

LOUISE EPSTEIN

Austin City Council Member
Elected at-large 1990-1993



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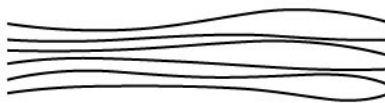
The way to protect the most sensitive land was to buy it – period.”

I spearheaded the creation of the Barton Creek Wilderness Park.

Around the time I was elected, 1990, I became keenly aware that we had to do something comprehensive to protect Barton Springs and our water supply. Traditional methods such as extensive land development restrictions ran into trouble – the courts were ruling such restrictions as “takings” – meaning the unlawful taking of property by making it very difficult (if at all possible) for someone to use their property.

The way to protect the most sensitive land was to buy it – period. What happened next is amazing. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife, the Austin Parks Recreation Department of the City, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (if I remember correctly), were tasked with identifying the most sensitive land in the Barton Creek Watershed. Once they did I proposed a \$50 million bond issue so that we could purchase the land. It passed, the land was purchased, the Chronicle called it the Louise Epstein Wilderness Park (ask Daryl Slusher). I prefer the Barton Creek Wilderness Park.

BARTON CREEK



TIME STREAM