



Dear San Antonio GEAA members and friends,

Last week I sent you a message concerning the City's plans for purchasing 204 acres on the Northside for a new park. \$5.3 million of these funds will come from Prop 1 Edwards Aquifer Protection Program funds. On Saturday, the San Antonio Express News published [an article](#) enumerating some - but not all - of the facts that I supplied to reporter Josh Baugh about why this deal is not as great as [previously reported](#).

Chief among the omissions is that 84 acres of the 204 acre tract to be purchased are already under conservation easement for the Salado Diversion Dam, which means that acreage is already preserved from development. Looking into this further, we discovered that the City plans to pay \$10,000 an acre for the 84 preserved acres, despite the fact that the Bexar County Appraisal Districts [lists the cost](#) for the entire 84 acres at \$36,980 - or \$440.24/acre.

Part of the deal requires that funds be used to extend Hardy Oaks Blvd and Heubner Road. Funds from the sale will also be used to pay the developer's cost of extending sewer infrastructure into the contiguous tract that will be developed.

I will be talking about this deal on [TPR's The Source](#) on Wednesday at 3:pm. Meanwhile, City Council is set to vote on the purchase [this Thursday](#). Perhaps if the item were postponed, the City would have at least time to negotiate a better deal.

That the Express News had these facts and chose not to report them troubling. Even more troubling, however, are the proposed plans to annex large swaths of the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone that are currently in San Antonio's Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). If annexed, impervious cover limits in these areas would jump from 15% to as high as 65%. On behalf of GEAA, I participated in the [Planned Element Working Group on Annexation](#), where I expressed these concerns. Others on the PEWG were equally concerned. Yet, our concerns seem to have been largely ignored in the report presented to City Council. You can see the reports [here](#).

City Council will discuss these plans at their [B Session meeting](#) this coming Wednesday.

Thanks to all of you who sent encouraging words and shared GEAA's message on the Classen-Steuben purchase. As always, your support is what keeps us going.

Again, thank you!

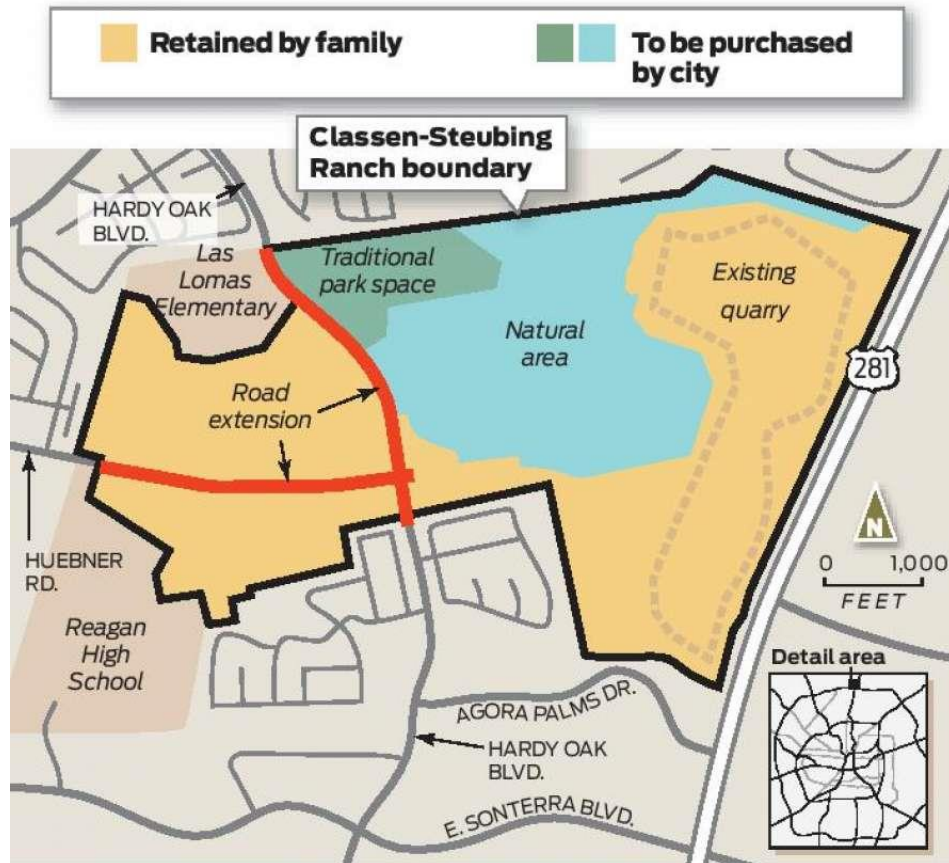
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The Classen-Steubing Ranch park plan

The city plans to purchase 204 acres of undeveloped ranch land to turn into a park. About 165 acres would remain natural habitat and 39 acres would be used for baseball and soccer fields, hike-and-bike trails and other traditional park amenities.



Source: City of San Antonio

San Antonio Express-News