

# The Texas Hill Country

## Searching for the Texas Hill Country

Ask someone from Texas about the Hill Country and they'll tell you about jumping from a rope swing into their favorite swimming hole, eating smoked brisket under an old oak, or dancing under the stars on a warm summer night. Ask them "where" the Hill Country is and you'll get a hundred different answers - literally. Intrigued by this question, Austin Community College (ACC) Geography Professor Don Jonsson collected 100 published maps locating the Texas Hill Country. He then worked with ACC Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Professor Sean Moran and former ACC GIS Student Angela Smith to:

1. Map each unique Hill Country boundary in a GIS;
2. Compile the boundaries into a single heat map; and
3. Produce a statistical ellipse and mean center.

The resulting map provides a fascinating look into how Texans define this special place.

