

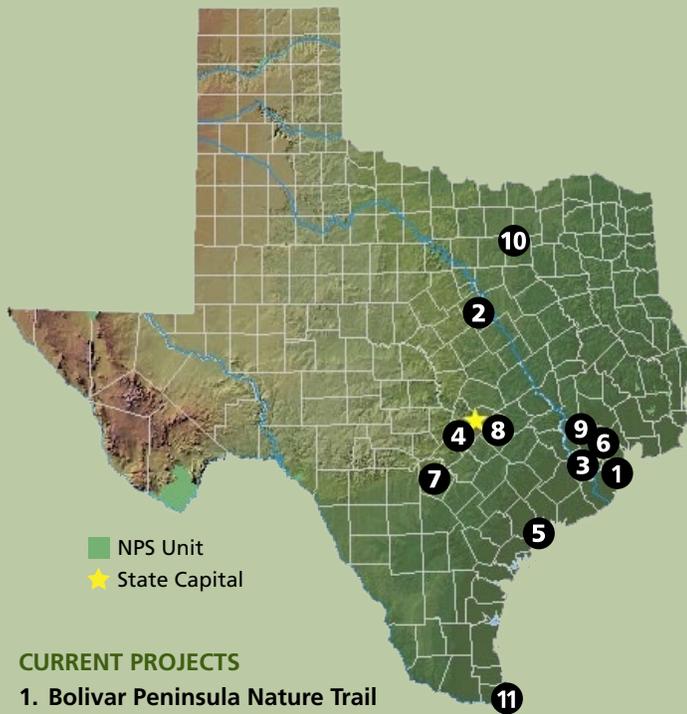


# Texas News



Students riding B-cycle bikes at Mission San Juan. Photo: NPS

## PROJECTS AND PARTNERS 2015



### CURRENT PROJECTS

1. Bolivar Peninsula Nature Trail
2. Bosque River Watershed Protection & Restoration
3. Brazos River Paddle Trail
4. Dripping Springs Trails
5. Green Lake County Park
6. Greens Bayou Paddle Trail
7. Leon Springs Trail
8. Lost Pines Nature Trails
9. MacGregor Park
10. Plano Paddling Trails
11. Port Isabel Arturo Galvan Coastal Park

Find out more about each project starting on page 2.

## Recent Successes

### San Antonio Area High School Seniors Benefit from “America’s Best Idea” Grant

With assistance from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program, San Antonio Missions National Historical Park used an America’s Best Idea Grant from the National Park Foundation to develop a new education program, Mission R.E.A.C.H. (Recreation, Education, and Celebrating History). The program developed by NPS staff and San Antonio River Authority staff engaged San Antonio area high school seniors in a half-day program of activities in their local national park to encourage lifelong stewardship of parks and their resources.

The educational program was conducted in community partnerships among the National Park Service, San Antonio River Authority, Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions, San Antonio Bike Share, and the Alamo Area Master Naturalists. It featured four interactive activities that illustrate the natural, historical, and recreational connections between the Spanish colonial historical resources and the San Antonio River, once the lifeblood of the missions.

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### ABOUT US

The Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance program is the community assistance arm of the National Park Service. Program staff provide technical assistance to community groups and local, state, and federal government agencies working to protect natural areas and water resources and enhance close-to-home outdoor recreation opportunities. We help communities plan, organize partnerships, and achieve on-the-ground success on projects they initiate.

# Current Projects



Paddler on the Brazos River. Photo: David Heinicke, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

## 1. Bolivar Peninsula Nature Trail

Project Partner: Houston Audubon Society

NPS Contact: Justin Bates

Location: Galveston County

Congressional District: TX - 14

### Project Goal

Develop a symbolic nature trail that expands and improves nature-based recreational opportunities and environmental education and outreach for High Island and the Bolivar Peninsula.

### NPS Role

Convene partner organizations and stakeholders to identify priority projects including wayfinding and interpretive signage, additional or improved access points, and opportunities for habitat conservation. Assist Houston Audubon with development of a planning document that outlines potential projects, outlines clear priorities, and identifies potential funding sources.

## 2. Bosque River Watershed Protection & Restoration

Project Partner: Texas A&M AgriLife-Research

NPS Contact: Kathryn Nichols

Location: Erath, Hamilton, and Bosque Counties

Congressional Districts: TX - 11, TX - 17, TX - 25

### Project Goal

Promote restoration efforts within 6,000 acres of riparian area and 494,000 acres of the upland watershed to improve water quality along 90 miles of the Bosque River.

### NPS Role

Develop strategies for seeking community engagement in the Upper North Bosque River watershed plan. Obtain input on goal setting and priority treatments to improve the stream corridor and watershed conditions. Advise and help implement a stakeholder steering committee. Help science experts present options to the community.

## 3. Brazos River Paddle Trail

Project Partner: Fort Bend Green

NPS Contact: Marta Newkirk

Location: Fort Bend County

Congressional District: TX - 22

### Project Goal

Develop a 75-mile paddle trail along the Brazos River with multiple launch sites and several riverside parks and recreation facilities, including hike/bike trails linking the communities along the river.

### NPS Role

Assist multiple jurisdictions and land managers along the river in reaching consensus on standards for design, development, maintenance, and management of all paddle trail launch and support facilities, to include hike/bike trails.

# Current Projects cont.

## 4. Dripping Springs Trails

Project Partner: City of Dripping Springs

NPS Contact: Justin Bates

Location: Hays County

Congressional Districts: TX - 21, 25

### Project Goal

Develop a vibrant trail system designed to provide recreational opportunities and link residents with parks, shops, schools, and other interesting locations throughout Dripping Springs.

### NPS Role

Assist the City of Dripping Springs in advancing their citywide trails plan. Engage with stakeholders to identify priority trail corridors, develop implementation strategies for trail development, and identify potential funding sources.

## 5. Green Lake County Park

Project Partner: Calhoun County

NPS Contact: Justin Bates

Location: Calhoun County

Congressional District: TX - 14

### Project Goal

Develop a 6,434-acre county park with trails, fishing and boating access, camping areas, wildlife observation facilities, and other improvements.

### NPS Role

Assist Calhoun County and its partners as they develop a conservation and management plan that will allow public access and recreational use while protecting the significant natural resources found on the site. Assist the county in convening stakeholders and identifying conservation priorities and preferred recreational uses.

## 6. Greens Bayou Paddle Trail

Project Partner: Greens Bayou Corridor Coalition

NPS Contact: Kathryn Nichols

Location: Harris County

Congressional Districts: TX - 18, 29

### Project Goal

Develop a 28-mile paddling trail with suitable access sites, best management practices, and designations as Texas Paddle Trail and National Water Trail.

### NPS Role

Develop community engagement opportunities in the planning process and build partner relationships. Develop a protocol for implementation and management of the paddle trail. Develop an executive summary of the strategic plan. Identify potential funding sources and assist with designation processes.

*“The National Park Service’s assistance through the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program has helped the City of Dripping Springs engage a broad spectrum of stakeholders and the public in advancing our Trail Plan and is leading us to organized partnerships to help implement the new trail plan. We would not have been able to achieve this on our own.”*

- Michelle Fischer, City Administrator, City of Dripping Springs



The future Green Lake county park. Photo: NPS



Lost Pines Nature Trails provides a needed river access. Photo: Jim Allen, Keep Bastrop County Beautiful

## Current Projects cont.

### 7. Leon Springs Trail

Project Partner: Leon Springs Trail Foundation

NPS Contact: Krista Sherwood

Location: San Antonio

Congressional District: TX - 21

#### Project Goal

Develop a 2-3 mile trail along Leon Springs Creek, providing public access for healthy recreation opportunities, enhancing natural resource conservation, and providing opportunities for youth engagement.

#### NPS Role

Assist the trail foundation in a consensus-building planning process for trail development. Provide assistance in developing a one- to five-year work plan, identifying issues and opportunities, and developing a strategic project plan. Identify and recruit additional project partners, assist in community engagement, identify community resources and connection opportunities, and provide guidance for potential funding sources.

### 8. Lost Pines Nature Trails

Project Partner: Keep Bastrop County Beautiful

NPS Contact: Kathryn Nichols

Location: Bastrop County

Congressional District: TX - 10, TX - 27

#### Project Goal

Create a new entity or expand an existing entity to protect, secure, and manage the resources, facilities, and visitors at a 28-acre park on the Colorado River.

#### NPS Role

Develop a plan for sustainable management and help the partners organize the entity to oversee the management strategies. Analyze the issues of site protection and visitor use. Identify additional community partners, funding sources, and implementation strategies.

### 9. MacGregor Park

Project Partner: Friends of MacGregor Park

NPS Contact: Justin Bates

Location: Houston

Congressional Districts: TX - 9, TX - 18, TX - 29

#### Project Goal

Develop programming strategies and park improvements to increase use and stewardship of 82-acre MacGregor Park.

#### NPS Role

Assist Friends of MacGregor Park with efforts to develop a master plan for future park improvements and programming. Facilitate meetings with stakeholders, assist with broad public engagement efforts, and assist Friends of MacGregor Park with identification of management strategies and funding sources.

# Current Projects cont.

## 10. Plano Paddling Trails

Project Partner: City of Plano  
NPS Contact: Kathryn Nichols  
Location: Plano  
Congressional Districts: TX - 3, TX - 24,  
TX - 32

### Project Goal

Develop a paddle trail system with access to Plano's creeks and ponds, totaling as much as 15 miles and 67 surface acres.

### NPS Role

Identify issues and opportunities by engaging community stakeholders. Help prioritize paddle trail segments for phased implementation and provide guidance on access facilities and operations. Determine trail and water condition information to be communicated to users online.

## 11. Port Isabel Arturo Galvan Coastal Park

Project Partner: City of Port Isabel  
NPS Contact: Krista Sherwood  
Location: Port Isabel  
Congressional District: TX - 34

### Project Goal

Improve an approximately 8-acre property adjacent to the Laguna Madre Bay as a waterfront park to promote recreation and ecotourism by providing for public access and ecological education opportunities.

### NPS Role

Assist in developing a park strategic plan and conceptual design, identify and recruit additional project partners, assist in community engagement, identify park and community connection opportunities, assist with youth engagement and educational opportunities, and provide guidance for potential funding sources.

*“Without NPS help, it would have taken me many years to pull together partners...to not only support our existing Tejano Trails...but bring together groups who were all working on their own versions of walking trails that would celebrate the Mexican American and Tejano contributions to Austin.”*

- Lori Cervenak-Renteria,  
Tejano Trails Steering Committee



Volunteer exploring Rowlett Creek. Photo: NPS

## We're Here For You.

Could your project benefit  
from NPS Staff Assistance?  
Contact us to find out.



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## 2014 Nationwide Partnership Success

3,278.74 Miles of Trail Developed

2,046.25 Miles of River Conserved

9,411.06 Acres of Open Space and  
Parkland Protected

Find more information online  
at  
[www.nps.gov/rtca](http://www.nps.gov/rtca)



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## Recent Successes cont.

During the inaugural six-day program, more than 500 students participated in activities at Mission San Juan and the newly restored Spanish colonial farm. Highlights included learning about Spanish colonial farming practices, identifying native vegetation, using GPS technology, and riding bicycles provided by the San Antonio B-Cycle program along the newly developed San Antonio River trail to learn about river ecology, management and use, and the missions' history.

### Bosque River Trail Vision Moves Along

The City of Stephenville and Keep Stephenville Beautiful sought help from the National Park Service to develop a strategic master plan for 8 miles of the Bosque River Trail Corridor. Adopted by the city council in May, 2014, the plan recommends nine segments of trail development, trailhead amenities, and wayfinding signs to connect the trail to neighborhoods and destinations. It also proposes educational and recreational programming and restoration projects to return the Bosque River to a healthier condition.

Even while the partners in Stephenville were finishing the plan for the Bosque River Trail Corridor, the city received two grants to extend the trail. When planning began in 2012, there were 2.3 miles of trail along the river, partially in a greenway corridor and partially within City Park. In 2013, the city was awarded \$141,600 in Texas Recreational Trail Funds to fill in a 0.3-mile gap to connect the City Park trail to the greenway corridor trail. That same year, the city received \$1.4 million from the Texas Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program to extend the corridor trail an additional 1.3 miles. The city allocated \$930,000 of local funds to match the state and federal awards. This greenway trail creates important new opportunities for people to connect to nature in their own community and neighborhood.

National Park Service staff also helped the partners create an education committee. The first educational project is a river corridor habitat curriculum for elementary school students, developed and taught by Tarleton State University students. It led to a second grade art contest in which the winners' artworks will be displayed as interpretive signs along the river corridor trail.



Family enjoys a bike ride on the Bosque Trail. Photo: NPS