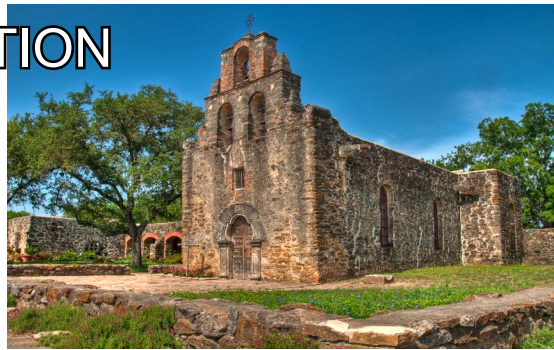


# San Antonio Missions

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

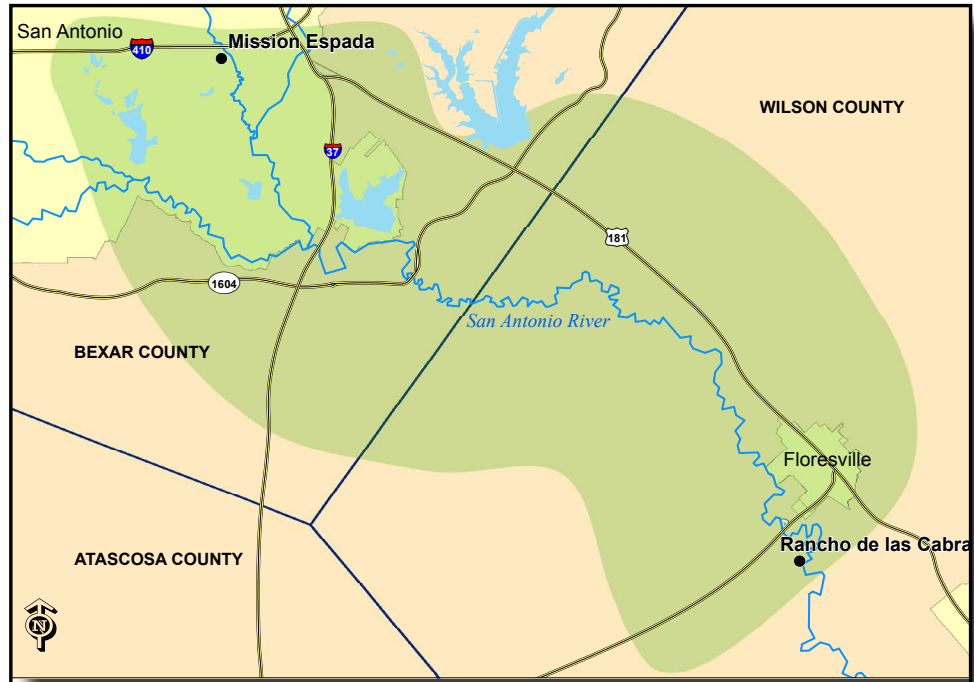
San Antonio Missions  
National Historical Park



## Connecting El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park and Community Trail Networks -- A Feasibility Study

### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project will conduct a feasibility study and aim to develop a plan with clearly defined alternatives. The purpose of the study is to connect identified sites and routes associated with El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail (El Camino Real) to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park at two specific locations -- Mission San Francisco de las Espada (Espada) in San Antonio, TX and Rancho de las Cabras (Rancho) in Floresville, TX. The study will focus on a five-mile area surrounding the San Antonio River between these two sites.



### PROJECT VISION

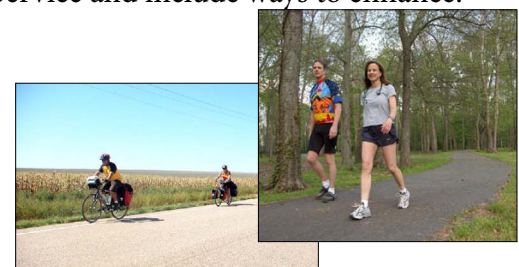
The study will explore and outline opportunities that will allow for a vivid experience of Spanish Colonial history and El Camino Real historic routes, as well as identify ways to meet local public objectives, and state and federal strategic initiatives aimed at sustainable and healthy living. In addition, the alternatives may identify historic routes that could be eligible for National Historic Trail designation.

Overall, the opportunities identified will promote the National Trails System and the National Park Service and include ways to enhance:

- Resource protection
- Interpretation
- Recreation
- Education
- Public health; and
- Youth engagement in the outdoors

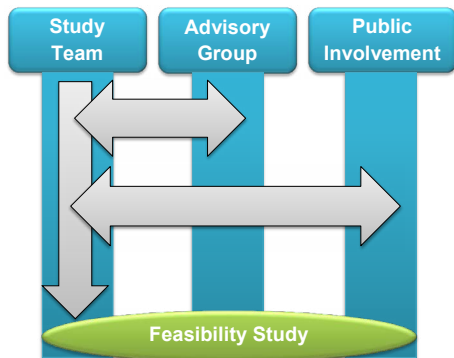


El Camino Real resources and to enhance the social and economic benefits to the surrounding communities.



## PROJECT COLLABORATION

This project is spearheaded by the National Park Service and illustrates a partnership effort between multiple NPS offices and program areas, including San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (SAAN), the National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) which administers El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail (ELTE), and the Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA). The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) will provide project development assistance. The study will be conducted through a collaborative process incorporating a study team, an advisory group, and public involvement.



The advisory group is a collection of individuals representing a variety of agencies, organizations and/or interests who bring knowledge, experience, skills, and are able to provide diverse perspectives to the process. This group will commit to assisting and advising the study team through study development.

Overall, the National Park Service would like to ensure a broad collaborative study effort -- one that will incorporate and reflect the needs and desires of the surrounding communities, land owners, and stakeholders to promote a successful outcome for all.

### STUDY TEAM

**San Antonio Missions National Historical Park (SAAN)** was established by Congress in 1978 and represents one of the largest assemblages of Spanish Colonial resources in America. Nominated as a World Heritage Site, the Missions boast four 1730s vintage missions, dams, acequias, labores, and a rancho within the park boundary. The Park boundary incorporates approximately 835 acres of land in Bexar and Wilson Counties.

**Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program (RTCA)** is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service created to carry out the natural resource conservation and outdoor recreation mission of the NPS in communities across America. RTCA provides project management, planning, and facilitation in projects related to natural area preservation, rivers conservation and development of recreational trails and greenways in urban, suburban and rural settings.

**El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail (ELTE)** was established by Congress in 2004 to follow the designated Spanish Colonial historic routes that connected Texas from the Rio Grande to northwest Louisiana. Approximately 30 miles of the historic route existed within and between the boundaries of San Antonio Mission National Historical Park. The National Trails Intermountain Region (NTIR) of the National Park Service administers ELTE.

**San Antonio River Authority (SARA)** was created in 1937 by the State of Texas. Its jurisdiction covers 3,658 square miles—all of Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad Counties. SARA is committed to the preservation, protection and sustainability of the San Antonio River Watershed and to making the river safe, healthy and enjoyable.

The proposed recreation and national historic trail alternatives may also tie into the San Antonio River Authority's preservation and recreation efforts along the San Antonio River. SARA is providing project management of an on-going multi-agency collaborative effort called the San Antonio River Improvement Project (SARIP). This particular project is aimed at restoring and enhancing the river's ecosystem and constructing non-motorized recreation trails along the portion of the river that runs through San Antonio. The "Mission Reach" portion of the project currently ends at Mission Espada.



<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/saantrailstudy>