007



# Do Not Feed Wildlife

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- Feed pets indoors; store pet food indoors
- Position bird feeders so coyotes and their prey (squirrels and rodents) can't get to the seed
- If you have fruit trees, collect the dropped fruit
- If you compost,
  - make sure compost is secure from coyotes and their prey.
  - avoid putting meat scraps in the compost.
- Secure your garbage can lids; if possible, enclose your cans

# “A habituated coyote is a potential problem coyote.”

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- Suggested hazing techniques:
  - shout loudly
  - clap hands
  - wave arms
  - be as big and loud as possible
  - throw rocks (sticks will do, but rocks are better)
- Items useful in hazing include:
  - a water hose
  - repellent spray
  - paintballs
  - vinegar in a water gun

# Video: Coyote Hazing

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Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BJHHDGDapI8>



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*AISS Update – sent a text message; needed to attend another meeting*

*Julie Cowan*

*AISS District 4 Board Member*



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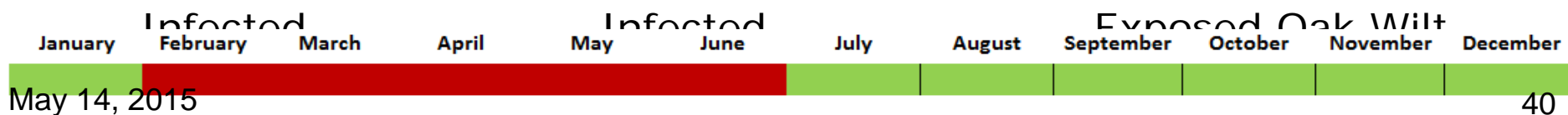
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## Acknowledgements

*Joyce Statz*

*NWACA President*

# OAK WILT PREVENTION



# City Orders about Trimming



- Parts of Northwest Austin are seeing City orders to trim trees that overhang streets
- If you do, be sure that safe practices are followed
  - Sterile equipment is used
  - Cuts are painted
- We are asking the City to schedule this outside the Feb-June timeframe



# 2015 Volunteer Appreciation Award

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- Honoring an inspirational NWACA member
- Known to everyone as “the Oak Wilt Expert” for decades
- Known to his street and our Crime and Safety Committee as “Neighborhood Watch Captain Extraordinaire”
- Known to some of us as the best headcounter in the world!

***Thank you for everything,  
Parker Blevins!***



# NWACA Board of Directors 2014-2015

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

***We'd love to talk with you!***

# A Dozen Committee Opportunities

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- Civic Engagement
- Communications
- Crime and Safety
- Events / 4<sup>th</sup> of July
- History
- Membership
- 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, it's still active!***

# Visit with our Guests



Table	Guests
Civic Engagement	Sheri Gallo Julie Cowan
Crime and Safety	Brian Manley Gary Griffin, new NWACA APD DR
Transportation	Bruce Byron
Wildfire Prevention	Josh Anderson, AFD Wildfire Division
Wildlife Management	Stefan Hunt, TX Wildlife Services Tom Horn, Code Compliance

# Stay in Touch

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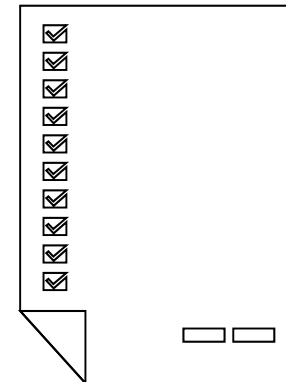
- Use our new web site at [www.nwaca.org](http://www.nwaca.org)
- Facebook
- Join the NWACA mailing list (use our new web site form on the home page)
- Read the monthly newsletter – coming to your home, starting in June
- Comments/questions:  
[nwacainfo@gmail.com](mailto:nwacainfo@gmail.com)

# Feedback



- Thanks to Carol Dochen Realtors for the cookies
- Please have a cookie, if you haven't yet!

- Evaluation forms on the chairs
  - Please tell us how we're doing
  - Please tell us how we can do better



- Thank you for coming!