



Hays County, Texas

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March 30, 2015 **UPDATED**

Jacob's Well Gets New Rules, Admission Fee to Help Preserve Natural Area

Hays County Courthouse, San Marcos, TX – The Hays County Commissioners Court Tuesday voted to start charging admission to the Jacob's Well Natural Area (JWNA) and to limit access to preserve the well and surrounding native habitat.

"The popularity of this area treasure has grown dramatically and we need to take steps to ensure that JWNA doesn't suffer due to overuse," said Parks Director Clint Garza. "While we want visitors to enjoy the Natural Area, it is first and foremost a preserve that needs to be protected."

Beginning May 1 when Jacob's Well opens for swimming through Memorial Day weekend, those wishing to swim must reserve a 2-hour time block on the County's website. Every two hours a new group will replace the previous one. Only 300 people per day total will be allowed swim time.

In addition, there will be an entrance fee of \$9 for adults -- \$5 for Hays County residents with a photo ID showing residency – and \$5 for children ages 5-12. Military service members and veterans, as well as seniors age 60 and better will pay \$5. There will be no charge for children 4 and under.

Additional Park rules in effect:

No SCUBA diving

No camping

No bicycles, ATVs, or other motorized vehicles allowed

No fires, fireworks or smoking

No pets or other domesticated animals

No firearms, archery equipment, hunting or fishing

No glass containers

No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs

No disorderly conduct or excessive noise

No destruction or removal of vegetation and other resources, including animals or fossils

For more park information, visit www.co.hays.tx.us and choose Parks from the Offices dropdown.

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