

The Barton Creek Salamander Script



LIZARD

The Barton Springs salamander is long and slender, about 2.5 inches long with a small narrow head. They can be dark gray, gray, purplish-gray, gray-brown, or yellowish-brown and have a dark "salt-and-pepper" mottling on their back with external gills which are red.

They eat small, aquatic animals like brine shrimp.

The Barton Springs Salamanders are only found one place in the whole wide world-where the spring water flows into Barton Springs. They are usually found under rocks or in gravel in the water or hiding in water plants and algae. They depend on a clear, clean, flow of spring water.

OWL

This is why we must protect water flowing from Barton Springs. Dangers to water quality are pollution and littering.

FOX

Another danger is when we waste water, so turn off the water when you are not using it.

SAL

The City of Austin has planted water plants in the deep end of the pool to restore our habitat, and because of that the water in the pool and nearby springs has gotten better.

You will be happy to know that swimming in Barton Springs Pool does not harm the salamander or its habitat.

OWL

The Austin Nature and Science Center has a program with activities to teach people about the Barton Springs salamander and its habitat.

FOX

The SPLASH! Exhibit at Zilker Park teaches people about the Edwards Aquifer. Check them both out.

SAL

You can help keep our springs, creeks and underground water clean. Be careful with household chemicals and pesticides and throw containers away safely. Keep trash and other pollutants out of our natural waters.

OWL

Everybody can conserve water, especially during drought. At home, you can save water by turning off the tap when you are brushing your teeth or doing dishes and taking shorter showers and smaller baths. The Barton Springs Salamander needs water plants to provide food and protection. Do not pull up or damage water plants at Barton Springs.

LIZ

And do not release other water animals or plants into waters that did not originate there.

FOX

Every time you pay to enjoy Barton Springs pool, your money supports efforts to protect the salamander and its ecosystem of plants and animals.

OWL

Humans make the biggest difference in keeping our home and planet healthy and safe.

SAL

Each one of us is important and necessary in protecting our environment.

LIZ

Mother Earth provides us with everything we need so we must appreciate her by doing our part.

FOX

Every day we have the chance to make a difference.

TOGETHER

Thank you for taking care of Mother Earth and her Barton Springs salamanders.

