



**PARKS &
RECREATION**

FY2023

Annual Report





Robert L.B. Tobin Land Bridge
Phil Hardberger Park

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About

The San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department operates the City's recreational and cultural programs and maintains more than 260 City-owned parks with amenities such as swimming pools, gymnasiums, historic cemeteries, sport facilities and recreation centers. The Department is responsible for the maintenance of 16,000 acres of green space, including more than 140 miles of trails in city parks and over 100 miles of hike and bike trails that comprise the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System.

Mission

The mission of the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department is to provide exceptional parks, facilities, programs and services to improve the quality of life for all.

Vision

Our Vision is Equitable Access for All by 2050.

We will provide fun, safe, attractive, and affordable recreational opportunities and community spaces within a 10-minute walk that represent the diversity and desires of our neighborhoods. By connecting people, nature, recreation, and resources, we will inspire and nourish the well-being of all. We commit to a culture and system that drives Excellence, Equity, Empowerment and Engagement in all we do.



Introduction

San Antonio Parks and Recreation maintains more than 16,000 acres of green space and operates over 260 City parks, 140 miles of park trails and more than 100 miles of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System. Throughout the year, our community utilizes their park system to connect with nature, exercise with friends, walk the family dog, or participate in fun programming. Our facilities and programs host a variety of activities that cultivate spaces for connections, nurture a resilient community, and bring people together.

With over 500 department staff, San Antonio's Parks and Recreation professionals are reflective of the community we serve. We know that parks are vital to communities. Parks bring people and families together. Exploring the outdoors provides mental, physical, and overall wellness benefits.

Removing barriers to outdoor access and experiences is a priority. Whether through free or low-cost educational programming, a variety of free Fitness in the Park classes, free tree giveaways, and more, Parks and Recreation ensures that we provide equitable access for all – creating a more responsive, restorative, resilient, and resourceful Park System for San Antonio.



Welcome

Guided by excellence, equity, empowerment and engagement, the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department is committed to nurturing our community's well-being. This Annual Report captures the milestones and achievements of the past fiscal year and serves as a testament to the power of cultivating spaces that foster connections, nurture resilience, embrace inclusivity, and bring people together.

In FY23, our Department celebrated a significant milestone – the first year of accreditation. Within this year, the Trust for Public Land's valued ParkScore® index for San Antonio reflected notable progress. We're encouraged by the improvements during a time that our city has experienced amazing growth. Thanks to our voters who overwhelmingly supported the largest Bond Program to date, we have the necessary funding to complete more park projects across the city. This not only ensures we're keeping pace with our city's growth, but that we provide a park system that is equitable and accessible for all.

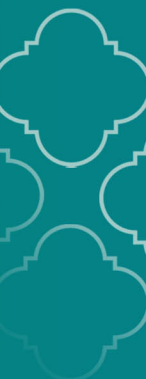
Our commitment to building a resilient community is at the heart of everything we do. Through planning and the efforts of our team, we have transformed our parks, trails, and facilities into essential hubs that are inclusive and serve as connections to nature, recreation, and fitness.

We've worked to ensure that our parks are responsive to needs of our diverse communities. Whether it's a neighborhood connection to the greenway trail, building accessible playgrounds, or giving away trees to help mitigate the urban heat island effect, we strive to grow our park system by providing spaces and services that welcome all and support our community.

From fun events to innovative STEM programming, we know that parks and recreation departments have a unique opportunity to bring people together. I'm grateful for the privilege of serving our community and look forward to another year



Homer Garcia III
Parks and Recreation Director



Cultivating Spaces for Connections

Connecting communities to the outdoors and recreational programming improves their quality of life and health outcomes. Celebrating community and cultural diversity play an important role in fostering meaningful connections that support mental and social wellbeing. In FY23, the Department hosted a grand opening event to celebrate the City's newly reconstructed facility, the **Berta Almaguer Dance Studio and Community Center** at Woodlawn Lake Park. Serving as the heart of the Department's legacy dance program, the new 9,900 square foot dance studio and center offers opportunities for multi-generational community and fitness programming, plus connectivity to the greenway trail system. Within the space, the spirit of Berta Almaguer, an esteemed dance instructor and program innovator, lives on through a portrait hanging in the lobby- a tribute to her legacy and the city's longest-running municipal dance program. Prominently displayed on the wall is an exhibit showcasing photos and news stories from the 1920s to the 1960s, honoring the Department's rich history of cultural programming. The center serves as a space for neighbors to connect, honoring the past while embracing the present and future.

San Antonio Parks and Recreation continues to cultivate spaces that showcase and honor the rich heritage of our City. The **Cultural Division** provides dance and music classes at various community centers that are low-cost or free to the public. Students have the opportunity to perform at recitals and City-wide events throughout the year including Earth Day, Dance in the Park, Muertos Fest, and FlamencOlé.

Berta Almaguer Grand Opening





Ramirez Community Center

Our Community Centers are neighborhood hubs that welcome and reflect the diverse communities that we serve. **Patrolman Gilbert E. Ramirez, Jr. Community Center**, located at Arnold Park, is nestled among busy practice fields, a walking trail, playground, fitness station, and a sand volleyball court. The Center was selected as a site for two outdoor, large-scale murals in partnership with San Antonio Street Art Initiative, a local non-profit, and the City's Arts & Culture Department. Through a public input process, the mural themes of play and recreation were selected – a first for the City's public art inventory.

San Antonio-based muralists, Adriana Garcia and sisters Manola and Maria Ramirez, created colorful murals titled, *Motivated Community* and *Joyful Momentum*. The vibrant artwork illustrates people engaged in sports and a boy joyfully swinging.

Thanks to the **Play SA initiative**, a valued partnership with **Spurs Give** and the **San Antonio Parks Foundation**, investments in our park system continue to bring improvements to basketball courts, skate parks and playgrounds across the city. In FY23, court renovations were celebrated at Copernicus Park, Joe Ward Park, and Rainbow Hills Park. These improvements are investments in our community that ensure everyone has opportunities to recreate together in facilities that reflect the pride and spirit of San Antonio. Go Spurs Go!

The Department's inaugural **E-Sports Team, the Salamanders**, was formed with participants from Garrett, Palm Heights, Quintero and Woodard Community Centers. The team's mascot, a local, endangered Texas Blind Salamander, was selected by participants. Integrating e-sports and gaming into community center programming is a wonderful addition to communal engagement. More than just entertainment, gaming fosters social connections, skill development, and inclusivity. Embracing e-sports supports the evolving interests of diverse communities, providing a space where teens can play, collaborate, and compete in an ever-growing digital society.

The gaming-inspired **Derby Dash Festival** event takes the popular Mario Kart video game from screen to real life racing. Community Centers from across the city create cardboard karts and meet to compete for this race. The 2nd annual event included fun activities, games and a relay race with the Normoyle Community Center team taking first place!

Throughout the seasons, the Department highlights diverse holidays traditions bringing our community together through fun, recreational and volunteer activations including **Veteran's Day service projects**, Halloween events such as the **Get Fit SA Halloween Hustle 5K**, **Haunted Swim**, **Spooky Sets**, and **Trunk or Treats**. The winter holiday season provides opportunities to foster meaningful connections through **food drives** supporting the San Antonio Food Bank, **Thanksgiving and Winter Holiday Camps**, **Swim Camps**, **Swim with the Elves**, and **Holiday swim lessons**. Adult & Senior Center **Valentine's Day dances**, **Underwater Egg Hunt**, and **Easter Camping** bring our community together to celebrate joy, unity, and goodwill. Parks and Recreation creates spaces where connections can thrive and flourish.

Nurturing a Resilient Community

San Antonio Parks and Recreation supports our community's resilience through a variety of initiatives including conservation and sustainability, health and wellness, and investment in our park system. Spearheading these holistic efforts across the Department are several divisions: Capital Programs, Clean & Green, Natural Areas, Park Stewardship, Recreation and Urban Forestry.

Conservation & Sustainability

Through environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, our community's natural resources are protected for San Antonio's future. In FY23, the **Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP)** successfully protected 3,796 acres of land over the sensitive Recharge and Contributing Zones of the Edwards Aquifer through the acquisition of eight new conservation easements. In total, the EAPP protects 178,901 acres, ensuring San Antonio's primary source of drinking water will remain safe and abundant for years to come.

Keeping our parks tidy and flourishing is our **Clean & Green** team. In FY23, the team removed an estimated 4,962 tons of waste from parks and collected approximately 1,964 tons of recycling. In addition, through the **Urban Greening Initiative**, the team gave away 8,937 native plants to the community and installed two new pollinator gardens at the San Antonio Museum of Art and Hemisfair Park.

Keeping our trees healthy and strong is key to ensuring our community is resilient. Through tree planting programs and events, San Antonio's urban tree canopy continues to grow and thrive. The **Urban Forestry** team hosted educational outreach events with activities, local partners and tree giveaways. Events such as **Arbor Day for SA**, **Sweet and Green**, and **Earth Day** offer the team opportunities to connect with residents and provide tree education. In total, 11,437 trees were given away to residents at over 50 community events. Tree planting programs experienced a successful year with 1,018 new trees planted by staff and contractors across San Antonio. One of these programs, **EquiTree**, celebrated its sixth year of bringing high quality shade trees to neighborhoods across our community. Using the City's Equity Atlas, EquiTree focuses on improving the tree canopy in the most vulnerable areas of our City, in turn bringing a host of health, ecological, and environmental benefits to participating neighborhoods.



Sweet & Green Tree Giveaway Event

The **Robert L.B. Tobin Land Bridge** at Phil Hardberger Park opened to the public in December 2020. It's the largest land bridge in the country designed to accommodate both humans and wildlife. Since 2021, **Natural Areas** staff have been tracking wildlife usage of the land bridge using innovative technology from Microsoft called a **MegaDetector**. This technology has processed over 3.5 million images of wildlife as they cross over the bridge. In FY23, the division presented a progress report, *A Study of Wildlife Activity on a Mix-Use Land Bridge*, providing an overview of species photographed. Fourteen game cameras were strategically set up on the bridge to capture animal movement on the bridge. Over 15 different species of animals have been captured on camera in that time, including armadillo, coyotes, hawks, deer and the very rare and elusive ringtail. Through the use of technology, we're able to prove that the land bridge is working and ensures wildlife and biodiversity remain strong.

Health & Wellness

Parks, trails, and natural areas are essential for a community's resilience. Community Centers and recreation facilities serve as community hubs that encourage social interaction and a sense of belonging. These spaces offer opportunities for exercise and recreation that support the physical and mental wellbeing of our neighbors. Through fun programming, our team fosters meaningful engagement that supports the growth and stability of our community.

One of our key initiatives is the **Fitness in the Park** program, offering accessible fitness classes throughout the city. In FY23, we provided 6,445 classes, with 72,955 people of all abilities enjoying free fitness classes. We prioritize bringing new and innovative offerings to the community, and in FY23, **Aqua Combat** classes were introduced, gaining popularity with a total attendance of 2,973 in the first year. Classes ranging from strength, core, flexibility, cardio, Zumba, dance, net sports, aqua fitness and more provided a variety of disciplines for the community to move, relieve stress, and make positive changes on their health and fitness journey.

The Fitness team celebrated **International Day of Yoga** with a fun Goat Yoga class at **Levi Strauss Park**. Participants stretched their bodies and relaxed their minds as baby goats climbed their back and brought smiles to all. Instructors also lead Power Yoga, Hatha Yoga, and Restorative Yoga classes that showcased yoga's physical and mental health benefits for people of all ages.

The **Barrera Fitness Center** is a fully equipped gym offering flexible and affordable memberships. Instructors provide a variety of fun fitness classes and programs that build community and wellness. In FY23, more than 1,150 classes were offered with overall attendance exceeding 7,000 participants. New classes offered included Glow Kickboxing, Pilates and a bilingual spin class. In addition, staff initiated the conversion of a room to introduce a new total-body resistance exercise (TRX) class offering.

As Texas hit record temperatures during the summer, the public's health and safety was a top priority for the city. **Outdoor pools and splash pads** are free to the public and were open during the summer for the community to cool off. All city pools were open and extended pool hours were available to help the public beat the summer heat. Community centers were also utilized as cooling sites. The reopening of **Roosevelt Park Pool** made a big splash with a tropical-themed party for the community including a Wibit water obstacle course, fun activities, and refreshing fruit cups and paletas. The Aquatics team hosted fun pool events such as **Movies in the Pool**, **Wibit of Fun Days**, **Back to School Splash Bash**, and **Community Open Swim Days** at the new **Southwest ISD Aquatics Center**, **YMCA Thousand Oaks** and **North East Sports Park**.

Fitness in the Park Class



Water safety saves lives and can prevent drowning and injury. **Let's Swim SA** is a program that offers free group swim classes at outdoor pools during the summer. In FY23, more than 1,200 community members participated in the program. Classes start as early as 6 months and range to 12 years old. In addition, group and individual swim lessons are taught at the indoor Natatorium and offered throughout the day to early evening outside of the summer months.

Our **San Antonio Natatorium** is an indoor heated pool located in the heart of the westside that is open year round. In FY23, the Natatorium welcomed more than 18,600 visitors to include adults, seniors, and children. Fun events like the Natatorium Open House featured offerings such as aqua fitness classes, free swim lessons, and lifeguard clinics.

Educational Programming

Parks and Recreation serves about 200,000 youth annually through hundreds of individual programs for all ages at a variety of locations in the community. In FY23, all 18 regular play centers and 4 open play centers were open for programming and community use. Staff developed a variety of programs that were implemented at these community centers. Program topics included art, science, nature, fitness, sports, youth leagues, cultural programming, special events, and teen programming. Additionally, programs are offered year-round to include holiday camps.

Every summer, the Department brings young people together for the **Summer Youth Program**. In FY23, 2,857 youth ages 6-14 participated at 41 designated community centers and selected school sites throughout San Antonio. The Summer Youth Program offers opportunities to learn with craft projects, art exploration as well as math and science enrichment, and youth can stay active with traditional sports and games. Participants also enjoy reading in collaboration with the San Antonio Public Library's Summer Reading Program. Special programs such as **Project Power** and **Junior Achievement Finance Park** provided opportunities for participants to learn about nutrition and financial literacy.

We know that hunger can impact a child's ability to focus, learn and be active. Therefore, we must address food insecurity in our community. While school was out, we made sure to provide healthy meals to kids through the **Summer Food Service Program** in partnership with the **San Antonio Food Bank**. The food program is free and provides a hot lunch and snack to children and teens ages 18 and younger and enrolled students with disabilities up to 21 years old throughout the summer. The food program operated at 54 locations and meals and snacks were served at 23 community centers, 8 Summer Youth Program sites and 23 swimming pools. A total of 100,859 meals and snacks were served this summer! In addition, on three separate occasions, the San Antonio Food Bank delivered produce bags to community centers for each child in the Summer Youth Program. Bags were filled with a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables to help families provide nutritious meals at home.

Zero Robotics is a robotics program competition sponsored by NASA, the ISS National Laboratory and the Aerospace Corporation and operated by MIT. In this STEM program, Summer Youth Program participants learned computer programming, robotics, space engineering and code writing. Students were named finalists in the 2023 Zero Robotics Summer Program Competition and witnessed astronauts input their code to control NASA's Astrobee satellites aboard the International Space Station. Participating community centers included Normoyle, Garza, Woodard, San Juan, Garrett, and Yates, with a total of 50 participants.



Park System Growth & Investment

Nurturing the growth and enhancement of our park system is pivotal in ensuring San Antonio is resilient for generations to come. Investment in our green spaces and greenway trails is a key aspect of this effort. In FY23, we celebrated the completion of several projects that received overwhelming support from City leadership and our community.

Pittman Sullivan Park underwent significant improvements including a new shade canopy, ADA compliant concrete walking trail, lighting, bio-retention basin for improved stormwater quality and drainage, a drinking fountain, new seat wall, signage and distance markers along the trail. These eastside park improvements were funded by the voter-approved 2017 Bond Program. Project funding also contributed to YMCA pool improvements, HVAC improvements and court surfacing upgrades.

Martin Luther King Park, a cornerstone of the eastside, received new amenities and improvements funded by the 2017 Bond Program. These include a walking trail with clear views of Salado creek, a large pavilion with picnic tables, restrooms, and a splash pad with a circular seat wall. Collaborating with the Arts & Culture Department, a monumental sculpture by local artist Kaldric Dow was installed at the park's entrance to welcome visitors and community members.

The community celebrated the renovations to **Jupe Manor Park** where investment included a new playground with swings, a walking trail, parking, lighting and fencing. Adding to our park system is **Pipers Meadow**, a new neighborhood park that features off-street parking, walking loop, and benches built by local Boy Scouts. Improvements to **North San Antonio Hills Park**, a neighborhood park, include a pavilion with picnic tables and a walking trail.

Classen-Steubing Ranch Park, funded by the 2017 Bond Program, opened to a large crowd of residents eagerly anticipating this new northside park. Spanning 204 acres, the park includes a baseball field, two softball fields, two soccer fields with a small pavilion, a large pavilion with picnic tables and restroom facilities, walking trails, trees, landscaping and parking. The park protects 160 acres of land through the Edwards Aquifer Protection Program. In partnership with UTSA, the parking lots on site were selected for a permeable paving research project that will provide stormwater data and identify best practices.



Classen-Steubing Ranch Park

In addition to our expanding park system, the **Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System** continues to grow, adding miles of multipurpose trails around San Antonio. A ribbon-cutting ceremony on February 25 celebrated the completion of **100 miles of greenway trail** at the new **Camargo Park Trailhead**, featuring Mayor Ron Nirenberg and dignitaries. This achievement, over 20 years in the making, underscores the City's strong commitment to expanding and growing the greenway trail system.

Texas Recreation and Park Society, a professional parks and recreation organization, honored the City's park system investments with two awards: the **Lone Star Legacy Park designation for Brackenridge Park** and the **Lone Star Recreation Programming Achievement Award for SeaPerch**. These awards reflect the diversity in parks and recreation, honoring and preserving historic parks like Brackenridge Park while embracing the future with STEM programming that supports the resilience and growth of our youngest community members. Continued investments in our parks, trails, and programming preserve our natural resources while fostering a culture that supports stewardship, physical activity, mental health, and a sense of community.

Parks for Y'all Means Parks for All

Our parks system builds a sense of belonging and community for everyone. It gives opportunities to encourage exploration of parks, events, and programs in different parts of the city. We commit to a culture and park system that is truly inclusive to all in our community.

Inclusive Spaces & Events

Parks and Recreation takes pride in creating safe spaces that cater to people of all ages and abilities. **Dan Markson Park** is the first all-inclusive park in San Antonio and opened to the public on April 17. Its amenities include an all-inclusive playground, an ADA-accessible restroom and benches and picnic tables to promote accessibility for people with special needs. Supporting the needs of diverse communities is always top of mind for our team.

In FY23, Parks and Recreation hosted the first annual **Get Fit SA Pride Hike & 5K**. This community event, hosted in June during Pride Month, welcomed all including the LGBTQIA+ community, neighbors and families to run, hike, or walk at Pearsall Park. LGBTQIA+ community groups were invited to share information with participants regarding services and resources; sixteen new vendors joined the event. In addition, Parks and Recreation participated in the City's annual **Pride** parade. Meeting people where they are is important to ensure that everyone in our community know that 'parks for y'all, means parks for all!'

Cultural Diversity

San Antonio has a rich and unique culture. Once a year, the City lifts the park curfew for the **Easter** holiday where thousands of people camp overnight at designated parks. For decades, residents and their families have participated in this tradition, bringing people together outdoors from generation to generation.

Parks and Recreation celebrates San Antonio's culture and diversity in many ways including participating in community parades. The Trades Division built the Department's first float and decorated it for the **Fiesta® Flambeau** parade and **Pride** parade. The floats showcased our diversity and offerings to thousands of people through live broadcast and in person.

Pride Hike & 5K





San Pedro Parques visit at Phil Hardberger Park

San Antonio was proud to host our colleagues from **San Pedro Parques** – a municipality of the Mexican state of Nuevo Leon and part of the Monterrey Metropolitan area. Their Park Director and key staff visited numerous San Antonio parks, facilities, and natural areas to learn about our infrastructure and operations. We look forward to future exchanges with our colleagues across the border to learn about their successes, challenges, and best practices.

Community Engagement

Engaging the community for public input on park projects is valuable for city leadership and the consultants we work with. Your feedback helps us with our mission to provide exceptional parks, facilities, programs, and services to improve everyone's quality of life. There are exciting new bike projects happening. The Parks and Recreation and the Public Works Departments held a public input meeting to get feedback on the development and construction of **Citywide Bicycle Recreational Facilities**. New facilities will include BMX and Mountain Bike recreational opportunities located at Eisenhower Park, McAllister Park, Lady Bird Johnson Park, O.P. Schnabel Park, and Pearsall Park. Bike organizations and community organizations attended, learned about the projects, and shared their vision for new improvements.

Acme Park, located in the city's far westside, celebrated a beautifully renovated basketball court and new amenities during an **SA Neighbors Together** event, formerly National Night Out. Through public input, neighbors shared their vision for this park which included a sand volleyball court and games. Their vision became reality through funding from the **PlaySA initiative** that teams up with **Spurs Give**, **San Antonio Parks Foundation** and Parks and Recreation. Neighbors enjoyed a night of basketball, sand volleyball, hotdogs and fun.

Parks and Recreation launched a **Youth Services Master Plan** development process to ensure that service delivery and programming needs are being met for the community. The goal was to provide an in-depth perspective of recreation program offerings at Parks and Recreation community centers to sustain best practices in service delivery while providing a roadmap for future growth. In FY23, a comprehensive plan that considered current programs, attendance, demographics, and facilities was initiated. Engagement efforts provided opportunities to gather community input and recommendations through focus groups, stakeholder interviews and events. Summer Youth Program participants shared their input, too! Kids colored butterflies and wrote what they wanted their centers to look like and the activities they wanted. The Youth Services Master Plan will be completed in FY24.



Acme Park basketball court ribbon-cutting



Programming for All Ages

Earth Day Event

Parks and Recreation offers programming for all audiences and ages throughout the year. City-wide celebrations, holidays, and sports bring people of all ages and abilities together. A few highlights from the year include Fiesta®, Grandparent's Day, Hispanic Heritage Month, new lacrosse clinics, and a crowd favorite, kickball leagues.

Fiesta® is a big part of our City's culture, and we were excited to offer programming for everyone. **Earth Day** is an official Fiesta® event and this fun-filled day featured family activities, free tree adoption, dance and musical performances, environmental organizations, and lots more. **Viva Los Tots** offered parents and caregivers a fun Fiesta® themed event to enjoy with their toddlers. Activities were tailored for the tiny tots with tummy time, toddler crawl, parent playtime, sensory play, and other activities. **Adults and Seniors** also joined in the Fiesta® fun with their own special events. Participants got into the spirit with food, music, and dancing.

Grandparents were honored at Granados Adult & Senior Center during a Grandparent's Day party. Participants shared stories and posed for photos to share with their special grandchildren. Our adults and seniors showed off their many skills at an annual talent show filled with song, dance, and showmanship.

For Hispanic Heritage Month, youth from Garza Community Center learned about Frida Kahlo, a Mexican painter known for her vivid use of color, self-portraits, and folk art themes. Kids tried their hand at drawing portraits of the iconic artist which were then featured on the Department's social media channel for all to enjoy.

Thanks to a partnership with USA Lacrosse and Sankofa Lacrosse Foundation, youth received an opportunity to participate in free lacrosse clinics. Participants learned the fundamentals of lacrosse during a fun-filled weekend.

Kickball, anyone? The Spring and Fall Kickball Leagues are never at a loss for adult participants. Teams relive their playground memories of youth and kick it for a chance to win the championship after each season.

This year, we celebrated Father's Day with a **free family fishing clinic** at Elmendorf Lake Park. Families with kids ages five and up learned basic fishing skills and enjoyed various educational activities and games! Thanks to our partnership with the **Texas Parks & Wildlife Department**, all participants received a Basic Angler Education Certificate.



Bringing People Together



Silent Disco Event

San Antonio Parks and Recreation brings people together and fosters connections across the City. Whether it's through programming, volunteering, or special events, there is something for everyone to enjoy and a way to connect with neighbors, friends, and family.

In FY23, we introduced new activations and brought back a favorite one. We celebrated **National Parks and Recreation Month** in July with the first-ever **Silent Disco party** at San Pedro Springs Park. About 200 attendees enjoyed the sweet sounds of local dj duo, Strawberry Jams, for a family friendly evening of fun, dancing, and food.

Parks and Recreation fostered a partnership with the San Antonio chapter of the **Silent Book Club**. Book lovers were invited to come together and bring a book for an hour of silent reading and an hour of fellowship, if desired. Between 30-50 attendees gather at various community centers and park facilities across San Antonio. The partnership provides diverse meeting space for the Club and introduces new audiences to the services and programs offered by the Department. A win-win!

In FY23, heavy planning for the inaugural **Mayor's Camino Verde** trail activation started in collaboration with the Mayor's Fitness Council, Mayor's Office, Metropolitan Health Department and San Antonio Parks and Recreation. With over 100 miles of multipurpose trails, Camino Verde's goal was to promote the interconnectivity of the Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System throughout our growing community. It's the mayor's vision to celebrate a different trail segment every year. After many months of planning, the event was celebrated in October with Mayor Ron Nirenberg and the community. Trail enthusiasts had the opportunity to run, walk, or bike with the Mayor at Southside Lions Park, J Street Park, and Martin Luther King Park trailheads. Participants also enjoyed free eclipse glasses to view the Annular Eclipse that day.

Star Party is a series of events hosted at natural areas where the community can observe the night sky. We are thankful for our partnership with the **San Antonio Astronomical Association** and for sharing their knowledge about constellations and planets with attendees. This year, the Star Party made its way across San Antonio at Phil Hardberger Park, Eisenhower Park, and Medina River Natural Area.



Glow Aqua Zumba Event

Get Fit SA is a free citywide fitness program that offers various activities and is inclusive of all levels of fitness. **Sweat and Swim** was an activity where the community had fun in the sun at San Pedro Pool and enjoyed various aquatic fitness offerings. **Glow Aqua Zumba** closes out the extended pool season and is one of the most popular and highly anticipated group exercise events. Participants come together and enjoy one last class in the water, glowing and having fun while exercising. **Field Day & Fun Run** was a family-friendly event at Miller's Pond Park. The day started with a fun run around the park and fitness activities for the community were set up to enjoy. Families running together with toddlers and strollers highlight the importance of providing fun, fitness opportunities that bring communities together.

Volunteering

In FY23, the **Volunteer Services** team hosted over 200 group volunteer events with approximately 7,200 volunteer service hours valued at over \$234,000. Bringing people together to give back to the community is rewarding in many ways. It not only helps our community but gives participants an opportunity to volunteer for something they enjoy.

World Clean Up Day is a global event promoting the eradication of solid waste that negatively impacts the world around us. It takes place every year and is a time in which millions of people worldwide take an active stance against waste-induced pollution! Parks and Recreation participated in World Clean Up Day with **River Aid San Antonio**. Volunteers cleaned up one of San Antonio's favorite parks, Woodlawn Lake Park. Materials were provided, and volunteers stayed for as long as they could because every minute makes a difference. We're so happy our community was part of World Clean Up Day 2023!

A unique way volunteers can give back is through the **Cemetery Steward Program**. Volunteers are trained for hands-on cemetery conservation and documentation in the City's Historic Eastside Cemeteries. Cemetery Stewards survey cemetery resources, complete conditions assessments, and clean cemetery monuments and markers. With so many historic sites across San Antonio cemeteries are an incredible cultural resource and provide a vivid record of community history. In FY23, more than 360 volunteer hours were completed in our historic cemeteries.

San Antonio is Military City USA! We celebrated and honored our service men and women with special **Sweat and Serve** events. On Memorial Day and Veterans Day, we gathered for a great workout and helped make our city parks a better place with a volunteer service project. Each event featured **Troops for Fitness** instructors, a volunteer service project in the park, and our Mobile Fit Van health screenings & interactive gaming system.

Division Snapshot

Recreation Services

Adult & Senior Centers

The Department has four Adult and Senior Centers servicing adults ages 18 years and over: Commander's House, Gill, Granados, and Lions Field. The centers host a variety of programming that offer opportunities for recreational, educational, and social programs encouraging healthy lifestyles, both physical and mental, and offer a wonderful place for friends to meet.

Athletics

Athletics Division programming includes administering, supporting, implementing, and staffing free adult athletic tournaments and leagues, youth athletic leagues, sports clinics, special events, McFarlin Tennis Center, Fairchild Community Center and tennis/ pickleball courts, Lincoln Community Center, and the San Fernando Boxing Club.

Aquatics

The Aquatics Division operates 24 outdoor pools, 1 indoor pool Natatorium, and offers instructional programs such as lifeguard and water safety training, swim lessons for youth and adults, open swim, lap swim, water-based fitness classes, special events, and seasonal youth camps. The Aquatics team offers multi-generational programming and is committed to drowning prevention through programs that teach life-long water safety.

Community Centers

The Parks and Recreation Department has 23 year-round community centers. There are 17 full-service community centers, one dance studio and community center, one full-service recreation program center at a DHS facility, and 4 community centers that offer open play activities.

The full-service community centers offer youth sports leagues year-round, seasonal camps during breaks from school and the Summer Youth Program. In addition, the full-service community centers as well as the dance studio and community center offer a variety of free programs year-round through the department's Centralized Program development staff in the following areas: sports, fitness, nature, science, arts, and programming specifically for teens.

Cultural Programs

The Cultural Division offers year-round dance and music classes for children ages 4+ and adults. The classes are taught by full-time and temporary staff. Introductory classes are free. The dance and music classes also offer pre-professional training with exposure to various choreography and performance experience. The Berta Almaguer Dance Studio & Community Center offers a variety of dance instruction and fun programming.

Fitness

The Fitness Division is comprised of the citywide fitness initiative GetFitSA, Fitness in the Park and Mobile Fit programs as well as the Enrique Barrera Community Fitness Center. The overall goal of the Division is to bring the benefits of health and fitness to residents around the city, encouraging them to Get Fit, Stay Active and Be Well. This is achieved by removing the barriers to fitness by providing access to a variety of free or low-cost fitness classes for all levels.

Park Operations

Natural Areas

The Natural Areas Division manages and maintains 13 natural area parks and preserves, as well as select segments of the greenway trail system. The team also provides educational programming and research that supports the conservation and preservation of our green spaces.

Clean & Green

The Clean and Green Division, the largest operations division within the Parks and Recreation Department, keeps our parks clean and vibrant. This Division is responsible for daily park sanitation and landscaping services in over 260 parks.

Trades

The Trades/Maintenance Division is responsible for the repair and maintenance for all City parks and park trailheads, Community Centers and other facilities. Essential functions consist of daily work orders in carpentry, masonry, painting, park signage, playgrounds, fencing, and heavy equipment. The Division coordinates with contractors in larger park projects and special events.

Community Engagement

Park Stewardship

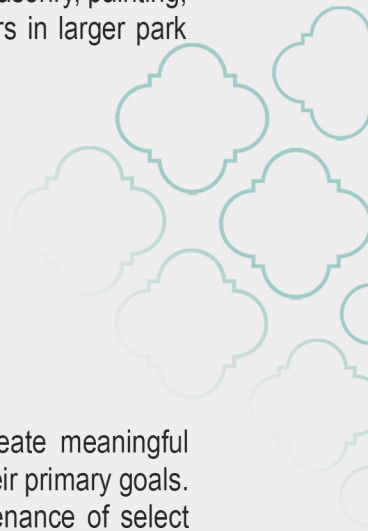
The Park Stewardship Division focuses on creating and delivering programs and events that create meaningful pathways for San Antonians to engage with their parks using equity, engagement and education as their primary goals. The Division includes Volunteer Services, Trail Stewards, Park Stewards, and supports the maintenance of select historic cemeteries on the city's eastside.

Special Events

The Special Events Division assists the public in making reservations at all City park facilities including pavilions, sports fields, gymnasiums, and community centers. Additionally, staff coordinates the reservation of parks and facilities for public events and hosted community events such as Earth Day.

Public Relations & Marketing

A key priority for the Division is to ensure that the Department's brand, voice, and graphic identity tells the story of Parks and Recreation that is consistent, professional, and engaging to a variety of audiences. This is achieved through a variety of strategies including public relations, advertising, social media, events, and website promotion.



Park Acquisition & Development

Edwards Aquifer Protection Program

The Edwards Aquifer Protection Program (EAPP) protects the Edwards Aquifer through the acquisition of property rights including fee simple purchases, conservation easements, and donations of land over the sensitive zones of the aquifer. The EAPP has been in place since May 2000, funded originally by a portion of a voter-approved 1 /8-cent sales tax (Prop 1), and now by the City's Municipal Facilities Corporation fund.

Greenway Trails

The popular and ever-growing Howard W. Peak Greenway Trails System is a network of multi-use, accessible trails that wind through natural landscapes along many of San Antonio's waterways. The Greenway Trails Division manages the development of trails along Leon Creek, Salado Creek, Westside Creeks, Medina River and other tributary trails.

Capital Projects

The Capital Projects Division is responsible for the oversight of all new park land development, construction of new park amenities, management of annual playground replacements, and Department funded special projects. The Division works alongside the City's Public Works Department, community members, consultants, contractors, and development community.

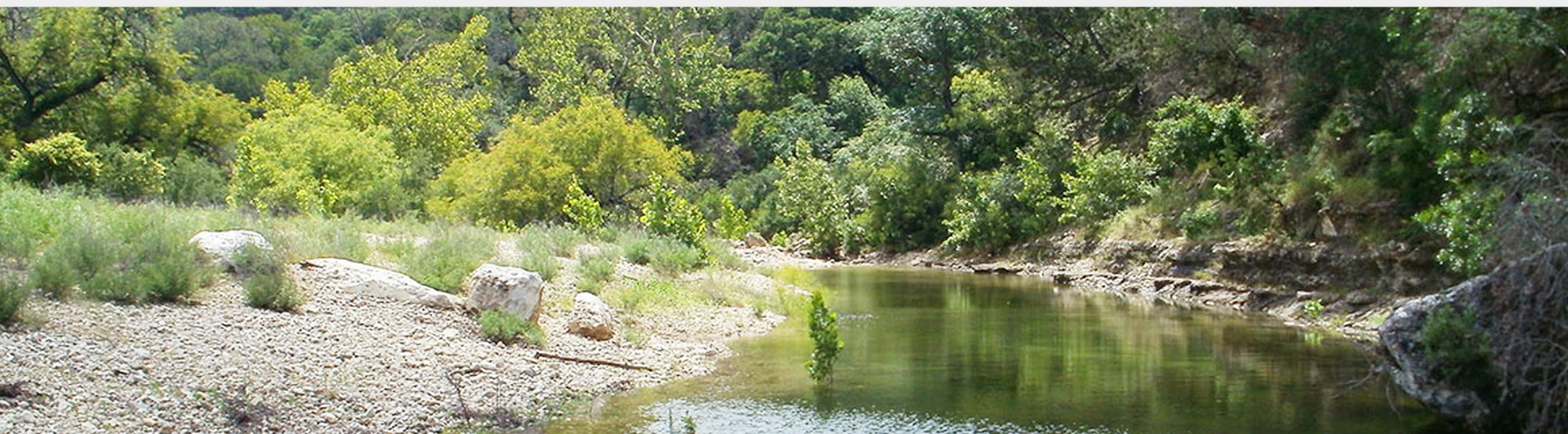
The team also provides a wide variety of administrative services that include overseeing contract services, executing numerous Rights-of-Entry, Joint-Use agreements, and managing the Unified Development Code fund expenditures for general park improvements.

Urban Tree Canopy

Urban Forestry

Urban Forestry is responsible for the management and maintenance of all the trees in the City's park system, as well as maintenance of over 100 miles of linear greenway trails along the Leon, Salado, Medina River and Westside Creeks greenway trail systems. This includes all vegetative management as well as general sanitation along the trails and at all trailhead locations. The Division coordinated all tree adoption and educational events such as Sweet & Green and Arbor Day for SA.

Blanco Creek, Uvalde County





Medina River Natural Area

Administrative Support

Contracts

The Contracts Division collaborates with more than 100 community partners and manages approximately 200 contracts. The Division oversees sports licenses, leases, and various other types of agreements. The Division assists the Department with drafting and negotiating contracts. Additionally, the Division oversees the Small Business Economic Development Advocacy (SBEDA) program within the Department, Woodlawn Lake Park Mobile Vending Program, school parks and various other special projects.

Reservations

The Reservations team is responsible for assisting the public with making reservations at all City parks facilities and implementing the policies and procedures when reserving the facilities for special events. In addition, the Reservations Division fields numerous calls and inquiries from the public regarding amenities, services, and programs.

Fiscal

Fiscal Operations division is responsible for all the Department's financial and accounting activities including financial reporting, budget maintenance, accounts payable/receivable, procurement, and reporting inventory. The division actively coordinates the preparation of the Department's annual budget, aids in the appropriation of capital project funds, and assists in facilitating audit requests throughout the fiscal year. The Parks and Recreation budget is comprised of the General Fund, Parks Environmental Fund, City Cemeteries Fund, Tree Canopy Preservation & Mitigation Fund, and managing the funding associated with the Linear Greenway Trails.





PARKS & RECREATION

Thank you to our great community partners!
For a list, scan the QR code.



Department Boards

- Parks and Recreation Board
- Linear Creekway Parks Advisory Board
- Conservation Advisory Board

Board Representation

- San Antonio Botanical Garden
- San Antonio Parks Foundation
- Municipal Golf Association
- Wheatley Heights Sports Conservancy

www.SAParksAndRec.com