

Springside Learning Station

Have you ever heard of a sinkhole?



If you are from the Ozarks, most likely you have. The term **Karst Topography** describes natural features like sinkholes, caves, springs and losing streams (lose flow to groundwater) that are shaped by water in the limestone bedrock.

Can human activities on the surface affect springs?

Absolutely. Using too much groundwater can cause springs to go dry, and pollution from the surface can enter the groundwater and come out in springs. The ground doesn't necessarily "purify" water contaminants.



As you walk the trails you will see other karst features formed in the limestone bedrock.

How it happens...

Rainwater soaking down through the soil becomes slightly acidic. Over time, this acidic water dissolves the limestone bedrock, making it porous, much like a sponge. Water entering the ground flows through these openings in the limestone many feet or miles before resurfacing. Sander Spring, at the base of the limestone bluff in front of you, is an example of a spring where groundwater resurfaces.

Legend

-  Watershed Center Main Buildings
-  Springside Learning Station
-  Lakeside Learning Station
-  Streamside Learning Station
-  Wetland
-  Nature Trail

WATERSHED CENTER

You Are Here

Sander Spring

(Future)

Signs made possible by a grant from the LAD Foundation



Test Your Knowledge

- A. Do you know how researchers trace the flow of groundwater?
- B. Can you guess how many gallons of water come out of this spring on an average day?
- C. What is the average temperature of water from a spring in Missouri?

Answers: A) They put dye in the water and see where it ends up, B) From 4 to 22 million gallons a day depending on the season, C) 58 degrees Fahrenheit.