



Natural & Cultural Resource Interpretive Program

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Interpretive Sign Summary (Located outside on the PHPL Heritage Resource Plaza)

- 1. Our Watershed** – The common characteristics of both large and small scale watersheds are explained through illustrations of a segment of the Guadalupe River within Kendall County and at a smaller site specific scale which includes the grounds surrounding the PHPL.
- 2. History of Boerne (Cibolo Creek)** - The cultural landscape of Boerne along the banks of the Cibolo Creek is told in timeline format. Historic events and locations are woven together with the life giving thread of the Cibolo Creek.
- 3. History of Kendall County (Guadalupe River)** – The primary waterway in Kendall County is the spring fed Guadalupe River. For centuries this river has been the habitation and habitat for a wide diversity of peoples, plants and wildlife.
- 4. Local Watersheds** - The scale and size of watersheds and river basins are explained in such a way to show that similar causes and effects of human activity can slowly or quickly affect the quality of state and local water supplies. Most of the effects of human activity can either impact positively or negatively those that live downstream.
- 5. The Water Cycle** - Water is the universal solvent and the only substance on earth that naturally changes form to either a gas, liquid or solid. The basic components of this cycle are illustrated and explained in graphic form.
- 6. Wildlife Habitat** – Two locally native species are highlighted by their habitat. The Guadalupe Bass, State Fish of Texas, and the Mexican Free Tailed Bat both rely on water, one for oxygen and food and the other for habitation within caves formed from water dissolved limestone.
- 7. Wells & Windmills** – The means for groundwater withdrawal for both human consumption and agricultural production is presented with illustrations of the drilling, operation and impact of groundwater pumping. The evolution of water wells is shown in the progression of hand dug wells, hand pump wells and windmills.
- 8. Civic Campus History** – The PHPL site was formerly the land upon which St. Mary's Sanitarium and Holy Angels Academy once stood. A brief history and images of these two distinctive Victorian style structures are shown along with the PHPL smokehouse, which stood for over a century near the intersection of Johns Road and Main Street.
- 9. Caves and Sinkholes** – Local limestone geology and water provides the right chemistry for the creation of unique limestone geologic features or caves including Cave Without a Name and Cascade Caverns. Within these unique environments specially adapted plants and wildlife thrive in seemingly isolated and harsh conditions.
- 10. Rainwater Harvest** – This age old technology comes full circle, as the need for water conservation becomes more evident as years go by. Growing populations and cyclical drought cycles will only solidify the need to incorporate more rainwater harvesting systems in the future for both residential and commercial uses.
- 11. Sustainable Practices** – What is new is really old. The use of local materials, proper site selection and building orientation, energy efficient design, use of recycled or repurposed materials, and use of non toxic materials will become more commonplace as limited resources are consumed, populations increase, and healthy living is desired.
- 12. Local Groundwater** – The need for protection and conservation of precious groundwater is the basis for the Cow Creek Groundwater Conservation District. The Trinity Aquifer is a limited resource and must be managed so that all those who depend on this more confined source of groundwater for human and agricultural purposes can subsist.

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