

Compiled and Produced by
The San Antonio Office of Sustainability

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Director's Message

This summer will be an exciting one with San Antonio B-Cycle adding 13 more stations downtown and along the Mission Reach of the river, bringing the total to 48 convenient locations. Launched a little more than two years ago as the first modern bike share system in Texas, San Antonio B-Cycle has helped turn our city into a recognized bicycling community. San Antonio B-Cycle users have logged a total of 93,000 trips, ridden 340,000 miles and burned 15 million calories. These trips have also accrued 371,000 pounds of carbon offset, making our B-Cycle program a central asset to our green goals.

B-Cycle will also soon be unveiling tricycles, with two cargo baskets, to make running errands by B-Cycle convenient and fun.

Supporting bicycling makes San Antonio a happier, healthier, and greener community. More bikes means a need for more bike parking, so the Office of Sustainability will soon be working with Council district offices to identify areas in need of bike rack installations. Right here in our newsletter we celebrate the installation of "The Amazing Paleta Bike Rack," an inspiring collaborative project with San Anto Cultural Arts which uniquely combines sustainability, healthy living, community development and arts initiatives.

We would also like to remind the community to continue to welcome bicyclists on our roads, because, after all, "There's Enough Road to Go Around." Now get out there and enjoy our beautiful city.

Yours for a sustainable future,
Mary Hammer

San Anto Cultural Arts and OS Unveil "The Amazing Paleta Bike Rack"



Above: Photo, Robin Harvey: Mayor Castro speaks at the unveiling of "The Amazing Paleta Bike Rack"

Below: Photo, Fred Gonzalez: OS Director Mary Hammer poses in front of San Anto's new bike rack

At 9am on May 24, San Anto Cultural Arts and the Office of Sustainability celebrated National Bike Month with the unveiling of "The Amazing Paleta Bike Rack." Local youth, under direction of artist Casey D. Cooper, created this permanent functional public art piece to sit in front of San Anto on El Paso street and encourage bike riding in the community. San Anto also offers bike tours of the Westside community murals.

OS staff shared free paletas with those in attendance at the event and the OS department showed off the new B-Cycle tricycle.



Tour Green San Antonio

As the delegates of the UEA Summit and Sister Cities International Conference arrive, San Antonio will be putting itself on display. We encourage you to tour San Antonio's green progress via tours scheduled throughout the summit provided by the Office of Sustainability and our partners. These tours, all seven of which can be included in registration for the UEA Summit, are outlined in the following few pages of the newsletter.

San Antonio Mission Reach Project: Bicycle Tour: July 11, 6-8:30pm

Come explore the Mission Reach by B-Cycle! Six new bicycle sharing stations near the missions makes the river more suited for recreational use than ever before. During this professionally guided tour you will bike two hours and enjoy the trail, beautiful historic missions, and the area south of downtown. Tour will depart by van from the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Wear clothing suitable for bike riding. Water and helmets will be provided.

01

This tour is for participants 18 years and older. Tour is limited to 11 participants, so register early to secure a spot.

02 Land Sustainability: Low Impact Development; Museum Reach and Pearl Development: July 13, 1:30-5pm

This tour will begin with a presentation at the redeveloped Pearl Brewery, which dates back to 1881 and now incorporates sustainable techniques for managing storm water and vegetation. Following the presentation will be a short tour of the Pearl culminating with a ride on the world renowned San Antonio River Barges. This tour will take guests through the Museum Reach including the Lock and Dam, which extended the River Walk roughly 2 Kilometers (1.3 miles) to the north in 2009. Beyond the Museum Reach, the river barge will provide guests a professionally guided tour of the River Walk and will deposit guests back at the Hyatt Regency. Please dress comfortably as participants will be walking up to 1 kilometer (1/2mile) in temperatures between 32C and 41C (90-105F). Tour will depart by charter bus from the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Water will be provided on the bus and the barge. A hat or other means of sun protection are recommended.



Photo, SARA: Museum Reach

Each tour is limited to 50 participants, so register early to secure a spot.

Dos Rios Water Treatment and Recycling Facility: July 11, 2-5pm

Join us for a tour of Dos Rios, San Antonio's largest water recycling center, with a permitted capacity of 125 million gallons per day. The plant uses a biologically activated process to produce tertiary treated water of near drinking-water quality. Dos Rios is the source of water for the nation's largest direct reuse system, one of the largest environmental protection and enhancement projects ever built in Texas. It delivers water via 140 miles of large diameter pipelines for irrigation and industrial processes, conserving potable supplies and preserving endangered species habitats. Discharge locations downtown provide baseflow for San Antonio's River Walk. Dos Rios was the first plant in the nation to achieve the "Recycling Trifecta", the beneficial use of all process residuals including water, biosolids, and gas. Up to 200 tons per day of biosolids are composted and reused, and almost one million cubic feet per day of methane gas are sold on the open market.

Tour is limited to 150 participants, so register early to secure a spot.

Photo, SAWS: Dos Rios Treatment and Recycling Facility



River Improvements: Mission Reach: July 13, 9:30-noon

The Mission Reach is the largest urban river restoration in the United States. The \$245 million project is funded by Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, the US Army Corps of Engineers and through private donations collected by the San Antonio River Foundation. This project, managed and operated by the San Antonio River Authority, provides recreational opportunities, connection to four of San Antonio's 18th century missions, and opportunities for economic growth. This tour will leave by charter bus from the Hyatt Regency Hotel and will tour project with stops for guests to walk sections of the project. Please dress comfortably as guests will be walking from 1 to 2 kilometers (1/2-1mile) in temperatures between 32C and 41C (90-105F). Water will be provided on the bus and Bexar County elected officials will host a short reception with refreshments at the recently renovated Mission County Park.

04

Tour is limited to 50 participants, so register early to secure a spot.

05 Green Homes Tour: July 13, 9am-1pm

Build San Antonio Green “Green Tour of Homes.” The Green Tour of Homes is the only exclusively “green” tour of homes in our community – each of the homes featured on the tour has been officially certified green by our award-winning green building program, Build San Antonio Green. Located in the historic neighborhoods of downtown San Antonio, the homes on this year’s tour are an eclectic mix of historic, new construction, and retrofit projects. Tour goers will have the opportunity to see how beautiful design and efficient features blend seamlessly in each of these green homes. The tour will include infill new construction and retrofit projects close to the downtown area. The tour features a variety of green building possibilities, with entry level green building projects, “Net Zero Energy” homes, and everything in between. The tour is a walking tour through these neighborhoods with an intermittent van shuttle service to and from the Hyatt Regency Hotel.



Bicycle Tour: Museum Reach Project: July 14, 8:30-11am

06 Experience the Riverwalk at the Museum Reach urban and parks segments. During this two-hour bike ride, you’ll see various art works within shaded pathways along the municipal golf course to the historic Brackenridge Park. Tour will depart by van from the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Wear clothing suitable for bike riding. Water and helmets will be provided. *This tour is for participants 18 years and older. Tour is limited to 15 participants, so register early to secure a spot.*

Youth Summit participants can enjoy a professionally guided tour of the Mission Reach. The tour is approximately two hours through paved bike trails to view the beautiful historic missions. Tour will depart by van from the Hyatt Regency Hotel. Wear clothing suitable for bike riding. Water and helmets will be provided. *Tour is limited to 15 participants, so register early to secure a spot.*

Youth Summit Bicycle Tour: Mission Reach Project: July 14, 9-11:30am **07**

Green Spaces Alliance Event: SicloVerde



Green Spaces Alliance is a local non-profit organization dedicated to creating community gardens in San Antonio. Community gardens encourage people to exercise, connect with nature and their neighbors, and experience the joy of growing their own food. It makes sense to combine community gardens with another growing contingent of San Antonio that promotes healthy living: the bicycling community.

Join Green Spaces for SicloVerde, a community bicycling/gardening event

on Saturday, June 15th. SicloVerde is a fundraising event. All proceeds benefit community gardens in the San Antonio area.

At SicloVerde, three bicycle tours, visiting six community gardens in total, will be offered. Participants may choose from a 14-mile guided group tour, 8-mile guided group tour, and a self-guided tour. Participants will gather at the first garden in the morning and travel from garden to garden, enjoying opportunities to visit with gardeners, take part in fun garden-themed activities, ride through historic downtown neighborhoods, and exercise.



There are three ways to get involved:

01 Volunteer. Opportunities include include serving as group guides, offering mobile bike repair services, and making bicycle safety presentations.

02 Become a sponsor or donor. We are still in need of sponsors, in-kind services, and items on our wish list.

03 Participate!

Get involved at: greensatx.org/sicloverde

Save the Dates:

SicloVerde
June 15th, 7am-12pm
River Road Community Garden

**Sierra Club June Meeting:
The Battle for the Warbler**
June 18th, 6:30pm
Witte Museum Auditorium
3801 Broadway

Green Building Awards Ceremony
June 19th, 11:30am-1pm
Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
Lonesome Dove Room
For more info, call: (210) 207-1449

CEAC: July Meeting
July 5th, 8am
GMA Conference Room
1400 South Flores

SA Clean Tech Luncheon
July 11th
Rackspace Conference Center

**Third Global Urban Environmental
Accords Summit**
July 11-13
Hyatt Regency Hotel

Land Sustainability through Low Impact Development (LID)

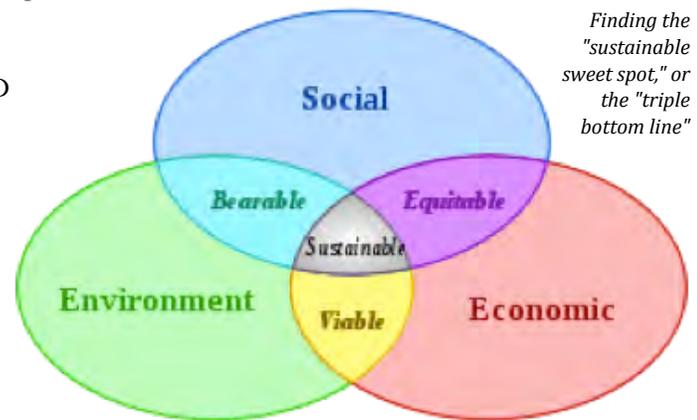
The common understanding of sustainable development is building residential, commercial, and industrial structures to be energy and water efficient through LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) and Green Building concepts. However, sustainability is not limited to the interior, vertical built (building) environment, it also applies to the horizontal environment (i.e. the land) that the buildings and infrastructure of the neighborhoods and businesses sit upon. There is a better way to build subdivisions and businesses in the San Antonio area-- a way that can be cost neutral or even a savings on construction, better for the environment, and have more curb-appeal and marketability to consumers. Finding this "sustainable" sweet spot is known as the 'triple bottom line' as shown to the right. Low Impact Development, or LID, is a strategy that can apply in the context of

these sustainability goals.

LID is an integrated site design approach for addressing hydrologic and environmental impacts often associated with conventional land development. The goal of LID site design is to reduce stormwater runoff and to treat pollutant loads where they are generated. LID works first with appropriate site planning and then by directing stormwater towards small-scale systems that are dispersed through the site with the purpose of managing water in a distributed manner. LID is great for business. When implemented in the initial site-planning and design, these distributed systems allow for elimination or downsizing of storm water detention ponds, curbs and gutters and other traditional infrastructure, which offsets

the cost of LID specific design features.

Because LID embraces a variety of useful techniques for controlling runoff, designs can be customized according to local management requirements and site constraints. Examples of LID techniques include bioretention, bioswales, permeable pavements, planter boxes, vegetated filter strips, green roofs, and rainwater harvesting. Several of these techniques are described below.

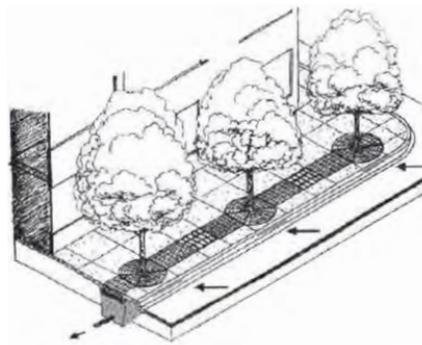


Bioswales



Bioswales are stormwater runoff conveyance systems that provide an alternative to storm sewers while also treating the stormwater and improving water quality. They can absorb low flows as well as carry runoff from heavy rains to storm sewer inlets or directly to surface waters. Bioswales improve water quality by infiltrating the first flush of stormwater runoff and filtering the large storm flows they convey. Because the majority of annual precipitation comes from frequent, small rain events the value of bioswales comes from infiltrating and filtering the runoff from such frequent events.

Tree Box Filters



Tree box filters are small bioretention areas installed beneath trees that control runoff. Runoff is directed to the tree box, where it is treated by vegetation and the soil before entering a catch basin. The runoff collected in the tree-boxes irrigates the trees. The system consists of a container filled with soil, a mulch layer, an under-drain system and a tree or shrub. Treated water flows out of the system into the soil or through an under-drain connected to a storm drainpipe/inlet. These filters can also control runoff volumes/flows by adding storage volume beneath the filter box with an outlet control device. Typical landscape plants (shrubs, ornamental grasses, trees and flowers) are used as an integral part of the bioretention/filtration system. They fit into any landscape scheme, increasing the quality of life in urban areas by adding beauty and habitat value while reducing urban heat island effects.

Cisterns



Cisterns are storage vessels that can collect and store rooftop runoff from a downspout for later use. Sized according to rooftop area and desired volume, cisterns can be used to collect both residential and commercial building runoff. By temporarily storing the runoff, cisterns allow less runoff to enter the stormwater drainage system, thereby reducing the amount of pollutants discharged to surface waters.

To learn more about sustainable land practices and LID, please visit the San Antonio River Authority's sustainability page at sara-tx.org/sustainability