

Galindo Neighborhood Association News



About GENA

The Galindo Elementary Neighborhood Association (“GENA”) seeks to improve the quality of life in the neighborhood through active participation in civic and community initiatives.

GENA represents a diverse community of residents and property owners within the boundaries of Oltorf St (N), Ben White (S), the Union Pacific Railway (W) and S 1st St (E).

We are an entirely volunteer based organization, made up of individuals who love Galindo and want to see it continue to thrive.

To find out more or get involved, visit us online and come by the next neighborhood meetings on Monday January 22nd and Monday March 25th. Neighbors gather at 6:45pm, the meeting begins at 7:00pm.

www.gena.org

Welcome!

Hi Neighbors -

The Galindo Neighborhood Association (GENA) wishes you a Happy New Year! Welcome to our first newsletter since the pandemic. We wanted to connect with all of you and let you know we are still here working to improve the quality of life for all neighborhood residents. You may have seen our red and white meeting announcement signs in the neighborhood and wondered who we are and what we do.

Over the years the association has worked to improve the safety and quality of life for all residents. For example, love them or hate them, the speed bumps and traffic calming throughout the neighborhood were the result of GENA's hard work and lobbying efforts. With funding and support from the association two sidewalks were also installed on South 5th Street to improve pedestrian safety along this heavily traveled route.

Currently we are working with the Austin Parks department to improve lighting and safety in South Austin Neighborhood Park and with the Austin Police Department David Sector Police Representative to deter crime in the neighborhood.

Please come and meet your neighbors and let us know what issues concern you at our next general membership meeting on January 22nd. It's a great place to get and share information, ideas and resources. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Patty Sprinkle, GENA President

Important Update: HOME Initiative

On December 7, 2023, after 12 hours of testimony from their constituents, the Austin City Council voted 9-2 to pass Phase 1 of the *Home Options for Middle Income Empowerment* resolution with amendments. Our District 3 Council member José Velásquez voted in favor of the proposal, Council members Alter and Kelly voted against it.

The first phase allows for up to three homes on the average single family lot and increases the number of unrelated people who may reside together. Phase 2 would allow the current lots to be subdivided and then up to three units could be built on each new lot, depending upon its size. The council is expected to take up Phase 2 in the early spring.



Meetings

General Member Meetings are open to the public and held every other month at **South Austin Recreation Center**, 1100 Cumberland Rd.

Dues are \$20 per residence per calendar year to be a voting member.

Upcoming Meetings:
January 22, 2024
March 25, 2024

GENA Officers (2024)

Board

President: Patty Sprinkle
Vice-President: Marshall Davis
Secretary: Cindy Trucksis
Treasurer: Lori Perry
Communications: Heather Nelson
South Central Coalition:
Lisa McGiffert

Committee Leads

Parks: Sev Coursen

Contact

Let's get in touch! To share input, ideas, or feedback:

W: www.gena.org

E: newsletter@gena.org

A: PO Box 41232 Austin TX 78704

Facebook:

[facebook.com/groups/
GalindoNeighborhoodAssociation](https://facebook.com/groups/GalindoNeighborhoodAssociation)

www.gena.org

Spotlight On: South Austin Neighborhood Park

GENA members and Galindo residents have been closely involved in the creation and evolution of South Austin Park and the South Austin Recreation Center from the very beginning in the early 70s. South Austin Neighborhood Park has since become the crown jewel of the Galindo neighborhood. GENA formally adopted the park in 2018 through the Austin Parks Foundation *Adopt-a-Park* program, continuing our neighborhood's longtime stewardship.

A Brief History of South Austin Neighborhood Park

1970s: Founding and Opening of the South Austin Rec Center

The 24 acre area that comprises the park was acquired by the City of Austin in two parcels. Formerly an unmanaged wooded area, Galindo neighbors worked with the City of Austin Parks Department to open the Rec Center in 1974 as a welcoming place for South Austin children, teens and adults. The adjoining 12 acres were acquired in 1980 to preserve the wooded acreage as greenspace and to develop the Tennis Center, which opened in 1981, enhancing the variety of activities available to area residents and families.

2004-2006: Preservation of Mixed Use Park

In a surprise to Galindo residents, an expansion to the Tennis Center was announced in 2004 that would have nearly doubled its size, resulting in the removal of a large percentage of the park and the playing field. For the next two and a half years in dozens of city meetings, GENA played a pivotal role in representing the variety of neighborhood interests to promote a plan that would maintain a balance of multi-purpose urban green space in the park with the existing 10 tennis courts.

2007-2021 Development of the Mile Long Perimeter Trail

GENA members designed the trail plan with input from neighbors at GENA meetings that was approved and implemented by the Austin Parks Department. GENA members then worked for several years raising funds from private donors and writing and receiving a large grant from Austin Parks Foundation, successfully gaining the funding to develop the trail. Trail construction was completed in January 2021.

Thank You to Our Park Volunteers!

On Saturday November 4th, 13 Galindo and nearby neighborhood residents came together for *It's My Park Day*, a bi-annual event hosted by the Austin Parks Foundation. The "Mulch-o-Rama" successfully protected over 30 trees planted in 1998 by the Austin nonprofit group Tree Folks to ensure that they survive the winter.

It's My Park Day events are a fantastic way to meet your neighbors and contribute to ongoing improvements in Galindo's beloved park.

The next "It's My Park Day" is Saturday March 2nd, 2024. Details and sign up info will be posted on the GENA site. We hope to see you there!



See You in the Neighborhood!