

# The Barton Springs Salamander Conservation Fund

## 2007 Grant Guidelines

**Project proposals must show a clear conservation or management benefit to the Barton Springs salamander - for example, priority projects identified below and/or in the Barton Springs Salamander Recovery Plan\***

**Purpose:** The Barton Springs Salamander Conservation Fund has been established to promote conservation and research projects that benefit the federally endangered Barton Springs salamander, Barton Springs, and the Barton Springs watershed. The Austin Community Foundation is managing this fund on behalf of the City of Austin and in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The City of Austin contributes to this fund annually, but funds are limited. Therefore, smaller grant requests (for example, \$25,000 for a one-year project or annually for a multi-year project) have a greater chance of being awarded, although exceptions will be considered



### **High Priority Conservation and Research Topics for 2007:**

- Research to determine:
  - Underlying cause(s) of gas bubble trauma in salamanders and other organisms observed at Upper Barton Springs
  - Source(s) of high dissolved gases at this site
  - Physiological mechanism of gas exchange in neotenic salamanders
- Mark-recapture studies to gather individual and demographic data from wild populations, including life history information (growth, longevity, reproduction, etc.), movement within and between spring sites, and total population size
- Research to examine paternity and sperm storage to help guide captive breeding efforts

**Eligibility:** Any public or private entity, including qualified individuals, firms, governmental agencies, academic and private institutions, and non-profit organizations

**Proposal Format:** Applicants should submit proposals containing the following information to the Austin Community Foundation (see contact information, below):

- **Project Title**
- **Abstract** (1-2 paragraphs, no citations)
- **Introduction and Objective(s):** Describe the conservation problem(s) the project would address and benefits to the Barton Springs salamander. Provide a clear and detailed statement of the project's objectives, relation to the present state of knowledge in the field, and hypotheses to be tested (for scientific research projects). If applicable, identify pertinent recovery actions and priorities listed in the Barton Springs Salamander Recovery Plan\*. Include all relevant literature citations.
- **Approach/Methods:** Describe specific methods that will be employed, the expected results, and time frame from initiation to completion of the project. Explain how the project will comply with federal and state endangered species permits, including scientific permits and the City's federal incidental take permit to operate and maintain Barton Springs Pool and adjacent springs.  
[Objectives and methods description should not exceed 10 pages]
- **Literature Cited**

- **Budget (1 page):** Identify the amount of funding requested, including salaries, supplies and materials, travel expenses. Because of the limited availability of grant funds, smaller requests have the best chance of being funded. Austin Community Foundation typically does not pay indirect or overhead expenses.
- **Qualifications of proposed personnel (1 separate page):** This page should be separate from the remainder of the proposal so that it can be removed and will not be forwarded to the peer reviewer(s). This section should identify appropriate facilities available to conduct the proposed work and include names, qualifications, and contact information for all personnel who would be assigned this project. State the primary work assigned to each person and the percentage of time each person would devote to this work. Identify key persons by name and title. Provide all resumes/C.V.s describing relevant experience.

**Contact:** Applicants should submit three paper copies of the proposal to the Austin Community Foundation.

For mailing, please address as follows:  
 Austin Community Foundation  
 Attn: MariBen Ramsey  
 P.O. Box 5159  
 Austin, Texas 78763

For delivery, please address as follows:  
 Austin Community Foundation  
 Attn: MariBen Ramsey  
 816 Congress Avenue  
 Ste. 1201  
 Austin, Texas 78701

For initial inquiries concerning the City of Austin's incidental take permit, salamander biology, and/or high priority salamander conservation issues, applicants should contact David Johns, Environmental Scientist, City of Austin, at 512-974-2781 or david.johns@ci.austin.tx.us.

\*Copies of the Barton Springs Salamander Recovery Plan may be obtained from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Austin Ecological Services Field Office, 10711 Burnet Road, Suite 200, Austin, Texas, 78758; (512) 490-0057 or online at <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/recovery/index.html>.

**Deadlines:** None. Proposals will be reviewed as they are submitted. All applications will be peer-reviewed on a blind basis through the Austin Community Foundation. The City of Austin and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will make final funding recommendations to the Austin Community Foundation. Applicants will be notified within 6 months from the date of proposal submission whether or not funding will be awarded.

