



TED SIFF

Open Space Advocate

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Like most Austinites, I was initially attracted to Barton Springs pool, swimming in it frequently starting in the 1970s. In the late 70s I helped Connie Moore, a friend and realtor, who was part of the group that started Save Barton Creek Association.

From 1989-91, along with George Cofer, Butch Smith, Beverly Griffith and others, I helped form Citizens for Open Space (COS). This was done in reaction to the Austinplan, which said a lot about what land should be developed, but not much about what land should be protected and saved as public open space. COS advocated for and got a \$20 million bond proposition on the August 1992 ballot which citizens approved to buy the land that is now the Barton Creek Wilderness Park. I, with others, ran that bond election campaign.

In 1991, having met the SW regional director of the Trust for Public Land during the bond campaign, I proposed that TPL open a Texas office and hire me to run it. That happened, and with TPL's support I was able to acquire the Gaines Ranch and several other parcels that now are the 1,000+ acre Barton Creek Wilderness Park. A huge number of citizens (George Cofer, Beverly Griffith) and city staff (Junie Marie Plummer and Betty Dunkerley) helped. I negotiated the real estate transactions and TPL financed the purchases, and then sold the land to the City. Keeping these Wilderness Park acres undeveloped, which are in Barton Springs' primary recharge zone, protects the water quality of the Springs.

I love that Barton Springs and its pool create a unique public gathering spot for all Austinites and visitors.

**Park Place Publications
CEO/President**

**Shoal Creek Conservancy
President 2013-present**

**Creating Common Ground
1999-present**

**Austin Parks Foundation
Executive Director 2001-2005**

Trust for Public Land 1991-1999

**Citizens for Open Space
1989-1992**