

HAYS COUNTY SECURES CRITICAL WATER RECHARGE ZONE:

Hays County to Purchase Karst Canyon Preserve Through Parks and Open Space Bond, Ensuring Permanent Protection

In a landmark conservation achievement, Hays County has approved the purchase of the 176-acre Karst Canyon Preserve from The Watershed Association through the Parks and Open Space Bond.

This acquisition, which was the top recommended project by the Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC), will more than double the size of the Jacob's Well Natural Area while ensuring permanent protection through a conservation easement to be held by The Nature Conservancy.

The preserve features 118 unique karst features, including the Wimberley Bat Cave, that make it extraordinarily efficient at capturing rainfall and replenishing the Middle Trinity Aquifer. While most Hill Country land only allows 3-5% of rainfall to reach the aquifer, Karst Canyon Preserve's unique geology enables up to 30% of rainfall to be captured and filtered into the groundwater system that feeds Jacob's Well.

