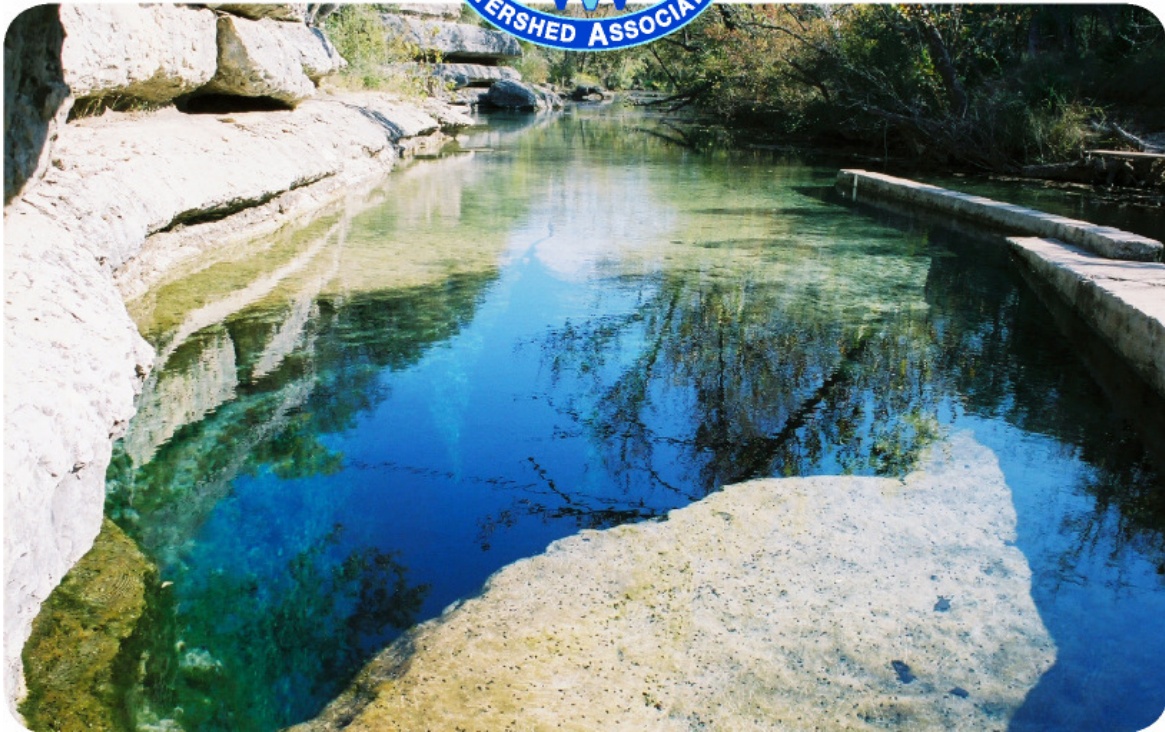
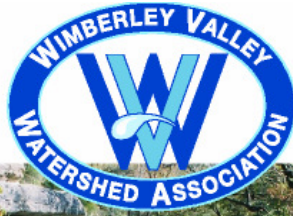


WIMBERLEY VALLEY WATERSHED ASSOCIATION



Advocate for clean, clear flowing springs and streams and the sustained health of the Wimberley Valley.

Engage the community in land and water stewardship through research and education at the Jacob's Well Natural Area.

Jacob's Well is a unique artesian spring that provides millions of gallons of fresh water to Cypress Creek that runs through the center of the historic square in Wimberley Texas, the City of Woodcreek, and the famous Blue Hole swimming area. The Well is the second longest underwater cave in Texas and a one of kind geologic wonder.

When David Baker and his family moved to Jacob's Well in the late 1980's the spring and the land surrounding it was divided into over a hundred privately owned parcels. At that time, there were over 3600 platted lots above the Well in Woodcreek North. In the late 1990's, development proposals were brought forward to a build a mobile home park and condos on top of the Well and revive a long forgotten plan for a second golf course development using water from the aquifer to water the course.

David saw the threat to Jacob's Well and regional water resources and joined together with local landowners in December 1996 to form the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association, a 501c3 non-profit, to protect Jacob's Well, Cypress Creek and address the critical water issues of the region.

The WVWA works to create a greater understanding of the many benefits that flow from a respectful relationship with the land: human health, ecological health, economic sustainability, enriched community life, and the renewal of the human spirit. By bringing awareness to the relationship between the natural environment and people, we seek to create partnerships and enlarge the impact of conservation, carrying it beyond the measure of acres and dollars to the measure of social and individual well-being.

Historical timeline for the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association and the formation of Jacobs's Well Natural Area

1988 Baker family moves to property at Jacob's Well.

1990 Dancing Waters Inn is founded as one of the first Bed and Breakfasts in Wimberley.

1991 Baker family, with partner investment, purchases 25 acres and half of Jacob's Well.

1996 Jacob's Well and Cypress Creek almost stopped flowing during drought. David Baker, Johnanna Smith, Phillip Zyblot and Jack Hollon establish the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association to protect Jacob's Well, Cypress Creek and the Blanco River.

1997 WVWA files contested case request against permit for sewage discharge into Cypress Creek at Jacob's Well Road. AquaSource (now AquaTexas) agrees to build a new waste water package plant and move old sewage plant off the creek.

1998 Science Dive Program established at Jacob's Well to conduct scientific research through mapping the caverns, collecting water quality samples and documenting flora and fauna.

1998 Flood causes a thirty three foot rise in Cypress Creek and destroys condos in the flood plain above Jacob's Well. Hays County receives \$1.4 million grant from FEMA to remove damaged buildings and donates land to WVWA and Home Owners Association.

1999 David Baker serves on Citizens' Blue Ribbon Committee which votes 17-2 to remove Mo-Pac Extension from Austin to San Marcos over the recharge zone for Barton Springs. Proposed road extension is removed from the 2025 Transportation Plan and the City of Austin purchases Onion Creek Natural Area to protect water quality in the Barton Springs segment of the Edwards Aquifer.

2000 *Jacob's Well stops flowing for the first time in recorded history and Cypress Creek is listed on the 303D List as 'impaired' for failing to meet water quality standards for dissolved oxygen.*

2002 Hays County Commissioners approve Parks and Open Space Master Plan identifying Jacob's Well, Cypress Creek, the Blanco River, Little Arkansas Spring and the Edwards and Trinity Aquifers as important water resources to be protected.

Village of Wimberley purchases the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, connecting the Wimberley Square with the Blue Hole. WVWA accepts the conservation easement is placed on the property to protect conservation values.

WVWA is granted conservation easement on 162 acres of privately owned ranch land in the Cypress Creek Watershed.

2003 WVWA initiates water quality monitoring program at seven sites along the Cypress Creek and Blanco River to establish baseline of data. WVWA joins the Texas Clean Rivers Program in partnership with the GBRA and the Village of Wimberley.



Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District is established.

Peter Way purchases Blue Hole and holds the title for the Village of Wimberley until funds are raised.

WVWA begins youth education programs at Jacob's Well and annual Field Day for Wimberley Elementary.

2005 WVWA negotiates the purchase of 46 acres surrounding Jacob's Well. George Mitchell loans WVWA funds to purchase the property and Baker family, partners and other owners donate \$1.1 million in bargain sale. A conservation easement is placed on the property held by Save Our Springs Alliance. It is the first time since the early 1800's that Jacob's Well Spring has been united into a single parcel.



WVWA raises \$60,000 to match United States Geologic Service grant sponsored by Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District to establish a gauging station at Jacob's Well to monitor spring flow in real time for the first time in history.

2006 Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower and Lake Flato Architects create a Master Plan concept for Jacob's Well Natural Area working with local landowners and stakeholders committee.

WVWA begins removing asphalt paving and old mobile homes from RV park along with old cars, boats and debris. Removal of invasive species and restoration of native grass begins.

2007 Hays County Parks and Open Space survey shows broad support for natural areas and parks. Seventy-five percent of citizens say that protecting Jacob's Well is important.

Hays County passes Parks and Open Space Bond for 30 million dollars to go towards purchasing parks and open space land. The proposition passes by nearly seventy percent in Wimberley.

LCRA grants WVWA and the City of Woodcreek a \$100,000 Partnership in Parks grant for Jacob's Well Natural Area for trails, restoration, fencing and signage.

WVWA removes old tennis courts and roads from flood plain above Jacob's Well. American Youth Works builds handicap public access trail to Jacob's Well.

WVWA and the City of Woodcreek are sued by Westridge LLC for the right to build a road six hundred feet above Jacob's Well to access proposed development of sixty condos and hotel directly adjacent to the Jacob's Well Natural Area.

2008 WVWA presents Jacob's Well Natural Area Master Plan to Hays County Citizens Advisory Committee and Hays County Commissioners. The Citizen Committee gives its highest ranking of any project submitted and a unanimous recommendation to Commissioners Court.

Over three hundred Wimberley citizens attend True Ranch Development meeting to protest proposed 450 plus home high density development. Developer withdraws his application the following day.

Commissioners approve Memorandum of Understanding between WVWA and Hays County and issues \$2.6 million for land debt payment and maintenance and operations of Jacob's Well Natural Area.

Jacob's Well flow drops to a trickle (less than 0.05 cubic feet per second).

2009 *Jacob's Well stops flowing for the second time.*

WVWA and the Friends of Jacob's Well, in partnership with Hays County Master Naturalists, establish Saturday morning public tours and expanded school outreach programs.

Cypress Creek Project developed with local stakeholders and establishes a Watershed Protection Plan for Cypress Creek.

WVWA trains sixty volunteers to lead weekly public tours and work with school groups.

Hays County Master Naturalists establish JWNA as official project -Restoration Rangers build and maintain trails, remove invasive species, plant trees and to reclaim and restore native habitats.

WVWA and volunteers renovate old RV club house to establish the Camp Jacob Environmental Education Center. The facility is used for Hays County Master Naturalist Board meetings and hosting visitors to the site.



2010 Hays County, with the help of the Texas Nature Conservancy and WVWA, purchases the fifty acre Westridge property for \$1.7 million dollars as an addition to the original Jacob's Well Natural Area and developers agree to drop lawsuit against the City of Woodcreek and WVWA. A conservation easement is established with the Texas Nature Conservancy on the 50 acre uplands parcel.

WVWA deeds thirty one acres of its property to Hays County and a Memorandum of Understanding between Hays County and WVWA is executed at the closing transferring the land surrounding Jacob's Well Spring to Hays County. The agreement establishes a three year operations and management agreement with the WVWA to oversee the programs and site management activities. WVWA retains ownership of a fifteen acre parcel for residence, retreat and offices which includes creek frontage and a conservation easement for access to the Well for recreation and research.

Jacob's Well Community Garden is established on WVWA Property adjacent to the JWNA.

WVWA files petition with TWDB opposing a thirty foot drawdown for the Trinity Aquifer.

2011 WVWA contributes \$30,000 from the Malcolm C Damuth Foundation to Hays County toward repayment of the loan from the Nature Conservancy.

Hays Country updates County Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

WVWA and local landowners request contested case hearing with HTGCD for Wimberley Springs Partners Golf Course groundwater permit.

Jacob's Well stops for the third time in recorded history during the worst one year drought since the 1950's.

WVWA and local landowners are denied their right to contested case hearing by HTGCD. WVWA and local landowners file lawsuit against HTGCD in Hays County District Court.

2012 TWDB finds thirty foot drawdown of the aquifer reasonable and denies request to recommend establishment of Special Groundwater Management Area for Jacob's Well.

WVWA transfers preserve operations to Hays County.

2013 Hays County purchases condos in flood plain adjacent to Jacob's Well and begins demolition of remaining structures. Over five acres of impervious cover have been removed from areas surrounding Jacob's Well including buildings, tennis courts, and parking lots. New fencing, trails, signage and trees are planted with funds from LCRA grant (transferred from WVWA & City of Woodcreek).

WVWA and Landowners win lawsuit against HTGCD. WSP and HTGCD appeal ruling to appellate court.

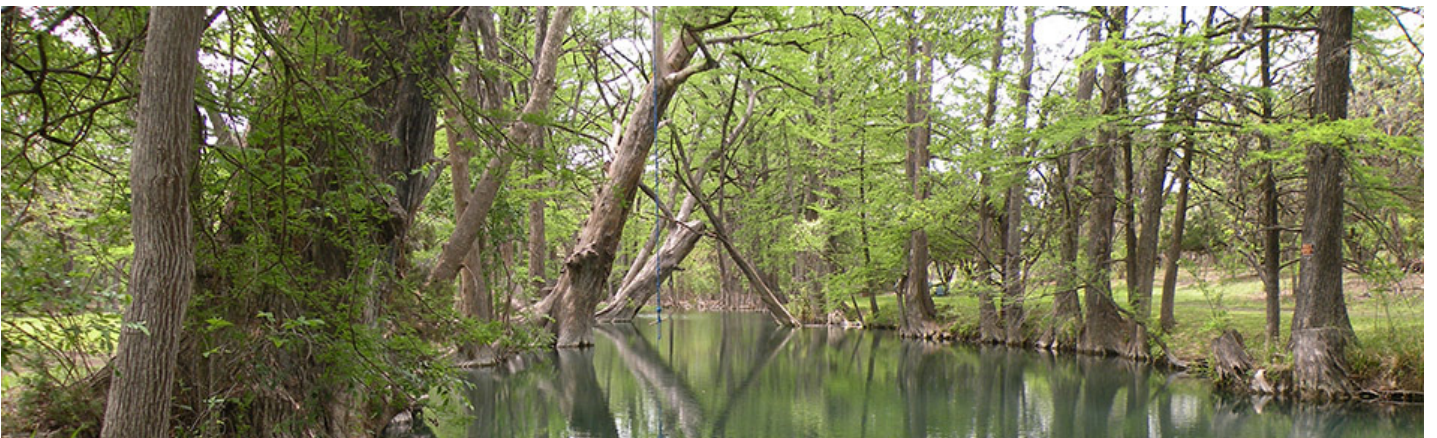
Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan final draft is completed and approved by the TCEQ.



Photo by: Jennifer Idol



Photo by: Jennifer Idol



The Wimberley Valley Watershed Association (WVWA) was formed in 1996 by a group of concerned citizens in response to a severe drought. Since that time, the WVWA has grown into an active community organization that works to preserve spring flows in our region. Springs feed our creeks and rivers, which in turn contribute to our local economy and way of life. The WVWA established the Jacob's Well Natural Area to restore and conserve the land around Jacob's Well and provide a place where the community can experience the natural environment and learn about land and water stewardship. We work to create a greater understanding of the many benefits that flow from a respectful relationship with the land: human health, ecological health, economic sustainability, enriched community life, and the renewal of the human spirit. By bringing awareness to the relationship between the natural environment and people, we seek to create partnerships and enlarge the impact of conservation.



Become a Friend of WVWA & Jacob's Well!

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