

# SA PARKS SYSTEM PLAN

Community Health & Equity Committee  
March 28, 2019

Xavier D. Urrutia, Director  
Parks and Recreation



# GOALS



## GOAL 1: RESPONSIVE

San Antonio's park system responds flexibly to dramatic growth and change. **SA TOMORROW**, made up of comprehensive multimodal transportation and sustainability plans, focuses on the challenges and opportunities associated with adding one million people to the region by 2040. The park system, trail network, and recreation programming will adapt and serve the local needs and neighborhood culture.



## GOAL 2: RESTORATIVE

The park system is key to community health and wellbeing. Parks and trails provide calm, cool places to relax as well as exciting places to interact and work up a sweat. San Antonio celebrates in the community's parks and this fun is far from frivolous. Through events, classes and sport, community members learn about and from each other.



## GOAL 3: RESILIENT

The park system includes the most resilient infrastructure in the City, showcasing all aspects of sustainability. Facilities are adapting to a hotter climate, providing more variety indoors and more comfortable outdoor environments. From the river to acequias, splash pads, and drinking fountains, water is celebrated, accessible, and essential to life in San Antonio. The urban forest, inside park lands and beyond, is a critical part of the green infrastructure of the City.



## GOAL 4: RESOURCEFUL

The broad base of support for the park system reflects the positive impact on many users, partners, and related City services. San Antonio makes the most of the available resources by actively maintaining partnerships, efficient and effective management, and provision of services.



# GOAL 1 RESPONSIVE



## OBJECTIVE 1.1

Parks, trails, and programs align with the character of the neighborhood, place type, and local community

## OBJECTIVE 1.2

Creative approaches to providing parks, facilities, trails, and recreation programs that fill gaps in the network and in services

## OBJECTIVE 1.3

The trail network supports fun, exercise, and transportation for all

## OBJECTIVE 1.4

The City provides equitable access to park and recreation activities and a diversity of user experiences

## OBJECTIVE 1.5

Hours and services are set with user access in mind

## OBJECTIVE 1.6

Implementation of the Plan adapts to changes over time



# GOAL 2 RESTORATIVE



## OBJECTIVE 2.1

The park system is an equitable, essential part of City infrastructure that supports the physical, mental, and social health of individuals, families, and communities



## OBJECTIVE 2.2

Parks provide a nature-oriented, tree-centric oasis in a hot, urban environment



## OBJECTIVE 2.3

Park lands, trails, and programs connect children and users of all ages to outdoor experiences and nature



## OBJECTIVE 2.4

Residents have healthy habits, supported by access to healthy places, healthy food, farmers' markets, community gardens, and programming

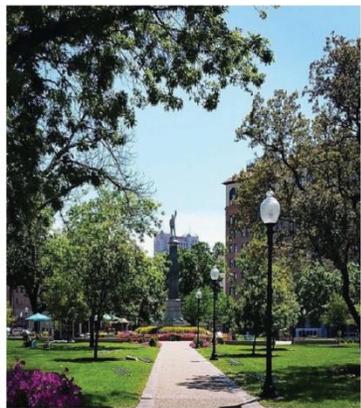


## OBJECTIVE 2.5

Mental health is bolstered by easy access to natural environments and supportive programs and services, including nature play and natural elements



# GOAL 3 RESILIENT



## OBJECTIVE 3.1

The benefits of the urban forest are maximized inside and outside of parks

## OBJECTIVE 3.2

Ecologically sensitive landscape design throughout the parks and recreation system supports biodiversity, pollinators, local fauna and flora, and decreases resource-intensive landscape maintenance practices

## OBJECTIVE 3.3

Programming increases knowledge and stewardship of natural and cultural resources for individuals and groups of all ages

## OBJECTIVE 3.4

Stormwater is slowed, reused, and allowed to recharge the aquifer as much as practical through low-impact, ecologically sensitive design

## OBJECTIVE 3.5

Water is provided as a resource for health, attraction, and play

## OBJECTIVE 3.6

Indoor and outdoor facility design, use, and programming is adapted to respond to rising temperatures

## OBJECTIVE 3.7

Policy and practices model a holistic view of sustainability



# GOAL 4 RESOURCEFUL



## OBJECTIVE 4.1

Every project is multi-dimensional, multi-layered, multi-purpose

## OBJECTIVE 4.2

Projects and services clearly match community priorities and there is an open line of communication between the community and City

## OBJECTIVE 4.3

Partner facilities, programs, and services expand San Antonio's park system resources

## OBJECTIVE 4.4

Parks and programs build ownership in the local community, shown through public support for funding measures and citizen volunteerism

## OBJECTIVE 4.5

Management, maintenance, operations and safety provide a high-quality, accessible, and affordable experience to every user

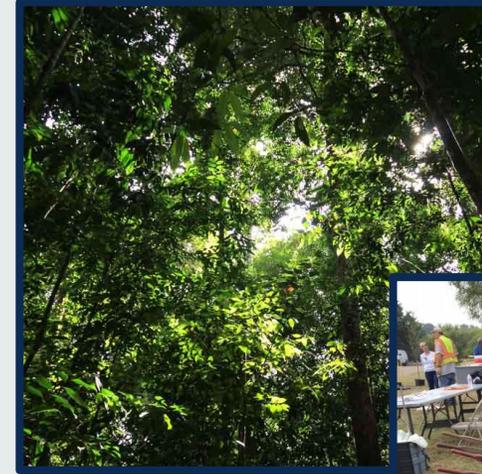
## OBJECTIVE 4.6

Investment in indoor facilities is maximized through multiple uses across the morning, day, and evening hours

# URBAN FORESTRY ASSESSMENT

## Recommendation and Strategy Categories:

- Code and Institutional Changes
- Additional Tree Planting Goals
- Management of the Program
- Education
- Green Corridors
- Promotion
- Partnerships
- Maintenance



# DRAFT PLAN PUBLIC COMMENT

December 2018 – February 2019

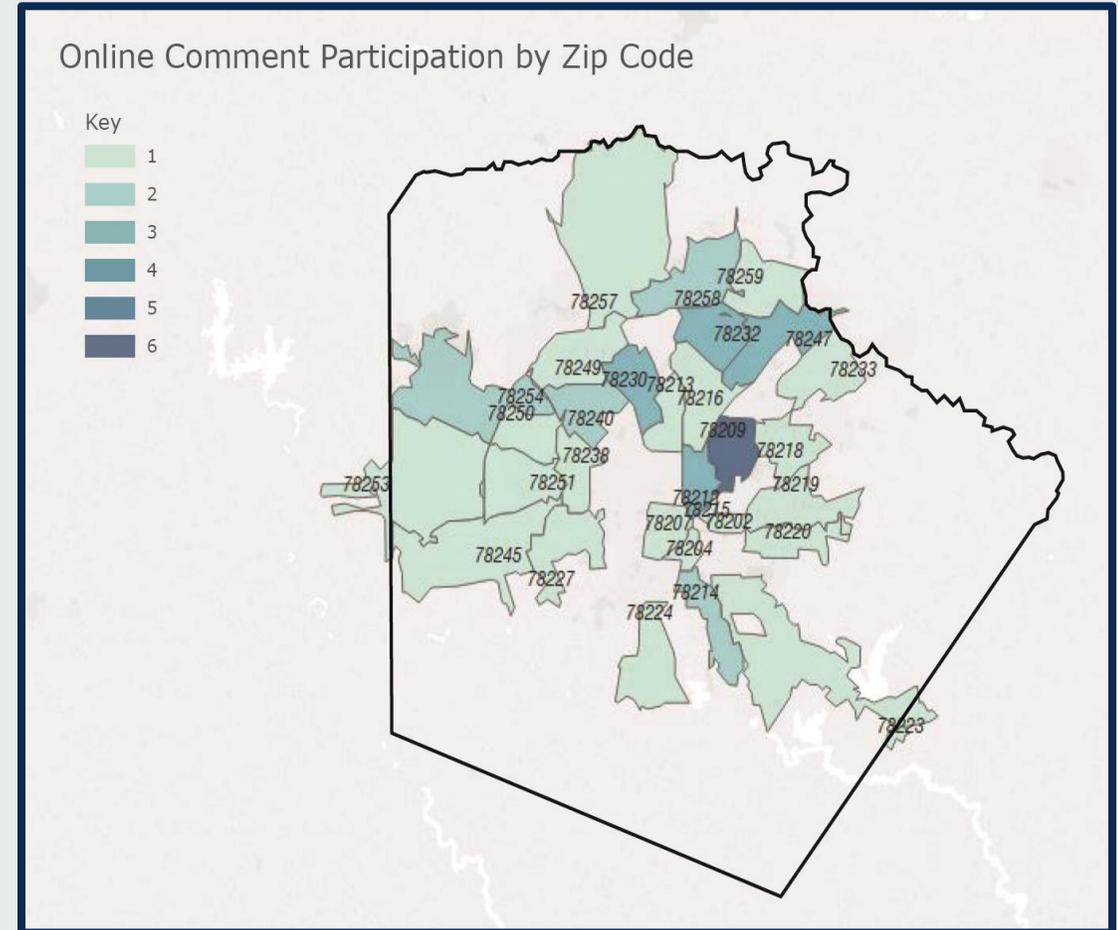
- **371** Online Responses

## Public Draft Review

- Bi-Lingual Executive Summary
- Link Advertised Via Bilingual Digital/Print Ads, Social Media, and Parks Website
- Public Meeting – January 24
- Telephone Town Hall – January 31 - Over **2,400** participants

## Public Support

- Overwhelming Support for Draft



# INPUT

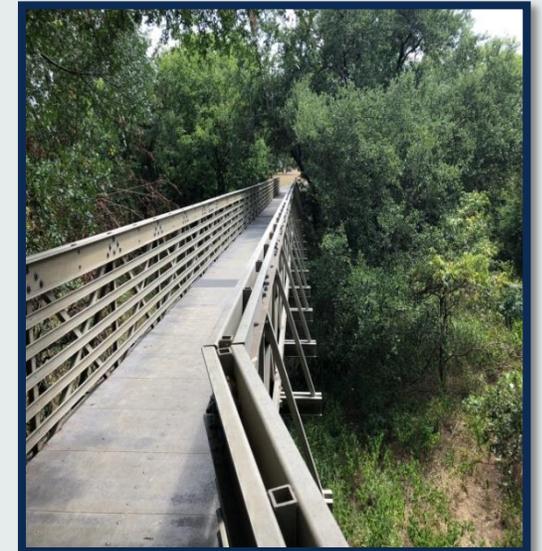
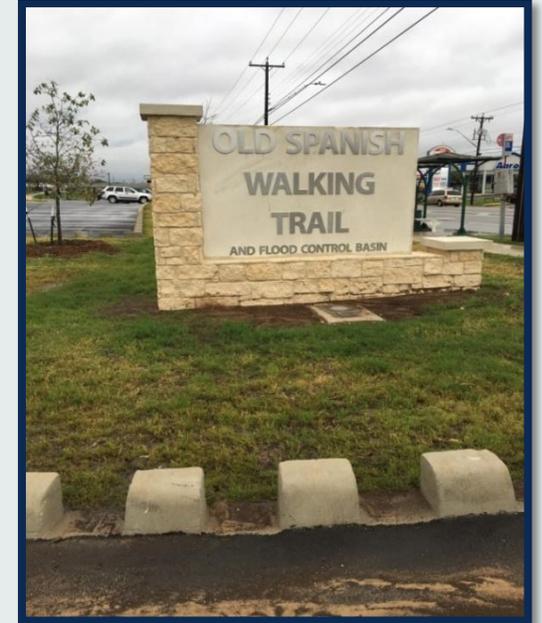
## Natural Resource & Wildlife Habitat Protection

### STRATEGIES:

- 1.2.d - Explore opportunities for park/natural areas/trails in public right of way, greenways, & tributaries **where compatible with resource protection**
- 1.2.e – Promote **resource-sensitive** use of aquifer protection land acquisitions & easements for nature based activities
- 3.2.c – Provide habitat **and protection** for pollinators, insects, and wildlife where appropriate

### PRIORITY PROJECT TABLE 5-1:

- Plant trees, enhance park landscapes, **and create stormwater management to enhance park function and user experience**
- Enhance **and protect** habitats and other natural resources in the park system



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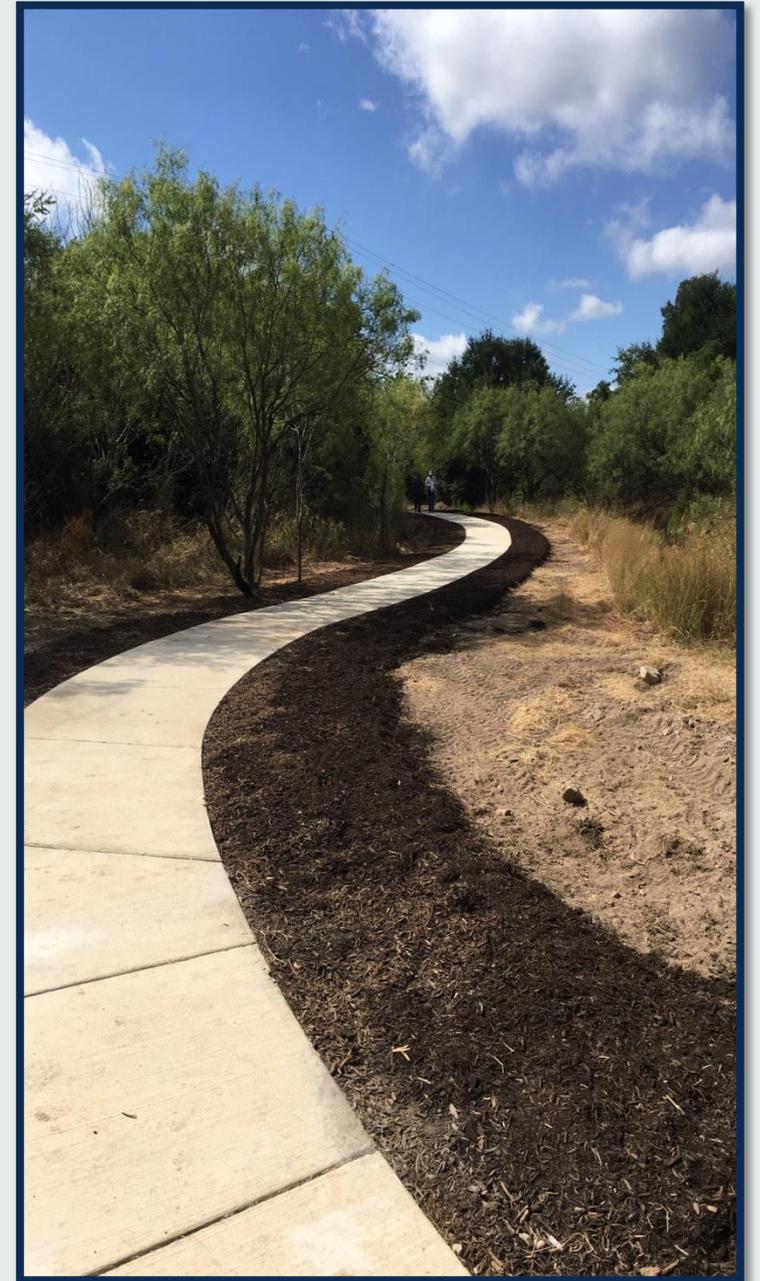
## Sustainability

### STRATEGIES:

- 1.3.c – Adopt trail width and design standards that consider increased future use, **environmental impact**, and safety for people of all ages and abilities on wheels, foot, and bike

### STRATEGIC IMPLEMENTATION DIRECTIONS:

- Add sentence at the end of Strategic Implementation Direction #5: ***The implementation of projects resulting from this plan will conform to the City's adopted guidelines and strategies such as the TCI Guidelines and the Trail Design Strategy (TDS)***



# NEXT STEPS

December 2018 – February 2019

## Public Engagement

Draft Plan Review  
Online Survey  
Community Meeting  
Tele Town Hall

February – March 2019

Formulation of  
Final Plan

## Final Plan Review

Parks & Recreation  
Board

March 2019

## Final Plan Presentation & Approval

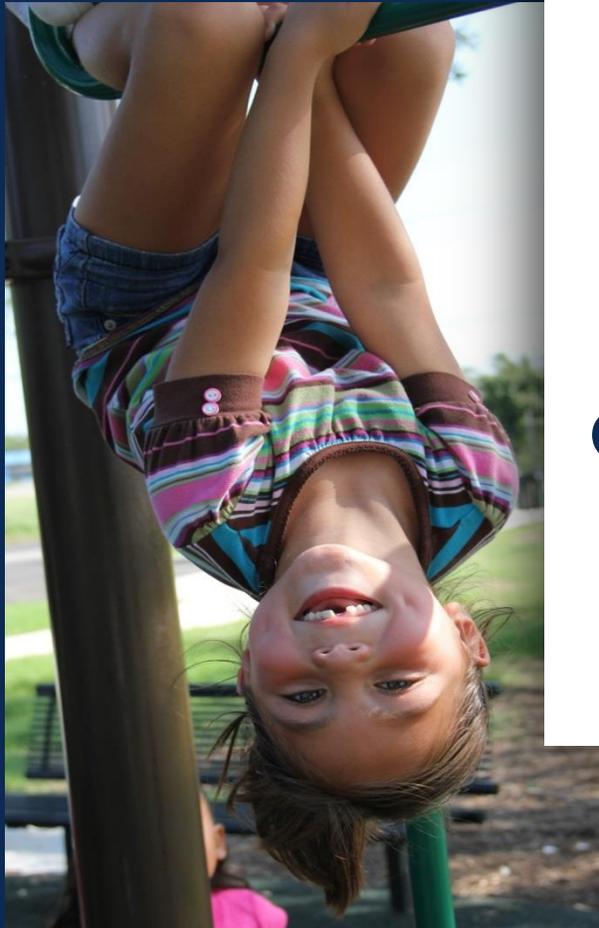
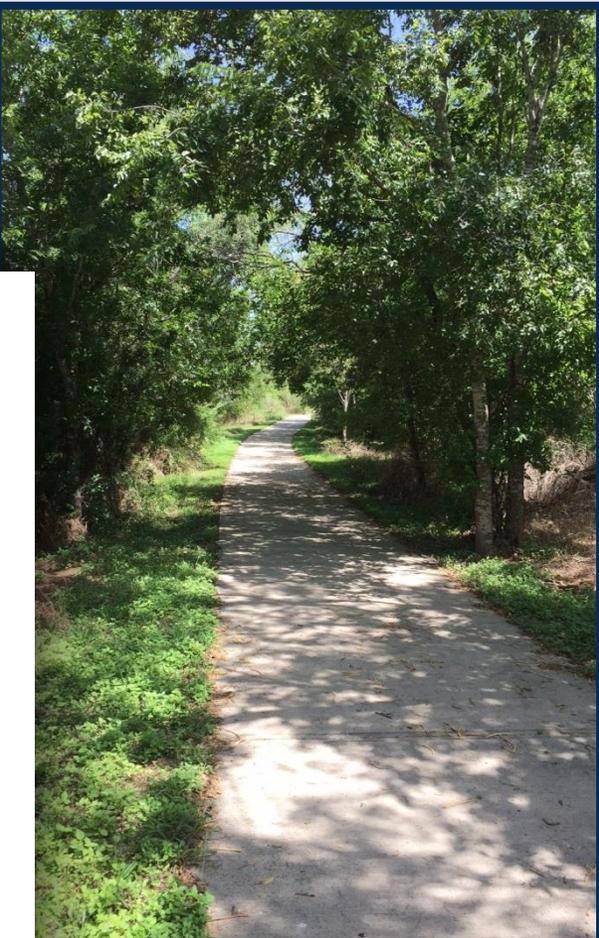
Planning Commission  
& Council Committee

March 2019

## Final Plan Presentation & Adoption

City Council

April 2019



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