

**RESOLUTION 2011 - 21**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS, TEXAS, APPROVING RECREATION MITIGATION MEASURES FOR THE SAN MARCOS RIVER AND RECOMMENDING TO THE EDWARDS AQUIFER RECOVERY IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM THAT THESE MEASURES BE INCLUDED IN THE SAN MARCOS RIVER HABITAT CONSERVATION PLAN; AND DECLARING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS, TEXAS:**


**PART 1.** The San Marcos City Council hereby approves the Recreation Mitigation Measures attached to this resolution as Exhibit "A" and recommends to the Edwards Aquifer Implementation Program that these measures be included in Habitat Conservation Plan for the San Marcos River.

**PART 2.** This Resolution shall be in full force and effect immediately from and after its passage.

**ADOPTED** on February 1, 2011.

  
Daniel Guerrero  
Mayor

Attest:

  
Jamie Lee Pettijohn  
City Clerk

## Recreation Measures

1. **Develop large and enhanced ingress/egress sites** that also act as bank stabilization structures at the following locations; Dog Beach (across from tube rental in City Park), tube rental, downstream of Hopkins RR trestle on river right, Bicentennial Park, upstream of Rio Vista Falls on river right along the row of cypress, Wildlife Annex and the Ramon Lucio pavilion bank. Access points need to be constructed downstream of Texas wild-rice stands. Recommend the construction of access points for fishing at locations to be determined. Site locations and design will be coordinated with community stakeholders and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
2. **Create dense vegetation zones** between access points to prevent access which causes bank erosion and habitat damage. Plant selection will be coordinated with community stakeholders and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

**Clear Springs Apartments.** The river channel that runs alongside Clear Springs Apartments provides habitat for the San Marcos salamander, fountain darter and large stands of Texas wild-rice. Currently, it is open to public access and listed species habitat is damaged year after year. Recommend closing the walking path from the Clear Springs Apt parking lot to the river so anyone parking at this lot will not be able to directly access this portion of the San Marcos River. Additionally, steep walls and plantings could be constructed to minimize ongoing bank erosion and easy access to this portion of the river.

3. **Private Property.** The public is accessing the river via private property. This type of access is increasing resulting in litter and bank erosion. Recommend working with private owners to enforce trespassing laws on areas such as Cape's dam.
4. **Litter removal** from areas in and along the river is an important measure to enhance listed species' habitat. Additionally, controls on littering should be put into place and/or enhanced to decrease the level of cleanup that is occurring in the river. Cleanup in the river itself creates a disturbance to the listed species.
5. **Buffer.** Create a buffer to keep picnic tables, pop ups, shelters etc away from the river. Pushing these amenities further away from the river will reduce litter getting into the river, decrease bank compaction, and allow more space for access along the banks. The river trail could be used as the buffer boundary.
6. **Establish a state system of scientific study areas** for the protection of Texas wild-rice. Such areas have been created by Texas Parks & Wildlife Department to protect seagrass in Red Fish bay. One of the Texas wild-rice stands recommended for protection is below the spillway by Clear Springs Apts. The other is the large stand at Bicentennial Park. Scientific study areas should be located in the areas of the river that provide optimal habitat for Texas wild-rice even during extremely low flows (less than 60 cfs). Recommend using markers (i.e. flexible stakes) in the river that identify the area and notify users of the restricted access. Cordoning the area could cause safety problems for river users. The EARIP should talk to TPWD as soon as possible to explore the feasibility of this action.

**Tying tubes together.** Recommend limiting this activity to a maximum of two - four tubes to maintain integrity of scientific areas. It would be difficult for a caravan of tubes to avoid the sanctioned areas. Ensure dogs do not enter.

7. **Education** of the river user and the community is a critical component. Suggested ideas include:

- a. **Signage.** Post signage at the City Park tube rental facility, Rio Vista Falls and at proposed hard access points along river. Signage should be simple, natural, and when possible use the existing sign locations (trying to avoid too many signs). Signs should have the same template and coloration so they are recognized up and down the river. Signs should cover the rules of the river and education and be bilingual.
- b. **Video Loop** at City Park offering information about the river and safety rules while people are waiting on shuttle or tubes. Possibly also at Rio Vista Falls.
- c. **Posted maps** showing trail, access points, fishing access and other amenities. Will include a map at Stokes Park to help inform about the San Marcos River / Blanco confluence.
- d. **Recreation information** at hotels/restaurants, bed and breakfast facilities, Chamber of Commerce, Visitor's Center, City of San Marcos internet site, etc could include restrictions so river users are prepared prior to entering river.
- e. **Park Rangers.** Include a section on river biology in the training of the park rangers so they can help disseminate the information.
- f. **School Outreach.** Implement an outreach program for SMCISD so this information can be relayed to youth in San Marcos and indirectly to the parents.
- g. **Overall interpretation Plan.** This would pull all the informational ideas together for conformity, continuity and implementation.
- h. **Lecture series** at Texas State University.
- i. **Stencils** on rented tubes

8. **Reduce turbidity and sedimentation** through the establishment of watershed management strategies, remove silt and accumulated sediment from designated areas within the San Marcos River, and increase density and width of vegetation along the river and the tributaries at least 100 feet where possible. This will decrease erosion and subsequent sedimentation and filter runoff to enhance water quality

9. **Enforcement** is a critical aspect in ensuring the success of all suggested measures. Recommend the development of a partnership between the City and the University to enforce suggested measures and educate river users. Also recommend using officers dedicated to the environmental regulations working both in and along the river. A TPWD game warden could possibly train the environmental officers.

## **Final Recreation Measures: 2-7-11**

1. **Develop multiple large and small access sites** that also act as bank stabilization structures at eroded locations. Access points would be constructed away from Texas wild-rice stands.

Create dense vegetation zones between access points to prevent future bank erosion.

2. **Trespassing Enforcement.** The public is accessing the river via private property. Private property owners have requested City assistance through signage to enforce trespassing laws.

3. **Litter removal.** Continue/increase cleanup programs, such as underwater litter pickup. Add additional receptacles and collection services.

4. **Buffer Zone.** Create an appropriate buffer zone by location to keep picnic tables, pop up tents, shelters and portable grills away from the river. Pushing these amenities further away from the river will reduce litter getting into the river and decrease bank compaction/erosion.

5. **Establish a state system of scientific study areas.** Designated state scientific study areas allow for enforcement of restrictions in the river. An interlocal agreement between City and State allows local in-water enforcement. Access restrictions to preserve at least 1000 m<sup>2</sup> would be delineated by for the protection of Texas wild-rice and markers and could be in place only during low flows as supported by scientific research.

6. **Education of the river user and the community is a critical component.** Suggested ideas include:

a. **Signage.** Post signage at the City Park tube rental facility, Rio Vista Falls and at proposed hard access points along river. Signage should be simple, natural, and when possible use the existing sign locations (trying to avoid too many signs). Signs should have the same template and coloration so they are recognized up and down the river. Signs should cover the rules of the river and education and be bilingual.

b. **Video Loop** at City Park offering information about the river and safety rules while people are waiting on shuttle or tubes. Possibly also at Rio Vista Falls.

c. **Posted maps** showing trail, access points, fishing access and other amenities. Will include a map at Stokes Park to help inform about the San Marcos River / Blanco confluence.

d. **Recreation information** at hotels/restaurants, bed and breakfast facilities, Chamber of Commerce, Visitor's Center, City of San Marcos internet site, etc could include restrictions so river users are prepared prior to entering river.

e. **Park Rangers.** Include a section on river biology in the training of the park rangers so they can help disseminate the information.

f. **School Outreach.** Implement an outreach program for SMCISD so this information can be relayed to youth in San Marcos and indirectly to the parents.

g. **Overall interpretation Plan.** This would pull all the informational ideas together for conformity, continuity and implementation.

h. **Lecture series** at Texas State University.

i. **Stencils** on rented tubes

**7. Reduce turbidity and sedimentation through the establishment of watershed management strategies. This will decrease erosion and subsequent sedimentation and filter runoff to enhance water quality. Remove silt and accumulated sediment from designated areas within the river to more closely match historical conditions.**

**8. Enforcement is a critical aspect in ensuring the success of all suggested measures. Recommend the development of a partnership between the City and the University to enforce suggested measures and educate river users. Also recommend using officers dedicated to the environmental regulations working both in and along the river. A TPWD game warden could possibly train the environmental officers.**

