

City of New Braunfels



Proclamation

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF COMAL §
CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS §

WHEREAS, the International Year of Caves & Karst was created to help raise the level of understanding and respect for caves and karst as globally important physical, ecological, and cultural systems; and

WHEREAS, karst is defined as a landscape characterized by sinkholes, caverns, springs, and aquifers usually made of limestone or other soluble rock, that create some of the world's most dramatic landscapes and over time tend to collect water and create aquifers; and

WHEREAS, caves and karst have diverse economic, ecologic, scientific, and cultural impacts to the City of New Braunfels and Comal County; and

WHEREAS, there are more than 13,000 caves, sinkholes and springs known to be in Texas, which distributed in karst areas covers approximately 20% of the state; however, 90% of Comal County consists of a karst landscape including Natural Bridge Caverns, the Largest Cavern in the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, though karst cover only 7-12% of the Earth surface, these formations provide almost 25% of the world's drinking water, yet in the City of New Braunfels 40% of our water supply is derived from karst aquifers including the Trinity and Edwards Aquifers, home to Comal Springs, the largest springs in the State of Texas and the American southwest; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Comal County live above a diverse landscape of flora and fauna populations that inhabit caves and other karst features, many evolving in amazing ways and have had a profound impact on our world such as the largest colony of bats in the world located at Bracken Cave, home to an estimated 20 million Mexican free-tailed bats; and

WHEREAS, without proactive karst conservation, many of these delicate ecosystems could be destroyed and lost forever with consequences we cannot fully understand; and

WHEREAS, the International Union of Speleology has proclaimed 2021-2022 as the International Year of Caves and Karst, International Show Cave Association has declared June 6 as the recurring International Day of Caves and the Subterranean World, and National Park Service and National Caves Association have declared June 6 as a recurring National Caves and Karst Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RUSTY BROCKMAN, Mayor of the City of New Braunfels, Texas,
do hereby proclaim

2021-2022 as the New Braunfels Year of Caves and Karst

and urge all citizens to celebrate the International Year of Caves and Karst to create awareness
and protect our caves, aquifers and the rare species that call them home.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of
New Braunfels to be affixed this 28th day of June 2021.

CITY OF NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

Rusty Brockman, Mayor