



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO  
**WORLD HERITAGE OFFICE**



## **Fifth Annual World Heritage Open House (2020 Virtual Series)** **June 22-24, 2020** **Submitted Questions and Answers**

### **Wednesday, June 24 – Updates from World Heritage Partners**

**Participants:** Planning, Historic Preservation, National Park Service, San Antonio River Authority, Las Misiones

- **Please change the times of this so they don't conflict with the daily COVID-19 updates. I'd like to watch both, but will watch the Mayor if forced to choose.**  
Thank you for your interest in the World Heritage Open House. All three sessions are recorded and are available on the World Heritage Office Facebook and YouTube Channels, and website ([www.sanantonio.gov/worldheritage](http://www.sanantonio.gov/worldheritage)). We invite you to view them and share feedback or questions via email ([worldheritage@sanantonio.gov](mailto:worldheritage@sanantonio.gov)) or by contacting our office at 210-207-2111.
- **Will the SA Tomorrow group still meet with the Phase 2 area neighborhoods (i.e Mission San Jose Neighborhood)? We met last year, once, but never met again.**  
Yes. Mission San Jose is within the South Community Plan, which is a Phase 3 plan. Carlos Guerra (Planning Department) met with the SJNA during Phase 2, prior to "kicking-off" Phase 3. We technically began Phase 3 in March when we were contacting potential Planning Team Members to host our first meeting. Due to COVID-19, we had to push back our process. However, we will restart the process again this fall. If you are interested in serving as a representative from your neighborhood, please contact Carlos Guerra ([carlos.guerra2@sanantonio.gov](mailto:carlos.guerra2@sanantonio.gov)).
- **I see many bikers on mission bike trails without wearing mask.**  
Everyone is strongly encouraged to wear face coverings when in public when social distancing is not possible. CDC guidelines do not require that individuals wear a face covering when taking part in outdoor activities where there is no physical contact, and where social distancing is being practiced. It is recommended for individuals to wear a mask when they are done biking and are walking their bikes back to their cars.
- **What was the result of the funding bill in Congress that would go towards maintenance for our Missions and National Park Service?**  
The legislation is currently pending so the National Park Service is unable to comment on the legislation, specifically. However, it will target, hopefully, a significant deferred maintenance backlog the National Park Service has had for many years. The San Antonio

Missions has identified a maintenance backlog in excess of \$10 million. There are many things that a significant funding increase can go to. We have targeted maintenance needs in the buildings, acequia, and even the exhibits throughout the parks. If the legislation comes to be and the funding does come, we have many projects we can accomplish with this increase. We are excited that this perhaps will help to address this backlog and provide a better experience for visitors. The Great American Outdoors Act is the name of the bill and it has passed the Senate and is awaiting House approval.

- **Mission San Juan Neighborhood Association loves our Mission Reach! What can SARA and our neighborhood do to make sure it is cleaned immediately after a big rainstorm?**

That is one of the biggest challenges for the San Antonio River Authority. After the rain has ended and it is safe for staff to go out, SARA cleans the trails first so they are passable. Next, trash and debris are picked up by staff. Some rain events bring in more debris than others. The biggest thing we see along the river after rain events is trash. That trash comes in from the neighborhoods adjacent to the River because it comes in from the outfalls and into the river. We encourage you to keep trash in bins and do as much as you can to manage trash from your neighborhoods – even when it is not raining. All the trash that is accumulated is washed into the river when it does rain. It is a daunting task but SARA works hard to get cleaning done as fast as possible. And SARA brings in contractors to assist to get it done faster.

- **We have a bird habitat in our backyard! We have noticed a variety of birds that had not been around before. Is this affected by the Mission Reach?**

Yes, there are more birds that have returned to the restored habitat because it is friendlier to birds. We do have more migratory birds also during the migratory season. If you see birds, you can take a photo and send it to the San Antonio River Authority or share on the SARA social media to help identify the type of birds you see.

- **What about traffic? Parking spots are very limited and causes vehicles to park in the bike lanes. We need infrastructure to accommodate the parking situation at Confluence park area.**

San Antonio River Authority agrees that there is not enough parking at Confluence Park to meet the demand. It is a popular destination and people are using it as a trailhead as well. SARA is looking into options for parking, including opportunities with nearby businesses to utilize their parking areas jointly when businesses are not using their parking areas. We encourage people to find alternate nearby locations to park in case your first choice at Confluence Park is full. Also, visit the San Antonio River Authority website ([www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org)) for a full map of the San Antonio River to find other locations to park.

- **Comment**

Thanks to San Antonio River Authority for explaining why the trail portion along the Lone Star Brewery property is under construction.

- **What happens if any historical remains are found at the site?**

The sites the Archdiocese is dealing with at the Pilgrimage Center are renovations, so there has been digging or digging approved. The Acequia being discovered, there are many parties that play in this – the Texas Historical Commission and many other entities that are interested in history – will oversee any sort of digging. We have a protocol in place at the Archdiocese (who owns the property) if human remains are found. We will work with the indigenous descendants on that. We don't think we'll run into anything like that, though, because we're just renovating and not digging.