

# The Cypress Creek Watershed



**CYPRESS  
CREEK**

Let's keep it *clean*, *clear* & *flowing*



**THE MEADOWS CENTER  
FOR WATER AND THE ENVIRONMENT**  
TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



## QUICK FACTS

**Stream Length:** 15.7 miles

### Land Use:

- 41.7% Evergreen Forest
- 27.9% Shrub / Scrub
- 11.0% Grassland / Herbaceous
- 9.4% Deciduous Forest
- 7.4% Developed, Open Space
- 1.6% Developed, Low Intensity

**Drainage Area:** 38.3 sq miles / 24,486 acres

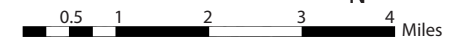
**100-yr Floodplain Area:** 2.4 sq miles / 1,536 acres

### Soil Types:

Bolar, Brackett, Comfort and Doss

## Legend

- Natural Area
- Water Quality Monitoring Sites
- FEMA 100-Year Floodplain
- City Limits



## Sites Along the Creek



Cypress Creek, looking upstream from Jacob's Well.



Upper Cypress Creek, upstream from the City of Woodcreek.



Jacob's Well in Cypress Creek, near the City of Woodcreek.



Cypress Falls in the City of Woodcreek. The water supply tower can be seen in the background.



Upper Cypress Creek near the City of Woodcreek.



Low water dam along Cypress Creek.



Cypress Creek at Blue Hole Park in the City of Wimberley.



Ranch Road 12 Bridge in downtown Wimberley.



Stormwater outfall serving downtown Wimberley.

## What is a Watershed?

A watershed is the area of land that carries water to creeks, streams and eventually the ocean. Watersheds are defined by highpoints in topography and capture all areas of land sloping downward until a creek or stream is reached.

## You're in the Cypress Creek Watershed.

Cypress Creek, a major tributary of the Blanco River, is located in Hays County and the Texas Hill Country. The upper portion of the creek is dominated by rugged, undeveloped terrain. The lower portion contains a concentration of urban land as it passes through the cities of Woodcreek and Wimberley, before meeting the Blanco River.

Jacob's Well, an artesian spring near the City of Woodcreek, is the primary water source to the lower creek. Flows depend on aquifer levels which are driven by rain events above the artesian headwaters and by the amount of water drawn from the aquifer by wells.

The Cypress Creek watershed is contained completely within the Contributing Zone of the Edwards Aquifer. The contributing zone of an aquifer is the area where runoff from precipitation flows to the recharge zone of the aquifer; the recharge zone is the land surface above faults and fractures in the limestone subsurface which allow large quantities of water to flow directly into the aquifer below.

## Watershed Protection Plan

The Cypress Creek Watershed Protection Plan was approved in 2016 to ensure the long-term integrity and sustainability of the Cypress Creek Watershed. The plan outlines methods in which the Cypress Creek watershed can avoid degradation and continue to thrive as a beautiful natural resource. With the projected growth in the Hays County area, it is important to maintain sufficient water quantity and quality for the community as well as for the aesthetic, economic and ecological value that it brings to the area.

Implementation of this plan has also led to the start of the Clean Water Act - Section 319 Grant Project which will be completed over the course of three years, beginning in 2017. The goals of the \$1.34 M project are to implement activities that reduce polluted runoff and protect flow in Cypress Creek and its tributaries, to conduct regular meetings to encourage citizen participation and to continue to collect water quality monitoring data required for modeling efforts and the determination of future management measures.

## Did you know?

- There are several areas where visitors can enjoy Cypress Creek. Near the City of Woodcreek is the **Jacob's Well Natural Area**, where visitors can swim in the creek, observe birds in the area and enjoy a hike in the park. Further downstream of Jacob's Well is **Blue Hole Park** in the City of Wimberley, which is great for guests who love hiking trails, picnicking or swimming. Swimming season at both parks is May - September.
- In 2015, major rainfall events caused devastating damage to the City of Wimberley and surrounding areas. The first flood occurred during Memorial Day weekend when 12 inches of rain fell in less than 6 hours, causing the Blanco River to rise 40 feet. The second flood occurred during Halloween weekend. It rained a total of 9 inches over 2 days, causing the Blanco River to rise 26.5 feet.

Learn more at [www.CypressCreekWatershed.org](http://www.CypressCreekWatershed.org)!

## Best Management Practices



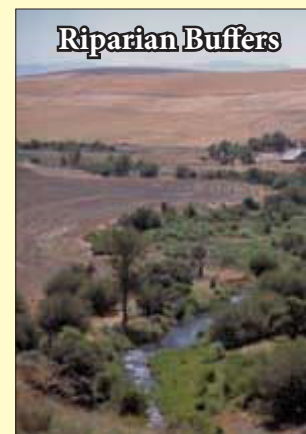
Rain Gardens

A rain garden is a constructed shallow basin containing native plants that capture rainfall from parking lots, rooftops or other runoff areas. They provide storage and act as a natural filter for polluted runoff. The soil, plants and microorganisms in a rain garden are able to remove pollutants from stormwater via physical, chemical and biological processes.



Rainwater Harvesting

Rainwater harvesting is rainfall collected from rooftops (or similar structures) and stored for later use in the landscape or for potable water uses. Even though rainwater harvesting is legal and even supported in Texas, individuals should check with their local authorities for guidance and regulations..



Riparian Buffers

Riparian buffers are vegetated areas adjacent to surface water bodies which help prevent pollutants from reaching streams, rivers, bays, wetlands and lakes. They contain native grasses, flowers, shrubs and deep rooted trees along stream banks. These plants slow the velocity of stormwater runoff and allow more time for water to soak into the ground and recharge zones of the underlying aquifers.