

## S.A. springs flowing — for now

### Forecast of hot, rainless days likely means return of dry creekbeds

By Scott Huddleston

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The waters at San Pedro Springs Park are flowing again after recent rains.

But aside from a 30 percent chance of rain Friday night and Saturday, the forecast suggests the springs may dry up again soon amid seasonably hot, dry summer weather patterns.

Water fills the creek when the level of the Edwards Aquifer monitoring well at Fort Sam Houston is higher than 665 feet above sea level. The aquifer stood at 666.2 feet on Thursday, down half a foot from Wednesday, according to the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

As a result of recent rains, local authorities have relaxed limits on lawn watering with sprinklers and other water-use restrictions that had been in place this spring. The Edwards Aquifer Authority suspended mandatory reductions May 7. The city of San Antonio and San Antonio Water System ended Stage 1 and 2 watering rules May 20.

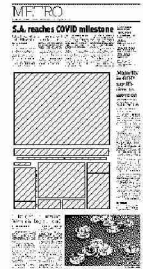
SAWS is asking residents to continue watering only once a week to keep water bills from increasing while temperatures rise this summer.

San Pedro Springs Park is the oldest city park in Texas, and it has ties to San Antonio's

origins as a Spanish colonial village.

The first documented encounters between Spanish explorers and local indigenous people occurred near the springs, the headwaters of San Pedro Creek — not far from where the first mission was established just downstream in 1718.

In 1729, King Phillip V of Spain declared the area around the springs an ejido, or public land. It was turned into a city park in 1852 and converted into an amusement park with five artificial lakes in the 1860s.





Photos by Jerry Lara / Staff photographer

**Diana Amador Luna, 56, left, talks with her daughter, Rochelle Llamas, 36, by a spring at San Pedro Springs Park.**



**Water flows through the springs at San Pedro Springs Park when the J-17 well hits the 655-foot mark. The well is the region's marker for the Edwards Aquifer level.**