

Proposition 1

Vote YES on November 2, 2010

Aquifer Protection Initiative

P.O. Box 6250 • San Antonio TX 78209 • (210) 222-8430



Need

As San Antonio grows, we need to continue protecting the Edwards Aquifer to ensure the quality, quantity and reliability of our drinking water. Our water needs are expected to increase more than 30 percent by 2040 (Texas Water Development Board).

- Our quality of life now and in the future depends on safe, reliable drinking water.
- Continued protection of the Edwards Aquifer is vital for the city to keep and attract more jobs.
- As land prices increase, the sooner we secure land for aquifer protection the less it will cost.

Opportunity

A vote November 2 to approve Proposition 1, the Aquifer Protection Initiative, will continue the successful program for protecting the aquifer and our drinking water for the future.

- Proposition 1 re-authorizes a 1/8-cent sales tax in San Antonio to raise \$90 million for land acquisition to permanently protect significant portions of the watershed that contribute to the aquifer.
- Land protected for the aquifer protects wildlife habitat, preserves our Hill Country heritage and sustains our economic base, while keeping our water safe.

Credibility

Proposition 1 is a continuation of aquifer-protection measures that have already proven successful. Approved by voters in 2000 and 2005, the program has allowed San Antonio to permanently protect 95,000 acres in the Edwards Aquifer recharge and contributing zones. The process for acquiring and protecting land is open, transparent and provides accountability.

- A Scientific Evaluation Team of water-resource professionals identifies land to protect.
- A Conservation Advisory Board of citizens, water-resource experts, real estate professionals and city staff members provides oversight.
- Conservation real estate professionals negotiate land or conservation agreement purchases at competitive prices.

Proven Tools

The city has the option to purchase land outright or to negotiate conservation agreements with landowners both within and outside of Bexar County, including in the recharge zone to our west. Seventy percent of the water in the Edwards Aquifer comes from land west of Bexar County.

- Land values are not as high to the west of San Antonio and Bexar County, so program funds can be stretched to protect more land in the recharge zone both in and out of Bexar County.
- Conservation agreements (also called conservation easements) protect land at significantly less cost than outright purchase. The land remains in private ownership and on the tax rolls.
- The city will continue to purchase land and conservation agreements only from willing landowners.

Our Future

Water is the cornerstone of our future.

- Protecting our water now enhances our future health, economy and quality of life.
- Voting for Proposition 1 on November 2 will give San Antonians the tools we need to protect our water for tomorrow.

Proposition 2

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Creekways Hike & Bike Trails

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Need

As San Antonio continues to grow, it is essential that we provide more parkland and recreational opportunities for all of our citizens. Our population is expected to increase by close to 400,000 in the next 20 years, yet our unique and beautiful city ranks sixth from the bottom in parkland per capita among Texas cities in general (Texas Parks and Wildlife Department).

- Our quality of life, our physical fitness and the beauty of our city depend on expansion of our city parks. Our opportunities for economic growth are enhanced by the benefits good parks provide.
- The parks we do have aren't always well located to serve everyone in San Antonio. Our citizens need and deserve a great park system for a great city.

Opportunity

A vote November 2 to approve Proposition 2 for Creekways Hike & Bike Trails will continue the successful program for creating linear parks along San Antonio's creeks and rivers.

- Proposition 2 re-authorizes a 1/8-cent sales tax in San Antonio to raise \$45 million for land acquisition and construction to expand our spectacular trail system along the Salado and Leon creeks as well as locations along the city's West Side creeks.
- Expansion of greenways to the city's West Side creeks will help revitalize surrounding neighborhoods and provide important drainage improvements.

Value for Investment

Proposition 2 continues San Antonio's creekway linear parks program, which has acquired more than 1,100 acres of creek frontage and created 22 miles of hike & bike trails along Leon and Salado creeks and the Medina River. Four new segments under construction will add 14 miles to the system, with four more segments in design that will add another nine miles.

- Most of the land purchased is vacant floodplain and usually is less expensive to acquire as a consequence, and hike & bike trails are far less expensive to build than most other kinds of parks.
- Creekway trails and bridges are built to withstand occasional severe flood events and properly handle associated drainage, and construction is designed to minimize adverse environmental effects and preserve natural beauty and wildlife.

Benefits

- Linear parks along creekways link neighborhoods and create access to safe, continuous hike & bike trails, offering greater opportunities for citizens to improve their health and physical fitness.
- Park expansion along rivers and creeks will provide new economic development opportunities near neighborhoods and throughout the city. Great parks are an amenity that helps cities attract and retain businesses.
- The values of residential and commercial properties near parklands are enhanced.
- These creekway parks not only provide new recreation resources, they offer opportunities for people to enjoy nature and improve our quality of life.