



EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION PROGRAM

NEWS AND UPDATES

The City of San Antonio Proposition 1 Edwards Aquifer Protection Program has allocated \$140 million to purchase land and conservation easements on more than 100,000 acres over the recharge and contributing zones of the Edwards Aquifer since 2000. With an ever increasing population in our region, water scarcity and contamination are the biggest threats to our water supply. Conservation of sensitive land is one of the best ways to protect the aquifer and preserve our drinking water for future generations to come. In 2010, voters unanimously approved the renewal of Proposition 1, which allocates 1/8-cent of a sales tax



Cave on a 461 acre tract of land located adjacent to Govt. Canyon State Natural Area. Approved in Jan. 2013 for protection under Proposition 1.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD

Dr. Francine Romero, CAB Chair
 Parks & Recreation Advisory Board

Xavier Urrutia, Director
 City of San Antonio Parks & Recreation

John R. Hoyt
 Edwards Aquifer Authority

Jim Blair
 San Antonio River Authority

Chris Holm
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 San Antonio Economic Development
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For more information on the program or to receive quarterly newsletters via email, please visit our new website at:

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





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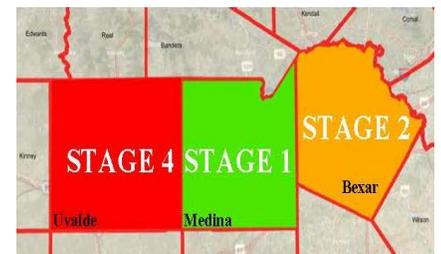
Land Acquisition Team 4



TEXAS DROUGHT CONDITIONS PERSIST

ONGOING DRY CONDITIONS MAY RIVAL 1950s DROUGHT

According to Texas state climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon, dry conditions of the past two years have begun to resemble the drought of record from the 1950s. This trend will only worsen if rainfall remains below normal. Over the past two years, Texas received only 68 percent of its typical rainfall, which makes it the third-driest period on record. The most recent federal data shows 90 percent of Texas experiencing abnormally dry conditions, with 22 percent in extreme or exceptional drought conditions. Due to these extreme numbers, lawmakers are exploring new ways to address the problem. The Texas Water Development Board has identified \$53 billion in needed infrastructure to avoid severe shortages over the next half-century. San Antonio is currently in Stage 2 water restrictions, which are triggered when the aquifer level drops to 650 feet mean sea level. For more information about current water restrictions in the San Antonio area, visit the San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS) website at <http://www.saws.org>.



GLOBAL WATER CONSERVATION INITIATIVES

WATERSHED PAYMENT PROGRAMS IN 2012

A January report titled "Charting New Waters: State of Watershed Payments 2012," published by Forest Trends' Ecosystem Marketplace, provides an in-depth analysis and review of global watershed payment programs from 2008 to 2012. According to the report, watershed investment programs designed to protect natural resource infrastructure totaled \$8.17 billion in 2011. The report covers over 200 programs globally in more than 30 countries, and highlights 205 active programs around the world with another 76 programs in development. More than half the programs listed are in China (61) and the United States (67). All but one of the watershed payment initiatives in North America are based in the United States, where 28 states have active watershed protection programs. The City of San Antonio's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program is listed as the only active watershed protection program in the state of Texas. Other source water protection programs that relied on a voter-supported tax increase were employed by communities in Georgia and Minnesota. The report is available for download at the Forest Trends website at <http://www.forest-trends.org/>.



WILDFLOWER FORECAST

APRIL SHOWERS NEEDED FOR SUMMER BLOOMS

With nearly one-third of the state experiencing extreme drought, we can expect scattered and errant wildflower blooms in Texas this spring. Lack of significant rainfall from fall through spring dramatically impacts germination and plant growth. If April showers are poor, mid-to-late summer blooms are also likely to be patchy. Some regions, such as North Texas and the Gulf Coast, have been lucky, experiencing more rainfall and, as a result, more wildflowers. For those who cannot venture to these areas, places like the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center have a myriad of spring flowers including pink evening primrose, prairie verbena, and damianita, among others. By mid-April, some of the 100-plus flowering native plants that will bloom on-site include Gregg's salvia, mealy blue sage, Texas betony, and square-bud primrose.

Did you know

- In 1940, about 200,000 people in the Edwards Aquifer Region depended on water from the aquifer. In 2000, the aquifer supplied water to 1.7 million people and by 2030, the population could reach up to 2.6 million people.
- In 1993, the Texas Legislature passed the Edwards Aquifer Authority Act, which created a special regional management district to preserve and protect the aquifer as a distinctive natural resource.
- On average, 10 gallons per day of your water footprint is lost to leaks. One of the easiest, most effective way to cut your footprint is by repairing leaky faucets and toilets.



WATER SAVING IDEAS

QUICK AND EASY TIPS

San Antonio Water System (SAWS) offers several indoor and outdoor conservation programs, such as WaterSaver Home Checkup, Kick the Can, and WaterSaver Landscape rebates and education programs. The Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) also provides water saving tips and techniques. Not only do these programs conserve our precious water supply, they can save you money. For more information on these programs and rebates, visit SAWS at <http://www.saws.org> or the EAA at <http://www.edwardsaquifer.org>.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING SPRING & SUMMER CONFERENCES

Upcoming spring and summer conferences are around the corner! Don't miss out on these informative seminars regarding water and land-related issues:

- Texas Water 2013 Conference – Galveston, TX – April 9-12, 2013
- 2013 National Groundwater Association Conference on Groundwater – San Antonio – April 28-May 2, 2013
- Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts: 2013 Texas Groundwater Summit – Austin, TX – August 27-29, 2013
- Land Trust Alliance Rally 2013 – New Orleans, LA – Sept. 17-19, 2013



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO STAFF

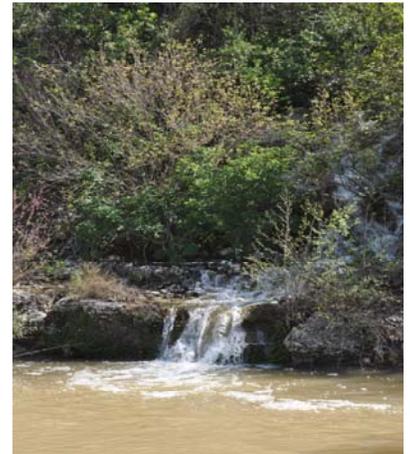
UPDATES

In 2011-2012, two new staff members joined the City's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. Grant Ellis, Special Projects Manager, joined the team in 2011 with extensive experience in land conservation. Prior to joining the City, Mr. Ellis served as the Executive Director for the Valley Land Fund, a regional land conservation organization in the Rio Grande Valley. Before that, he was the Land Conservation Manager for San Antonio-based Green Spaces Alliance, where he worked exclusively on the City's aquifer protection initiative. Additionally, the program added a new Management Analyst, Susan Courage, who brings years of experience in natural resources conservation and land management. She will oversee the annual monitoring of the program's conservation easements. Both Grant and Susan are excited to be a part of the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program and will continue to enhance and expand the program.

CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

The Edwards Aquifer Protection Program has an oversight committee known as the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB). The CAB is comprised of nine members appointed by the San Antonio City Council for two-year terms. City Ordinance provides for nominees from the following subdivisions, agencies or organizations: Texas Parks and Wildlife, Edwards Aquifer Authority, San Antonio River Authority, San Antonio Water System, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, The Economic Development Foundation, Medina County, Uvalde County, and the Director of the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. The Board was originally created on April 6, 2000, to provide input and advice to City Council on the development of the approved sales tax, Proposition No. 3 entitled "Park Development and Expansion Venue Project." The Board continued in this capacity when, on May 7, 2005, voters approved Proposition No. 1, the "Edwards Aquifer Protection Venue Project," which continued the City's program of protecting the Edwards



LAND ACQUISITION TEAM

WHO THEY ARE

The Land Acquisition Team (LAT) is composed of The Nature Conservancy and Green Space Alliance of South Texas who assist the City in potential land acquisition opportunities. The LAT members primarily assist in identifying potential land and engaging with landowners who have an interest in joining the program. Members of the LAT are:

The Nature Conservancy

Jeff Francell, Director of Land Protection
David Bezanson, Land Protection & Easements Manager
Rebecca Flack, Southern Hill Country Project Director

Green Space Alliance of South Texas

Susan Hughes, Executive Director