

Barton Hills News

BARTON HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Barton Hills Community Park Update

by Roy O. Smithers, Park Executive Committee Chair

Funds. The Committee is happy to announce that neighbor Melissa Hawthorne has secured additional funds for the park from Parks & Rec. The developers of large residential developments on South Lamar are required to donate funds for park development. These funds are earmarked for the area in which the developments are located. So Melissa kept her “ear to the ground” and was able to lock up an additional \$99,750 to be spent improving Barton Hills Community Park. This gives the Committee a total of almost \$243,000 to work with. So, the Committee and the Neighborhood thank Melissa for her efforts. And, if you encounter Melissa, please give her your personal thanks for locking down these funds.

Slope between playground and slab. We have added more limestone blocks to the slope. Unfortunately, the grass seed on the slope did not take, so the bare spots on the slope will have to be sodded.

Stairs on the East Side (Barton Hills Drive) of the Park. Melissa Hawthorne has obtained the assistance of John Mapes of Gensler, a very large architecture firm with over 5,000 professionals and 46 offices, to donate a design for the stairs which will be located on the east side of the park. A preliminary draft has been completed and we are awaiting the final drawing so that we can submit it to the City of Austin Parks & Rec and AISD for approval, then to contractors to bid on the construction. We hope to have construction begin and end this summer when school is out.

Final Drawings for the Master Plan. Neighbor Stefan Pharis of Pharis Design and his staff have graciously provided the final plans to complete the rest of the Park Master Plan items. This is a huge donation of time and effort to the neighborhood. We can't thank Stefan and his folks enough. And, should you encounter Stefan, please give him your personal thanks for all this work.

Moving the Top Running Trail. Stefan's design includes moving the running trail on the top (western/Homedale) part of the park. Moving the trail should enlarge the upper playing field for baseball, kickball, soccer and other group activities. Stefan's plans have been provided to AISD and Parks & Rec for approval. We hope to have the trail moved this summer.

(continued on page 3)



APRIL 25, 2017

• 6-9pm •

NEXT MEETING

Please join us at

St. Mark's Church

(corner of Barton Skyway
& Barton Hills Drive)

All are welcome!

Meet your neighbors and
stay informed about
neighborhood events
and issues.

Dinner & Social Hour:

6pm

Enchiladas, tacos,
rice & beans \$8

Neighborhood Meeting:

7-9pm

Barton Hills News

The Barton Hills Neighborhood Association newsletter is published quarterly and supported by advertisers. It's distributed to homes in the Barton Hills neighborhood of Austin, Texas. For more about membership and neighborhood affairs, contact the appropriate person below.

2016 Executive Committee

President

David Poisson
president@bartonhills.org

Vice President

Scott Hoopman
vicepresident@bartonhills.org

Treasurer

Stan Ostrum
treasurer@bartonhills.org

Secretary (Recording)

Russ Riley
secretary@bartonhills.org

Community Partnership Coordinator Position Open

Corresponding Secretary

Kierra Francis
newsletter@bartonhills.org

Newsletter Design

Caroline Bhargava
newsletter@bartonhills.org

Austin Neighborhoods Council Representatives

Position Open

Committee Chairs

Committee on Area Development

Peter Hess
phess@mail.utexas.edu

Greenbelt Guardians

Glee Ingram
gleeful@earthlink.net

Neighborhood Watch

Position Open

Emergency Preparedness

Susan Donaldson
skdon@mindspring.com

Neighborhood Outreach

Position Open

Barton Hills Community Park

Roy Smithers
rorsmith@yahoo.com

www.bartonhills.org

Newsletter printed on 100% recycled paper.

President's Message

By David Poisson, BHNA President

Hi Neighbors,

Happy spring everyone! Always my favorite time of the year with the creek flowing and sun warm enough to enjoy the beautiful natural surroundings our neighborhood provides without the heat that is soon to come.

If you follow the listserv or Nextdoor social media page you probably have seen the online survey that the BHNA has put out asking for your input. If you would rather fill out the survey on paper, we have included it on page 11 of this newsletter. You can mail it to the address on back, or I will personally come by and pick it up from you. We would like to get your input towards the things you find important that impact our neighborhood. This allows us to plan the quarterly meetings and have presentations with topics that are beneficial to the neighborhood.

It seems the City of Austin is good at throwing new surprises that affect us in some form or fashion. The latest being the CodeNEXT land development code which is going to re-write all the rules regarding what can be built in and around our neighborhood. Luckily for us we have our Area Development Coordinator Peter Hess who is our area expert regarding these development issues. Peter is going to be featured as our main presentation at the April 25th, 2017 meeting, outlining what he thinks CodeNEXT might bring to our neighborhood. If I didn't think this was very important to our neighborhood I wouldn't be writing about it in the President's Message. It is always my hope that people will get involved with the neighborhood association as best as they can, and in the case of CodeNEXT your input will be critical.

Otherwise, we always want to hear from you. Don't be afraid to contact me, and if I can't quite help I'm sure there is someone on the BHNA board or within the neighborhood that can. I am always amazed by the resources our area neighbors provide!

See you at the meeting!

David

(continued from front page)

Sundial. Neighbor Rachel Noffke, who was one of the designers/creators/builders of the wonderful Barton Hills mural, has agreed to design the sundial. It will be an analematic sundial. In order to determine the time, one would need to stand in a particular location on the sundial and one's cast shadow would tell the time of day. Neighbor Mel Oakes, a retired UT physics professor, has agreed to assist in determining how to position the sundial. We are still in the earliest stages and cannot predict an installation date. But, should you encounter Rachel or Mel, please give them your personal thanks for their creativity, expertise and time.

Sidewalks for Homedale & Briarcrest are finished. The Barton Hills PTA and Parks Committee have sought to have sidewalks installed adjacent to the school and park along Homedale and Briarcrest. Our city councilwoman, Ann Kitchen, heard the request and listed the sidewalks as a project to be done with the extra funds that were generated and not used on the ill-fated extension of light rail. The project is finished and a super thanks to Ann Kitchen for obtaining the funding and seeing this project to completion. And, if you encounter Ann, please give her your personal thanks for the sidewalks.

Thanks-- As always, the Committee truly appreciates all of the support from Barton Hills Elementary School, City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department, the Barton Hills PTA, this Neighborhood Assn. and every Barton Hills resident. If you are interested in keeping up with the latest Committee discussions, the minutes of Committee meetings can be obtained by emailing me at rorsmith@aol.com.

A black and white group photograph of the Blairfield Realty team. There are 14 people in total, arranged in two rows. The top row consists of seven people standing, and the bottom row consists of seven people sitting on a bench or chairs. In the background, there is a window with the text "Blairfield REALTY" and a house icon. A banner at the bottom of the photo contains the text "WE ❤️ BARTON HILLS".

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Oak Wilt & Pruning *by Melissa Hawthorne*

Oak wilt, one of the most destructive tree diseases in the United States, is killing oak trees in central Texas in epidemic proportions. Oak wilt is an infectious disease caused by the fungus *Ceratocystis fagacearum*, which invades and disables the water-conducting system in susceptible trees. All oaks (*Quercus* spp.) are susceptible to oak wilt to some degree, but some species are more affected than others.

Most of the tree mortality results from tree-to-tree spread of the pathogen through interconnected or grafted root systems, once an oak wilt center becomes established. New infection centers begin when beetles carry oak wilt fungal spores from infected red oaks to fresh, open wounds on healthy oaks. Wounds include any damage caused by wind, hail, vehicles, construction, squirrels, birds or pruning. Research has shown that both oak wilt fungal mats on infected red oaks and insects that carry oak wilt spores are most prevalent in the spring. This disease can attack any of the oak species although some oaks appear to have some resistance. In live oaks and members of the red oak family, oak wilt is often a lethal problem. Fungicides have been found which can suppress the disease, but to date there is no real “cure” for the problem. There are several active oak wilt centers within the Barton Hills boundaries.

Generally pruning for other reasons (general tree health, non-safety related clearance or thinning, etc.) should be conducted **before** February 1 or **after** June 30.

Regardless of the reasons or time of year, proper pruning techniques should be used. These techniques include making proper pruning cuts and avoiding injurious practices such as topping or excessive crown thinning. If you are uncertain about any of this information, you should consult with a Texas Oak Wilt Certified Arborist, ISA Certified Arborist, or an oak wilt specialist from the City of Austin.

For information regarding the Oak Wilt Suppression Program, call 512-974-1881 or www.austintexas.gov/page/oak-wilt-suppression

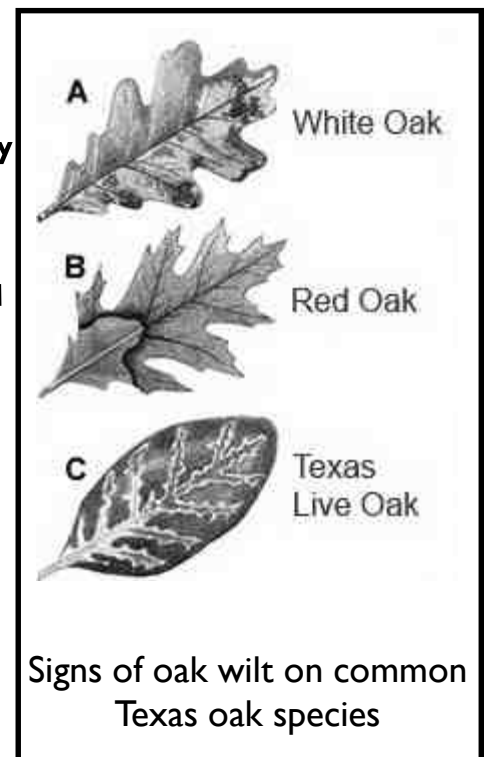
To Prevent New Infections:

- Cut and dispose of diseased red oaks immediately. *Debris from diseased red oaks should be immediately chipped, burned or buried.*
- **Avoid wounding oak trees, including pruning, from February through June.**
- Sterilize/sanitize all pruning equipment between trees and paint all wounds and fresh stumps regardless of season.
- Handle oak firewood cautiously, burn all firewood before spring, and never store unseasoned oak wood from infected trees near healthy oaks.
- Cover unseasoned firewood (from infection centers and unknown origins) with clear plastic and bury the edges of the plastic.

There may be times when it is not prudent to avoid pruning or wounding of oaks during the spring.

Some reasons to prune might include:

- to accommodate public safety concerns such as hazardous limbs, traffic visibility or emergency utility line clearance.
- To repair damaged limbs (from storms or other anomalies)
- To remove limbs rubbing on a building or other branches, and to raise low limbs over a street.
- Dead branch removal where live tissue is not exposed.



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| 2502 Milfoil Cove in 78704 | 5803 Burnhill Drive in 78745 | 2215 Post Road #1064 in 78704 |
| 810 W Elizabeth Street in 78704 | 2109 De Verne Street in 78704 | 151 Courtland Circle in 78737 |
| 2506 Wilson St. Unit A in 78704 | 6218 Aviara Drive in 78735 | 2215 Post Road #2001 in 78704 |

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Greenbelt Guardians Report *by Stan Ostrum*

The Greenbelt Guardians celebrated our 14th anniversary last month by participating in the Austin Parks Foundation's 15th annual **It's My Park Day** event with a soggy workday at the Homedale access. It was raining on the original March 4th date, so we postponed for a week and ended up working in very similar conditions on Saturday March 11th. Twenty-two volunteers braved the elements and put in a total of seventy-five hours of labor. We removed a lot of invasives, picked up trash, repaired handrails, weeded and cleaned up the entry trail and packed the granite, did some drainage work just past the kiosk, and continued our rock work in the culvert under the bridge near the flats. Photos from the workday (and most of our past ones) can be found on our website here: <http://greenbeltguardians.org>. We put off a few projects until we have drier conditions and more help, but all in all it was a very successful workday in spite of the weather. Thanks to everyone who participated!

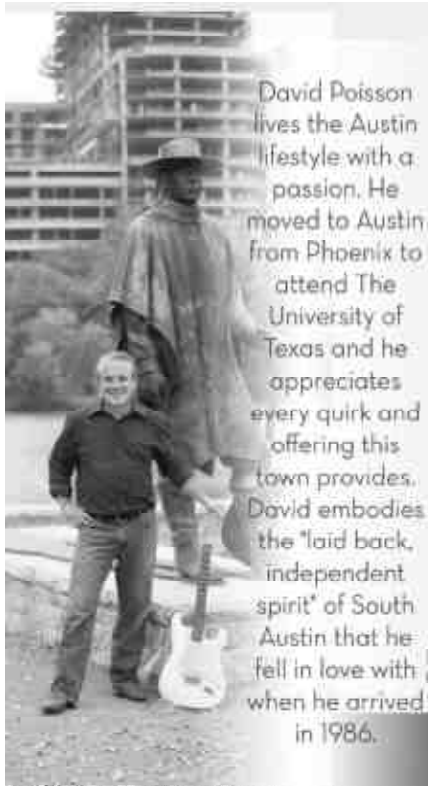
Our next scheduled workday is on National Trails Day, Saturday June 3rd. Watch the listserv or the BHNA and GG websites for more details. You can also sign up for the GG mailing list on our website and get notices from us directly. We welcome volunteers of all ages and abilities. From picking up trash and helping with registration to digging out invasives and moving large rocks, there is always something for everyone to do on our workdays!

In other news, the invasives removal work that was funded by grant money that Glee Ingram put together from TECQ and other sources has been completed. Crews from the Texas Conservation Corps worked between the Zilker and Spyglass accesses during January and February to remove large amounts of ligustrum. When we first started working on the greenbelt fourteen years ago, we were allowed to use chainsaws and herbicide, and we did this kind of work ourselves. Unfortunately, current regulations prohibit that, so we must raise money now and contract that work out.

We continue to participate in the Violet Crown Trail stewardship council and attended a meeting at the beginning of March. Construction is moving forward on the next sections of the trail from Sunset Valley down to the LBJ Wildflower Center, and a substantial portion is expected to be completed by the end of this year. Plans are also moving forward quickly to completely redesign and redo the greenbelt trailheads at both Zilker Park and Spyglass. For those who may not know, the Violet Crown Trail follows the Barton Creek Greenbelt from Zilker almost to MoPac, where it then splits off and heads south to its current terminus at Brodie and Hwy 290. When completed, it will be over thirty miles long and stretch all the way down into Hays County.

That's all for now, see you on the trail!





David Poisson lives the Austin lifestyle with a passion. He moved to Austin from Phoenix to attend The University of Texas and he appreciates every quirk and offering this town provides. David embodies the "laid back, independent spirit" of South Austin that he fell in love with when he arrived in 1986.

Be in the know

with the last 3 months statistics of homes sold in the Barton Hills Neighborhood

	1st Quarter 2017	1st Quarter 2016	Percent Change
Homes Sold	10	12	-17.0%
Avg. List Price	\$716,600	\$686,825	4.3%
Avg. Sold Price	\$716,875	\$669,883	7.0%
Avg. Square Ft.	1,813	1,948	-6.8%
Avg. List Price - SqFt	\$395.61	\$354.49	11.6%
Avg. Sold Price - SqFt	\$395.40	\$345.71	14.4%
Avg. Days On Market	65	61	6.6%

Search Criteria: Sold Properties from 1/1/17 to 3/31/17 - Barton Hills

For the most current market information in the neighborhood call me today at 512-707-9143

This is an opinion or comparative analysis and should not be considered an appraisal. In making any decision that relies specifically upon this information, you should know that I have not followed the guidelines for development of an appraisal or analysis contained in the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice of the Appraisal Foundation. Copyright © 2017 ABOR. All rights reserved.



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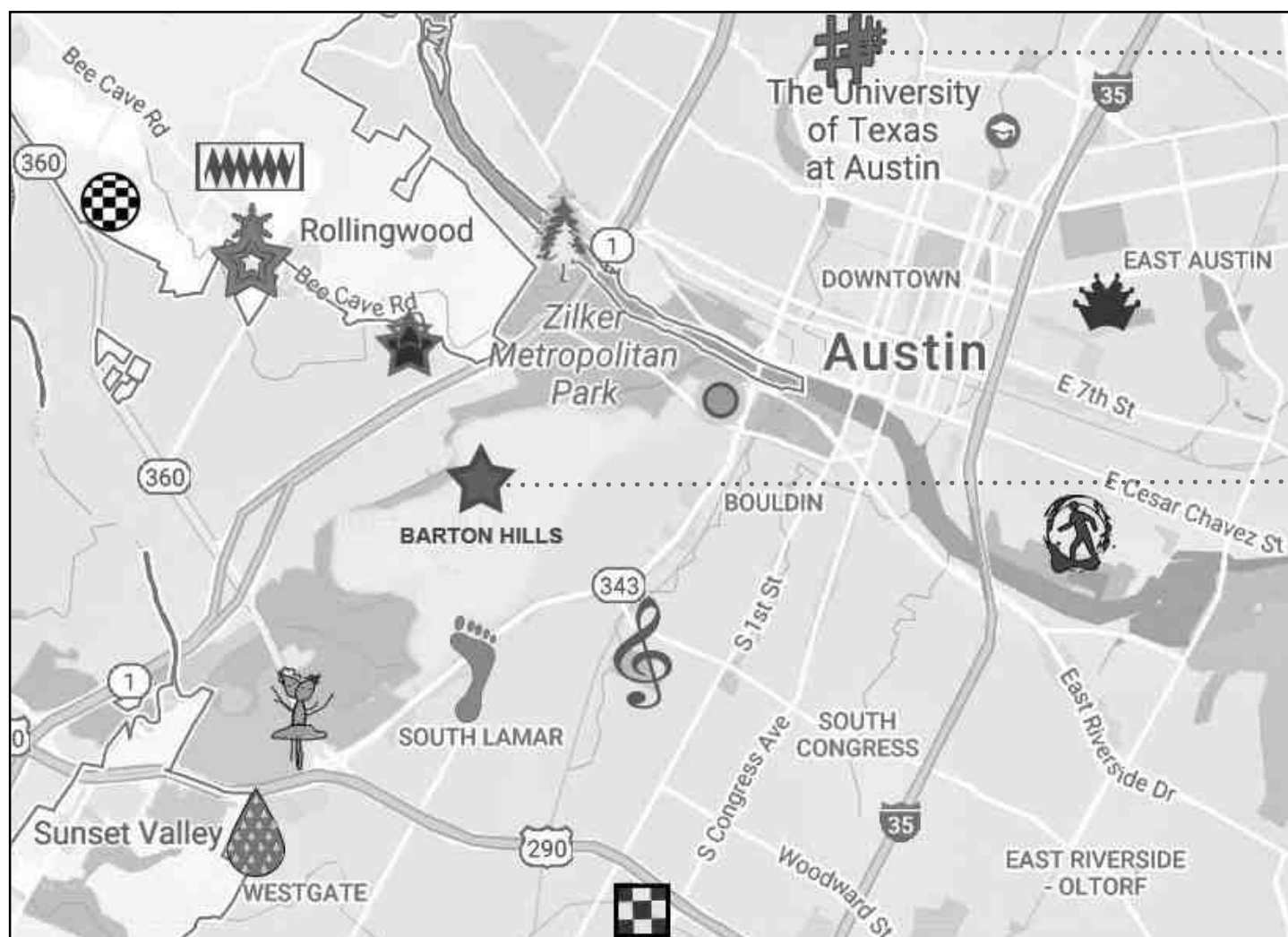


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Summer Camp Roundup *by Caroline Bhargava*



-  **Austin Science & Nature Center:** nature camp, ages 5-17, www.austintexas.gov/department/austin-nature-and-science-center
-  **Balance Dance Studio:** dance camp, ages 2-11, www.balancedancestudios.com
-  **Band-Aid:** music camp, ages 4-18, www.bandaidsschoolofmusic.com
-  **Camp on the Move:** daily field trips, ages 8-14, www.camponthemove.com
-  **Camptime at the Carver:** performing arts camp, ages 7-17, www.carvermuseum.org
-  **Expedition School:** exploring natural areas, ages 8-17, www.expeditionschool.com
-  **Jump:** gymnastics camp, ages 3-12, www.jump-austin.com
-  **Numbers Lab:** math & coding camp, 4th-12th grade, www.thenumberlab.com
-  **St. Marks Episcopal Day School:** STEAM day camp, ages 2-5, stmarksdayschoolaustin.org
-  **Synergy Dance Studio:** dance camp, ages 3-17, www.synergydancestudio.com
-  **Westlake Youth Soccer Camp:** indoor soccer camp, ages 3-16, www.westlakesoccer.com
-  **Young Metalworkers:** jewelry crafting and metalworking camp, ages 10-15, www.creativeside.org
-  **Young Peoples Workshop:** science, technology, art & language camp, ages 3-12, www.ypwkids.com
-  **Zach Scott Theatre:** performing arts camp, kindergarten-12th grade, www.zachtheatre.org

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www.stmarksdayschoolaustin.org

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CAMP OPENINGS IN JUNE/JULY

**SPOTLIGHT ON:
THE NUMBER LAB**
www.thenumberlab.com

the number lab was founded to meet the challenge of educating our children at high levels in mathematics. We do this through our micro-school, through practice-based teacher training and materials, and through student sessions during the summer that are open to students that are not enrolled in our micro-school. We are located near the intersection of 24th and Lamar at 1201 W 24th street.

**CAMP OPENINGS FOR
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Neighbors Doing Good in the 'Hood

The new planters on Barton Hills Drive have really taken a beating from unsuspecting and/or distracted motorists. Luckily we have some great neighbors who pitched in their time and energy to replace and repair the damaged planters. Big BHNA thank you to Glenn & Melissa Hawthorne, Stan Ostrum, and David Poisson!



Upcoming Zilker Park Events

70TH BIRTHDAY SPLASH: PARADE AND PLUNGE IN BARTON SPRINGS - MAY 13, 2017

Join Barton Springs Conservancy for a fun and family-friendly parade that will end in a celebratory plunge into Barton Springs. The parade is a public celebration of the 70th Birthday of the Barton Springs Bathhouse, which opened in 1947 and has served as an iconic Austin gathering space for decades. We invite Austinites young and old to attend & don their most patriotic attire & show their love for the Springs.

Meet at the South Entrance of Barton Springs by 9am for a spirited march around and into the pool area and a plunge into the Springs. Birthday cake follows the plunge. **This event is free and open to the public.**



Barton Hills Neighborhood Survey

Please fill out & mail this survey (address is on the back of this page). Feel free to elaborate on your thoughts with an additional sheet of paper. OR fill out online: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3LXHHBB>

1. Are you a current Barton Hills Neighborhood Association (BHNA) member?

Yes

No

2. Do you typically attend the quarterly meetings?

Yes

No

3. Please rank the importance to you of these topics for neighborhood meeting discussions/info.

Traffic & Transportation

Crime & Safety

Community Building, Connecting, and Socializing

Greenbelt, Barton Hills Elementary Park, Zilker Park, and Barton Springs

City wide issues impacting Barton Hills

Neighborhood Association (activities, actions, roles)

Other

4. Please let us know if you have any comments regarding your previous "Other" ranking.

5. Is there anything that you would like to see changed in the meetings or addressed that is not currently being addressed?

6. Do you have any suggestions for the pre-meeting social hour?

7. If you do not attend the quarterly BHNA meeting, is there anything that would make you more likely to attend?

Change to meeting format/time/location

Change to meeting agenda/topics

Other (please specify)

8. What would make it more attractive for you to become a member of the BHNA and/or to potentially participate in meetings or neighborhood events?

9. In which of the following neighborhood events or activities do you participate?

Greenbelt Guardian workdays

4th of July Parade

School park work days

Quarterly neighborhood meetings

Other (please specify)

10. Which of the following do you follow or participate in?

BHNA listserv

Nextdoor

Thank you for completing this survey. If you don't mind sharing, could you please provide your name and address below. This will be kept confidential

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 41206
Austin, TX 78704



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Once you’re a BHNA member, you can join the Barton Hills listserv.
Visit groups.yahoo.com/group/barton_hills/ for more information about how to sign up.

2017 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Fill out this form to join or renew your membership in the Barton Hills Neighborhood Association. Annual dues are \$10 per household, payable when you join (for a new membership) or every January (for renewal).

Your Name: _____

Other 18+ members of your household: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please send this form along with your annual dues to:

Barton Hills Neighborhood Association P.O. Box 41206 Austin, TX 78704

Make checks payable to BHNA. You can pay dues online through PayPal at <http://bartonhills.org/about/membership/>.
(PayPal service fee of \$1 will be added to your total.)