



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 <u>artesian</u> 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 <u>ecosystem</u>.

Wetlands Boardwalk?

KN@W

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 <u>endangered</u> or <u>threatened</u> 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.

GR@W

Be a Nature Reporter: Observe, Record, Report

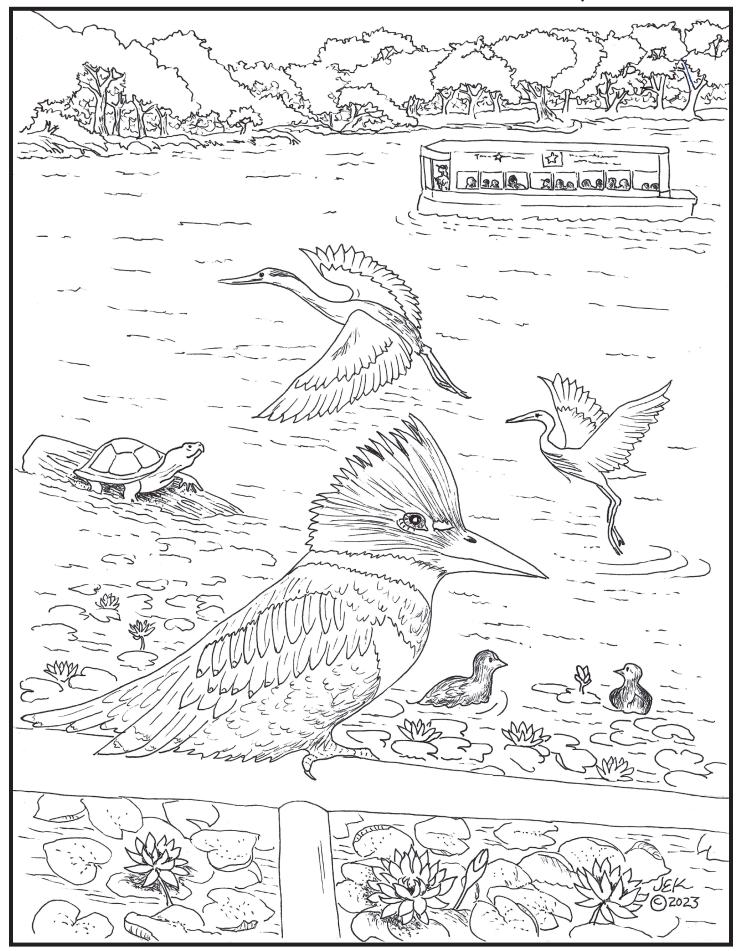
Observe, Record, Report

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

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.





 $Copyright © 2023 \ by \ the \ Hays \ County \ Chapter \ of \ Texas \ Master \ Naturalist ^{TM}. \ All \ rights \ reserved.$