

# MARK SANDERS, PHD

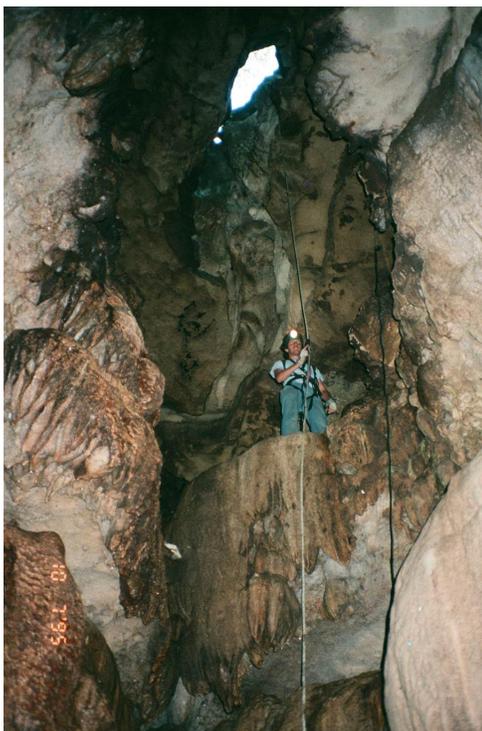
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*I feel so lucky to have such a cool job protecting nature. I tell people I get paid to do what I love, how cool is that!”*



I have lots of fond memories exploring Barton Creek as a child. Since my earliest memories I've always had an appreciation and love for nature. As a child my older brother allowed me to tag along with him exploring nature, climbing, and caving which further enhanced my passion for the outdoors and love of nature.

I was horrified by the major construction/development that occurred during the 1970s. I became an environmental activist as a college student at U.T. Austin in the 1980s, and was fairly active with the environmental group Earth First! that was locally active at that time. To a lesser extent, I was active with the Save Barton Creek Association as a board member during that same time frame.



For my efforts to protect Barton Creek, my role as an activist was mostly as support for ongoing campaigns to bring attention to the importance of Barton creek and the threats faced by ongoing and planned development. There was a job opening at the City of Austin, and I thought it was a natural progression from activist to City of Austin biologist. I feel so lucky to have such a cool job protecting nature. I tell people I get paid to do what I love, how cool is that! As a City Balcones Canyonlands Preserve biologist, my Barton Creek work involved cave and archeological site restoration, and some efforts to protect a rare plant (Bracted Twistflower) back in the 1990s.

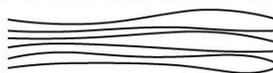
**City of Austin, Biologist  
1992-Present**

**Earth First! 1986-1990**

**Save Barton Creek  
Association 1985-c.1992**

I'm always amazed by the fact that even with all the high-density development and intensive public use of the Barton Creek watershed, it is still home to many rare and endemic species, so still very much worth protecting.

**BARTON CREEK**



**TIME STREAM**

