

DICK KALLERMAN

Environmental Advocate



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Growing up in Connecticut next to Trap Rock Ridge, I spent my time in a forest with a creek (headwaters of the Quinnipiac River) and fishing pond - when I wasn't reading. I lived in New York beside the Hudson River for the next couple of decades, near the Catskills and Adirondacks, which provided campsites and weekend hikes with my three kids.

After moving to Texas in 1977, there was Big Bend, the Guadalupe Mountains and Mexico's Sierra Madre Oriental, plus frequent outings with the Sierra Club. I began attending Save Barton Creek Association meetings in the early 1980s. Early on, I didn't have any felt need to save the world, and I don't think I do today. I joined the SBCA and Sierra Club and later the Save Our Springs Alliance because they provided access to the natural world, or a way to keep an eye on it. Once a member, I helped out in leadership positions and then when there were small and large attacks on nature I became an advocate for conservation.

Environmental Advocate

1980-present

Save Barton Creek Association

Sierra Club

Save Our Springs Alliance



After I retired from IBM in 1990 I discovered Jane Jacobs and began reading about urban planning and how civilized cities work. I spent a day or two a week for nine years in gratifying hammer and saw work for Habitat For Humanity. In 1994 and 1995 I was chair of the executive committee of the Austin Sierra Club. In 1994 I organized the Sierra Club's "Urban Planning School for Environmentalists," which drew fifty of Austin's activist luminaries to learn about compact cities. That school's DNA may be found in today's Land Development Code. Mass transit, like that proposed by Capital Metro's Project Connect, will

make a compact city move. I've served as Transportation Chair for the Sierra Club for a long time. In 1996 I was awarded the State Service Award by the Texas Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club.

More recently, I was on the Save Our Springs Alliance board for nine years, seven years as chair, and currently I am secretary of Save Barton Creek Association. I spend time today on Project Connect and the City's Land Development Code.

Barton Creek, as the natural spine of Austin and a source of clean, clear water, is a priceless city feature. My most memorable, joyful Austin pursuits are early morning swims in Barton Creek and Barton Springs. Quiet. Water. Birds and Clouds. Solitude. A true connection with nature. I have learned that becoming engaged in environmental work is a rare opportunity to make a difference.

BARTON CREEK

TIME STREAM