



Jacob's Well Hays County

Compilation and layout by Robin Gary, Watershed Association, July 2022

Water Source: Middle Trinity Aquifer

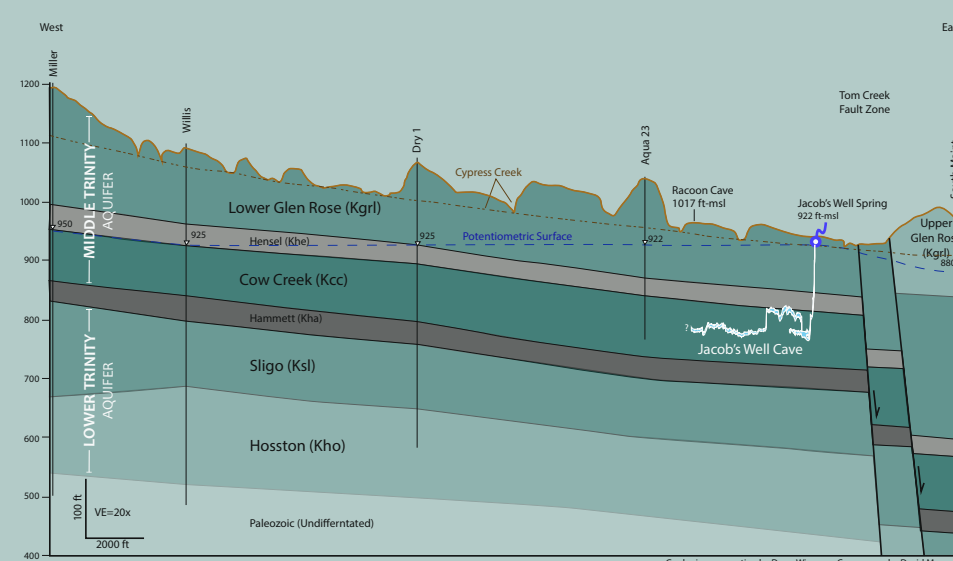
Description



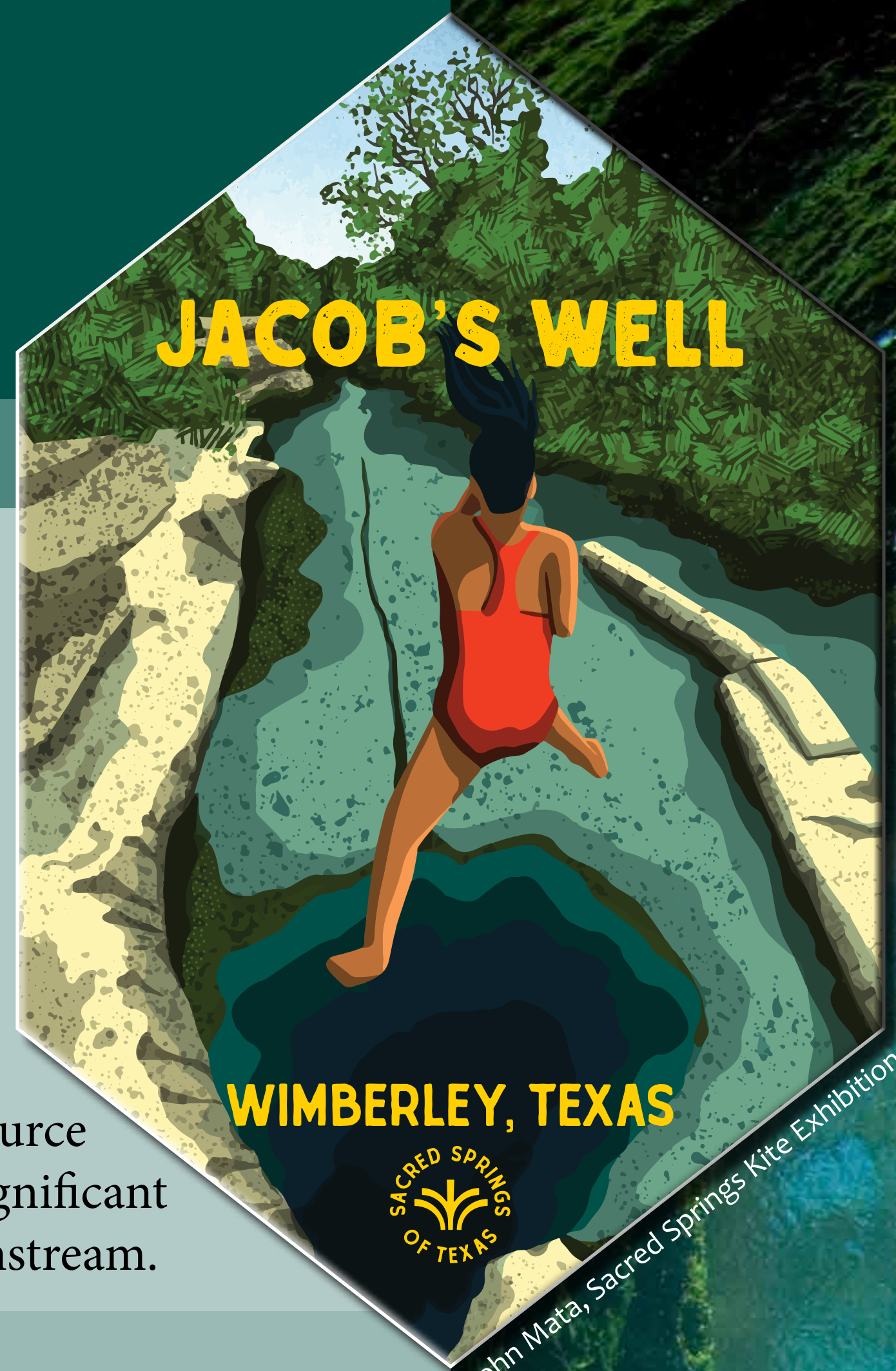
Jumping into Jacob's Well
Photo credit: Woody Welch Photography

Jacob's Well is an iconic karst spring that flows through more than a mile of cave passage before rising to the surface as one of the Hill Country's most iconic swimming holes. It is the headwaters of Cypress Creek which flows through numerous residents and businesses, Blue Hole Regional Park, and downtown Wimberley.

The Middle Trinity Aquifer is the primary regional water supply and the water source for Jacob's Well, which provides the majority of baseflow to Cypress Creek and significant ecological, hydrological, and economic benefits to Wimberley and farther downstream.



Geologic cross-section of showing Middle and Lower Trinity Aquifers and Jacob's Well Cave. Modified from the Evaluation for the Development of a Jacob's Well Groundwater Management Zone



JACOB'S WELL

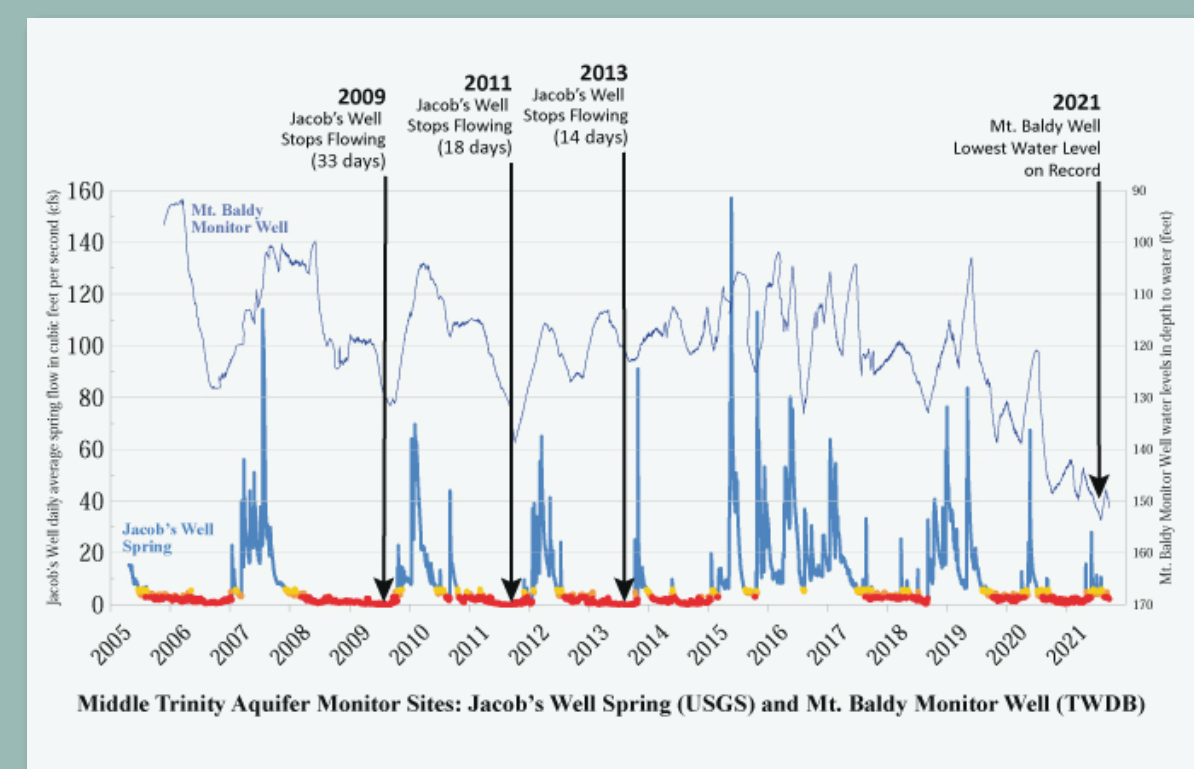
WIMBERLEY, TEXAS



John Marab, Sacred Springs Kite Exhibition

Challenges

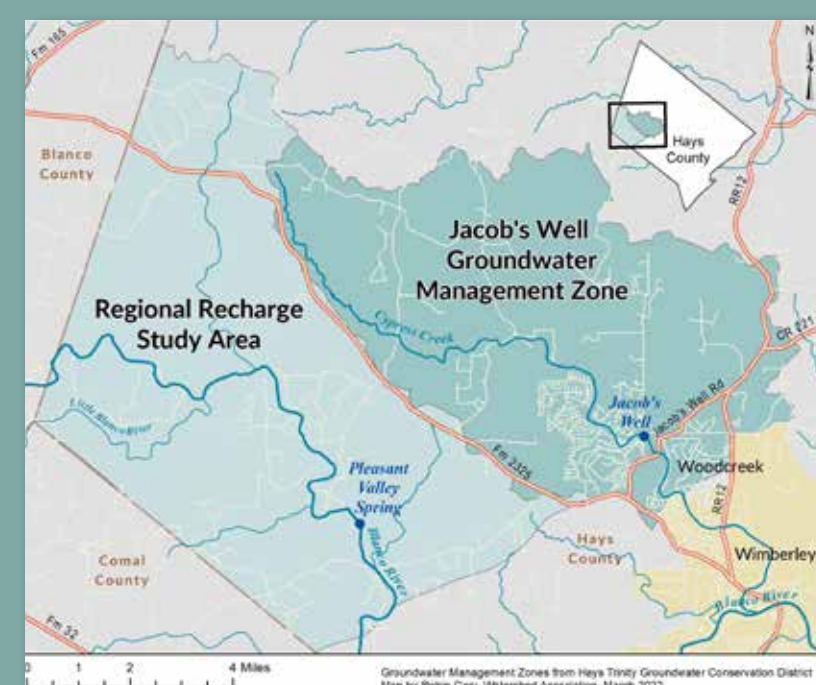
Jacob's Well and the Middle Trinity Aquifer respond to climatic variations of both short- and long-term cycles. Groundwater pumping from the Middle Trinity Aquifer directly influences flow at Jacob's Well. The combination of periodic drought cycles and increased groundwater pumping has significantly diminished spring flow in recent years and affected regional groundwater levels. For example, water levels in the nearby Mt. Baldy Monitor Well and the spring flow hydrograph from Jacob's Well show similar responses to recharge and drought conditions. This is one of the fastest growing regions the country, and water demand is predicted to outpace water supply.



Hydrograph of Jacob's Well spring flow and a Middle Trinity monitor well water levels. Graphic by Robin Gary, The Watershed Association

Protection

Private stewardship, research and monitoring, coordinated management, and public conservation have played a critical role in protecting Jacob's Well, groundwater supplies, and Cypress Creek. Since 1991, David Baker, partner investors, and eventually the Wimberley Valley Watershed Association have purchased or established conservation easements on over 300 acres within the Jacob's Well springshed. In 2005, an official U.S. Geological Survey flow station was installed to provide a continuous flow record. Funded by the 2007 the Hays County Parks Bond, Jacob's Well Natural Area became a public open space in 2010. In 2020, the Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District established the Jacob's Well Groundwater Management Zone to better coordinate conservation and manage groundwater pumping within the springshed.



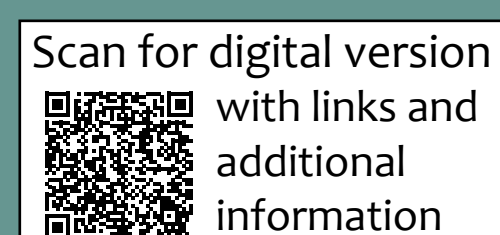
Map of Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District management zones

Access and More Information



Watershed Association Staff Address Crowd at Jacob's Well
Photo credit: Watershed Association

Hiking trails at the Jacob's Well Natural Area are open year-round with no entry fee. Guided hikes by Hays County Master Naturalists and Parks Staff are often available on weekends or by special request. Jacob's Well swimming is reservation through Hays County. Hiking along Cypress Creek is also available year-round at the City of Wimberley's Blue Hole Regional Park and Cypress Creek Nature Preserve. While no swimming is permitted at the Cypress Creek Nature Preserve, Blue Hole Regional Park offers swim reservations, locals nights, and senior swim hours.



Art4Water is a program of the Watershed Association, a 501(c)(3) non-profit

Photo credit: Jesse Cancelmo

