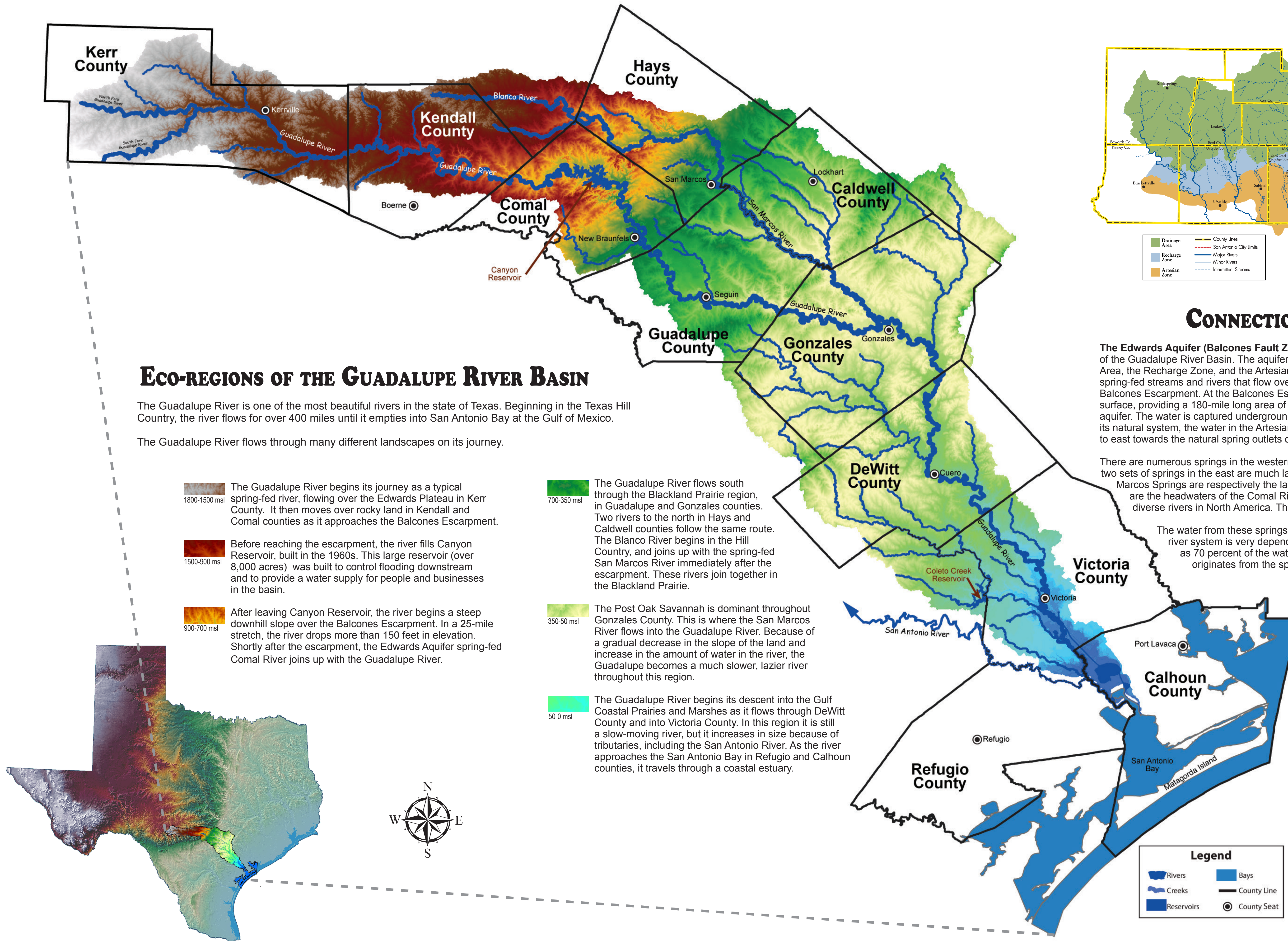


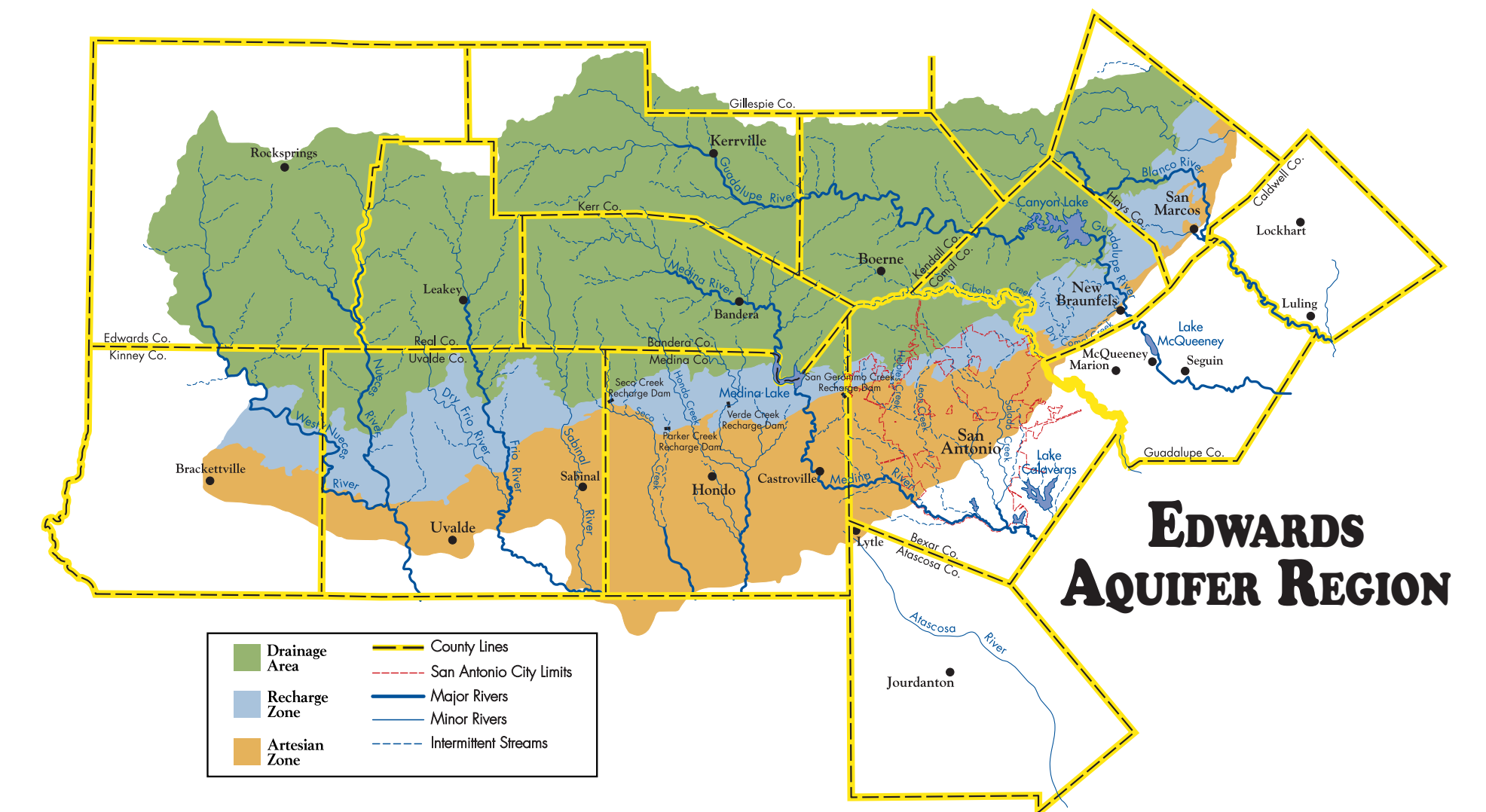
GUADALUPE RIVER BASIN



Eco-REGIONS OF THE GUADALUPE RIVER BASIN

The Guadalupe River is one of the most beautiful rivers in the state of Texas. Beginning in the Texas Hill Country, the river flows for over 400 miles until it empties into San Antonio Bay at the Gulf of Mexico.

The Guadalupe River flows through many different landscapes on its journey.



CONNECTIONS TO SPRINGFLOW

The Edwards Aquifer (Balcones Fault Zone – San Antonio Portion) is an important part of the Guadalupe River Basin. The aquifer system is made up of three regions: The Drainage Area, the Recharge Zone, and the Artesian Zone. The Drainage Area is simply the spring-fed streams and rivers that flow over much of the Texas Hill Country and cross over the Balcones Escarpment. At the Balcones Escarpment, the Edwards Limestone emerges at the surface, providing a 180-mile long area of exposed limestone where the water can recharge the aquifer. The water is captured underground in the Artesian Zone of the Edwards Aquifer. In its natural system, the water in the Artesian Zone is under pressure and moving from west to east towards the natural spring outlets of the aquifer.

There are numerous springs in the western and central portions of the aquifer. However, the two sets of springs in the east are much larger. The Comal Springs in New Braunfels and San Marcos Springs are respectively the largest and second largest springs in Texas. The springs are the headwaters of the Comal River and the San Marcos River, two of the most ecologically diverse rivers in North America. The water emerging from the springs is pure and plentiful.

The water from these springs eventually ends up in the Guadalupe River. The river system is very dependent on this springflow. In periods of drought as much as 70 percent of the water in the southern stretches of the Guadalupe River originates from the springs.



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