



## SAN MARCOS GREENSPACES

### Project Goal

To implement the City of San Marcos' Green-space Master Plan through further land acquisition and trail development.

### Background

Located at the juncture of the Texas Hill Country and the Blackland Prairie, the City of San Marcos, Texas, boasts an abundance of natural resources including the spring-fed headwaters of the San Marcos River, the Blanco River, and Edwards Aquifer recharge features. San Marcos is home to Southwest Texas State University, and that coupled with its location between the fast-growing cities of Austin and San Antonio, makes it susceptible to intense development pressures that threaten natural resources and the community's quality of life. The San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance, a non-profit advocacy group, has been welcomed as a partner along with various city officials and others into a San Marcos Greenspaces Committee. Together, these community leaders have rallied to protect their environment by pursuing a greenspace master plan and its implementation.

### National Park Service Role

RTCA provided advice on organizational development to the newly formed San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance. RTCA assisted the city and the citizen group with a process to develop criteria for identifying priority greenspace acquisitions. RTCA continues to assist in developing a public education campaign, obtaining funding for planning and implementation projects, and on-going technical assistance on master plan implementation.

### Project Results to Date

- Acquisition of four open space parcels totaling 76 acres.
- Funding (\$113,360) for ¾ mile trail at Schulle Canyon Preserve.
- Development of greenspace land acquisition criteria, a GIS map of the criteria, and a draft brochure promoting greenspaces.

### Newly Acquired Open Space Tracts, Prospect Park



### Project Partners

- San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance - Citizen advocacy group.
- San Marcos Greenspaces Committee - Planning team for developing and implementing a city master plan for open space, preserves, and greenbelts. Led by deputy city manager.

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- San Marcos Parks and Recreation Department - Owner/ manager of open space tracts; sponsor of grant applications for trail development.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Represents interests in endangered and protected species.
- Hays County - Grants administrator cooperating to develop funding database.
- San Marcos River Foundation - Planning partner; watershed interests.
- Trust for Public Land - Advisor on bond funding and acquisition.
- San Marcos Council of Neighborhood Associations - Conduit for greenspace planning information and citizen input.

### Contact

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