

Dear San Antonio GEAA members and friends,

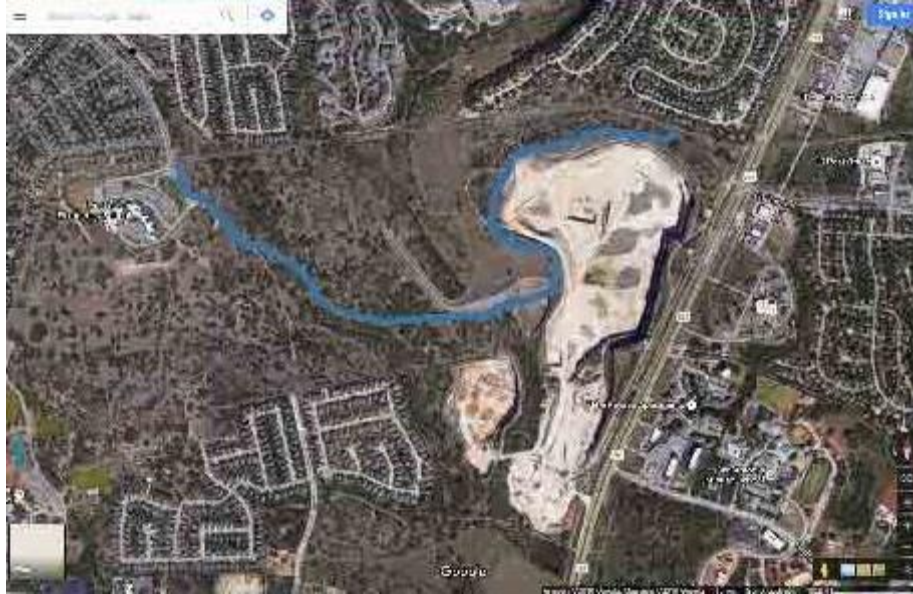


Rivard Report, [City Reveals Plans for New 204-Acre Park in Northside](#) 6/8/2016

Instead of taking selfies, Mayor Taylor should be ashamed. On the face of it, we all should be celebrating purchase of 204 acres of land on the Recharge Zone, right? Except that this deal stinks to high heaven.

Yesterday, Mayor Ivy Taylor announced that “city would purchase some 204 acres for a new park, preserving the vast majority of the land in its pristine state” for the sum of \$10 million dollars. According to the [San Antonio Express News](#), “The land acquisition would happen in two phases. The first would require City Council approval for the \$6.3 million purchase of 165 acres that would remain in its natural state. The second phase — for the remaining 39 acres that would include baseball and soccer fields, hike-and-bike trails and other traditional park amenities — the city would ask voters to approve \$3.8 million in the 2017 bond program.” According to these figures, San Antonians would pay \$38,182/acre from Prop. 1 Edwards Aquifer Protection Program funds and \$97,436/acre with bond money.

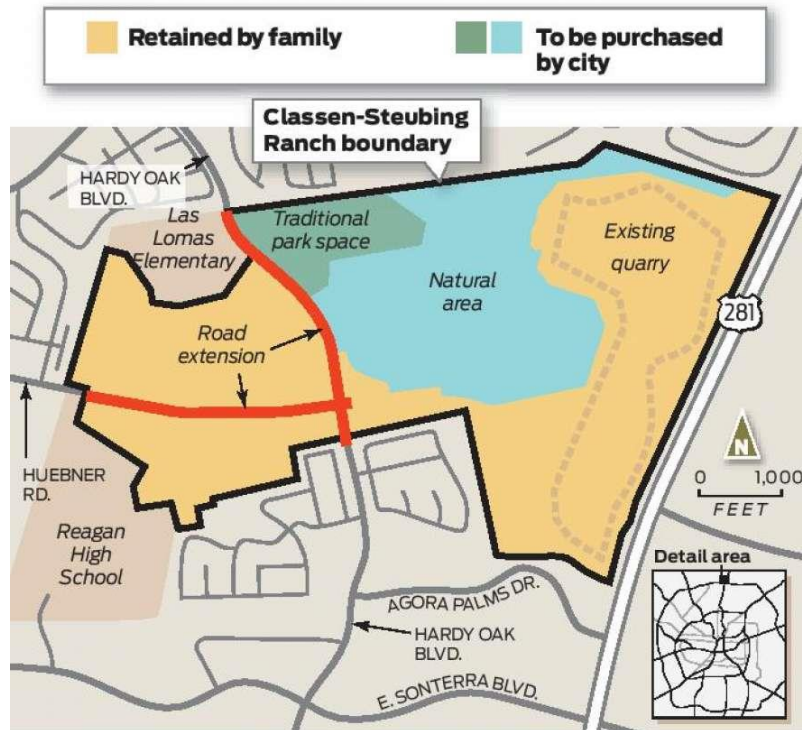
Mayor Taylor said that preserving this parcel means that “as many as 3,500 houses and apartments that could have been built on this site won’t.” What she neglected to say was that most of the acreage that the City plans to spend your money on is within the footprint of Salado Creek Watershed Scs Site 9 diversion dam.



Using money from the sale, the developer of the property will be able to expand Heubner and hard Oaks Blvd. in order to develop this site that was formerly landlocked.

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

In essence, the City will be subsidizing development of nearly 400 acres to the tune of \$10 million by purchasing land that is largely unsuitable for development to fund road extensions that will enable development of the remainder of the Classen-Steubing tract. By Mayor Taylor's math, that is an additional 7,000 houses over the Edwards Aquifer Recharge Zone.

City Council is set to vote to approve the Prop 1 purchase during the City Council A session on [June 16th](#). With City Council so far assenting to this foolishness, and Mayor Taylor and Councilman Krier actually bragging on it, we have no doubt this scam will sail through approval. Given this Mayor's [track record of accommodating campaign donors](#), and City Council's willingness to bless all sorts of [goofy plans](#), I don't know whether it is worthwhile to [contact Mayor Taylor and your Council Representative](#). But, it certainly couldn't hurt.

While still a big fan of the Prop 1 [Edwards Aquifer Protection Program](#), it's success is dependent on responsible oversight by the [Conservation Advisory Board](#), the Mayor, and City Council. To sully the program in this manner - by allowing public funds to be used as a piggy bank for those who are developing the Recharge Zone - is reprehensible.

On other news, listen to Amy Hardberger on KSTX [The Source](#) today at 3:pm (or on-line any time), when she will be talking about Vista Ridge and her dismissal from San Antonio Water System's Capital Improvements Advisory Committee.

Annalisa Peace
Executive Director
[Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance](#)

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