

Headwaters of the San Antonio River, Upper Labor Acequia, and San Antonio de Valero Acequia

✚ *San Antonio Mission National Historical Park Purpose Statement*

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park exists to preserve, protect, restore, and interpret the Spanish Colonial missions along with their historically associated areas, features and values for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.



✚ *Resource to be Studied*

- 🌸 **Headwaters (1):** The headwaters of the San Antonio River is comprised of numerous springs emanating from the Balcones formation. The “Blue Hole” best typifies these natural springs and is recognizable by many as having significant meaning and identified as the beginning of the San Antonio River.
- 🌸 **Upper Labor Acequia (2):** Constructed in 1776, the Upper Labor diversion dam and acequia served the village of San Fernando de Béxar.
- 🌸 **Mission San Antonio de Valero Acequia (2):** The acequia remnants served the Mission San Antonio de Valero (Alamo). The site of the Valero Dam is located here but visible remnants have been obliterated.



✚ *Resource Significance*

- 🌸 **Headwaters (1):** Named on the feast day of St. Anthony by Fray Damian Massanet in 1691, the San Antonio River was the life blood of Spanish colonial settlement in the area and the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions. The San Antonio River is the fundamental reason for the establishment of the missions in this area. The River is vital to the preservation, public enjoyment, and interpretation of the Spanish Colonial resources in the Park and provides the linking context from resource to resource.
- 🌸 **Upper Labor Acequia (2):** The upper labor acequias served the secular community of San Antonio de Bexar and represents some of the earliest public water works for the community.
- 🌸 **Mission San Antonio de Valero Acequia (2):** The beginnings of the extensive San Antonio de Valero acequia and irrigation system. Little remains of Mission San Antonio de Valero's acequia system. This piece is one of the last surviving Spanish Colonial resources affiliated with this Mission, now most commonly known as the Alamo.



✚ *Values*

- 🌸 **Headwaters (1):** The headwaters of the San Antonio River exhibits significant scenic, recreational, and interpretive values with numerous trails and access points already in place.
- 🌸 **Upper Labor Acequia (2):** The upper labor acequias exhibit significant scenic, recreational, and interpretive values with numerous trails and access points already in place in Brackenridge Park.
- 🌸 **Mission San Antonio de Valero Acequia (2):** The Valero acequia remnant exhibit significant scenic, recreational, and interpretive values with numerous trails and access points already in place in Brackenridge Park.



✚ *Size*

- 🌸 **Headwaters (1):** Approximately 62 acres
- 🌸 **Upper Labor Acequia (2):** Approximately 19.7 acres (combined with Mission Valero's acequia)
- 🌸 **Mission San Antonio de Valero Acequia (2):** Approximately 19.7 acres (combined with the Upper Labor Acequia)



✚ *Ownership*

- 🌸 **Headwaters (1):** Sisters of the Incarnate Word
- 🌸 **Upper Labor Acequia & Mission San Antonio de Valero Acequia (2):** City of San Antonio



✚ *Need for Protection or Preservation*

Integrity of the springs that comprise the headwaters of the San Antonio River and the acequia remnants of the Village of Bexar and Mission Valero offer outstanding interpretive value depicting original, tangible resources that are accessible to the public. The acequia remnants are not interpreted despite the thousands of people who access these resources directly each year.


Mission San Antonio de Valero Acequia

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Resource to be Studied

 **Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia remnants (41):** This area contains the longest remaining stretch of the Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia system.




Resource Significance

 **Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia remnants (41):** This stretch of the Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia system is the longest surviving stretch and represents one of the last unmodified acequia stretches where it crosses an existing body of water illustrating exceptional frontier engineering and construction skills. Very little remains of Mission San Antonio de Valero's Spanish colonial resources. This is the best known example of its extensive irrigation system.




Values

 **Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia remnants (41):** This stretch of the Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia system illustrates one of the best examples of Spanish Colonial frontier skill in engineering and construction of an irrigation system and therefore represents exceptional historical and archeological value. Public access is currently restricted but the addition of a trail with accompanying information waysides and appropriate landscaping can be added creating a valuable and meaningful interpretive experience. Because of this site's affiliation with the Alamo Community College system it has a high potential educational value in engineering, agriculture, and history.



Size

 **Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia remnants (41):** Approximately 13.5 acres



Ownership

 **Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia remnants (41):** Alamo Community College



Need for Protection or Preservation

The integrity of this stretch of the Mission San Antonio de Valero acequia system is high and illustrates one of the best examples of Spanish Colonial frontier skill in engineering and construction of an irrigation system. Currently, the area is protected by the city but development of the property is in progress. The long term integrity of this resource is threatened by potential incompatible use and development (storm water drainage, landscape modification, resource obliteration, etc.). The area was once an amusement park and that previous use caused significant damage to the resource, but a high level of integrity still remains for this stretch of the acequia.


San Pedro Park & Spring

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park Purpose Statement

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Resources to be Studied

 **San Pedro Park (3):** Located in San Pedro Park, the San Pedro Springs were the site of a Payaya American Indian village when the first Spanish entradas entered the area. The site was likely visited first by the Terán de los Rios expedition of 1691. The springs were named "Ojo de Agua de San Pedro" by the Espinosa-Olivares-Aguirre expedition of 1709. In 1718, the first site of the Presidio de Béxar and the Villa de Béxar were founded at this network of springs. In 1727 the area around the springs were dedicated by royal charter as an "ejido" or public lands - making this the second oldest public park in the nation (Boston Common's being the oldest). Possible acequia remnants may exist in the park.



Resource Significance

 **San Pedro Park (3):** Location of the first permanent Spanish settlement in San Antonio, the first civil settlement in the Spanish province of Texas, and the second oldest public park land in the U.S. San Pedro Park continues to play an important role to local cultural heritage - many ceremonies still held here commemorating San Antonio history. San Pedro Park offers a rare tranquil visitor experience in the heart of the city. San Pedro Park has great archeological potential and research value because of its potential information regarding the location of the first settlement site of San Antonio de Bexar.




Values

 **San Pedro Park (3):** The headwaters of San Pedro Creek exhibit significant scenic, recreational, and interpretive values with numerous trails and access points already in place. Excellent public access and recreational values.



Size

 **San Pedro Park (3):** Approximately 29.3 acres



Ownership

 **Headwaters:** City of San Antonio



Need for Protection or Preservation

San Pedro Park is the location of the first settlement in the Spanish province of Texas. The archeological potential and research value is high. Public access and recreational opportunities already exists with numerous trails throughout the park. San Pedro Park offers outstanding interpretive value depicting original, tangible resources that are accessible to the public. Historical significance of the area is depicted in various markers and memorials.






Alamo Plaza, San Fernando Cathedral, Main Plaza & The Spanish Governor's Palace

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park Statement of Significance

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Resource to be Studied

-  **Alamo Plaza (5):** Alamo plaza and the surrounding area contain wall foundations and other archeological information about Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo).
-  **San Fernando Cathedral (6):** San Fernando Cathedral preserves the original church of the Village de Bexar which can be seen in the west end of the sanctuary.
-  **Main Plaza (Plaza de las Islas) (6):** The area of Main Plaza was the site of the first authorized city in what is now Texas (c.1731) and was settled by families from the Canary Islands.
-  **Spanish Governor's Palace (6):** The headquarters of the captain of the San Antonio de B  xar Presidio. The Spanish Governor's Palace represents the only remaining walls of the original Presidio complex.
-  **San Antonio de Valero Acequia Remnant (42):** Remnant acequia from San Antonio de Valero located in a hotel development (Days Inn Downtown).








Resource Significance

-  **Alamo Plaza (5):** Contains the remains of the majority of the compound for Mission San Antonio de Valero. Much of the Battle of the Alamo was fought on this land. Inlaid stones and elevated plazas currently demark known wall alignments for the former mission.
-  **San Fernando Cathedral (6):** San Fernando Cathedral was the original church of the Village de Bexar, which served the first civilian settlers of the area. Originally called the Church of Nuestra Se  ora de la Candelaria y Guadalupe, it was founded in 1738. The original Spanish Colonial church is incorporated and can be seen in the Cathedral sanctuary.
-  **Main Plaza (Plaza de las Islas)(6):** The Main Plaza exhibits much of the traits outlined in the Law of the Indies depicting how civilian and military villas and districts should be planned in New World settlements.
-  **Spanish Governor's Palace (6):** The Spanish Governor's Palace represents the only remaining structured of the original Presidio complex that formed part of San Antonio de Bexar and is an excellent example of a Spanish Colonial townhouse.
-  **San Antonio de Valero Acequia Remnant (42):** Acequia remnant is a primary resource for Mission San Antonio de Valero. Little remains of the mission's historic landscape. This is one of the last remaining vestiges of Mission Valero's elaborate irrigation system.



Values

-  **Alamo Plaza (5):** Form and outline of original Mission San Antonio de Valero compound depicted in inlaid stones and elevated spaces. Archeological potential is high. Much of the Battle of the Alamo was fought on these grounds and is highly revered and recognized. Public access to the area is high. Strong emotional connection.
-  **San Fernando Cathedral (6):** The original Spanish Colonial church is incorporated into the Cathedral sanctuary. Archeological potential is high. Public access is high. Strong emotional and spiritual connections.
-  **Main Plaza (Plaza de las Islas) (6):** The form and outline of Main Plaza has been compromised by urban development and recent remodeling. Archeological potential, public access, and interpretive potential is high.
-  **Spanish Governor's Palace (6):** The form and outline of the Spanish Governor's Palace is intact, though the structure has been extensively re-modeled to accommodate multiple uses over the past 200 years. Outstanding interpretive values and good public access.
-  **San Antonio de Valero Acequia Remnant (42):** Last vestige of a vast Spanish colonial agricultural landscape is preserved and passively interpreted in a hotel development (Days Inn Downtown). Opportunity to highlight a Spanish Colonial resource to a large audience is high. Historic integrity is compromised but evident.






Size

-  **Alamo Plaza (5):** Approximately 2.25 acres
-  **San Fernando Cathedral/Main Plaza/Spanish Governor's Palace (6):** Approximately 4 acres
-  **San Antonio de Valero Acequia Remnant (42):** Approximately .03 acres








Ownership

-  **Alamo Plaza, Main Plaza, & Spanish Governor's Palace (5 and 6):** City of San Antonio
-  **San Fernando Cathedral (6):** Archdiocese of San Antonio
-  **San Antonio de Valero Acequia Remnant (42):** Days Inn Downtown



Need for Protection or Preservation

-  **Alamo Plaza (5):** Preserve public access to site of former mission grounds and battle site of the Alamo. Strong interpretive and archeological potential exists.
-  **San Fernando Cathedral (6):** Provide public access to the original Spanish Colonial church components. Excellent interpretive potential. Preserve remaining architectural remains of 1738 church.
-  **Main Plaza (Plaza de las Islas) (6):** Highly modified resource but excellent public access and interpretive potential.
-  **Spanish Governor's Palace (6):** Excellent interpretive, archeological, and historical potential.
-  **San Antonio de Valero Acequia Remnant (42):** Acequia remnant is a primary resource for Mission San Antonio de Valero. This is one of the last remaining vestiges of Mission San Antonio de Valero's elaborate irrigation system.









Mission Concepción Vicinity

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park Purpose Statement

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Resource to be Studied

-  **San Antonio River (7):** The San Antonio River is the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **Roosevelt Park (8):** Beginning of the Mission Parkway and access point to river.
-  **Mission Concepción Desaque (9):** One of the last remaining elements of the Mission Concepción acequia system.
-  **Yturri-Edmunds Mill (10):** Mill dates to 1820s but may have Spanish colonial roots; powered by Mission Concepción acequia.
-  **Concepción Park (11):** Original channel of the San Antonio River passed through park; area formed part of the Mission Concepción labores (farm fields); and site of one of the most significant battles of the Texas Revolution, the Battle of Concepción.
-  **Mission Road Corridor(12):** Public Access connecting the Spanish colonial sites and intersecting the route of the Camino Real.
-  **Riverside Golf Course (13):** Site of short lived Mission Najera and Concepción Acequia remnant.
-  **San Jose Desaque (14):** Spanish colonial irrigation channel serving the San José Acequia; One of only a few segments remaining.











Resource Significance

-  **San Antonio River (7):** Named on the feast day of St. Anthony by Fray Damian Massanet in 1691, the San Antonio River was the life blood of Spanish colonial settlement in the area and the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **Roosevelt Park (8):** Access point to river and beginning of the Mission Trail Corridor. Consider concept of developing a National Parkway based on the Mission Trail Corridor.
-  **Mission Concepción Desaque (9):** One of the last remaining elements of the Mission Concepción acequia system.
-  **Yturri-Edmunds Mill (10):** Spanish colonial roots questionable but components of the Mission Concepción acequia may exist.
-  **Concepción Park (11):** Area was part of the Mission Concepción labores (farm fields). Access point to the San Antonio River.
-  **Mission Road Corridor(12):** One of the original routes of a Camino Real. Road alignment follows established route.
-  **Riverside Golf Course (13):** Mission Najera probably located here; Concepción acequia remnants exist on site.
-  **San Jose Desaque (14):** One of the last surviving segments of the San Jose acequia system.



Values

-  **San Antonio River (7):** Exceptional recreational and interpretive value. Being restored to improve habitat and will become a significant natural resource and contributing feature to the Missions.
-  **Roosevelt Park (8):** Already a park with excellent recreational value. Becoming an access point to the river. Potential beginning to a National Park- way providing public access, interpretive value, and adding more green space to city.
-  **Mission Concepción Desaque (9):** Has significant historical, and archeological value with potential for interpretation to public.
-  **Yturri-Edmunds Mill (10):** Already a park with excellent interpretive, archeological, and historical value; direct connection to Spanish colonial history in question. Stop along proposed National Parkway.
-  **Concepción Park (11):** Already a park with excellent recreational value. Will become an access point reconnecting the Mission compound to the river. Excellent interpretive value and good potential for archeological value.
-  **Mission Road Corridor(12):** Potential National Parkway providing public access, interpretive value, recreational opportunities and adding more green space to city.
-  **Riverside Golf Course (13):** Potential archeological value; some acequia remnant alignments are present. Excellent recreational value; little interpretive value; preserved green space value.
-  **San Jose Desaque (14):** Excellent historical and archeological value and integrity.



Size

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|  San Antonio River (7): Approximately 448 acres |  Concepción Park (11): Approximately 22.2 acres |
|  Roosevelt Park (8): Approximately 13.7 acres |  Mission Road Corridor(12): Approximately 58.4 acres |
|  Mission Concepción Desaque (9): Approximately 2.3 acres |  Riverside Golf Course (13): Approximately 174 acres |
|  Yturri-Edmunds Mill (10): Approximately 1.6 acres |  San Jose Desaque (14): Approximately 3 acres |



Ownership

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|---|---|
|  San Antonio River (7): San Antonio River Authority |  Concepción Park (11): City of San Antonio |
|  Roosevelt Park (8): City of San Antonio |  Mission Road Corridor(12): City of San Antonio, private owners |
|  Mission Concepción Desaque (9): City of San Antonio |  Riverside Golf Course (13): City of San Antonio |
|  Yturri-Edmunds Mill (10): San Antonio Conservation Society |  San Jose Desaque (14): Private ownership, SAISD |



Need for Protection or Preservation

The San Antonio River and city owned public park land represent exceptional recreational value. The San Antonio River will also possess exceptional natural resource value once restoration takes hold. Desaque resources are not accessible but do retain archeological and historical integrity that represent some of the only remaining acequia resources left for Mission San José and Mission Concepción. The Yturri-Edmunds Mill needs further investigation to see if it dates to the Spanish Colonial era but is vital in telling the transitional story from colonial life to civic life. The Mission road corridor will be investigated for possible further development as a National Parkway which would add more green space to the city and serve as a land connection generally following a Camino Real route between the missions as the river is a connecting water route.











Mission San José Vicinity

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park Purpose Statement

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Resource to be Studied

-  **San Antonio River (7):** The San Antonio River is the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **Mission Parkway and Road Corridor (12, 21, & 33):** Public access connecting Spanish Colonial Sites and potential National Parkway.
-  **Mission Drive In (15):** Farm fields (labores) of Mission San José.
-  **Charro Arena (16):** Charro arena depicting heritage of mission vaqueros (cowboys) and ranching.
-  **Mission County and Padre Parks (17):** Mission San José common lands.
-  **Padre Drive Corridor (18):** Street access to Mission San José resources.
-  **San Jose Common Lands and Labores (19 & 20):** Mission San José common lands.
-  **San Juan Acequia and Trail (22, 24, & 25):** Beginning of San Juan acequia and new San Antonio River Authority trails
-  **Presa Street (23):** Public access to park and river resources.
-  **San Jose Acequia (43):** Remnant of San Jose acequia system (desague feature).













Resource Significance

-  **San Antonio River (7):** Named on the feast day of St. Anthony by Fray Damian Massanet in 1691, the San Antonio River was the life blood of Spanish colonial settlement in the area and the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **Mission Road Corridor (12, 21, & 33):** One of the original routes of a Camino Real. Road alignment follows established route.
-  **Mission Drive In (15):** Farm fields of Mission San José intact desague remnants surround property.
-  **Charro Arena (16):** An interpretive link back to the ranching skills of the native American vaqueros who were the first cowboys.
-  **Mission County and Padre Parks (17):** Common lands of Mission San José. Part of the cultural landscape of Mission San José.
-  **Padre Drive Corridor (18):** Public access to Mission San José features and to hike and bike trails
-  **San Jose Common Lands and Labores (19 & 20):** Part of the cultural landscape of Mission San José.
-  **San Juan Acequia and Trail (22, 24, & 25):** San Juan acequia is one of just two remaining intact acequia systems in San Antonio.
-  **Presa Street (23):** Public access to park and river resources.
-  **San Jose Acequia (43):** Important to interpreting the San José acequia system (desague feature).



Values

-  **San Antonio River (7):** Exceptional recreational and interpretive value. Restoration will improve habitat and become a significant natural resource.
-  **Mission Road Corridor (12, 21, & 33):** Potential National Parkway providing public access, interpretive value, and more green space to city.
-  **Mission Drive In (15):** Area is being developed for new library and National Park Service headquarters; remainder potential green space. Excellent educational opportunities and partnership between NPS and new public library.
-  **Charro Arena (16):** Excellent educational and interpretive values connecting charro skills and events to historic vaquero and mission ranching.
-  **Mission County and Padre Parks (17):** Excellent recreational value with interpretive potential and new connecting links to the river.
-  **Padre Drive Corridor (18):** Public access between mission lands, river, and extensive bike trail network. Strong recreational values
-  **San Jose Common Lands and Labores (19 & 20):** Part of the cultural landscape of Mission San José; good interpretive values.
-  **San Juan Acequia and Trail (22, 24, & 25):** Excellent recreational and interpretive values. Excellent historic and archeological integrity.
-  **Presa Street (23):** Recreational access to San Antonio River and new hike and bike trails.
-  **San Jose Acequia (43):** Excellent archeological and historical values that can be easily interpreted off Padre Drive.



Size

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|  San Antonio River (7): Approximately 448 acres |  Padre Drive Corridor (18): Approximately 8.9 acres |
|  Mission Road Corridor (12, 21, & 33): Approximately 127.2 acres |  San Jose Common Lands and Labores (19 & 20): 12.4 acres |
|  Mission Drive In (15): Approximately 29 acres |  San Juan Acequia and Trail (22, 24, & 25): Approximately 48.2 acres |
|  Charro Arena (16): Approximately 5.2 acres |  Presa Street (23): Approximately 28 acres |
|  Mission County and Padre Parks (17): Approximately 59.5 acres |  San Jose Acequia (43): Approximately 2.2 acres |



Ownership

- | | |
|---|--|
|  San Antonio River (7): San Antonio River Authority (SARA) |  Padre Drive Corridor (18): City of San Antonio |
|  Mission Road Corridor (12, 21, & 33): City of San Antonio; Private |  San Jose Common Lands and Labores (19 & 20): Archdiocese, private |
|  Mission Drive In (15): City of San Antonio |  San Juan Acequia and Trail (22, 24, & 25): Private; SARA |
|  Charro Arena (16): San Antonio Charro Association |  Presa Street (23): City of San Antonio |
|  Mission County and Padre Parks (17): Bexar County |  San Jose Acequia (43): Private |



Need for Protection or Preservation

The San Antonio River and city owned public park land represent exceptional recreational value. River will also possess exceptional natural resource value once restoration takes hold. The Mission Road Corridor will be investigated for possible development as a National Parkway which would add more green space to the city and serve as a land connection route between the missions as the river is a connecting water route. Park areas should remain as places for public recreation and will protect viewshed and portions of the cultural landscape of Mission San José. Various acequia remnants are primary park resources and should be protected. Presa Street will form new access point to the San Antonio River and new hike and bike trails for recreational use.








Mission San Juan Vicinity

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park Purpose Statement

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Resource to be Studied

-  **San Antonio River (7):** The San Antonio River is the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **Mission Parkway and Road Corridor (21):** Public access connecting Spanish colonial sites and potential National Parkway.
-  **Presa Street (23):** Public access to park and river resources.
-  **San Juan Acequia and Trail (24, 25, 27):** Beginning of San Juan acequia and new San Antonio River Authority trails.
-  **Espada Acequia (26):** West bank of the Espada acequia and buffer land.
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** Mission San Juan labores (farm fields).
-  **Espada Labores (29):** Mission Espada labores (northern fields).



Resource Significance

-  **San Antonio River (7):** Named on the feast day of St. Anthony by Fray Damian Massanet in 1691, the San Antonio River was the life blood of Spanish colonial settlement in the area and the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **Mission Road Corridor (21):** One of the original routes of a Camino Real. Road alignment follows established route.
-  **Presa Street (23):** Public access to park and river resources.
-  **San Juan Acequia and Trail (24, 25, 27):** San Juan acequia is one of just two remaining intact acequia systems in San Antonio.
-  **Espada Acequia (26):** The Espada acequia is one of just two remaining intact acequia systems in San Antonio and the only one still operational.
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** Farm fields of Mission San Juan that continue to exhibit characteristic features of a Spanish colonial landscape.
-  **Espada Labores (29):** Farm fields of Mission Espada that continue to exhibit characteristic features of a Spanish colonial landscape.










Values

-  **San Antonio River (7):** Exceptional recreational and interpretive value. Being restored to improve habitat and will become a significant natural resource.
-  **Mission Road Corridor (21):** Potential National Parkway providing public access, interpretive value, and adding more green space to city.
-  **Presa Street (23):** Recreational access to San Antonio River and new hike and bike trails.
-  **San Juan Acequia and Trail (24, 25, 27):** Excellent recreational and interpretive values. Excellent historic and archeological integrity.
-  **Espada Acequia (26):** Resource integrity is exceptional with potential to expand trails for interpretation.
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** Resource integrity is high as features still exhibit Spanish colonial characteristics. Excellent educational and interpretive potential as well with development of Spanish colonial demonstration farm and restored acequia.
-  **Espada Labores (29):** Resource integrity is high as features still exhibit Spanish colonial characteristics.



Size

-  **San Antonio River (7):** Approximately 448 acres
-  **Mission Road Corridor (21):** Approximately 127.2 acres
-  **Presa Street (23):** Approximately 28 acres
-  **San Juan Acequia and Trail (24, 25, 27):** Approximately 48.2 acres
-  **Espada Acequia (26):** Approximately 68.2 acres
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** Approximately 280.8 acres
-  **Espada Labores (29):** Approximately 367 acres



Ownership

-  **San Antonio River (7):** San Antonio River Authority (SARA)
-  **Mission Road Corridor (21):** City of San Antonio; Private
-  **San Juan Acequia and Trail (22, 24, & 25):** Private; SARA
-  **Presa Street (23):** City of San Antonio
-  **Espada Acequia (26):** City of San Antonio
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** San Antonio Independent School District, Private, City of San Antonio, Private, Texas Department of Transportation
-  **Espada Labores (29):** Private



Need for Protection or Preservation

The San Antonio River and city owned public park land represent exceptional recreational value. River will also possess exceptional natural resource value once restoration takes hold. The Mission Road Corridor will be investigated for possible development as a National Parkway which would add more green space to the city and serve as a land connection route between the missions as the river is a connecting water route. Park areas should remain as places for public recreation and will protect viewshed and portions of the cultural landscape of Mission San Juan. Various acequia remnants are primary park resources and should be protected. Labores are primary park resources, retain much of their integrity, are still identifiable as a Spanish colonial resource and retain significant interpretive, historic, and archeological values.





Mission Espada Vicinity

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park Purpose Statement

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Resource to be Studied

-  **San Antonio River (7 & 34):** The San Antonio River is the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** Mission San Juan labores (farm fields)
-  **Espada Labores (29 & 31):** Mission Espada labores (northern and southern fields)
-  **Espada Road (30):** Public access connecting Spanish colonial sites and potential National Parkway.



Resource Significance

-  **San Antonio River (7 & 34):** Named on the feast day of St. Anthony by Fray Damian Massanet in 1691, the San Antonio River was the life blood of Spanish colonial settlement in the area and the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** Farm fields of Mission San Juan that still exhibit characteristic features of a Spanish colonial landscape.
-  **Espada Labores (29 & 31):** Farm fields of Mission Espada that still exhibit characteristic features of a Spanish colonial landscape.
-  **Espada Road (30):** One of the original routes of a Camino Real. Road alignment follows established route.



Values

-  **San Antonio River (7 & 34):** Exceptional recreational and interpretive value. Being restored to improve habitat and will become a significant natural resource.
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** Resource integrity is high as features still exhibit Spanish colonial characteristics. Excellent educational and interpretive potential as well with development of Spanish colonial demonstration farm and restored acequia.
-  **Espada Labores (29 & 31):** Resource integrity is high as features still exhibit Spanish colonial characteristics.
-  **Espada Road (30):** Potential National Parkway providing public access, interpretive value, and adding more green space to the city.



Size

-  **San Antonio River (7 & 34):** Approximately 1,457 acres
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** Approximately 280.8 acres
-  **Espada Labores (29 & 31):** Approximately 916.5 acres
-  **Espada Road (30):** Approximately 1.19 acres



Ownership

-  **San Antonio River (7 & 34):** San Antonio River Authority (SARA)
-  **San Juan Labores (28 & 32):** San Antonio Independent School District, Private, City of San Antonio, Private, Texas Department of Transportation
-  **Espada Labores (29 & 31):** Private
-  **Espada Road (30):** City of San Antonio, Private



Need for Protection or Preservation

The San Antonio River and city owned public park land represent exceptional recreational value. The River will also possess exceptional natural resource value once restoration takes hold. The Mission Road Corridor will be investigated for possible development as a National Parkway which would add more green space to the city and serve as a land connection route between the missions as the river is a connecting water route. Various acequia remnants are primary park resources and should be protected. Labores are primary park resources, retain much of their integrity, are still identifiable as a Spanish colonial resource and retain significant interpretive, historic, and archeological values.








Southern Bexar and Wilson County Resources

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park Purpose Statement

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park exists to preserve, protect, restore, and interpret the Spanish Colonial missions along with their historically associated areas, features and values for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.










Resource to be Studied

-  **San Antonio River (7 & 34):** The San Antonio River is the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **Mission Espada Common Lands (de la Garza Grant) (35):** de la Garza Grant and Trueheart Ranch were once common lands of Mission Espada and held original alignments of a Camino Real.
-  **Potential River Park at Loop 1604 (36):** Publicly accessible river resources and portage area for potential river/canoe trail.
-  **Potential River Park at FM775 (37):** Publicly accessible river resources and portage area for potential river/canoe trail and camping area.
-  **Floresville River Park (38):** Public park and contact area for visitors to Rancho de las Cabras and possible portage area for potential river/canoe trail to the Rancho
-  **Rancho de las Cabras Access (39):** Land and water route to Rancho de las Cabras
-  **Hike & Bike Trail (40):** Overland trail route along abandoned rail line that was once part of a Camino Real route










Resource Significance

-  **San Antonio River (7 & 34):** Named on the feast day of St. Anthony by Fray Damian Massanet in 1691, the San Antonio River was the life blood of Spanish colonial settlement in the area and the single most important element influencing the placement of the missions.
-  **Mission Espada Common Lands (de la Garza Grant) (35):** Common lands of missions have been largely developed. Espada's common land is largely undeveloped and is an illustration of the vastness of missions as enterprises and the land needed to farm and ranch.
-  **Potential River Park at Loop 1604 (36):** Recreational use of the San Antonio River and preserve critical, accessible river habitat.
-  **Potential River Park at FM775 (37):** Recreational use of the San Antonio River and preserve critical, accessible river habitat.
-  **Floresville River Park (38):** Critical way finding for access to Rancho de las Cabras and develop recreational use of the San Antonio River
-  **Rancho de las Cabras Access (39):** Land and water route to Rancho de las Cabras
-  **Hike & Bike Trail (40):** Large areas of original Spanish Colonial landscape made accessible via a Camino Real route; elements of Spanish Colonial landscape poorly interpreted.



Values

-  **San Antonio River (7 & 34):** Exceptional recreational and interpretive value. Being restored to improve habitat and will become a significant natural resource.
-  **Mission Espada Common Lands (de la Garza Grant) (35):** Espada's common and ranch land is largely undeveloped and is an illustration of the vastness of missions as enterprises and the land necessary to farm and ranch.
-  **Potential River Park at Loop 1604 (36):** Exceptional recreational and natural resource value.
-  **Potential River Park at FM775 (37):** Exceptional recreational and natural resource value.
-  **Floresville River Park (38):** Exceptional recreational value, Rancho de las Cabras passively interpreted on site.
-  **Rancho de las Cabras Access (39):** Land and water route to Rancho de las Cabras
-  **Hike & Bike Trail (40):** Excellent recreational and interpretive value; natural resource potential too.










Size

- | | |
|--|--|
|  San Antonio River (7 & 34): Approximately 1,457 acres |  Floresville River Park (38): Approximately 42.9 acres |
|  Mission Espada Common Lands (35): Approximately 323.6 acres |  Rancho de las Cabras Access (39): Approximately 502.5 acres |
|  Potential River Park at Loop 1604 (36): Approximately 3 acres |  Hike & Bike Trail (40): Approximately 80.9 acres |
|  Potential River Park at FM775 (37): Approximately 66.2 acres | |



Ownership

- | | |
|--|---|
|  San Antonio River (7 & 34): San Antonio River Authority |  Floresville River Park (38): City of Floresville |
|  Mission Espada Common Lands (35): Private |  Rancho de las Cabras Access (39): Private |
|  Potential River Park at Loop 1604 (36): San Antonio River Authority |  Hike & Bike Trail (40): Railroad |
|  Potential River Park at FM775 (37): San Antonio River Authority | |



Need for Protection or Preservation

The San Antonio River represents exceptional recreational and natural resource values in southern Bexar and northern Wilson counties. This area is also the Mission Espada Common Lands and lands belonging to Mission Espada's ranching operations, Rancho de las Cabras. These lands are largely undeveloped and have been used in a consistent fashion since the Spanish Colonial era—farming and ranching. These lands are important to illustrate the vastness of a mission as a self sustaining enterprise. A mission's wealth was directly tied to its land holdings and the agricultural and ranching activities taking place on them. There are few, if any areas in the world that better illustrate the vastness of a mission enterprise better than this area. It is critical to preserve parts of this incredible cultural landscape and interpret to the public. In addition, these areas offer new recreational opportunities for the public to experience the National Park.

Mission Trail & National Parkway

+ San Antonio Mission National Historical Park Purpose Statement

San Antonio Mission National Historical Park exists to preserve, protect, restore, and interpret the Spanish Colonial missions along with their historically associated areas, features and values for the benefit and enjoyment of present and future generations.



+ Resource to be Studied

- Vehicular route linking San Antonio's five historic missions. Mission Trail utilizes roadways with bike path routes with a distinctive look including buff colored sidewalks with brick inlays and a curved, dark green light pole with banner hangers. Utilities would be underground decluttering the viewshed.
- National Parkway would include the additional elements. Where possible a 50' wide green space adjacent to the roadway with the Mission Trail upgrades (underground utilities, curved light poles, buff colored concrete with brick inlays, and bike path). The emphasis is on establishing a green space scenic byway linking mission resources where applicable.
- Many of the routes used in both the Mission Trail and potential National Parkway utilize old alignments of a camino real (royal road).



+ Resource Significance

- Both the Mission Trail and the National Parkway would follow original alignments of a camino real, especially along sections of Alamo Road, Mission Road, and Espada Road. The camino reales were a network of routes designed to facilitate travel between assets of the Spanish crown in the 17th through early 19th centuries. Many of these routes were incorporated into modern thoroughfares and represent a living, operational link to the past. Utilizing this route where it exists today will help tell the story of the Spanish Colonial landscape of San Antonio. Elements of camino reales in Bexar and Wilson counties are now part of a national trail, El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail.



+ Values

- The Mission Trail, where completed, offers easy way finding between park assets by vehicle traffic in a well lit, aesthetically pleasing route. Recreation values are also high as bike lanes both class A (separate path from roadway) and class B (striped on roadway) are present.
- National Parkway would add considerable green space (50' either side of road) and afford Class A bike lanes throughout area for recreation and aesthetics.



+ Current Issues

- 1) Power Plant on Mission Road—Future Use?
- 2) Transformer Station on Mission & West Highland Road—Could it be moved further to Roosevelt Underground Utilities Issues
- 3) Mary's Street to Southcross
- 4) Utilities in front of Mission San Jose on Roosevelt
- 5) Mission Road south of Military to south of Stinson Field (Stinson Field issues—relevancy as historic asset, parking, landscaping)
- 6) Espada Road from Espada Aqueduct to I-410
- 7) Villamain Road
- 8) Alamo Street between Durango and South Presa—One business is not underground



+ Need for Protection or Preservation

The Mission Trail and National Parkway ideas promote recreational and visitor satisfaction in offering an easy to follow, aesthetic route for the self guided vehicle travelers and the recreating public. Encompassing elements of the camino reales will add educational opportunities to describe both the Spanish Colonial landscape in the 18th century and how a modern city has developed and incorporated Spanish Colonial resources into city infrastructure.