



Austin, Texas has some of the best swimming holes in Texas and the list wouldn't be complete without mention of two landmarks that have attracted attention for many years: Krause Springs and Hamilton Pool Preserve. As summer heats up, these cool water attractions become more popular than ever.

*Krause Springs*

Located just 30 miles northwest of Austin in Spicewood, Texas, Krause Springs is a majestic place with 32 springs, a butterfly garden, and two of the best swimming holes in Texas. The property is lined with towering 1,000 year old Cypress trees and has two amazing waterfalls. It wouldn't be fair not to mention the cave and very popular tree swing that carries visitors across and into the natural spring.

In the 1950's Elton and Jane Krause purchased the property from a family member and made several improvements including the ones visitors see today. The 115 acre swimming hole and campground was opened to the public in 1962. Krause Springs contains numerous arrowheads and is registered on the National Register of Historic Places.

This spectacular attraction tops our list of favorite swimming holes. The hidden oasis offers something for everyone and is a special treat on a hot summer day in Texas.



*Hamilton Pool Reserve*

A 50 foot cascading waterfall spills over limestone rocks at Hamilton Pool Preserve. The Preserve is located 3/4 mile from the Pedernales River and is a historic swimming hole that received official designation as a preserve in 1990. The pool is surrounded by limestone slabs and large stalactites hang from the limestone ceiling above the pool. Hamilton Pool Preserve is part of the Balcones, Canyonlands Preserve, an endangered species habitat.

Morgan Hamilton owned the property after the 1860's. Before that time, the Tonkawa and Lipan Apaches lived in the area. Mr. Hamilton sold the property to the Reimer family to use for raising cattle and sheep. However, after discovering the majestic grotto on the property, the Reimers wanted to share the gorgeous treasure so they opened Hamilton Pool Preserve to the public. Travis County purchased the property for recreational use from the Reimers in 1985 and has restored and managed Hamilton Pool Preserve since that time.

Hamilton Pool Preserve not only offers visitors a chance to swim in one of the best swimming holes in Texas, but also an opportunity to hike and explore lush trails and nature in and around Austin. This local legend is a "must see" for the summer.

