



SAN ANTONIO PARKS & RECREATION

FY 2019

ANNUAL REPORT

SALES TAX PROPOSITIONS



RESPONSIVE | RESTORATIVE



FROM THE CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

“While I have always understood that aquifer recharge occurs largely to the west of Bexar County and then flows east to the City, I had not realized the nuances of the system’s dynamics. Through the process of prioritizing strategic purchases, I have learned a great deal from staff, our Land Acquisition Team, and other CAB members on the role of watersheds in both the recharge and contributing zones, and how they function as a complex and efficient arterial mechanism for water collection and migration.”

– Dr. Francine Romero, Board Chair, Parks & Recreation Board Representative

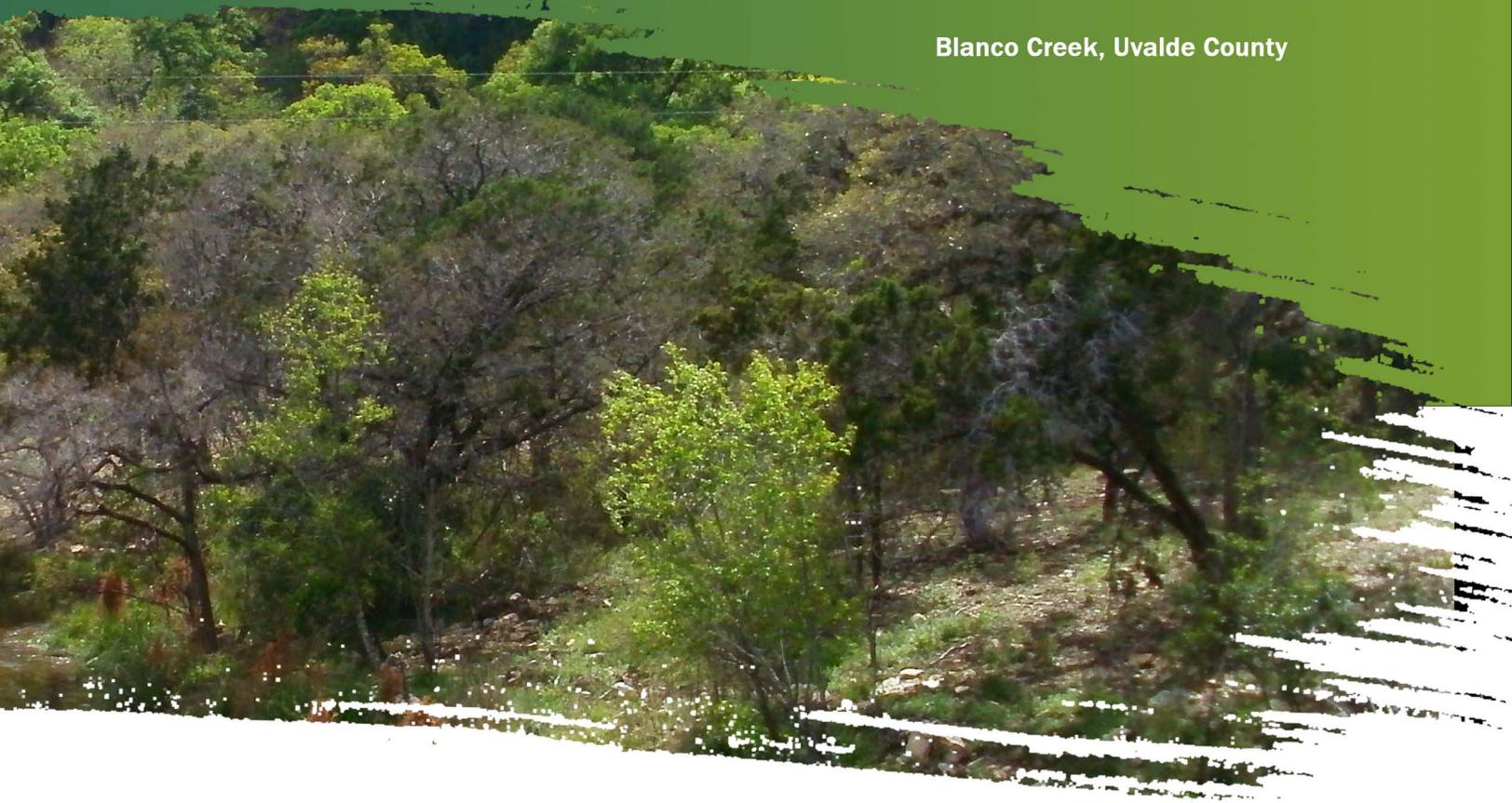
FROM THE LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

“The Howard W. Peak Linear Greenway Trails System is realizing the vision of the former Mayor, who conceived the idea of connecting communities with parks developed along the major waterways and tributaries around the city. These linear parks are improving the quality of life for San Antonio residents and visitors alike by providing safe, accessible, natural areas in which to walk, run, ride, or stroll. The greenways not only provide recreational opportunities for the community, but they are also becoming a viable alternative transportation system as the system grows and becomes better connected throughout town.”

– Greg K. Hammer, Board Chair, District 7 Representative

RESILIENT | RESOURCEFUL

Blanco Creek, Uvalde County



FROM THE PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT



On behalf of the City of San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, I am pleased to share the Sales Tax Propositions Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019. The Annual Report provides details about the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project (Proposition 1) and the Parks Development & Expansion Venue Project (Proposition 2). As project stewards since 2000, our team has managed the protection of environmentally-sensitive properties along the aquifer and developed an extensive greenway trail system that offers spaces to our community for recreation, health, and wellness.

These initiatives support Parks and Recreation's mission to provide exceptional parks, facilities, programs, and services to improve the quality of life for all. From the ecologically sensitive landscape design of our Greenway Trails, to protecting our water resources, we reflect our SA Parks System Plan goals of being responsive, restorative, resilient, and resourceful to our community.

Thanks to our partners, stakeholders, community volunteers, board members, and staff for their support of these initiatives.

– Homer Garcia III, Interim Director

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project (Proposition 1) and the Parks Development & Expansion Venue Project (Proposition 2) support aquifer protection and the creation of linear Greenway Trails. These projects, managed by the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, are funded by a 1/8 cent shared sales tax approved by voters in 2000, 2005, 2010, and 2015.

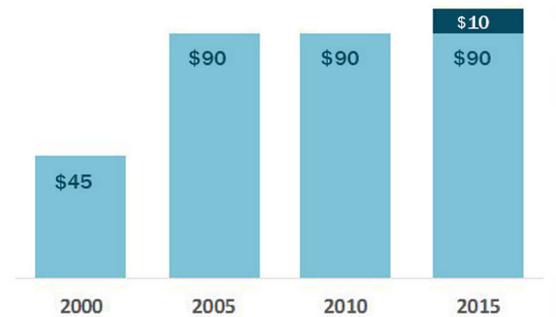


Hammond Ranch, Uvalde & Medina Counties

EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION PROGRAM VENUE PROJECT

The Edwards Aquifer's recharge flows underground from west to east and provides San Antonio with an abundant source of groundwater vital to the livelihood of a growing population and an expanding economy. Since 2000, the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program has protected environmentally-sensitive properties located over the aquifer's recharge and contributing zones within and beyond Bexar County including Medina & Uvalde Counties. Proposition 3 (2000) and Proposition 1 (thereafter) are the ballot initiatives that have allowed the City of San Antonio to continue this watershed and preservation project.

FUNDING HISTORY



*in millions

- Property Acquisition
- Water Quality Projects



PROPOSITION 2

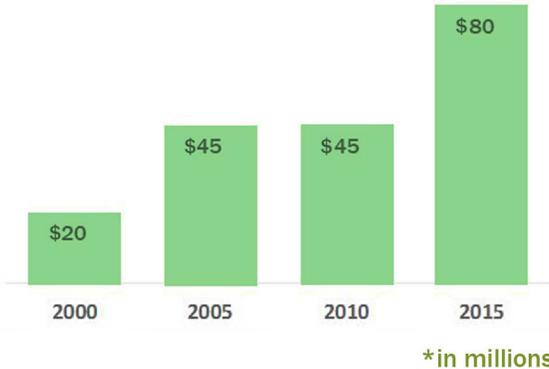


Salado Creek North Greenway Trail

PARKS DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION (LINEAR CREEKWAY) VENUE PROJECT

The Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System is a growing network of 70 miles of developed multi-use and accessible trails. The Greenway Trails wind through natural landscapes along many of San Antonio's waterways including Salado Creek, Leon Creek, Medina River, Westside Creeks (Apache, Alazan, Martinez, San Pedro, and Zarzamora), and other Tributary Creeks (Huesta Creek and Culebra Creek). The trails provide access to outdoor recreation, pedestrian and bicycle mobility, park system connectivity, open space, and habitat conservation. Proposition 2 is the ballot initiative that has allowed the City of San Antonio to continue to acquire open space and develop linear parks along San Antonio's creekways.

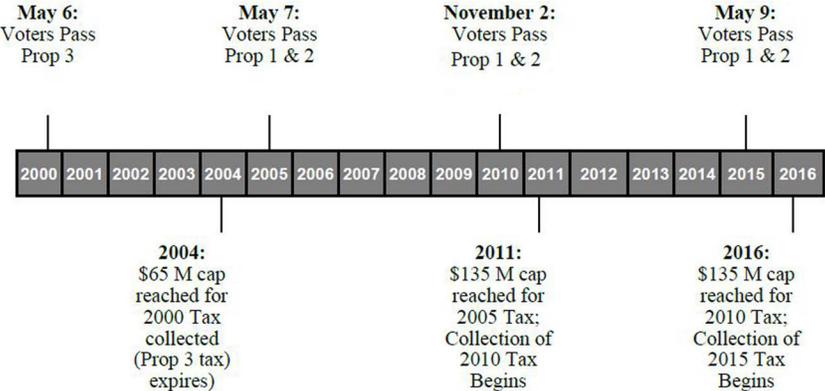
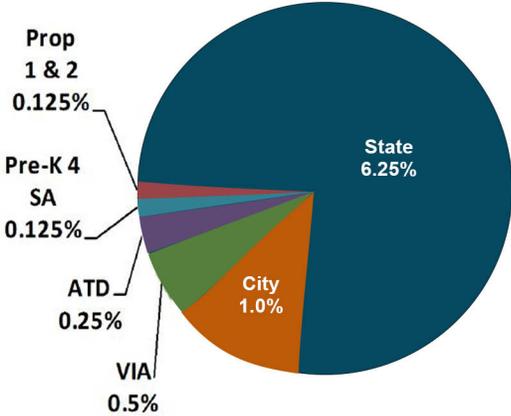
FUNDING HISTORY



VENUE PROPOSITION SALES TAX HISTORY

Venue Proposition Sales Tax History

Authorized Sales Tax in San Antonio - 8.25%





PROPOSITION 1

EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION VENUE PROJECT

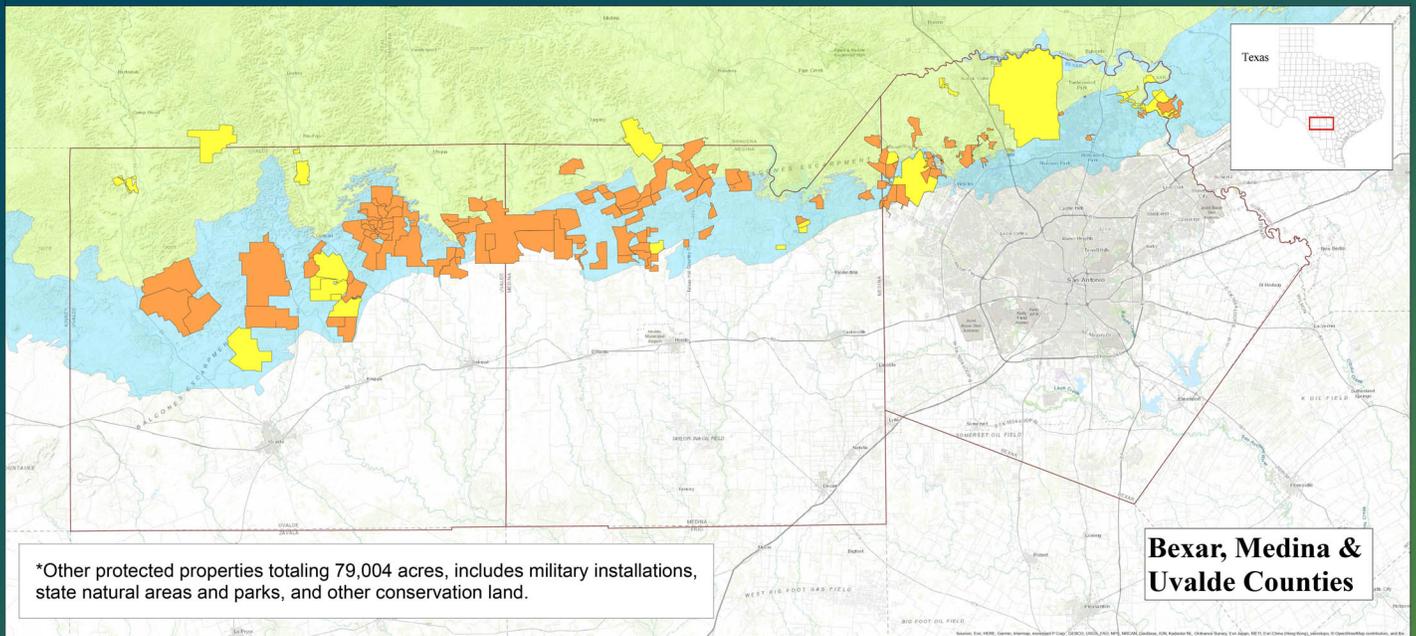
Figg Ranch, Uvalde County



EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION PROGRAM (AS OF FISCAL YEAR 2019)

The following map illustrates the properties included in the Edwards Aquifer Protection initiative. The protection area includes Bexar, Medina and Uvalde Counties.

PROTECTED PROPERTIES MAP



Proposition 1 & 3 Properties



Edwards Aquifer Contributing Zone



Other Protected Properties



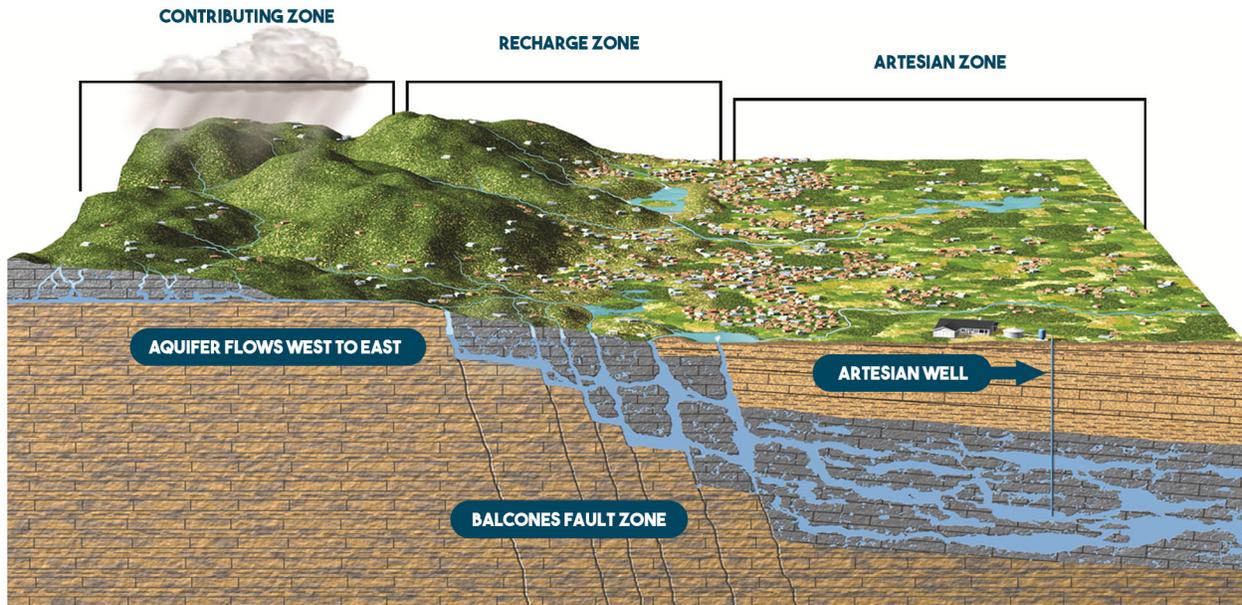
Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone



MISSION & GOALS

The mission of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project (Proposition 1) is to protect the quality and quantity of water recharging into the Edwards Aquifer through the protection of land over the sensitive recharge and contributing zones of the aquifer.

AQUIFER DYNAMICS



PROPERTY ACQUISITION METHODS

Properties are acquired through two methods: purchases and conservation easements.

PURCHASE

Land is owned completely by the City of San Antonio.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT

A conservation easement is a voluntary agreement between a landowner and the City of San Antonio (COSA) to preserve the natural condition of lands that lie over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing Zones for the protection of the quantity and quality of water entering the aquifer. The COSA is responsible for the long term monitoring and enforcement of the provisions of the easement. Once a conservation easement is signed, it is recorded with the County in which the land is located and applies to all future owners of the land.

WHY CONSERVATION EASEMENTS?

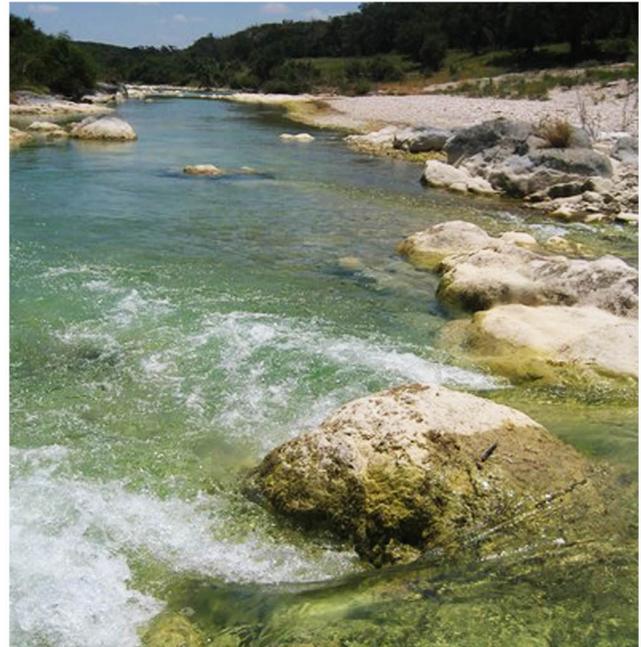
Conservation easements are flexible legal tools that allow both a landowner and a qualified holder of the easement, in this case COSA, to find common ground in their conservation objectives.

People often sell or donate conservation easements because they wish to protect their property from unwanted development while retaining ownership of the land. Because a conservation easement is designed to run with the land in perpetuity, it ensures that the property will be protected forever, regardless of who owns the land in the future.

Additionally, because the purchase price of a conservation easement is less than the fair market value of a property, the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program is able to preserve more land over the aquifer than if we were purchasing land outright. Thus, the COSA is soundly investing in both the present and long-term protection of San Antonio's primary water source.

WATER QUALITY (DEMONSTRATION) PROJECTS

In May 2015, voters renewed for the third time the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (Proposition 1), funded through a portion of a 1/8-cent sales tax in the amount of \$100 million. The current voter-approved program includes \$10 million dedicated for aquifer water quality projects within urbanized areas of Bexar County over the Recharge and Contributing Zones of the Edwards Aquifer. These projects have come to be known as “demonstration projects” which the City is pioneering in coordination with San Antonio River Authority, Edwards Aquifer Authority and San Antonio Water System.



Dripstone Ranch - Frio River, Uvalde County

OVERSIGHT

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD (CAB)

The Edwards Aquifer Protection Program is overseen by the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB is comprised of nine members appointed by the San Antonio City Council for two-year terms. With data provided by the Scientific Evaluation Team, the board provides input and advice to staff and City Council regarding the acquisition of sensitive land over the Edwards Aquifer. The board also provides stewardship and monitoring of conservation easements acquired for the program.

CAB BOARD MEMBERS (OCTOBER 1, 2018 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2019)

- Dr. Francine Romero, Board Chair, COSA Parks & Recreation Advisory Board
- Homer Garcia III, COSA Parks & Recreation Department
- Brock Curry, Edwards Aquifer Authority
- Dr. Russell Persyn, Medina County
- Rogelio Garcia, San Antonio Economic Development Foundation
- Vacant, San Antonio River Authority
- Scott Halty, San Antonio Water System
- Jessica Alderson, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Vacant, Uvalde County

Annual Evaluation

Following acquisition, the environmental characteristics of each protected property is monitored annually by a team of COSA and Edwards Aquifer Authority staff to ensure compliance with aquifer protection program guidelines and restrictions.

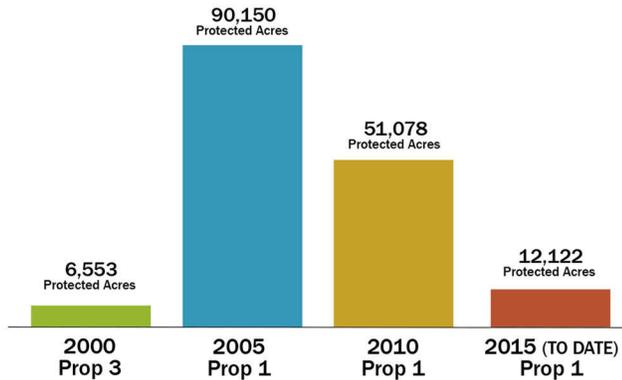
SCIENTIFIC EVALUATION TEAM

Careful consideration is given to the selection of appropriate properties for acquisition as part of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. A Scientific Evaluation Team comprised of aquifer experts and scientists, provides technical support for the program's GIS spatial model which is used to identify and rank properties in the aquifer target area.

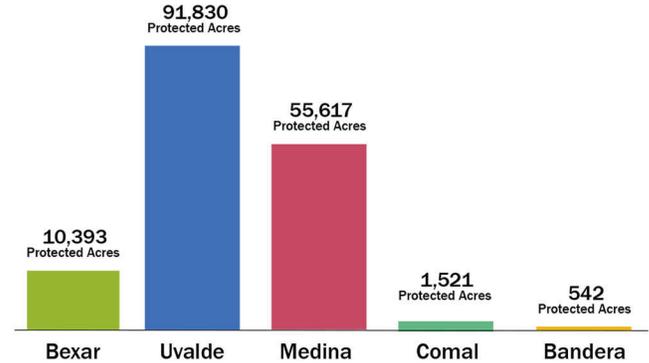


OVERALL PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2000-2019)

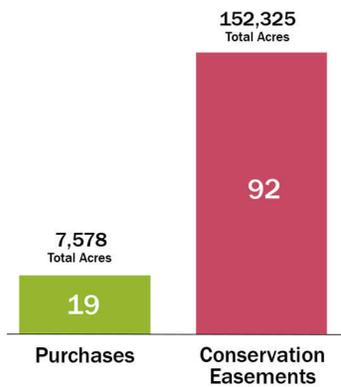
159,903 TOTAL PROTECTED ACRES



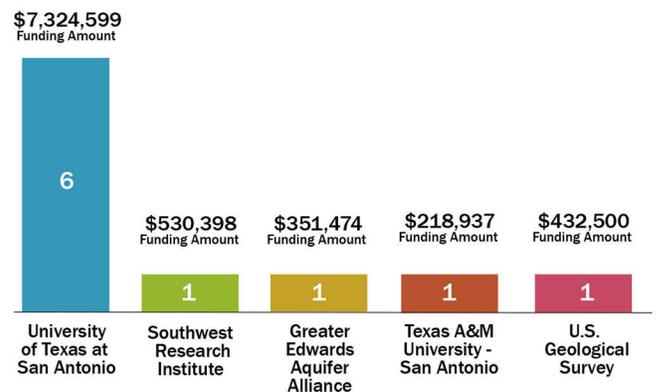
TOTAL PROTECTED ACRES BY COUNTY



111 TOTAL PROPERTY ACQUISITIONS



10 DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FUNDED



FY 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (OCTOBER 1, 2018 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2019)

LAND PROTECTION

5,000 acres protected totaling \$20.5M in 2015 Prop 1 funds

- 6 conservation easements approved by City Council totaling 4,768 acres
- 2 purchases approved by City Council totaling 232 acres
- Acreage Protected by County:
 - Bexar: 4 Properties totalling 396 acres
 - Medina: 3 Properties totalling 3,537 acres
 - Uvalde: 1 Property totalling 1,067 acres

DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Three (3) water quality demonstration projects approved by City Council totaling \$2.05M



- University of Texas at San Antonio: Demonstrating the Environmental Benefits of Permeable Paved Surfaces over the Edwards Aquifer
 - Research/Construction project at Classen-Steubing Ranch Park
 - Funding Agreement Amount: \$1,035,761
- University of Texas at San Antonio: Evaluation of the Vegetation along Roadways in Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing Zones for Storm Water Management and Water Quality Improvement
 - Research project along TCI-maintained roadways
 - Funding Agreement Amount: \$798,636
- Texas A&M University – San Antonio: Edwards Aquifer Water Quality Protection from Catastrophic and Low to Mid-Level Effects of Discharge of Hazardous and Polluting Materials from Contaminated Water Runoff during Emergency Response
 - First Responder Training/Database development
 - Funding Agreement Amount: \$218,937



PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

Logistics Management Institute completed a program study and analysis for the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) in a follow up to a 2014 assessment.

Overall Themes:

- Currently, 239,000 acres have been protected over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge and Contributing Zones (including EAPP efforts and other protected properties such as military installations, State natural areas and parks, and other conservation land).
- Based on the average annual recharge rate per acre, a total of 295,000 acres will need to be protected for conservation in order to meet San Antonio's anticipated annual water demand of 105 billion gallons by 2070.
 - This will require protection of an additional 56,000 acres.
- Conserving land over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone will directly protect the City's water quality and greatly reduce potential threats to aquifer water quality and quantity.

With guidance from a Scientific Evaluation Team of professionals in the geology and biology fields, the EAPP's GIS Spatial Model has been revised to rank properties under consideration for protection through evaluation of parcel size, adjacency to other protected lands and key watersheds.



Eisenhower Park, Bexar County



PROPOSITION 2

PARKS DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION (LINEAR CREEKWAY) VENUE

Leon Creek Greenway Trail



HOWARD W. PEAK GREENWAY TRAIL SYSTEM

(AS OF FISCAL YEAR 2019)





Fox Park Trailhead

MISSION & GOALS

The mission of the Parks Development & Expansion Venue Project (Proposition 2) is to enhance the quality of life for San Antonio residents and visitors by increasing park system connectivity and outdoor recreation, pedestrian and bicycle mobility, open space, and habitat conservation.

GREENWAY TRAILS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS



PLANNING > LAND ACQUISITION > DESIGN > CONSTRUCTION > MANAGEMENT

OVERSIGHT

LINEAR CREEKWAY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD (LCPAB)

The board serves in advisory capacity to staff and City Council regarding the development of linear parks along major San Antonio creeks and rivers and their tributaries. The board is composed of eleven seats appointed by the San Antonio City Council for two-year terms. The board reviews trail planning and project status for the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System.

LCPAB BOARD MEMBERS

(October 1, 2018 - September 30, 2019)

- Cosima T. Colvin, District 1
- City Clerk Accepting Applications, District 2
- Forrest H. Cobb, District 3
- Dr. Randall S. Preissig, District 4
- City Clerk Accepting Applications, District 5
- Myrl R. Britten, District 6
- Greg K. Hammer, Board Chair, District 7
- City Clerk Accepting Applications, District 8
- John F. Kent, District 9
- Sherri Dugas, District 10
- Elaine Kearney, Mayoral
(Appointed by City Council on December 5, 2019)



Dafoste Park Trailhead

OVERALL PROGRAM ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2000 – 2019)

- COMPLETED - 70 MILES
- CREEKWAY LAND ACQUIRED/PRESERVED - 1,500 ACRES
- UNDER DESIGN OR CONSTRUCTION – 33 MILES

LEON CREEK GREENWAY

- 22 miles of paved trails
- 17 trailheads with parking
- 17 miles from the Rim Trailhead (north of Loop 1604) to the Military Drive Trailhead (south of Loop 410)
- Connections to regional centers and parks (UTSA, VIA's Ingram Transit Center, and Pearsall Park)

MEDINA RIVER GREENWAY

- 10 miles of paved trails
- 5 trailheads with parking
- 7 miles from the Medina River Natural Area to Land Heritage Institute and 3 miles from the Mission Del Lago Golf Course to Mattox Park

SALADO CREEK GREENWAY

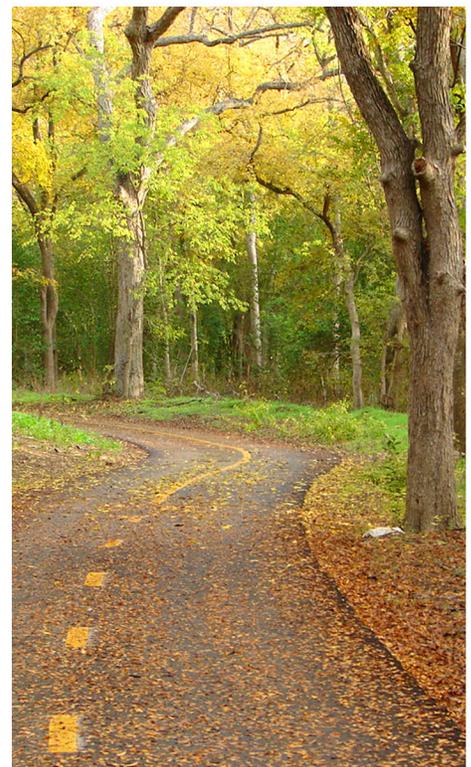
- 26 miles of paved trails
- 14 trailheads with parking
- 18 miles from Loop 1604 to John James Park in north San Antonio
- 8 miles from Jack White Park Trailhead at I-35 to Southside Lions Park Trailhead in southeast San Antonio
- Connections to over 14 City and County Parks

WESTSIDE CREEKS AND OTHER TRIBUTARIES

- 12 miles of paved trails
- 10 trailheads with parking
- Trails travel along various creeks and other tributaries including:
 - Apache Creek, Alazan Creek, Martinez Creek, San Pedro Creek, Huebner Creek, Olmos Basin and Stinson Airport

FY 2019 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (OCTOBER 1, 2018 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2019)

- **Leon Creek Greenway Trail** – 2 miles from I-10 to The Rim completed in July 2019 including 2 new trailheads.
- **Salado Creek Greenway Trail** – 1.8 miles from Huebner Road to Loop 1604 completed in July 2019 including a new trailhead and 60 additional parking spaces.
- **Dafoste Park Trailhead/Connection Project** – Connects adjacent neighborhoods with the Salado Creek Greenway and walkable access to the AT&T Center and MLK Park as well as fitness stations, a butterfly garden, multi-purpose sport court, and emergency call box.
- **Leon Creek Greenway Trailhead at Prue Road** – Provides 29 parking spaces, extensive tree plantings, and sidewalk connections to provide walkable access for adjacent neighborhoods.
- **J-Street Trailhead and Park Improvements** – New trailhead at the J-Street connection to the Salado Creek Greenway, along with fitness stations, bike repair station and improvements to J-Street Park including basketball court, picnic area, walkways, and the parking lot.
- **Lackland Corridor Monument Site** – Includes a 75-foot tall “Tribute to Freedom” sculpture managed by Public Art San Antonio, along with Low-Impact Development flood control features and a new parking lot.



Salado Creek South Greenway Trail



LOW-IMPACT DEVELOPMENT

Trailheads and trails feature landscape elements such as pervious parking bays, bioswales, and vegetated buffers that capture and filter stormwater. These sustainable design features are resourceful and help protect water quality. The department continues to seek out opportunities to provide low-impact design amenities along our greenway trails.



Leon Vista Trailhead Pervious Parking & Bioswale



Leon Creek Greenway Trail

DID YOU KNOW?

- The first trail on the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail system was opened to the public on November 22, 2008.
- If all the miles of completed trail on the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System are placed end to end – you could walk/run/bike from Downtown San Antonio to Downtown Fredericksburg, Texas!
- The most heavily used trail segment of the system is Leon Creek North from the Valero Trailhead south to O.P. Schnabel Park.
- Parks and Recreation completed a wildflower seeding initiative to create pollinator-friendly patches of wildflowers at various locations along the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System.
- A group or local organization can adopt a segment of trail as part of Parks and Recreation's Adopt-a-Park Program. This is a great opportunity to be stewards of our shared green space along our creekways and trails.

PARTNERS



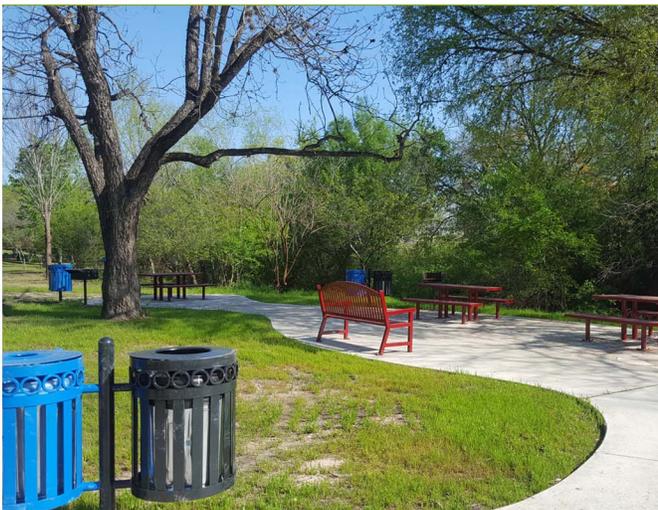
PROPOSITION 1



Horton Ranch, Uvalde County



PROPOSITION 2



J Street Park Trailhead Renovations





PROPOSITION 1

EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION PROGRAM VENUE PROJECT



Dehnisch Ranch, Uvalde County



Livergood Ranch, Uvalde County



Seco Sinkhole, Medina County



PROPOSITION 2

PARKS DEVELOPMENT & EXPANSION (LINEAR CREEKWAY) VENUE PROJECT

Olmos Basin Greenway Trail



Leon Creek Greenway Trail

Salado Creek Greenway Trail





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