

## *San Antonio River: Vision Statement*

Within its city limits, the San Antonio River is 18 miles in length. In some respects, the River defines the city. One's experience of the River changes in different parts of the city. As large parts of the River are improved and adjacent development occurs, the River will change. The River Commission has adopted the following Mission and Vision statements to be used as a universal lens by which all future River-related decisions are viewed:

**Vision Statement: The San Antonio River will be a fully linked linear park that unifies the city and serves as a community gathering place for all to enjoy. The River will have many special places and uses; some active, some quiet. Each will be unique, genuine, and vary by design.**

### **Guiding Principles:**

1. **Community Access:** Community access to the River and its public spaces should be provided and encouraged.
2. **Environment:** The public spaces of the River will celebrate the natural environment, where wildlife and aquatic species flourish. The public areas of the River will be protected from intrusive commercial activities which diminish the experience along the River corridor.
3. **Surrounding Land Uses/Development:** Development activity occurring along the banks will be in keeping with the unique character of the River at that location. Land uses will also be in keeping with the City Master Plan (Neighborhood and Community Plans). In all cases, development and activity along the banks will not damage the natural environment or ecology of the River or its public spaces, but will enhance the quality of the site and environment.
4. **Adjoining Buildings and Design:** Historical buildings and features along the River will be preserved to help tell the story of what the River has meant to San Antonio over the generations. Where development occurs, buildings will be unique, and incorporate design elements that celebrate the natural or built context of the River at that location.
5. **Private Enterprise:** Policies will encourage existing and new business development and regulate enterprises within these Guiding Principals and Vision.