

THE WOODCREEK UPDATE

A Monthly Newsletter of Woodcreek, Texas



Note from the Mayor

Greetings, Woodcreekers!

Autumn is a transitional season, as we look back fondly on our Hill Country summer and anticipate the promise of the holidays ahead. It's the end of one chapter, and the beginning of another.

In a similar fashion, I am winding down my term as Mayor of Woodcreek as we elect new leadership this week. I am proud of what we have accomplished as a City Council, City Staff, and community. Thank you for entrusting me to help move Woodcreek forward, and I wish our new Mayor and Council continued success. While I will no longer serve as Mayor, I intend to stay involved in our community, and I encourage you to do the same.

One such person who's highly active in our community is Cheryl Mills, who we've profiled in this month's newsletter. She's the chair of our Community Relations Committee, the group that organizes many of Woodcreek's signature events.

And speaking of signature events... Woodcreek is hosting a Water-Wise seminar on November 8 and our second-annual Tree Giveaway Day on the 9th. Read on for the details.

And be sure to check out the article on the many grants that Woodcreek has secured in recent years. Totalling roughly one million dollars, these grants give small communities like Woodcreek the means to fund projects (like parks and roads) that local budgets alone could not sustain.

Now, on with more news!

- As I mentioned, it's election time in Woodcreek. Early voting has ended, but if you haven't yet cast your ballot, I encourage you to do so on Tuesday, November 4th. Polling stations are open 7am to 7pm.
- Did you stop by the Woodcreek SpookTacular? It was a delightful evening of costumes, decorated golf carts, and camaraderie. Thanks to the Double J Golf Club for hosting the event, and congratulations to them on the reopening of our world-class hometown golf course!
- Veterans and families! Don't miss the 9th Annual Veterans Day BBQ Lunch, held on November 8 from 11am to 2pm at VFW Post 6441. A free meal with all the fixings will be provided to veterans and their families.

- The Council recently approved a measure that sets aside 3% of any unallocated end-of-year budget for a parkland fund. This fund can one day be used to enhance our community's green spaces.
- Another reminder: if you've ever volunteered for the City -- at any event, committee, or work project -- please fill out this form so that you can be recognized at an event to be scheduled for next spring. It's our way of saying thanks.
- Stop by City Hall and check out our improvements! We have enhanced our Council chambers and updated our technology to make our meetings more accessible and transparent than ever. Our backup generator is now operational, strengthening our capabilities as an emergency operations center during crises.
- And finally, mark your calendars for Saturday, December 13th — we'll be hosting our first-ever Jingle & Mingle event at the Triangle from 3-6pm! Expect carolers, hot cocoa and cider, crafts, a "Letters to Santa" station, and all the holiday cheer Woodcreek can bring. Stay tuned for more.

In the meantime, enjoy your November. Be sure to thank a vet on November 11th, and let them know how much you appreciate their sacrifices. And Happy Thanksgiving! May your time be filled with a joyful gathering of friends, family, and neighbors, seasoned with gratitude and laughter.

Jeff Rasco
Mayor

Meet Cheryl Mills: Chair of The Community Relations Committee



Hi neighbors! I'm Cheryl Mills, and I currently serve as Chair of Woodcreek's Community Relations Committee (CRC). Before joining the CRC, I served (& learned so much) on the Tree Board for two years. Bringing people together and seeing families enjoy Woodcreek in new ways has been one of the most rewarding parts of living here and getting involved as a volunteer.

Q: What is Woodcreek's Community Relations Committee, and what is it tasked with?

The CRC is a group of residents who volunteer their time to plan, promote, and support events that strengthen our sense of community. We're all about connection — creating opportunities for neighbors to meet, celebrate, and enjoy this beautiful place we get to call home.

Q: What are some of the events you promote?

We support a mix of social, seasonal, and educational events throughout the year — from our community egg hunt & Arbor Day events in the spring, the annual neighbors day out at the end of the summer, and Spooktacular, the fall tree giveaway, and holiday events in the fall. We also help promote community initiatives and neighborhood volunteer projects that help keep Woodcreek beautiful and thriving.

Q: What are some of your favorite annual Woodcreek events?

It's so hard to pick just one! Arbor Day and the Fall Tree Giveaway will always hold a special place in my heart since they highlight our city's love for nature and trees — and they were some of the first events I helped plan for Woodcreek. But our Community Egg Hunt has become one of my favorite days of the year! Hundreds of eggs scattered around Augusta Park, kids laughing and racing around, games, a kids & adult egg toss, and neighbors catching up — it's the best kind of small-town fun.

I'm also really excited about our inaugural holiday event at the Triangle next month! It's something we've never done before, and I can't wait to see our community come together at the Triangle and kick off the holiday season.

Q: How can someone learn more or get involved in the CRC?

We're always looking for more neighbors to join us! You can reach out to City Hall or attend one of our monthly meetings to learn more. Whether you want to volunteer at events, share creative ideas, or help with planning and outreach, we'd love to have your input and energy.

Q: How often do you meet, and what's the time commitment?

The CRC meets once a month, usually for about an hour or two. Depending on the time of year and upcoming events, there may be some planning or coordination between meetings — but we always keep things fun, collaborative, and easy to manage.

Q: Tell us about yourself. How long have you lived in Woodcreek, and what makes it a special place?

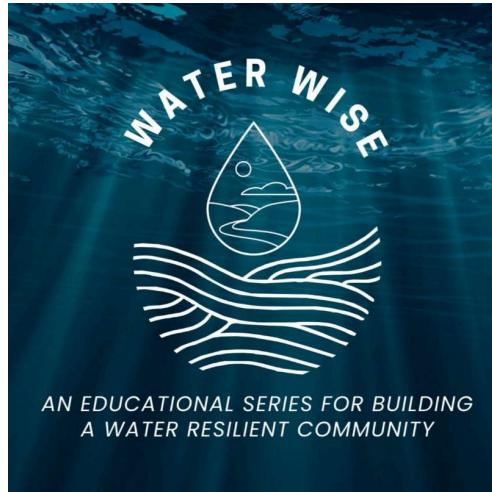
My family moved to Woodcreek from Austin in June 2021, and we've loved it from the start! I live here with my husband and our two boys, and what I love and what makes this community so special is the way neighbors wave as they pass, stop by to say hello, drop off little gifts during the holidays, and take pride in making this city even better. Many of the neighbors that I've met have become really close friends over the years.

Before serving on the CRC, I helped organize the Community Egg Hunt, helped start the Community Garden, and have hosted movie nights and wildflower seed stumps — all in the spirit of bringing neighbors together.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

Just a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who volunteers, participates, or supports our events in any way! Every bit of involvement — big or small — helps make Woodcreek the friendly, vibrant, and connected community we all love to call home.

Get Water-Wise, Fall for a Free Tree!



As fall settles into the Hill Country, Woodcreek is hosting two special community events focused on trees, water, and sustainability. On Saturday, November 8, residents are invited to explore Roots and Flows: Water-Wise Native Plant Gardens at Triangle Park. It's a hands-on look at how native landscapes

can flourish even in drought. Then, on Sunday, November 9, the fun continues with the second-annual Fall Tree Giveaway.

Advance registration is encouraged for the Sunday tree giveaway at City Hall, from 3 to 5pm. Neighbors can gather to learn, connect, and take home a free tree to plant (while supplies last). This family-friendly gathering invites residents to celebrate and enhance Woodcreek's natural beauty. In addition to the giveaway, attendees can enjoy light refreshments, raffles, and a series of educational demonstrations focused on tree care and water conservation.

The Rain Bees will guide participants through the process of creating DIY rain barrels and wicking containers, while Harvest Rain will showcase larger rain collection systems designed for homes and businesses. For those looking to learn more about proper tree care, We Love Trees, Woodcreek's community arborists, will present a start-to-finish tree trimming demonstration. Aqua Texas sponsors the event.

Guests can also take part in raffles for prizes, including rain barrels, gator bags, rain gauges, tree care kits, irrigation supplies, and more. Raffle tickets can be earned by attending the demos, and winners must be present to claim their prizes.

The day before, the Watershed Association is hosting a "show-and-tell" session on ways to maintain a beautiful outdoor space without constant watering. On Saturday, November 8, from 10:30am to 12:30pm, come to Triangle Park for Roots and Flows: Water-Wise Native Plant Gardens.

Explore an inspiring outdoor tour through the park's native plant demonstration garden. Designed with earthworks that slow, spread, and sink rainfall, this garden showcases how native trees, shrubs, and groundcovers can provide lasting color, support pollinators, and enhance resilience with minimal irrigation.

Local experts Lin Weber, Hays County Master Naturalist, Salwa Khan, founder of the Mothering Earth podcast, and Zane Liston from the Watershed Association will be on hand to answer questions and share tips for cultivating native plant landscapes.

Come see how thoughtful planting and design can keep your yard vibrant. Together, these events highlight Woodcreek's shared commitment to conserving water, nurturing nature, and keeping our community green for generations to come. We'll see you there!

Tree Talk: Gratitude Rooted In Our Neighborhood



Thanks to Shannon Suberbelle-Claussen, Woodcreek resident and Trees and Parks Board Secretary, for crafting this ode of Thanksgiving for our community's trees. We are so fortunate to live in a community that truly treasures and protects its trees.

As autumn settles in and Thanksgiving approaches, we're reminded of the many ways we are connected—to one another, to the land beneath us, and to the trees that quietly shape our neighborhood. Like the beloved story *The Giving Tree*, our local trees are steadfast companions, offering gifts that often go unnoticed until we pause to appreciate them.

If you take a walk around Woodcreek, you'll see them lining the streets and standing tall in our parks and yards. Some are just beginning their journey, newly planted and still finding their footing. Others have been here for decades, quietly offering their gifts every single day.

This is the essence of community and gratitude—the give-and-take that sustains life. Just as neighbors share tools, meals, and laughter, our trees share their gifts freely. They model generosity without words. In this season of thanks, may we pause to notice them—the golden leaves swirling down the street, the sheltering branches arching above our walkways—and feel a deeper sense of belonging to the living world around us.

When we care for our trees, we are caring for our future. We are saying thank you in the most enduring way possible: by continuing the cycle of giving. When we plant a young tree, we take on a bit of a nurturing role. We water, mulch, and protect it from the harsh sun or an overzealous lawn mower. It's a little like raising a child or caring for a pet; trees are nature's quiet workhorses. They absorb carbon dioxide and release the oxygen we rely on with every breath. Their roots filter rainwater, replenishing the groundwater beneath us. They provide food and shelter for countless species, including the pollinators that keep our gardens blooming and our food growing. In neighborhoods, trees even help reduce stress, buffer noise, and encourage people to spend more time outdoors—boosting both physical and mental health.

It's a beautiful reminder of how giving and gratitude work hand in hand. The trees we nurture return the favor many times over. They teach us patience, reciprocity, and the quiet joy of long-term care.

As Thanksgiving approaches, may we take a moment to look up—to notice the golden leaves, the crisp air, and the living canopy that connects us all. When we plant and protect trees, we're not just caring for nature; we're investing in the well-being of everyone who calls this neighborhood home.

Because every tree truly has a gift to give.

Parks to Pavement: Grants at Work in Woodcreek



If you've enjoyed a picnic or event in a local Woodcreek park, or if you've noticed an improvement in traffic flow or water drainage, then thank a grant! In recent years, our community has actively pursued these funding mechanisms to enhance our quality of life.

Grants are a vital funding source for small communities like Woodcreek because they provide access to resources that would otherwise be out of reach for towns with limited tax bases and modest operating budgets. Unlike loans, grants do not have to be repaid, allowing local governments to invest in infrastructure, parks, and public services without burdening residents with higher taxes or debt.

They also help accelerate community improvements—such as road repairs, drainage upgrades, and park amenities—that might take years to fund solely through general revenues. In addition, grants often encourage regional collaboration and innovation, connecting small cities to county, state, and federal partners who can provide technical expertise and matching funds.

Recent and pending grants received by Woodcreek exceed \$1 million. Here are brief overviews of each recent grant award received by Woodcreek, a brief description, and its benefits to the community:

- **\$200,000 Hays County Parks & Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) Grant for City Parks Improvements.** Woodcreek was awarded this grant in 2023 to support improvements across its park system—specifically upgrades to the playground at Creekside Park and installation of a gazebo at Triangle Park. The enhancements aim to create expanded, multi-generational outdoor gathering spots and play areas, supporting community interaction and physical activity for residents of all ages.
- **\$500,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for Road & Drainage on Deerfield Drive.** The City leveraged this federal-state block grant in 2024 to address critical infrastructure needs—specifically road resurfacing and improved drainage along Deerfield Drive. With increasing development pressure and drainage challenges noted in the City's infrastructure reviews, this investment helps reduce flood risk, improve pavement conditions, and enhance emergency access while preserving property values and quality of life for residents.
- **\$25,000 Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) Grant for ADA Public Bathroom at Creekside Park.** This summer, the City received a grant from LCRA and the Pedernales Electric Cooperative to build the first permanent public restroom facility at Creekside Park. The new facility is ADA-compliant and replaces a temporary porta-potty. In addition, this amenity supports the City's efforts to enhance its park infrastructure as Woodcreek grows.
- **\$300,000 Texas General Land Office (GLO) Grant for Comprehensive Plan & Ordinance Updates.** Woodcreek is in the process of securing a GLO grant to fund an update of the City's Comprehensive Plan and related ordinance revisions. The existing plan serves as a blueprint for land use, transportation, parks, and infrastructure. This next phase will better position the City to handle growth thoughtfully, align development regulations with community goals, and strengthen long-term guidance for land use, environmental stewardship, and infrastructure maintenance.

A sincere thank you goes out to Councilman Chrys Grummert and City Staff for their work in researching, applying for, and securing these valuable monies. Grants allow our community to plan for long-term resilience. They enhance public safety, accessibility, water conservation, and environmental stewardship—while maintaining the small-town character and fiscal responsibility that residents value.

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