



SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY

River Reach

THE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY

SPRING 2024

EXPEDITION 70 EDUCATIONAL DOWNLINK



To harmonize the needs of people and nature through our stewardship of rivers and land.



Are you in the know about River Authority events and projects? Sign up for the blog and keep up to speed on the latest information, including staff highlights, board insights, and more!



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@sanantoniorever

Vision

INSPIRING ACTIONS FOR HEALTHY CREEKS AND RIVERS

Mission

COMMITTED TO SAFE, CLEAN, ENJOYABLE CREEKS AND RIVERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIRMAN

Jim Campbell

VICE-CHAIR

Gaylon J. Oehlke

SECRETARY

Jerry G. Gonzales

TREASURER

Derek J. Gaudlitz

MEMBERS AT-LARGE

Lourdes Galvan

James Fuller, MD

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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District 2

Lourdes Galvan

District 3

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District 4

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Patrice A. Melancon

Wilson County

Derek J. Gaudlitz

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★ **Clint Marzec,** *Visual
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★ **San Antonio River Authority**
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Board Insights

GAYLON J. OEHLKE, BOARD MEMBER, KARNES COUNTY



Gaylon Oehlke was born and raised in Goliad County, where he attended Goliad High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural economics from Texas A&M University in 1972. During this time, Oehlke was a member of the Texas National Guard. Oehlke retired in March 2004 as president of the Kenedy and Robstown credit offices for Capital

Farm Credit, ACA, after 32 years of service. He has been a board member at the San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) since 2003, and his current term expires in 2025.

WHAT ARE YOUR GOALS AND TOP PRIORITIES AS A BOARD MEMBER IN 2024?

One of my top priorities for the coming year is completing Phase II of the Escondido Creek Parkway (ECP) project. This exciting initiative will extend the scenic hiking and biking trails along Escondido Creek and connect them to the heart of downtown Kenedy. After several years of planning and coordination, it will be incredibly fulfilling to see this ambitious project brought to life.

The new trails will provide additional miles of pathways for outdoor recreation and exercise. They will also help protect wildlife habitats along the creek by preserving green space. Most importantly, the parkway will improve the quality of life for Karnes County residents by creating a beautiful nature escape right in their backyard. I can't wait to see locals and visitors enjoying the trails when we complete Phase II. It will be a significant accomplishment for our community and the River Authority.

WHAT NEW RIVER AUTHORITY INITIATIVES WOULD YOU LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT IN KARNES COUNTY?

Before the creation of the Escondido Creek Parkway, Karnes County did not have a park established by the River Authority within the area, making that project the motivator to develop and complete the Escondido Creek Parkway a main priority. With the Escondido Creek Parkway established, I'd like to highlight potential new River Authority initiatives in Karnes County. A project discussed in the past was the potential of developing a paddling trail along the San Antonio River in Karnes County. Currently, there are San Antonio River paddling trails in Goliad and Wilson counties and along the Mission Reach in San Antonio. These paddling trails promote outdoor recreation and allow people to experience these waterways up close. Connecting a paddling trail along the entire San Antonio River would be an ambitious and long-term initiative.



The splash pad at Escondido Creek Parkway is a popular feature to beat the Texas summer heat!

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DESCRIBE ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE MEMORIES RELATED TO THE RIVER.

I fondly recall my time serving as Board Chairman during the construction of San Antonio's acclaimed Mission Reach project. It was incredibly rewarding to play an integral role in such a transformative initiative for the city. I vividly remember addressing large crowds at grand opening celebrations for new sections of the lush hiking and biking trails system. I proudly spoke about the River Authority's work to create a spectacular linear park system with wide pathways, historic portals connecting to missions, and other amenities. Driving home to Karnes County after those events, I often wondered – could we pursue a similar project locally? That spark of inspiration ultimately led to our Escondido Creek Parkway initiative years later. The Mission Reach project demonstrated what was possible and laid the groundwork for creating an exceptional recreation destination in my community. I'm proud to have been part of both signature achievements.



Scan to visit the new and improved ECP website.



New Board Members

BRIAN MAST, JD, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) Board of Directors has sworn in two new at-large board members for Bexar County – Liza Gonzalez Barratachea and Patrice Melancon. Barratachea and Melancon were elected from a pool of five candidates in the November 2023 public elections. The swearing in ceremony took place on January 8, 2024 (pictured below).

The 12-member Board of Directors that governs the River Authority consists of two at-large members from each of Wilson, Karnes, and Goliad counties; two at-large members for Bexar County; and one member for each of four River Authority districts in Bexar County, for a total of six members representing Bexar County.



Patrice A. Melancon

A water resources engineer with a master's degree from the University of Texas, Patrice Melancon served as the Engineering Department Manager at the San Antonio River Authority from 2016 to March 2019. In retirement, she remains active in consulting and

community service, holding several positions, including Board President of the Alliance Francaise de San Antonio and participating in various organizations, including Rotary and the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Liza Gonzalez Barratachea

A San Antonio native and Texas A&M University graduate, brings over twenty years of advocacy experience in public policy. Her experience with governmental entities includes serving as an advisor and staff for elected officials at various levels of government.

In addition to the two at-large members, the Board of Directors confirmed a slate of new officers to serve on the Board Executive Committee:

Chairman of the Board

Jim Campbell, Bexar County District 4

Executive Vice-Chair

Gaylon J. Oehlke, Karnes County

Secretary

Jerry G. Gonzales, Bexar County District 1

Treasurer

Derek J. Gaudlitz, Wilson County

Members At-Large

Lourdes Galvan, Bexar County District 2

James Fuller, MD, Goliad County

Elections for the River Authority Board of Directors are held every two years. Head to our website for more information on San Antonio River Authority Board of Directors and Committees.

“We are thrilled to start the new year off by welcoming Patrice and Liza to the Board of Directors,” said Jim Campbell, Chairman of the Board. “Their decades of experience, knowledge of the San Antonio River and dedication to Bexar County will contribute to the ongoing success of the River Authority.”



Board Insights

LOURDES GALVAN, BOARD MEMBER, BEXAR COUNTY DISTRICT 2



Businesswoman Lourdes Galvan is a former San Antonio District 5 councilperson. She brings a wealth of community service experience to the River Authority. Ms. Galvan works as a business development specialist with Dependable Business Solutions. Galvan is excited about her role and has

supported the Westside Creeks Restoration Project for many years.

HOW HAVE YOU BEEN INTERACTING WITH THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER RECENTLY?

I grew up around the creeks on the Westside, so I have always interacted with our waterways. I have family members who live off San Pedro Creek, so I have recently enjoyed watching them build their relationships with our creeks and rivers. I have also enjoyed my involvement with the Citizens Advisory Committee for the San Pedro Creek Culture Park. It has been rewarding watching the creek transform from dirt and concrete to the beautiful, functional park that it is today.

TELL US ABOUT THE RIVER AUTHORITY BOARD'S ROLE IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN PROTECTING THE WATERSHED.

As a board member, my goal is to educate the community on our role in keeping the ecosystem of our creeks and rivers safe and healthy. Part of this is advocating for River Authority projects at the local, state, and federal levels of government. In February, we were privileged to meet with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Office of Management and Budget, and our federal delegation of

representatives in Washington. Even in D.C., they were aware of the work that the River Authority had done in the past with projects like the Mission Reach and recognized the significance of the ongoing Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration Project. This is evident from the funding that the project received from the Administration's budget and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. It is essential to go to D.C. and remind these agencies and representatives of the importance of the River Authority's ongoing work, and I am pleased to represent us at the Capitol.

WHAT PAST OR CURRENT RIVER AUTHORITY PROJECT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF?

I am most proud of the ongoing Westside Creeks Ecosystem Restoration project. I grew up on the Westside, on the creeks. I remember the floods when I was younger, how the water came up to the streets. Some people today don't know about the flood's impact on the community, but I remember. Then, in the 1970s, the creeks were channelized as part of the San Antonio Channelization Improvement Project. While this mitigated flood risk in our neighborhoods, we lost a part of our community to the concrete drainage ditch. The restoration of the Westside Creeks has been an ongoing community conversation for years. The Westside Creeks Restoration Oversight Committee first met in 2008, and our advocacy for the project was integral to the completion of the Corps of Engineers feasibility study in 2014. Now, after years of community support and advocacy, we are almost halfway through the design of rehabilitating Alazán, Apache, Martinez, and San Pedro creeks. At the 60% design milestone later this year, we will host another round of public information sessions to share the updated designs with the community.

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An Open House was hosted by the River Authority in July of 2023 at Tafolla Middle School.



A series of 35% Information Sessions were hosted by the River Authority in September of 2023.

NASA Downlink 2024 Recap

NICOLE MARSHALL, MANAGER, PUBLIC AFFAIRS



River Authority GIS staff was on-hand to demonstrate Geographic Information Systems mapping and the San Antonio River Watershed.

In March 2024, the San Antonio River Authority, in collaboration with students from the Advanced Learning Academy (ALA) in San Antonio, Texas, had the privilege of engaging with NASA astronaut Loral O'Hara aboard the International Space Station. The live space-to-Earth call with Astronaut O'Hara was broadcast at 12:30 pm EST on March 8, on NASA TV.

For over 23 years, astronauts have inhabited and worked on the space station, conducting technology tests, scientific experiments, and honing the skills crucial for future space exploration. These astronauts communicate with NASA's Mission Control Center in Houston around the clock via the Space Communications and Navigation (SCaN) Near Space Network.

In anticipation of the event, students and their families took part in a star-gazing gathering hosted by the San Antonio Astronomical Association. Engaging in various science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics (STEAM) projects related to astronomy, astronautics, and space technology, students showcased their work at a STEAM Fair held at the Fox Tech campus for the Advanced Learning Academy prior to the live space station call.

The STEAM Fair drew in over 800 students in grades 2nd through 12th, providing them with hands-on STEM activities facilitated by the River Authority, ALA, and event partners including the Scobee Education Center at San Antonio College, Southwest Research Institute, SAISD Cyber P-TECH USA, Witte Museum, University of Texas at San Antonio, BiblioTech EDU and the Science Mill in Johnson City, Texas. Additionally, more than 50 school groups and partners representing four Texas counties (Bexar, Wilson, Karnes, Goliad) in the River Authority's jurisdiction hosted educational viewing parties for the downlink transmission.

At the San Antonio River Authority, our mission transcends the confines of local waterways. In collaboration with SAISD, we commit to fostering a deeper appreciation for science, engineering, and STEAM education within our community. This partnership with NASA exemplifies our shared dedication to sparking curiosity and nurturing the next generation of innovators.



Students showcased their work at a STEAM Fair held at the Fox Tech campus for the Advanced Learning Academy prior to the live space station call.



To view a recording of the downlink video, please scan this code.



Board Insights

JAMES FULLER, MD, BOARD MEMBER, GOLIAD COUNTY



James Fuller, M.D. is a retired Cardiothoracic Surgeon. He has been actively involved in the San Antonio River Watershed and is currently involved in regenerative agriculture utilizing a program of management-intensive grazing to sequester carbon and eliminate the use of toxic chemicals

which are harmful to our water and diverse plant landscape. He also takes part in ongoing conservation projects with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, Ducks Unlimited, and the Guadalupe-Blanco River Trust. In recognition of his service, Dr. Fuller received the Lone Star Land Steward Award in 2005 and 2006. The award recognizes private landowners for their habitat management and wildlife conservation accomplishments.

WHAT SAN ANTONIO RIVER DISCOVERY WOULD YOU LIKE TO HIGHLIGHT IN GOLIAD COUNTY?

In the heat of the summer of 2022, as temperatures soared over 100 degrees and the flow of the San Antonio River dwindled in Goliad County, a group seeking a break in the shade along the riverbank stumbled upon an extraordinary find. Half-buried in mud was a hefty object, initially dismissed as debris. However, upon closer inspection, it revealed itself as a massive, unfamiliar bone. Struggling to extract the object from its muddy tomb, the group eventually succeeded and transported it to their home for closer examination. Cleaned and photographed, the bone's enormity and distinct characteristics left no doubt that it belonged to a creature of antiquity.

Seeking expert opinion, they sent images to a paleontologist who confirmed their suspicions—it was the femur of a mastodon, a behemoth that once roamed alongside early humans until their extinction around 11,000 years ago. Standing at 14 feet tall and weighing a colossal 10 tons, these ancient giants once roamed the very land we tread upon today. Eager to uncover more relics of the past, the group made plans to revisit the site during periods of low river flow hoping to unearth further evidence of Goliad County's prehistoric inhabitants. This discovery serves as a remarkable reminder of the rich history that lies beneath our feet, waiting to be uncovered!

When my kids were young, we had a favorite spot on the riverbank where we'd go in the evenings to unwind. They'd spend hours climbing and swinging from massive grapevines right at the water's edge. Sliding down the loose dirt of the bank was their favorite pastime, sometimes using pieces of cardboard or plywood to make it faster and more exciting. They called it "boogie boarding" and never seemed to tire of it. In those hours spent in nature's embrace, we forged bonds that would last a lifetime, gaining shared experiences and cherished memories. Even



Mastodon bone found along the San Antonio River in Goliad County. Photos used with permission from the Fuller family.

now, as we reminisce about those precious evenings by the river, the memories remain as vivid as ever—a testament to the enduring power of enjoyable creeks and rivers.

WHAT RIVER OR RIVER AUTHORITY HISTORICAL FACT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE?

The rich history of the San Antonio River's southern basin brings to mind a fascinating story passed down by John Freeman Lott, father of Alicia Lott Cowley and a valued former board member of the River Authority. On the expansive grounds of the iconic King Ranch in South Texas, there once lived a young horse who faced a grim prognosis because of a severe leg injury. Johnny Dial, a respected farmer and rancher along the river, renowned for his keen eye and ability to spot exceptional talent, intervened. Johnny requested the ailing horse, whose name was Assault, hoping to explore unconventional methods for his rehabilitation. With permission granted, he took the injured horse to Goliad, seeking solace and potential healing in the gentle flow of its waters.

Returning home, Johnny started a routine of daily swims in the San Antonio River for Assault. Remarkably, as days passed, the horse showed signs of improvement. Healed by the therapeutic power of the river, Assault defied expectations and went on to achieve glory by winning the Triple Crown of horse racing in 1946.

In the River Authority's ethos of "Safe, Clean, and Enjoyable Creeks and Rivers," we find resonance with this tale. It speaks to the transformative potential of nature's elements, particularly the flowing waters of our rivers. As we reflect on this remarkable story, we're reminded of the profound connections between our environment, our history, and the resilience inherent in both.

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My River POV: Paul Martinez, IV

PAUL MARTINEZ, IV, ENVIRONMENTAL DATA SPECIALIST



I was born and raised in San Antonio, and to me, the San Antonio River has always been intertwined with the identity of this city. Growing up here, I remember having family celebrations on Mexican Manhattan's restaurant patio overlooking the River Walk and dreaming of going on one of the river barges.

In high school, I learned more about the river's origins, especially the Blue Hole—also referred to as Yanaguana—located at the Headwaters Preserve on the University of Incarnate Word campus.

I am an environmental data specialist in the Environmental Sciences Department, and I work with water quality, monitoring, and invasive species removal data. I also prepare data packages for the Clean Rivers Program, a statewide monitoring effort where we collect and analyze water samples from waterways throughout the San Antonio River Basin. This data allows us to track the river's long-term health and make informed decisions to improve the overall water quality. The public can access this data through our online visualizer, the San Antonio River Watershed Water Quality Viewer. Users can dig deeper into the data by examining the sampling locations, historical data, possible impairments, or overall environmental impacts. This tool helps us directly provide our findings to the public so they can better understand the condition and health of their local waterways.

The Environmental Sciences Department also coordinates the removal of invasive apple snails from the San Antonio River. Since these snails reproduce prolifically, they can outcompete the native organisms and ultimately threaten

the ecosystem health of the San Antonio River. With the incredible assistance of the River Authority's community River Warrior volunteers, River Authority staff, and contractors, we remove these adult snails and egg clutches before they can migrate further downstream.

I developed our Apple Snail Removal Report to help track our removal efforts along the San Antonio River and to provide updates on the apple snail situation. The report shows the number of removals for each river section, the specific removal of adult snails and their egg clutches, and our overall removal counts since 2020. It also highlights the removal efforts of the River Warrior volunteers, whose contributions total more than 20% of apple snails removed.

Working at the River Authority has deepened my appreciation for the San Antonio River, and seeing the river

first-hand has instilled in me the need to help protect it. This river isn't merely a tourist attraction—the San Antonio River is a living entity that hosts and sustains life while fostering community throughout the region. With community support, we can monitor the river's health and manage this resource to benefit the ecosystems and the people relying on it. The San Antonio River will remain a blue gem for this region if we continue to appreciate the benefits and preserve the river's integrity.



A recent snapshot of apple snail removal efforts. Nearly 2,000 apple snails were collected and removed during the recent River Walk Draining this January.

Since joining the River Authority team in 2018, I have learned about the greater scope of our mission and vision by reviewing water quality data, going on fish and bird surveys, and exploring the Mission Reach. My time with the River Authority has helped me fully understand the San Antonio River's reach and its significance, not only in the City of San Antonio but this entire region of Texas.

Scan to learn more about Apple Snails and other invasive species in the San Antonio River Watershed.



South Texas Natives: Crayfish

EMILY REW, ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

This issue highlights a claw-some critter that is an important species in our local creeks and rivers: the freshwater crayfish! These crustaceans benefit the health and stability of the ecosystems they inhabit, including the waterways of our San Antonio River Basin. By the end of our journey together, we hope you'll learn that crayfish can be more than food at a Cajun-style boil—they can be friends too. So, let's get cray!

CRAYFISH, CRAWFISH, OR CRAWDAD?

All of these terms refer to the same freshwater crustacean, but which one you use depends on where you live! We Texas folks are likely to call them "crawfish," Northerners are likely to say "crayfish," and "crawdad" is often used in states like Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. In Louisiana, where 93% of the United States' crawfish farms are located, people also refer to them as "crawdaddies" or "mudbugs." Scientists at the River Authority use the name crayfish, as it is the term most used locally and in scientific publications.

ECOSYSTEM ENGINEERS

Crayfish are one of our river's ecosystem engineers, as most species will create burrows or chimneys for them to hide or take refuge. Crayfish, by creating burrows, improve the flow of water underground and the soil structure. They mix and move nutrients closer to the surface, benefiting many plant species and fostering stronger root systems, which minimizes erosion. In addition, these burrows provide habitat for several species of snakes, frogs, toads, spiders, insects, and mammals. That's not all! Crayfish directly upcycle nutrients back into their ecosystems by decomposing dead and decaying organic matter into finer materials that other organisms can eat. As an integral part of our rivers, their presence gives experts insight into the health of our river ecosystems.

WHAT SPECIES OF CRAYFISH LIVE IN THE RIVER?

Within our river basin, we commonly find only one species, the Red Swamp Crayfish (*Procambarus clarkii*). Although this species is native to the central-south-eastern portions of the US and Northern Mexico, it has spread to many other areas of the United States and around the world where it is invasive. This is likely because Red Swamp Crayfish



Did you know? As important as their conservation is, 48% of crayfish in North America face endangerment due to their small range size and degradation of their freshwater habitats.

is the species that is commercially harvested for human consumption (the kind you see in a crawfish etouffee!)

Could there be other species in our basin that we are not aware of? The Nueces Crayfish (*Procambarus nueces*) is a critically imperiled species that scientists have found in the Nueces River Basin to our west and the Guadalupe River Basin to our east, but not in our basin. Because there isn't a ton of research, there is ample opportunity for aquatic biologists and scientists to learn more about the crayfish species in the San Antonio River Basin. This may be one of many species yet to be discovered here!

These critters primarily live in lakes, ponds, rivers, streams, and flooded ditches. They particularly like mucky streams with lots of hiding spots—leaf pack, root mats, cut banks, gravel and cobble. In the San Antonio River, you can find them wherever there is a semi-permanent water source—including the downtown San Antonio River Walk. Some species spend most of their time underground in their burrows, but the Red Swamp Crayfish will typically seek their burrows during environmentally extreme periods (e.g. drought) and when they reproduce.

A TRIBUTE TO CRAYFISH by Diana Kersey

What inspired you to choose crayfish as the model for the trailhead?

I attended CreekFest last year and invited folks to make some clay animals and talk about their memories of San Pedro Creek. Multiple people talked about playing around the Springs that bubbled up in San Pedro Park and playing with crawdads. I, too, have fond memories of finding them in a creek that ran behind my grandmother's house in Austin. So, I thought it would be fun to honor the crayfish for the San Pedro Creek Trailhead.

How does it feel seeing the sculpture completed?

I am thrilled it all came together! This sculpture was challenging and fun to make. There is a saying in art: Make it good. If you can't make it good, make it big. If you can't make it big, make it red. Hopefully, everyone will think we hit the trifecta of Good, Big, and Red on this one!





SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY

SAN ANTONIO RIVER **FOUND.**

Present two signature events on
Sunday April, 21 at the Mission Reach.



Canoers and kayakers of all skill levels are invited to compete in a 5-7 mile race through the San Antonio River's scenic Mission Reach Paddling Trail, followed by a celebration and awards ceremony for top finishers.

Kick off Fiesta with a FREE celebration of nature and the beautiful San Antonio River. Enjoy a fun-filled day with live music by Volcan, folklórico dances, and mouth-watering food. Other free activities include a fishing clinic, kayaking, and arts & crafts.

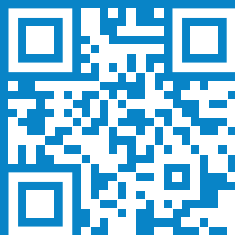
Sunday, April 21
9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Roosevelt Park
331 Roosevelt Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78210

Sunday, April 21
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Acequia Park
8500 Mission Pkwy
San Antonio, TX 78223

Scan to register for Race the River





WILSON COUNTY

May 4, 2024 • 8 am - Noon

Wilson County Expo Center
435 TX-97 E., Floresville, TX 78114

Residents of Wilson County only, proof of address required – NO BUSINESSES

*This Event is being performed as part of the settlement of an enforcement action brought by TCEQ.



KARNES COUNTY

May 18, 2024 • 8 am - Noon

Karnes County Youth Show Barn
1480 CR 345, Kenedy, TX 78119

Residents of Karnes County only, proof of address required – NO BUSINESSES



GOLIAD COUNTY

April 13, 2024 • 9 am - Noon

Goliad Memorial Auditorium Parking Lot
Auditorium Drive, Goliad, TX 77763

Residents of Goliad County only, proof of address required – NO BUSINESSES



For a complete list of what to bring & what not to bring, please visit sariverauthority.org or scan the code.

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Upcoming 2024 Events

April

- Yoga on the Creek - Mondays (6 - 7 pm)
- 4/3▶ Folklorico Class (6 - 7:30 pm) at Confluence Park
- 4/6▶ Folklorico Class (10 - 11:30 am) at Confluence Park (Ages 5 - 12)
- 4/9▶ Nature Days: Geology and Orienteering (10 - 11:30 am) at Jackson Nature Park
- 4/10▶ Folklorico Class Rehearsal (5 - 8 pm) at Confluence Park
- 4/13▶ HHW Goliad County (9am - 12 pm)
- 4/17▶ Painting with a Hike: Arbol de la Vida, Mission Reach (10 am - 12 pm)
- 4/18▶ Ethnobotany of Native Plants Guided Tour: Hendrick Arnold Nature Park (10 - 11 am)
- 4/19 - 4/28▶ Discovery Hunt - GJEZBL
- 4/19▶ Friday Night Hikes at Trueheart Ranch Nature Park (8 - 9:30 am)
- 4/21▶ Race the River: Mission Reach (9 am - 1 pm)
- 4/21▶ Mission Reach Fiesta Flotilla at Acequia Park (11 am - 3 pm)
- 4/24▶ Ethnobotany of Native Plants (6 pm - 7:30 pm) at Escondido Creek Parkway

May

- Yoga on the Creek - Mondays (6 - 7 pm)
- 5/4▶ Kickoff to Summer Bike Rodeo at Escondido Creek Parkway (10 am - 2 pm)
- 5/4▶ HHW Wilson County (8 am - 12 pm)
- 5/11▶ Race the River: Goliad Paddling Trail (10 am - 4 pm)
- 5/14▶ Nature Days: All About Birds (10 - 11:30 am) at Helton Nature Park
- 5/14▶ Drum Circle event at SPC (7 - 8 pm)
- 5/16▶ Ethnobotany of Native Plants Guided Tour - Trueheart (10 - 11 am)
- 5/18▶ HHW Karnes County (8 am - 12 pm)
- 5/22▶ Painting with a Hike: Wildflowers (10 am - 12 pm)
- 5/24▶ Friday Night Hikes at Jackson Nature Park (8:30 - 10 pm)
- 5/31▶ Cinema Night (8 - 10 pm) at Helton Nature Park
- 5/31 - 6/2▶ Free Camping Weekend at Helton Nature Park (registration required)

June

- Yoga on the Creek - Mondays (6 - 7 pm)
- 6/4▶ Nature Days: Trees (10 - 11:30 am) at Hendrick Arnold Nature Park
- 6/11▶ Nature Days: Art in Nature (10 - 11:30 am) at Branch River Nature Park
- 6/12▶ Painting with a Hike: Rattlesnake (10 - 11:30 am) at Trueheart Ranch Nature Park
- 6/18▶ Nature Days: Plants and Pollinators (10 - 11:30 am) at Confluence Park
- 6/21▶ Friday Night Hikes at Helton Nature Park (8:30 - 10 pm)
- 6/25▶ Nature Days - Wet and Wild (10 - 11:30 am) at Escondido Creek Parkway



 SAN ANTONIO
RIVER AUTHORITY
RIVER CLICKS
PHOTO CONTEST

Enter Today!



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RIVER AUTHORITY

100 E. Guenther St.
San Antonio, TX 78204

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SAN ANTONIO, TX
PERMIT NO. 1383

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Message from the GM

DEREK BOESE, JD, PMP, GENERAL MANAGER



The San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) is snapping and paddling into spring. Come out and join us as we explore and enjoy the San Antonio River Basin. The 7th Annual River Clicks Photo Contest is underway and the Race the River Paddling Series begins on April 21st.

The San Antonio River Authority's annual River Clicks photo contest kicked off March 1st and runs through May 31st. We timed the photo contest to coincide with spring so photographers of all ages and skills can capture the flora and fauna emerge from winter. Wildflowers are abundant with the recent rains so grab your cameras, or phones, and start snapping winning pics.

The spotlight categories this year are the River Authority's two newest parks, Hendrick Arnold Nature Park and Trueheart Ranch Nature Park. The other categories include: Aerial, Creeks & Rivers, Domestic Pets, Plants & Animals, Recreation, Seasonal Variation, and Students (under 18). For full contest details visit: [sariverauthority.org/photocontest](https://www.sariverauthority.org/photocontest).

For those that enjoy a workout or being able to see things from a new perspective, the River Authority in partnership with the San Antonio River Foundation are launching the Race the River Paddling Series. Amateur and experienced paddling racers from all over are invited to participate in 4 races across the San Antonio River Basin. The series will provide paddling experiences of the Mission Reach, SASPAMCO, and Goliad paddling trails and the first ever nighttime race on the historic Downtown River Walk. There will be prizes for the top three finishers in each category in each race. These races will draw together paddling enthusiasts from across the region and state to visit and become part of our river community. For more information and race registration visit here: <https://www.sariverauthority.org/race-the-river/>

RACE DATES

- Mission Reach – April 21, 2024
- Goliad – May 11, 2024
- Downtown Riverwalk – September 6, 2024
- SASPAMCO – October 5, 2024

Join me in the river basin and help the River Authority welcome the South Central Texas spring.