



SAN ANTONIO  
RIVER AUTHORITY  
Water Brings Us Together

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## News Release

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### **Grab Your Kayak: Saspmco Paddling Trail Opens February 3**

SAN ANTONIO – Area residents will have a new opportunity to explore the outdoors beginning this weekend. The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) will open the Saspmco Paddling Trail for day use on weekends beginning Saturday, February 3. The trail consists of three river access sites along a 12 mile stretch of river. Paddlers can expect a 2-8 hour trip depending on river flow, river segment paddled, and the paddler's pace.

The trail begins on the San Antonio River at Loop 1604, just east of IH-37 and ends at SARA's Helton San Antonio River Nature Park in northern Wilson County. The trail also features an alternate midway access site off of County Road 125 in Wilson County for paddlers that would prefer a shorter trip. Each river access on the paddling trail includes a parking area, portable restroom and picnic tables.

This is the second paddling trail operated by the SARA, and the first in Bexar and Wilson Counties. In San Antonio, much of the river has been channelized for flood control purposes but this section of the river offers paddlers a different experience than expected with its abundant trees and wildlife viewing opportunities. The river has been difficult to access for paddling in Wilson County, and the Saspmco Paddling Trail will provide easy access to the river while enabling paddlers to enjoy the river in its natural state.

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“At SARA, we believe that if folks are able to access and enjoy the river, they will develop an appreciation and respect for it,” says Gaylon Oehlke, Chairman of the Board of Directors for SARA. “I encourage outdoor enthusiasts to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to the natural beauty of the San Antonio River”.

The Saspamco Paddling Trail has been designated as an official Texas Paddling Trail by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Texas Paddling Trail Program supports public paddling trails with maps, signage and other information, including a website (<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/paddlingtrails>) that details the thirty-five state paddling trails recognized by the program.

“Our goal at Texas Parks and Wildlife is to help create outdoor recreation opportunities throughout the state, and this partnership with SARA gives us the opportunity to open up a great paddling option just minutes away from one of our major urban centers,” says Shelly Plante, Nature Tourism Manager for TPWD.

SARA would like paddlers to keep in mind that the river is surrounded by private property on either side of the river, and that this private property should be respected. Use of the river should be limited to the river itself. Paddlers should also practice good stewardship and pack out any trash that is generated during the trip.

For more information regarding the Saspamco paddling trail, including real time river flow and height readings and weather conditions, please visit [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org).

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