

A City-wide special election will be held on May 9, 2015, including propositions for the City's aquifer protection and linear parks programs.

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EDWARDS AQUIFER PROTECTION PROGRAM

NEWS AND UPDATES - MAY 9th SPECIAL ELECTION

On Saturday, May 9th, there will be a City-wide special election in which San Antonio voters will decide on the mayoral and all City Council positions. In addition to that, San Antonians will have the opportunity to vote on two additional initiatives: Renewal of Proposition 1, the City's Edwards Aquifer Protection Program; and Proposition 2, the City's Linear Creekway Parks program. Both programs are currently funded through a voter-supported 1/8-cent sales tax that San Antonio citizens have renewed twice since 2000.

The objective of Proposition 1 is to protect the quality and quantity of water recharging into the Edwards Aquifer, the City's primary source of drinking water, through protection of the land over the sensitive Recharge and Contributing zones of the aquifer. It would be funded at \$100 million: \$90 million to continue the existing land conservation program, and \$10 million for watershed and recharge protection projects in the urbanized areas of Bexar County.

The purpose of Proposition 2, the City's linear parks program, is to purchase land and construct multi-use trails to expand the Howard W. Peak Greenway trail system. Proposition 2 would be funded at \$80 million.

For more information, visit: <http://www.sanantonio.gov/aquiferparks>.

CONTACT

City of San Antonio
Edwards Aquifer Protection Program
Municipal Plaza Building
114 W. Commerce St, 2nd Floor
San Antonio, TX 78205

Grant Ellis, Special Projects Manager
Phone: (210) 207-2815
Email: Grant.Ellis@sanantonio.gov

Susan Courage, Management Analyst
Phone: (210) 207-2162
Email: Susan.Courage@sanantonio.gov

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/>





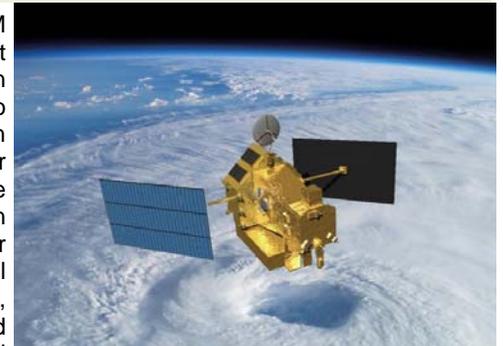
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WEATHER FORECASTING NEWS

TRMM RAIN SATELLITE RETIRES AFTER 17 YEARS

Tropical Rainfall Measuring Mission or TRMM was launched on November 27, 1997 as a joint project managed by NASA and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) to study precipitation and climate processes in the tropics. Originally planned as a three year mission, TRMM has been providing invaluable information for seventeen years on precipitation and its role in broad weather patterns and climate, specifically tropical cyclones and storms. According to NASA, TRMM has allowed researchers to understand rain phenomena's such as the effects of El Nino on global rain patterns; seasonal variation in rain events such as monsoon's; how rain varies daily, seasonally, and annually; and the effects of urban development such as pollution and deforestation on precipitation. As of April, NASA has switched off research instruments on the TRMM to prepare the satellite for a re-entry as early as this summer. NASA and JAXA have recently launched a follow-on observatory named the Global Precipitation Measurement (GPM) mission, which extends coverage beyond the TRMM to include the Arctic Circle to the Antarctic Circle. This will allow coverage of hurricanes, which travel north or south into the mid-latitudes, according to NASA. The joint NASA-JAXA mission will also study rain and snow around the world and will be a collaborative effort with an international network of partner satellites to provide global precipitation datasets on half hourly and longer times sets, according to NASA. For more information on the GPM, please visit http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/GPM/main/index.html.



Source: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

SPRING ACTIVITIES

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Enjoy these fun-filled activities for the whole family:

- **Bexar County Bird Day** — International Migratory Bird Day Festivities on May 9th from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Mitchell Lake Audubon Center
- **America's Armed Forces River Parade** — Dedicated to the men and women of the Armed forces; past, present and future. May 16th from 5-7pm on the Riverwalk
- **San Antonio Summer Art & Jazz Festival** — Three days of local and nationally recognized jazz artists with an arts and crafts fair. June 5-7 at Crockett Park in San Antonio
- **Texas Folklife Festival** — A weekend cultural extravaganza from June 13-14 at the Institute of Texan Cultures in downtown San Antonio



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

Mitchell Lake Audubon Center:
<http://mitchelllake.audubon.org/>
Armed Forces River Parade:
<http://www.thesanantonioriverwalk.com/events>
San Antonio Summer Art & Jazz Festival: <http://sanantoniosummerartjazzfestival.com>
Institute of Texas Cultures:
<http://www.texancultures.org>



Source: Mitchell Lake Audubon Center



Source: Texas Legislature Online

TEXAS NEWS

TEXAS LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE

Every two years, the Texas State Legislature convenes to discuss and debate new bills and programs that have both local and statewide impact. This year, dozens of water-related bills have been filed in both the state House and Senate. Many bills introduced this year involve the State Water Plan and vary widely in scope and purpose.

Several bills filed so far address the topic of expanding the role of technology as it relates to water conservation and water planning. Others address regional control over ground and surface water rights. With the drought still technically in effect, despite recent rains, both brackish and salt water desalination are important topics currently being explored by the legislature. One useful tool to help you keep track of all the water-related bills filed this session can be found on the Texas Tribune's website: <http://www.texastribune.org/sessions/84R/bills/>.

Additionally, for more information, and to look up a specific bill or to register for legislative alerts, visit the Texas Legislature Online website at <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/>.

LOCAL WATER EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

SAWS RAIN TO DRAIN EXPERIENCE

Ever wonder how we get our water and where it ultimately goes? For those interested in learning about the source of our drinking water and where it ends up, the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) offers a day-long field trip for interested adults. The field trip is free to Bexar County residents 18 years and older. The field trip explores an Edwards Aquifer recharge cave, a SAWS water production facility, and a water recycling plant. Lunch is provided as part of the field trip and SAWS will provide charter transportation to all locations. The field trip is scheduled from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on select days. For more information on the Rain to Drain Experience and to find the 2015 schedule, please visit: <http://www.saws.org/Education/Raintodrain.cfm>.



Source: San Antonio Water Systems (SAWS)

Useful Links

City of San Antonio
www.sanantonio.gov

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

TCEQ Water Homepage
http://www.tceq.texas.gov/agency/water_main.html

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING 2015 SPRING/SUMMER EVENTS

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

- San Antonio City-wide Special Election - May 9
- Texas Riparian & Stream Ecosystem Workshop - Cypress Creek Watershed - Wimberley, TX - May 19
- Texas Water Conservation Association Mid-Year Conference - Galveston, TX - June 17-19
- Texas Water Reuse Conference - Lubbock, TX - July 17
- Ford Canoe Challenge - San Antonio River, San Antonio - August 1
- TCEQ 2015 Annual Public Drinking Water Conference - Austin - August 11-12
- Texas Hydro-Geo Workshop - Cave Without a Name, Boerne, TX - Sept. 25-27



CONSERVATION ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH JIM BLAIR

Mr. Jim Blair served as the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) representative on the Conservation Advisory Board (CAB) since 2000. In April, he stepped down after 15 years of voluntary service to the City of San Antonio. He will be succeeded by Mr. John Chisholm from the River Authority. We are grateful for his dedicated years of service and his invaluable insight and wisdom. Thank you, Jim!

Question: How long have you been a CAB member and what has been your role?

Answer: I've been on the CAB for 15 years as a SARA representative, particularly representing their interests in watershed preservation and surface water protection.

Question: What have you enjoyed the most about being a CAB member?

Answer: I've enjoyed the teamwork and open dialogue with the various stakeholders for the common goal of aquifer and watershed protection.

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

Answer: The program has evolved in many ways, including an improvement in the procedures and protocols of the CAB. There has also been a "lessons learned" process, which has been beneficial to the CAB. The program has also gained popularity not only from interested landowners, but the general public.

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

Answer: It has made a substantial difference! Both the quality and quantity of water that goes into the aquifer has directly benefited from the program. There has also been more public awareness on water protection as a result of the program.

Question: You're stepping down as the SARA representative at the end of April – What will you remember most about your time on the CAB?

Answer: The overall ingenuity of the program—the ability to protect and provide clean water to the citizens of San Antonio through a simple process of preserving the natural land into perpetuity.

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

Answer: I'm honored to have been a member of the CAB and the contribution and legacy it has made towards water preservation.



Jim Blair, CAB Member, San Antonio River Authority (SARA)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Sprinklers that spray water parallel to the ground instead of up in the air are more efficient—less water will be lost to evaporation.
- Three-fourths of an inch of water per week is all that is needed for St. Augustine or Zoysia grasses that are in full sun.
- To avoid excessive evaporation, use sprinkler systems that produce large drops of water versus a fine mist.

Source: San Antonio Water System

SPRING GARDENING TIPS

THE BENEFITS OF LOW WATER LANDSCAPES

Did you know that almost 30% of the water used in San Antonio households goes to landscapes! Drought tolerant gardens are beneficial in many ways. Not only do they conserve water, but they are low maintenance, ecologically friendly, cost efficient, beautiful, and foster native species. Planning a low water garden can be intimidating, but it is worth the effort because these gardens are often self-sustaining. When planning a drought tolerant garden, make sure to have a practical design, analyze the soil and ways to improve it, construct efficient irrigation, use mulches and hardscapes, select the proper plants, and plan for the appropriate maintenance. The San Antonio Botanical Gardens offers several workshops through their "WaterSaver Garden and WaterSaver Lane" program on low water landscapes. You can learn about the different types of drought-tolerant landscaping as well as a variety of landscapes that minimize lawn and include more groundcover, perennial flowerbeds and herbs, native plants, and patio space. For more information of the San Antonio Botanical workshops, please visit: <http://www.sabot.org/the-garden/watersaver-garden-and-watersaver-lane/>.



Source: San Antonio Botanical Garden