



Underground Lake

Water flows freely underground in the Ozarks and some of it surfaces as springs. Devils Well, a water filled cave, is a unique window on a spring system. The water emerges from Cave Spring several thousand feet away from here on the Current River.

Over millions of years, water from the surface flowed through decaying vegetation in the soil absorbing carbon dioxide and becoming slightly acidic. Gradually, this solution dissolved the underlying dolomite along tiny cracks or joints.

As water flows from crack to crack, small underground chambers gradually grew to become larger and longer. This is how caves are formed in the Ozarks. The entrance to Devils Well, an open sinkhole, formed when the ceiling of an underground cavern collapsed.

Due to the porous nature of the soil and bedrock, water is not purified by flowing underground. To help us preserve the fragile cave environment and clean waters of our springs, please refrain from throwing anything into Devils Well.

Devils Well: A Spring Window

Fragile Environment

Devils Well serves as a sanctuary for sensitive cave life such as the rare, blind southern cavefish. They never grow larger than a few inches in length and live in total darkness. They have only rudimentary evidence of eyes. Their home is a fragile environment. Blind cavefish are considered biological indicators of good water quality.



Photo by Jim Rathert

