

Norwood House History

In the 1990s the Women's Chamber of Commerce (WCC) stepped up and launched a major effort to restore Norcliff for use as an Economic Center. The group spent years fundraising, but the City ultimately chose not to extend support, and the WCC was not able to complete a restoration. However, the Women's Chamber did raise enough money to move the bungalow back to its original site in 1999 (15 years ago). This was critically important to the future of the house, as it would pave the way for the land immediately surrounding the structure to later receive a unique historic landmark designation. That, in turn, helped protect Norcliff when whispers of possible demolition began to surface.

So while the house was now back where it belonged by 1999 - on an improved foundation - it was still boarded up, essentially abandoned, with time and weather continuing to take a dreadful toll.

Has been at this location for 15 years.

A subcommittee of the South River City Citizens (SRCC) neighborhood group formed in 2008 to carry on the quest to restore the Norwood House and open it to the public as a rental venue. Calling itself the Norwood Posse, this group kept the project alive in newspaper articles and TV news coverage for years, building a broad base of support throughout the city and working with Austin's Parks & Recreation Department (PARC) and other stakeholders on a plan to save Norcliff.

The Posse's efforts culminated in a **City Council Resolution in early 2010, supporting restoration of the Norwood house; however, there was still no commitment of city funds for the project.** By this time, the major recession that began in 2008 was forcing cities everywhere to slash budgets and look for creative new ways to pay for parks and other city services.

Norwood had been excluded from bond programs time and again. The house would have to continue to wait. Despite adoption by the Parks Department of the "Preferred Alternative", and that plan's formal approval by the Parks Board in late 2011, there is still no funding in PARC's budget - and none in the foreseeable future - for historic restoration of a house. Nor is there funding for PARC employees to operate and maintain Norcliff even if it is restored. In today's challenging economic climate, the message is clear that the Norwood House will have to largely pay for its own restoration and earn its own keep if it is to come back to life.

*The Norwood Posse understood that reality years ago and began to develop proposals to restore and operate Norcliff in public/private partnership with the City. The Posse attracted major donors in 2011 and determined that evolving into a new nonprofit would best help it achieve the goal of restoration. Accordingly, the Posse "dismounted its horse", giving way for the **Norwood Park Foundation** to be chartered in the spring of 2012.*

This is only part of the history of the Norwood House, you can read more at
<http://www.norwoodparkfoundation.org/pages.item.3/the-norwood-house-project.html>