



# LAURA A. DRIES, PHD

**City of Austin Watershed Protection Department**  
Evolutionary and Behavioral Ecologist 2003 - 2014

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I worked for the City of Austin Salamander Conservation Program managing the ecosystem of the Barton Springs complex and its endangered salamander species. I used scientific knowledge and site-specific research to identify and implement habitat management that would improve the health and condition of all of the native flora and fauna. Along with a team of salamander biologists, limnologists, hydrogeologists, and stream restoration engineers, I tried to nudge the altered aquatic environment of Barton Springs toward a more resilient, dynamically stable condition. I also tried to engage the public and denizens of Barton Springs Pool in our conservation activities to help develop long-term stewardship. Everyone has a role in conserving our treasured natural places.



The results of our scientific research guided the development of conservation activities in the 2013 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan for protecting Barton Springs and the endemic endangered Barton Springs and Austin Blind Salamander species. This plan not only conserves the waters of Barton Springs, it allows us to keep swimming and playing in Barton Springs Pool for the next 20 years while protecting the other flora and fauna that share these springs with us.

**BARTON CREEK**



**TIME STREAM**

