

SAN ANTONIO RIVER BASIN Plan For Nature Based Park Resources





Acknowledgements	1
Executive Summary	7
Vision and Goals	11
Regional Plan	15
Existing Conditions	17
Project Setting	19
Civic Features and Political Boundaries	20
Industrial Resources	25
Existing Parks and Natural Resources	29
Existing Trails	35
Natural Regions	39
Vegetative Types	45
Wildlife	48
Land Use / Land Cover	53
Water Resources	57
Cultural Resource Analysis.....	61
Opportunities and Resources	105
Systemwide Resources and Opportunities	107
Systemwide Constraints	107
Park Resources	108
Natural Resources	109
Historical Resources	110
Historic Routes and Existing Trails	110
Connection Opportunities	111
Abandoned rail lines	111
Existing roadways	112

Utility easements112

Water Trails and Gateway Opportunities112

Public Input Methods 121

Regional Park Planning Advisory Committee123

Stakeholder Interviews124

Intercept Survey124

Public Meetings126

Guiding Principles 129

Users131

Cultural Centers131

Historic Points of Interest132

Gateways/Access Areas132

Activity Areas132

Solitude Areas132

Railroad Corridor133

Connectors133

Water Trails133

Guiding Principles Matrix.....134

Concept 137

Cultural Centers139

Culture-Based Opportunities140

Nature-Based Opportunities.....140

Resource Opportunities 141

Gateway / Water Access141

Activity Nodes142

Medina River Activity Node143



Nature Park Activity Node	143
River, Rail, and Roads Activity Node	143
Falls and Crossing Activity Node	144
Cibolo Creek Activity Node	144
River Corridor Activity Node	145
Identified Interest in Water Trails / Traveled Water Trails	145
Abandoned Rail Lines	146
On-Road Bicycle Trails	146
Trails	147
Local Planning	153
Purpose & Process Planning	155
Inventory	159
Park Types	161
Developed & Undeveloped Parks (By County)	162
Level of Service	167
Existing Levels of Service	169
Proposed Levels of Service: Standards Development	170
Level of Service Comparison Table	172
Needs Assessment	173
Needs Assessment by County	177
Cost Analysis	181
Cost Estimates by County	184
Prioritization	193
Project Prioritization Matrix & How To Use It	195
Sample Project Prioritization Matrix	196
Conceptual Heritage Tourism Bike Trail	203

Implementation Strategies 205

- Purpose of One Regional Entity 207
- Regional Entity Models 208
- Regional Entity Recommendation 210
- Planning Horizons 212
- Example Regional Entity Funding Opportunities 219
- Public Funding for Park Development 220
- Private Funding for Park Development 223

Appendix A: Intercept Survey Results 225

Appendix B: Study Area Demographic Information 245

Appendix C: Funding Opportunities 259

- Public & Private Funding Flow Charts 261
- Funding Tables 264
- Funding Terms Glossary 288

Appendix D: Vegetative Inventory 294



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Citizens of:

Bexar County

Goliad County

Karnes County

Wilson County

Community Leaders:

Bexar County

Nelson W. Wolf
County Judge, Bexar County

Sergio “Chico” Rodriguez
County Commissioner, Bexar County Precinct 1

Tommy Adkisson
County Commissioner, Bexar County Precinct 4

Russell Ehsinger
Director, Southwest ISD Transportation

Allison Elder
Director, Bexar Land Trust

Joe Fulton
Director, City Public Service Environmental Services

Dr. Mard A. Herrick
Superintendent, Southside ISD

Thomas Hicks
Mayor, City of Elmendorf

Greg Mitchell
NPS, Biologist

Mary Ellen Morin
Superintendent, Somerset ISD

Willard Murrey
Superintendent, Medina Valley ISD

Gary Patterson
Superintendent, East Central ISD

Iliana Peña
Director, Mitchell Lake Audubon Center

Juan Solis
Former Manager, Bexar County Parks

Cindy Taylor
Southside Chamber of Commerce

Robert Tejeda
Former County Commissioner, Bexar County, Precinct 1

Steve Whitesell
Superintendent, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

Goliad County

Harold F. Gleinser
County Judge, Goliad County

Arturo Rojas
County Commissioner, Goliad County Precinct 1

Jerry Rodriguez
County Commissioner, Goliad County Precinct 2

Jim Kreneck
County Commissioner, Goliad County Precinct 3

Ted Long
County Commissioner, Goliad County Precinct 4

Al Brothers
Goliad Water Supply Corporation Board

Thomas Campbell
Superintendent, Goliad ISD

Wilford Korth
*Manager, Coleta Creek Park
Guadalupe - Blanco River Authority*

Brent Ortega
Wildlife Biologist

William Schaefer
Mayor, Goliad

Newton Warzecha
Director, La Bahia Fort

Karnes County
Alger Kendall
County Judge, Karnes County

Darrell Blaschke
*County Commissioner, Karnes County
Precinct 1*

Jeffrey Wiatrek
*County Commissioner, Karnes County
Precinct 2*

James Rosales
*County Commissioner, Karnes County
Precinct 3*

Isidro Rossett
*County Commissioner, Karnes County
Precinct 4*

Joe Baker
Editor, County Wide

Randy Garza
Mayor, City of Kenedy

Ernest Havner
Superintendent, Runge ISD

Homer Lott, Jr.
Mayor, City of Runge

Vi Malone
Mayor, City of Falls City

Glenna May
*President, Kenedy Parks &
Recreation Board*

Maggie Meeks Hunt
Karnes City Chamber of Commerce

Carolyn McDonald
Kenedy Chamber of Commerce

Doris Pope
Kenedy 4B Corporation Board Member

Ken Riley
Mayor-pro tempore, City of Kenedy

Jack Roberson
Runge Chamber of Commerce

Donald Tymrak
Former Mayor, City of Karnes City

Jonathan Schultz, II
Former Mayor, City of Karnes City

Sam Swierc
Superintendent, Falls City ISD

Robert Thonhoff
*Historian, Texas State Historical
Association*

Carolyn Whitfield
*Executive Director, Falls City
Housing Authority*

Judy Wiess
*President, Karnes City
Home & Garden Club*

Bernard Zarosky
Superintendent, Karnes ISD

Wilson County
Marvin Quinney
County Judge, Wilson County

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Albert Gamez, Jr.
*County Commissioner, Wilson County
Precinct 1*

Leonard Rotter
*County Commissioner, Wilson County
Precinct 2*

Bobby Lynn
*County Commissioner, Wilson County
Precinct 3*

Wayne Stroud
*County Commissioner, Wilson County
Precinct 4*

Brad Beck
Mayor, City of La Vernia

Debbie Bolf
Councilman, City of Floresville

Stefanie Cervantes
Volunteer

Chrystal Eckel
Mayor, City of Poth

Tom Harvey
Superintendent, La Vernia ISD

Carl Lambeck
City Manager, City of Stockdale

Gene Maeckel
Wilson County Historical Society

Tony Malik
Mayor, City of Stockdale

Lajuana Newnam
Floresville City Leader Historical Society

Raymond Ramirez
Mayor, City of Floresville

Diane Savage
Friends of Jackson Nature Park

Tracey Snow
LaVernia Parks Foundation

Craig Stockstill
Superintendent, Floresville ISD

Dr. Keith Sullivan
Superintendent, Stockdale ISD

Larry Wilson
Superintendent, Poth ISD

Regional Park Planning Advisory Committee :

Bexar County

Jose de Lara
Sue Matthey
Clifton McNeel
James B. Oliver

Goliad County

John Barnhart
Doris Freer
Leah Huth, RPPAC Chair
Charlotte Yochem, RPPAC Vice-Chair

Karnes County

Craig Brubaker
Bill Chapman
Mico Perales
Dorothy Wood
Terry Treviño

Wilson County

James Jay
Jesse Perez
Vickie Silvas
Kevin Stanush

SARA Board of Directors:

Bexar County

Sally Buchanan
Jim Johnson
Hector Morales
Roberto Rodriguez
Louis E. Rowe
Thomas G. Weaver

Goliad County

Terry E. Baiamonte
Adair Sutherland

Karnes County

Gaylon Oehlke
H.B. Ruckman, III

Wilson County

A.D. Kollodziej, Jr.
JC Turner

SARA Staff:

Gregory E. Rothe
General Manager

Steven P. Ramsey
Assistant General Manager

Susan Eason
Director, Human Resources

Sharon L. McCoy
Director, Finance and Administration

Randy Wauters
Director, Operations

Steve Graham
Director, Watershed Management

Steven Raabe
Director, Planning and Development

Suzanne Scott
*Director, Intergovernmental Relations and
Community Relations*

Dale Bransford
Manager, Park Services

Claude Harding
Manager, Real Estate

Michael Gonzales
Manager, Environmental Services

James Boenig
Manager, Engineering

James L. Blair
Manager, Flood Control Infrastructure

Steve Mergele
Manager, Utilities Operations

Karen Bishop
Community Relations

Consultant Team:**HNTB Corporation**

Tom Ellis
David Beyer
Cecilia Garcia
Crystal Gerrity
Marlin Sawyer
Rich Wilson

Bowman-Melton Associates

Annie Melton
Bud Melton

Marketing Support

Emilie C. Ailts

Roberts & Williams Associates

Julie Luther

**University of Texas – San Antonio
Center of Archaeological Research**

Dr. Steve Tomka
Bruce Moses
Jennifer Thompson
Jason Weston

Intercept Survey Team

Cecilia Garcia
Jose Pablo Hours
Sarah Sawyer
Sean Sawyer