



Staff Report

Subject: Aldermanic Wards – Newly Annexed Areas

Department/Program: Administration

Explanation:

The City is currently in the process of annexing two subdivisions, Arbor Trails (along with Oak Brook Elementary) and Arbor Crest. As we move forward in the annexation process, the City needs to determine which of our four Aldermanic wards the new subdivisions will be placed in.

Both subdivisions are in the Southeast quadrant of Ries and Big Bend Roads, and contiguous to the Cascades subdivision which is in Ward 1. Therefore, given that they are not contiguous to any other of the City's wards, it would be appropriate to place them in Ward 1.

The question then becomes whether or not adding these subdivisions to Ward 1 will trigger the need to redistrict other areas of the City to keep the wards balanced. While geographic continuity is the primary factor in ward placement, there is case law dictating that there cannot be too large of a population discrepancy between wards. Specifically, the combined percentage of deviation of the most populous district and the percentage of deviation of the least populous district from the ideal district population may not exceed 10% and all other district populations must fall within that narrow range.

Therefore, we must also consider current and future ward populations to make a recommendation on placement of these subdivisions.

The current ward breakdown by population is as follows:

Ward 1: 8,012

Ward 2: 7,908

Ward 3: 8,007

Ward 4: 7,776

Using the above methodology, the "ideal" ward would consist of 7,925 residents. This is calculated by taking the City's total population and dividing it by the number of wards. Our current least populous ward is Ward 4, which is 1.9% less populous than the "ideal" ward. Our current most populous ward is Ward 1, which is 1% more populous than the "ideal" ward. This gives us a total deviation of 2.9%, which is well within the 10% guideline established by the courts.

Now let's look at the ward breakdown if Arbor Trails and Arbor Crest are placed into Ward 1, and no other changes are made to the map. The current population of Arbor Trails is 249 residents and Arbor Crest is 100 residents. That would make the new ward breakdown as follows:

Ward 1: 8,361

Ward 2: 7,908

Ward 3: 8,007

Ward 4: 7,776

Under this proposal the new “ideal” ward would consist of 8,013 residents. Ward 4 would remain the least populous ward, however, would now be 3% less populous than the “ideal” ward. Conversely, Ward 1 would remain the most populous ward, but now be 4.3% more populous than the “ideal” ward. The total deviation would become 7.3%, which would be an increase over our current deviation but still under the 10% guideline established by the courts.

A copy of the proposed new map is enclosed for your review.

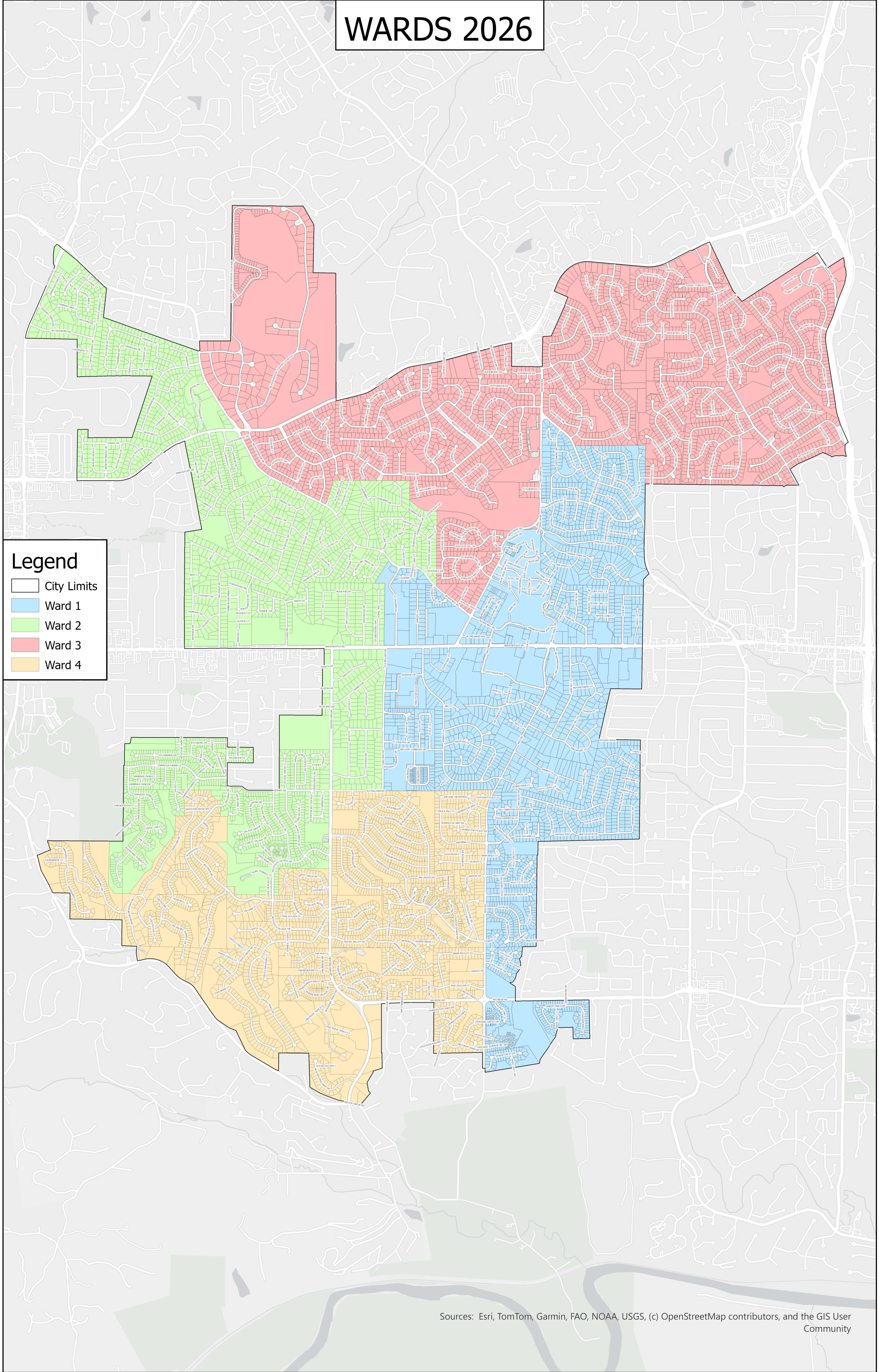
Recommendation:

Staff recommends the Board make a motion to include Arbor Trails (along with Oak Brook Elementary) and Arbor Crest in Ward 1.

Submitted By: Eric Sterman

Date: 1/20/26

WARDS 2026



City Limits

Ward 1

Ward 2

Ward 3

Ward 4

WARD 1

