

Earth Camp

Living Over Caves in Austin

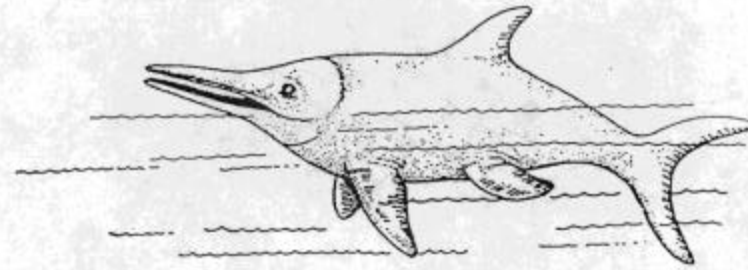
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Development Review Department**

This is what Austin looked like 75 million years ago.





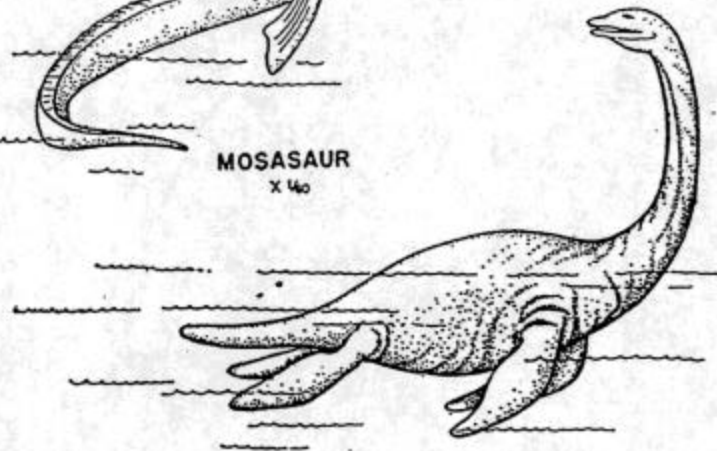
ICHTHYOSAUR

X 1/20



MOSASAUR

X 1/60



PLESIOSAUR

X 1/60

FIGURE 4
Cretaceous marine swimming reptiles whose remains have been found in the Austin area
(from Matthews, 1960)

Georgetown Clam



75 million years ago there were about 10 volcanoes in Austin.



Calcite Mineral Makes Up Limestone Rock



Dissolution of Limestone Rock



Karst Aquifer



Creekwater Disappearing into Dry Fork Sink on Tributary of Williamson Creek



Whirlpool in Onion Creek



Airman's Cave on Barton Creek



Mexican Free-Tailed Bats



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Going Inside a Cave



Pit in Midnight Cave



Slimy Salamander



Cave Cricket



Cave Beetle



Stalactites, Stalagmites and Columns



Millipede



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Blowing Sink Cave

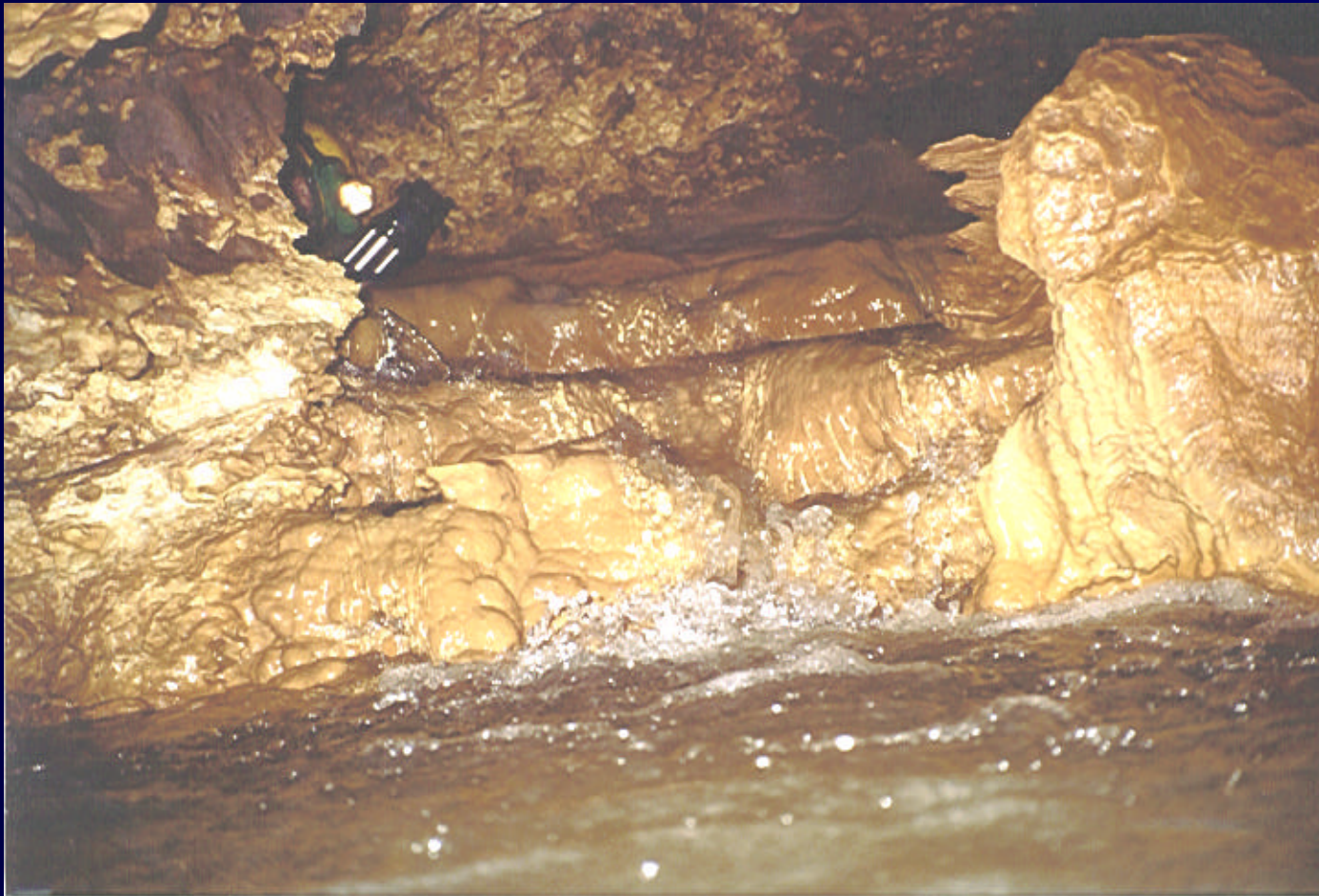
Large Cave Passage Carved Out by Water



Wet Cave Passage



Cave Stream in Blowing Sink Cave 254 Feet Below the Surface



Pool in Midnight Cave



Endangered Barton Springs Salamander





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Salamander Larvae



Isopods

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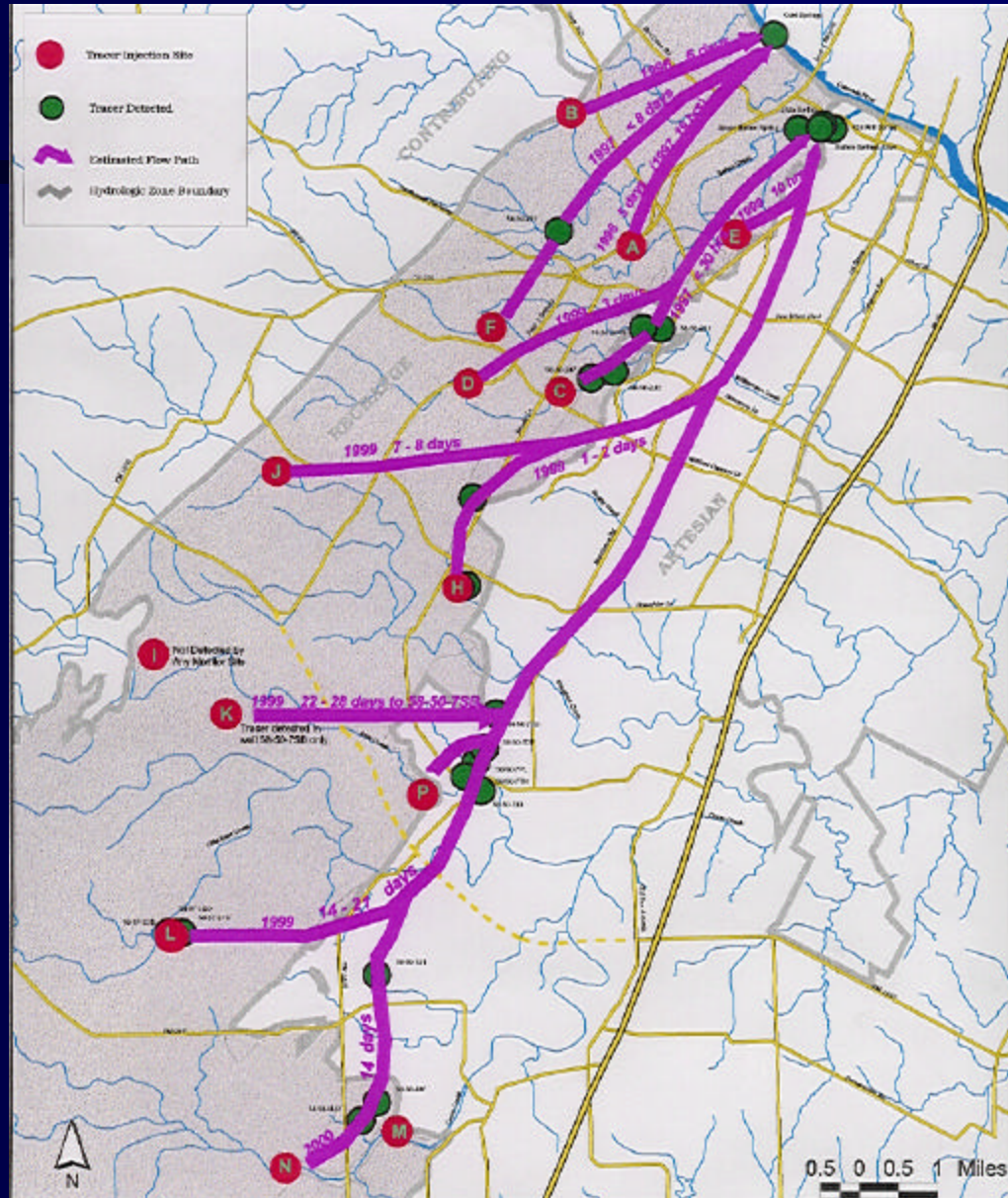
Groundwater Coming Out of Spring



Groundwater Tracing



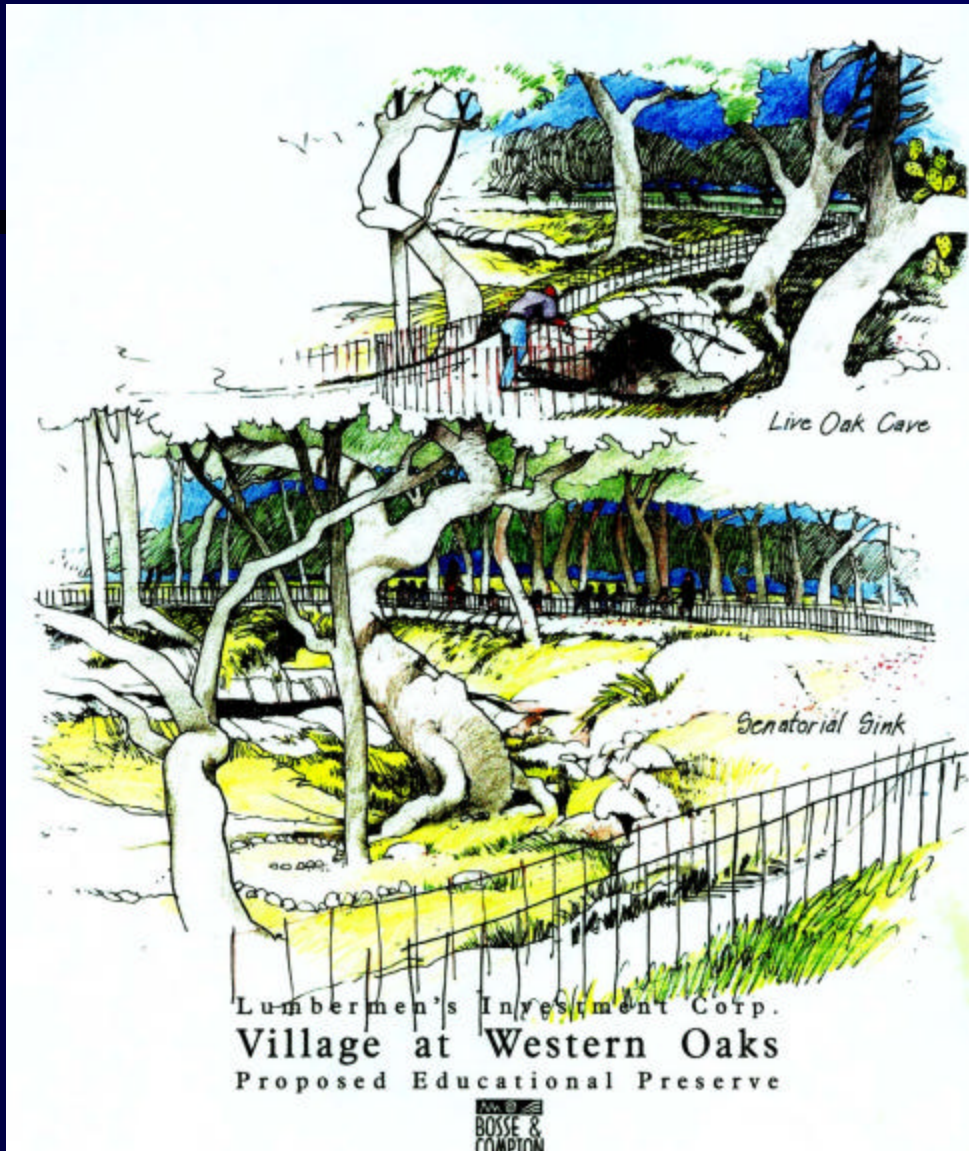
Groundwater Tracing Results



Ways You Can Help Reduce Impacts to the Aquifer

- Use compost for fertilizer.
- Identify your bugs.
- Pull weeds instead of using chemicals.
- Use native plants in landscaping. They require less water, fertilizer, and herbicide to survive.
- Do not wash harmful substances into storm sewers.
- Recycle your oil.
- Promote green spaces around local caves and sinkholes.

Karst Preserves in Austin



-Goat Cave Karst Preserve

3900 Deer Lane West of Brodie Ln and north of Slaughter Lane.

-Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

4801 LaCrosse Ave. east of Loop 1 and south of Slaughter Lane.

-Village of Western Oaks Karst Preserve

Davis Lane 1 block west of Mopac (Loop 1) and north of Slaughter Lane.

-Austin Nature Center Cave Tours

327-8181

Caves in the Edwards Aquifer You Can Go In

- Inner Space Caverns**, IH-35 in Georgetown, exit 259.
- Wonder Cave**, San Marcos, exit 202 from IH-35.
- Natural Bridge Caverns**, between New Braunfels and San Antonio.
- Cascade Caverns**, 3 miles east of Boerne on I-10
- Cave Without a Name**, 6 miles north of Boerne on FM 474