

Dear Commissioners:

I live in what will be district 5 and my backyard, literally is the Barton Creek Green Belt.

My house backs up to the greenbelt itself and it a treasured part of our life as a family every day. We go out there with dogs and the rest of the family daily.

It is critical to my life as a voting citizen of Austin. Zilker Park and part of the Barton Creek Greenbelt that is currently in District 8 are much more a part of a “community of interest” with the adjoining Barton Hills and Zilker neighborhoods in District 5. I live in Barton hills and if my backyard is the Greenbelt I can't imagine why it shouldn't be in the district that I vote in. The same can be said for Zilker. Zilker is almost entirely surrounded by the neighborhoods of Zilker and Barton hills.

Most importantly the neighborhoods here are impacted by the commercial activities that are on going at Zilker. In order to not disenfranchise the citizens of Zilker and Barton Hills neighborhoods it is critical to allow them to have a voice in city council that recognizes there proximity to the park and the greenbelt.

What happens in the park and greenbelt affects many, many more people in District 5 than in District 8, so the District 5 Council member should have more say over how the Trail of Lights and concerts like ACL Fest are conducted in the park, the level of fire and crime prevention in the Greenbelt, and the many other things that occur in those places, than the District 8 Council member. Please move the park and greenbelt from District 8 to District 5 by moving precincts 307, 356, and part of 364 into District 5. To offset the population reduction to District 8, you can move Precinct 309, or another suitable precinct in District 5, into District 8.

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of the citizens of Austin

Jennifer Berbas