



GO

Inside and out, the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment has many cool activities. Inside, Discovery Hall has a 1,000-gallon aquarium. You can explore aquatic plants and animals found right outside in beautiful Spring Lake. Its clear green water bubbles up from one of the largest artesian springs in the United States. Outside, walk on the Wetlands Boardwalk. You'll discover secrets about how **invasive** species—plants and animals that easily take over—may hurt the balance of the ecosystem.

KNOW

Small Survivors

- What do the San Marcos salamander, the Texas blind salamander, and a tiny fish called a fountain darter have in common? They are all endangered or threatened species.
- These rare aquatic animals live in only a few places in the world. One of those places is our Spring Lake, the **headwaters** (beginning) of the San Marcos River.
- Many different wild creatures love the cool, flowing waters of this special place. But some plants and animals are not good for Spring Lake.
- A plant or animal that grows and spreads too quickly and can cause damage is called **invasive**. An **invasive** species can be native or non-native—from a foreign place. All **invasive** species are hard to control and can harm the local habitat.

GROW

Be a Nature Reporter:
Observe, Record, Report



What are three interesting facts that you can report about Discovery Hall and the Wetlands Boardwalk?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Help Our Native Species In and Around the Water

- Conserve (save) water.
- Always use a trash container, or bring along your own trash bag.
- Never throw trash into the water!
- Keep rivers clean.



