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## News Release

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### **COMMUNITY CELEBRATES GRAND OPENING OF COMPLETED IMPROVEMENTS AT ELMENDORF LAKE PARK**

*Event to Include Remarks from Project Partners and Free Activities for the Public on Jan. 21*

**SAN ANTONIO** – The community is invited to attend the grand opening celebration of the completed improvements at Elmendorf Lake Park that will take place beginning at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, January 21 at 3700 W. Commerce St. The celebration will include remarks from project partners City of San Antonio, Bexar County, Westside Creeks Oversight Committee (WCROC) and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) followed by free park programming by the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department and Our Lady of the Lake University.

“The City is proud to have partnered with Bexar County in this joint investment that created a treasure on the Westside,” said Mayor Ivy R. Taylor. “The improved park facilities will help advance the quality of life for families in and around the community, and more investment could be forthcoming. A new swimming pool for Elmendorf Lake Park is included in the 2017 Bond which voters will decide on in May.”

The City and County contributed a combined \$16.2 million to the lake and park improvements, and SARA served as project manager. These improvements include hike and bike trails and bridges that improve accessibility within the park and enhance neighborhood connectivity, a new playground and splash pad, as well as rain gardens and lake aeration devices that improve the lake's water quality.

“It was through the collaboration and coordination of all the project partners that this community vision was brought to life,” said Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff. “Thanks to these enhancements, we were able to improve the water quality and flow in the lake and remake Elmendorf Lake Park into a destination for families.”

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The Elmendorf Lake Park improvements were part of a capital project within the footprint of the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project, which is focused on ecosystem restoration and public enhancement of the Alazán, Apache, and Martínez and San Pedro creeks. WCROC initiated the Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project plan with goals including environmental enhancements, bank stabilization, erosion control, water quality enhancement, and creating and retaining of habitat for aquatic species as well as native and migratory bird species. The goals also include development of recreational amenities specifically including hike and bike trails, which are expanding the existing City-wide trails network. The Westside Creek hike and bike trail improvements will ultimately connect the Westside Creeks with the San Antonio River Mission Reach Project at the confluence of San Pedro Creek and the river.

“The environmental and recreational enhancements that have been accomplished through projects like the Westside Creeks Restoration and the San Antonio River Improvements have helped reconnect the community to nature and to each other,” said Michael W. Lackey, Chairman of the San Antonio River Authority Board of Directors. “We hope that Elmendorf Lake Park becomes another connector for our community and that everyone enjoys the new enhancements.”

Following the official grand opening celebration, the public is invited to enjoy free park programming activities that include guided nature walks, fishing, yoga and fitness demos beginning at 12 p.m. For more information on Elmendorf Lake Park, Westside Creeks Project, and the grand opening celebration, please visit [www.westsidecreeks.com](http://www.westsidecreeks.com) or contact Therese Kenner at (210) 302-3296 or [tkenner@sara-tx.org](mailto:tkenner@sara-tx.org).

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*The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) was created by the 45th Texas Legislature on May 5, 1937 and reorganized in 1961 to plan, manage and implement water-related programs and projects within the San Antonio River Watershed. The State of Texas empowered SARA to preserve, protect and manage the resources and the ecology of the San Antonio River and its tributaries. To learn more about the SARA, visit our website at [www.sara-tx.org](http://www.sara-tx.org).*