

# MARK TSCHURR

**Environmental Advocate**

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*We believed that by protecting the environment, we were actually creating a better place for business to flourish, because like me, businesses would come here because of the environment and the enjoyment it provided their employees.”*

In 1989 I expanded Tschurr Technology Corp. (a semiconductor automation manufacturer) to Austin from our headquarters in Dallas, Texas and began spending more time at Barton Springs and the Barton Creek greenbelt on visits to Austin. I relocated the company to Austin a year later in large part because of Austin's quality of life at the time and my love for Barton Springs.

In the early 90s, I often took customers from some of the largest semiconductor companies in the U.S. to Barton Springs or the greenbelt to swim, bike or run. I spent as much time at the Springs as I could, when not working.

In 1990 I got involved in the Hill Country Foundation's organization "Another Business for Barton Springs." Through this organization, I became friends with Bill Bunch and Helen Ballew and began to aggressively support the Save Our Springs Initiative through advocacy and funding.

## **Tschurr Technology Corporation**

### **Great Springs Project 2019**

### **Hill Country Foundation 1990-1994**

### **Austin Business Leaders for the Environment early 2000s**

### **Save Our Springs Alliance 2014-2018**

As a result of this work, I was honored as one of fifteen "Guardians of Barton Springs," by the Save Our Springs Alliance.

In addition to being a co-founder of Austin Business Leaders for the Environment, I have served as board chair of the Save our Springs Alliance and have over the years facilitated the acquisition of land over the aquifer for permanent protection. I was an unofficial advocate/advisor for businesses relocating from locations on the aquifer to downtown. Most recently, I have worked as an advisor for the Great Springs Project, whose purpose is to acquire watershed lands for permanent protection and outdoor/recreational use by the community.



# MARK TSCHURR CONT'D

I love Barton Creek/Springs because it best reflects the broad diversity of our community; it is a place where you can see that diversity on display on any sunny Sunday afternoon—a place for Austinites to gather and enjoy one of the treasures of their community.

Barton Creek is still the canary in the coal mine—as Barton Springs goes, so goes Austin and the region. Our protection of it represents the values that will continue to make Austin the place where people want to run their businesses and raise their families.

