



In October 2015, the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program staff will officially move into the COSA Parks and Recreation Department.

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EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION PROGRAM

NEWS AND UPDATES - EDWARDS PROGRAM MOVES TO PARKS

Big news on the homefront this quarter for the Edwards program. Effective October 1, the City's aquifer protection program will become part of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. The Edwards program shares the voter-approved 1/8-cent sales tax revenues with the City's Linear Creeks Parks program, so housing both venue projects in the same department makes sense. Furthermore, when the program was first created in 2000, and before it was moved into the Real Estate department, the original home for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program, known then as Proposition 3, was the City Parks Department. The mission of the Edwards program is a natural fit for the Parks Department, and aligns with other Parks programs such as re-forestation and natural resource management, in addition to the Linear Creeks program.

Aside from the inter-departmental transition, Edwards staff continues to stay busy with acquisitions and monitoring. In the last quarter of Fiscal Year 2015, the Edwards program protected 1,410 acres of land over the Recharge Zone of the aquifer with conservation easements, and successfully monitored over 30 existing conservation easements. Landowners continue to reach out to City staff and to our nonprofit Land Acquisition Team partners, The Nature Conservancy and Green Spaces Alliance, for information on how to participate in the program. With no shortage of interest in the Edwards program, the future of land and water conservation for the City of San Antonio continues to look bright!

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For more information on the program or to receive quarterly newsletters via email, please visit our website at:

<http://www.sanantonio.gov/edwardsaquifer>

For information on upcoming Conservation Advisory Board meetings, please visit the COSA board meetings and agendas website at:

<https://webapps2.sanantonio.gov/>





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EDWARDS AQUIFER IN THE NEWS

USGS & SAWS STUDY AQUIFER WATER FLOW

San Antonio and the surrounding communities recognize the benefits they receive every day from the Edwards Aquifer. The Edwards is one of the cleanest, most prolific aquifers in the entire world, and it provides over 80% of the drinking water to the City of San Antonio. Knowledge of the Edwards Aquifer and the science behind groundwater movement, however, is not always immediately apparent. New research by the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is designed to improve the understanding of how water flows through the San Antonio segment of the aquifer.



Source: U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

A new groundwater flow path model, developed by SAWS and the USGS, focuses on what scientists call the brackish-water transition zone, the area where fresh groundwater and saline groundwater meet and mix beneath the surface of the earth. The model assesses brackish water movement underground and looks at the effects such movement might have on flow and discharge in the Comal and San Marcos springs systems north of San Antonio.

The full USGS report can be found here: <http://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/sir20155081>
A brief synopsis of the report can be found here: <http://twri.tamu.edu/publications/conservation-matters/2015/august/new-usgs-groundwater-model-provides-better-understanding-of-edwards-aquifer/>

FALL ACTIVITIES

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Enjoy these fun-filled activities for the whole family:

- **Art in the Garden**—Discover the work of Kim Beck at the San Antonio Botanical Garden. Through January 31, 2016
- **Oktoberfest**—Celebrate the region's German heritage with music, food, and dancing. October 9th & 10th
- **Luminaria**—Free downtown celebration of the arts. October 23rd & 24th
- **Dia de los Muertos**—Day of the Dead celebration with creative altars, poetry, and processions throughout the City. October 24th to November 2nd
- **Wurstfest**—Ten day celebration including entertainment, games, polka contest, games, rides, and food at the Wurstfest Grounds in Landa Park. November 6th - 15th



For more information on family fun things to do this fall, please visit the websites below:

San Antonio Botanical Garden:
<http://www.sabot.org/events/art-in-the-garden/>
Oktoberfest:
<http://www.beethovenmaennerchor.com/>
Luminaria:
<http://luminarias.org/index.cfm>
Dia de los Muertos
<http://muertosfest.com/>
Wurstfest:



Source: Luminaria, San Antonio Informer and Bohemian Trails



Source: Texas Water Development Board

TEXAS NEWS

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

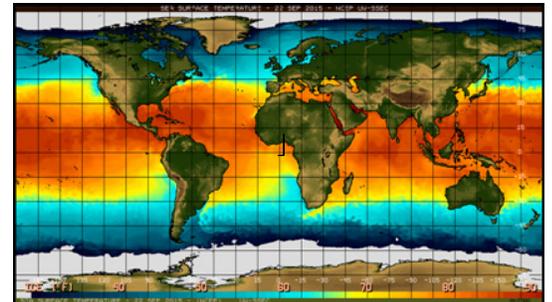
Keeping track of the State Water Implementation Fund for Texas (SWIFT) can seem daunting at times. After all, we're talking about a \$2 billion statewide investment in water supply projects. That's billion with a "B." Fortunately, the TWDB provides tax payers with access to a helpful website dedicated exclusively to SWIFT and how the program operates. By linking to the website below, you can review the 2015 commitments, check out future planned projects, read basic program Q&As, and look up your own local project implementation team members. San Antonio and Bexar County are in Team #5—Central Region. SWIFT is designed to provide favorable, low-interest loans with flexible repayment schedules to eligible political subdivisions of the state, including cities, river authorities, groundwater conservation districts, non-profit water supply corporations, etc. Projects that are eligible for funding include conservation and reuse, desalination projects, new pipelines, the purchase of water rights, and other initiatives.

For more information on SWIFT, and to track funding and authorized projects, visit: <http://www.twdb.texas.gov/financial/programs/swift/index.asp>

WEATHER FORECAST

EL NIÑO LIKELY TO RESULT IN WET WINTER

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), El Niño is a weather pattern that is characterized by unusually warm temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific as opposed to La Niña, which is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the Equatorial Pacific. The effects of El Niño include increased rainfall across the southern United States and drought in the West Pacific. According to the NOAA, there is an approximately 95% chance that El Niño will continue through the Northern Hemisphere winter, which may gradually weaken by Spring 2016. The predicted peak may occur in late fall/early winter resulting in temperature and precipitation impacts. For more information on El Niño or La Niña, please visit: <http://www.elnino.noaa.gov/index.html>.



Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

Useful Links

City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Dept.
<http://www.sanantonio.gov/ParksandRec/NewsEvents.aspx>

Hill Country Alliance
<http://www.hillcountryalliance.org/>

Edwards Aquifer Authority
<http://www.edwardsaquifer.org/>

San Antonio Water System
<http://www.saws.org/conservation/calendar/>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING 2015 FALL EVENTS

Don't miss out on these informative events regarding water and land conservation related issues:

- 11th Annual Medina River Natural Area FALL FEST - San Antonio, Oct. 10th
- Texas Water Conservation Association Fall Conference - San Antonio, Oct.14-16
- Edwards Aquifer Authority Distinguished Lecture Series: Hydrology, Management and Engineering Controls in Karst - SWRI - San Antonio, Oct. 16th
- Hill Country Alliance Conservation Easement Workshop - Johnson City, Oct. 16th
- TX Watershed Planning Short Course - Bandera, TX, Oct. 19-22
- Farm to Table: Agricultural Law Symposium - Texas A&M University Law School - Fort Worth, TX, Oct. 30th
- SAWS Bird Walk - San Antonio Botanical Garden, Nov. 21st



CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH JOHN DODSON—UVALDE COUNTY REPRESENTATIVE

Question: How long have you served as a CAB member and what is your role?

Answer: I have been the representative from Uvalde County since 2005.

Question: Why did you decide to become involved with the EAPP?

Answer: I joined the program because I felt it was a great opportunity to help protect and preserve the Edwards Aquifer for the entire region.

Question: What do you like most about the program?

Answer: The thing I like the most is that it is entirely voluntary. The Landowners get paid a fair market price for the sale of their [conservation] easement and the City gets control of some very important development rights.

Question: What changes have you noticed in the program during your tenure as a CAB member?

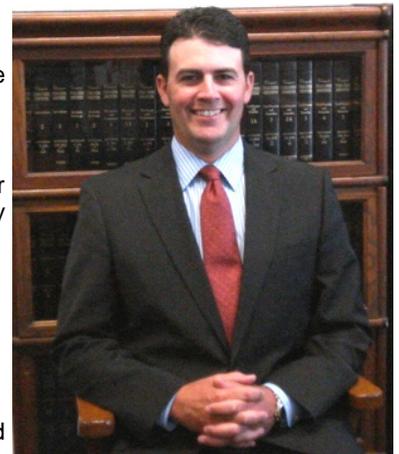
Answer: With each easement purchased, the amount of information about the region increases. I believe that the science behind the program has improved as well.

Question: How much of a difference do you think the EAPP has made towards water preservation?

Answer: The EAPP has made tremendous progress in the protection of both water quality and quantity throughout the Edwards Aquifer region. The fact that other parts of this country and even other countries are studying the EAPP is a huge compliment to the effectiveness of the program.

Question: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Answer: I would just like to say that I am very thankful that I have been able to be a part of a very important, innovative and effective program. Also, I have enjoyed getting to work with all of the wonderful and talented people associated with the program.



John Dodson, CAB Member, Uvalde County Representative

DID YOU KNOW?

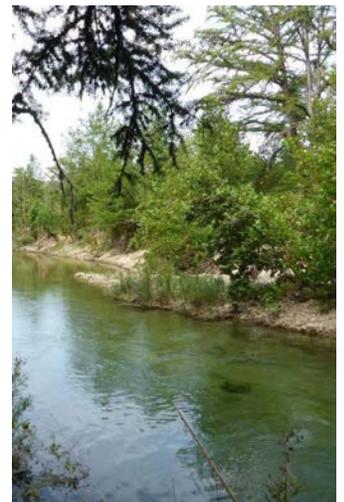
- Approximately 2,110 watersheds are located in the continental United States.
- The majority of rivers are owned by the public.
- Perennial streams have water flowing in them year round, intermittent streams only flow during certain times of year, and ephemeral streams only flow after precipitation.
- In the U.S., 357,000 miles of streams provide water for public drinking water systems.

Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

RIVERS AND WATERSHEDS

INTERESTING FACTS

Did you know that rivers make up approximately 75% of the earth's total land surface? Rivers transport water and nutrients all around the earth. They are a critical part of the water cycle and serve as drainage channels for surface water. Rivers are formed when one stream meets another. The smaller streams are known as tributaries. It takes several tributaries to form a river. On the other hand, watersheds are an area of land where all of the water collects before flowing into a drainage basin, such as a stream or river. Watersheds are a primary focus of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. The program has protected several important watersheds in our target area including the Frio, Blanco, Sabinal, Verde, Hondo, and San Geronimo. Preserving these watersheds are important not only for their potential recharge into the aquifer, but for water quality protection. As our region becomes more populated, the threat of development increases and scenic landscapes, such as these beautiful watersheds, are an attraction for development. To date, the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program has protected 135,371 acres with much of the protected land along these major watersheds.



The Sabinal River located on a 645 acre property protected by the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program