



Photo Credit: Al Braden

BILL OLIVER

Songwriter

Barton Springs Eternal

1973-Present

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Barton's has the size and location to both soothe and startle the senses. The bracing temperature, the clean flow coming from under the Hill Country... and the looming office towers - can they co-exist? But for those who wonder, a feeling of fragility comes quickly. Is this permanent, sustainable? Or are we in a lucky moment of time that could be lost?"

I moved to Austin in 1973 from southern Arizona and swimming holes were immediately sought out. I hit the jackpot: Barton Springs. As a kid in Houston in the 1950s the nearest 'creek' was the Briargrove ditch, which drained into Buffalo Bayou. I loved the ditch and the Bayou for their mystery and watery wildlife, but they weren't great for swimming.

Deep Eddy and Little Stacey Pool were excellent and convenient, cool and clean. I loved Town Lake for its mellow canoeing, kayaking and rafting (and yes, even swimming). A little further out, Lake Travis, Lake Austin, and the Colorado River - a little Mississippi. (I was born in St. Louis, and 'imprinted' on the mighty river - actually rafting it ala Huck Finn in 1968, when I was 20.) Other Hill Country rivers and pools offer their own charms and adventures, but Barton Springs is the Crown Jewel.

Barton's has the size and location to both soothe and startle the senses. The bracing temperature, the clean flow coming from under the Hill Country... and the looming office towers - can they co-exist? The grassy banks, old oaks and pecans are luxurious, with room for solitude or socializing. But for those who wonder, a feeling of fragility comes quickly. Is this permanent, sustainable? Or are we in a lucky moment of time that could be lost?

Preserving the Springs has brought us a unique community of activists and artists, scientists and builders, swimmers and politicians. I have had a lovely spot of 'musical cheerleader' with a set list of songs chronicling the era.

Barton Springs Eternal was started in the late 1970s. I sang it one night at Armadillo World Headquarters as a call for a City Council public hearing the next day at City Hall. The song found service with the Zilker Park Posse, the new Save Barton Creek Association, and the Save Our Springs Ordinance.

The Save Our Springs Ordinance campaign and vote, 1990 - 1992, (bringing us the S.O.S. Alliance) needed a new rendition of the song. A brainstorming session with "Lost Gonzo" Bob Livingston brought out a flood of Austin's fabled music community, actors and others to produce a recording and video - "a musical petition."

BILL OLIVER CONT'D

"Hope Springs Eternal," comes from Alexander Pope, English poet, 1688 - 1744. For me, Barton Creek and Springs became a "creek named Hope."

Ours is a visible, tangible goal - while the danger is spread out over an ever-growing area and gradual assault. More verses and songs and campaigns are needed to keep the Springs—and Hope—flowing.



Barton Springs Eternal Song Lyrics:

Austin is a summer city, and Barton Springs Eternal
Winter's short and the springs are pretty, Barton Springs Eternal
And when it's warm where do we go, to remove most all our clothes
The cleanest, clearest swimming hole, Barton Springs Eternal

The bank may have turned down your loan, but Barton Springs Eternal
Your boss won't let you off the phone, but Barton Springs Eternal
It's been a work day to forget, it's time for you to go get wet
You'll be feeling better, you bet at Barton Springs Eternal

It may be dry on Barton Creek but Barton Springs Eternal
May not have rained in many weeks but Barton Springs Eternal
If it's warm or if it's freeze, it's always 68 degrees
In a world of uncertainties, it's Barton Springs Eternal

They may abstain at City Hall but Barton Springs Eternal
Justice moving at a crawl but Barton Springs Eternal
East Austinites say "tanks a lot!" Rulers breaking rules a lot
it looks like some impervious plot on Barton Springs Eternal



Bill Oliver's Album Cover

BILL OLIVER CONT'D

Indians, they used to come to Barton Springs Eternal
Feel the chill, feel the sun, at Barton Springs Eternal
And as they filled their water sacks, to them it was a sacred act
What would they say if they came back to Barton Springs Eternal?

Why do people worry so about Barton Springs Eternal?
Holler out "Look out below!" Barton Springs Eternal
It's a little twist on down and up when your aquifer's an aqua duct
What goes down then comes up at Barton Springs Eternal

How many times we read and weep, Barton Springs Eternal
Watch development as it creeps up Barton Spring Eternal
This piecemeal progress and grand demise
has been malled and golfed and condo-ized
We don't want no consolation prize
We want Barton Springs Eternal!!

-released April 21, 2018

BARTON CREEK

TIME STREAM