



# **City of San Marcos**

## **City Council Work Session**

November 6, 2023



# Purpose

Receive an update from Parks and Recreation regarding the 2023 summer season in the Riverfront Parks System.



# Park Ambassadors

- First year of program
- Hired 8 seasonal staff members (Mid-May – Labor Day)
- Primary duties include:
  - Assists in ensuring the local community and visitors experience safe use of park and recreation areas.
  - Educates park users of local regulations and ordinances.
  - Provide maintenance services such as trash/litter pickup and removal, checks restroom and park structures for maintenance issues.
  - Reports unsafe acts, conditions, accidents and injuries to city marshal/park ranger personnel



# Park Ambassadors

- Training Received:
  - Park Rules
  - Patron engagement and de-escalation training
  - Two-way radio use
  - First Aid/CPR
  - Heat Safety Education

Total # of Violations

**1,300**

for 11,139 people

Violations

Total # of Interactions

**2,115**

for 11,139 people

YTD # of Violations

**1,300**

for 11,139 people

# of Violations - This Quarter

**0**

for 11,139 people

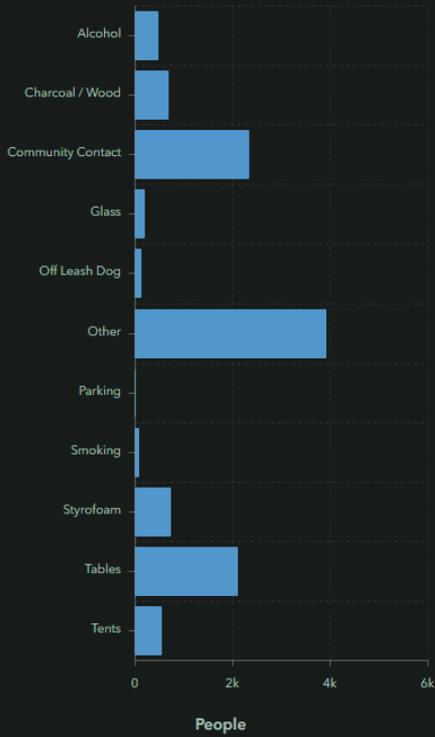
# of Violations - This Month

**0**

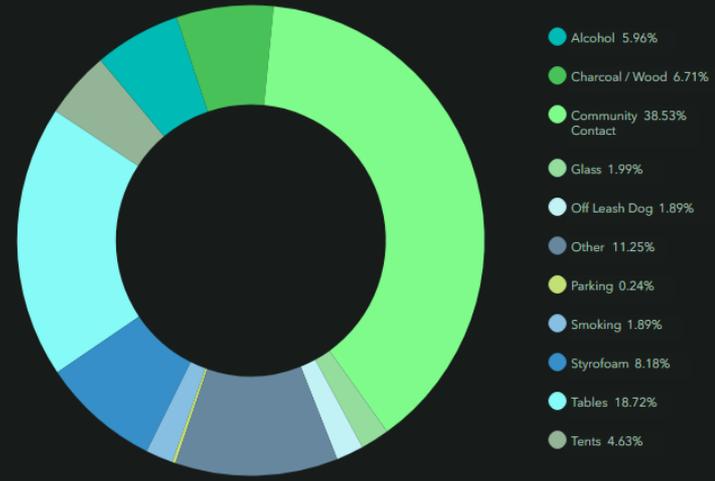
for 11,139 people

# of Violations - This Year

for 11,139 people

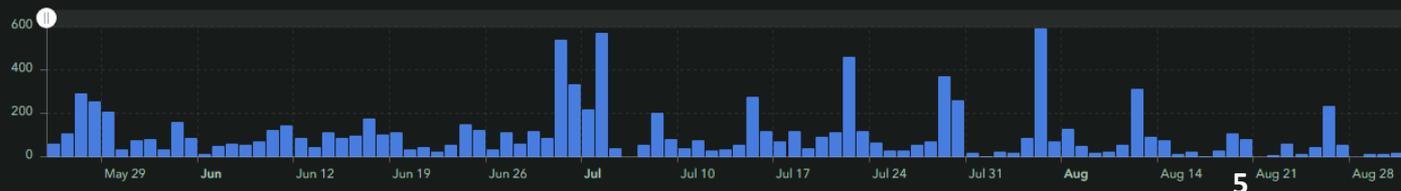


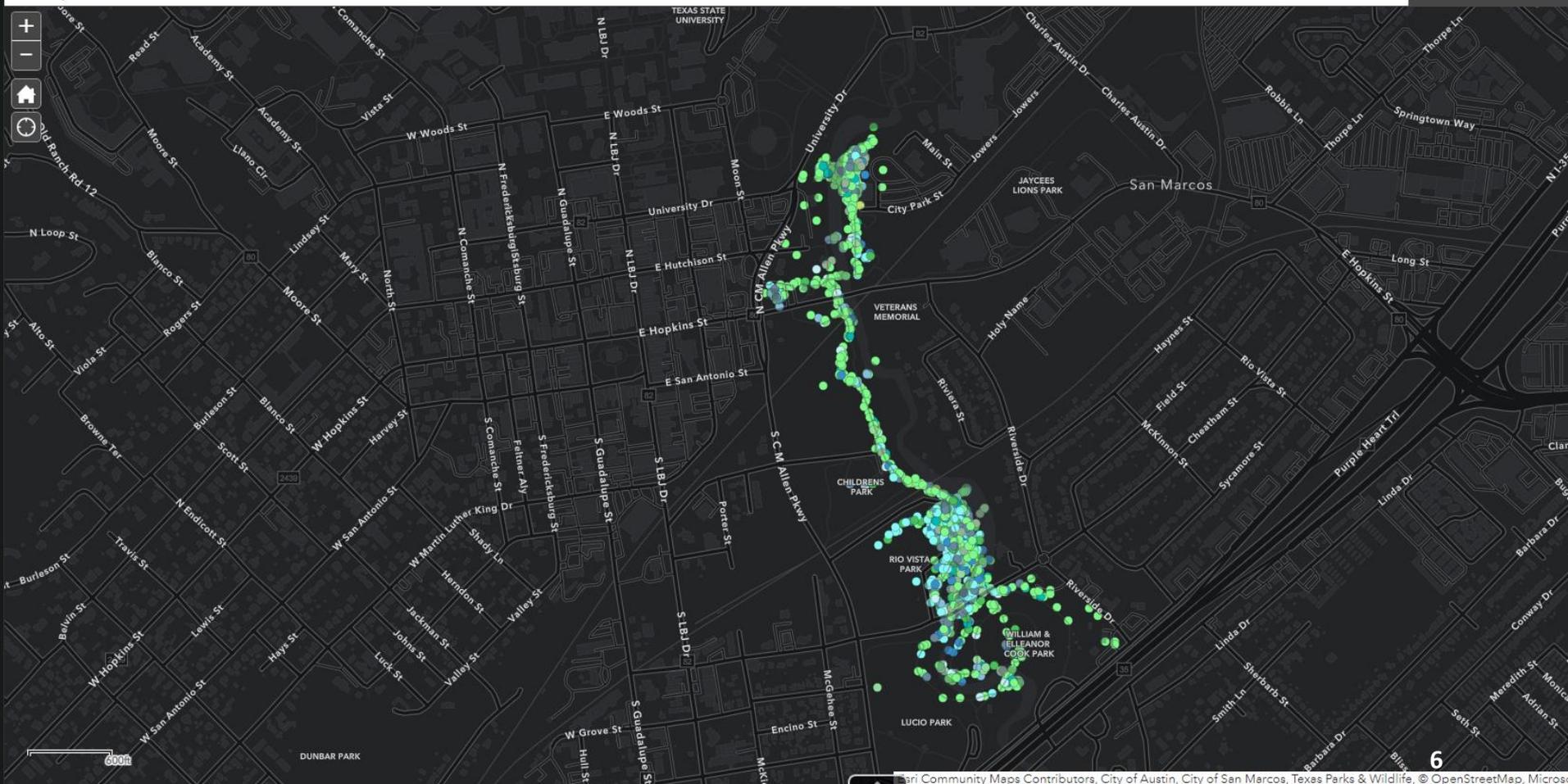
Report Types

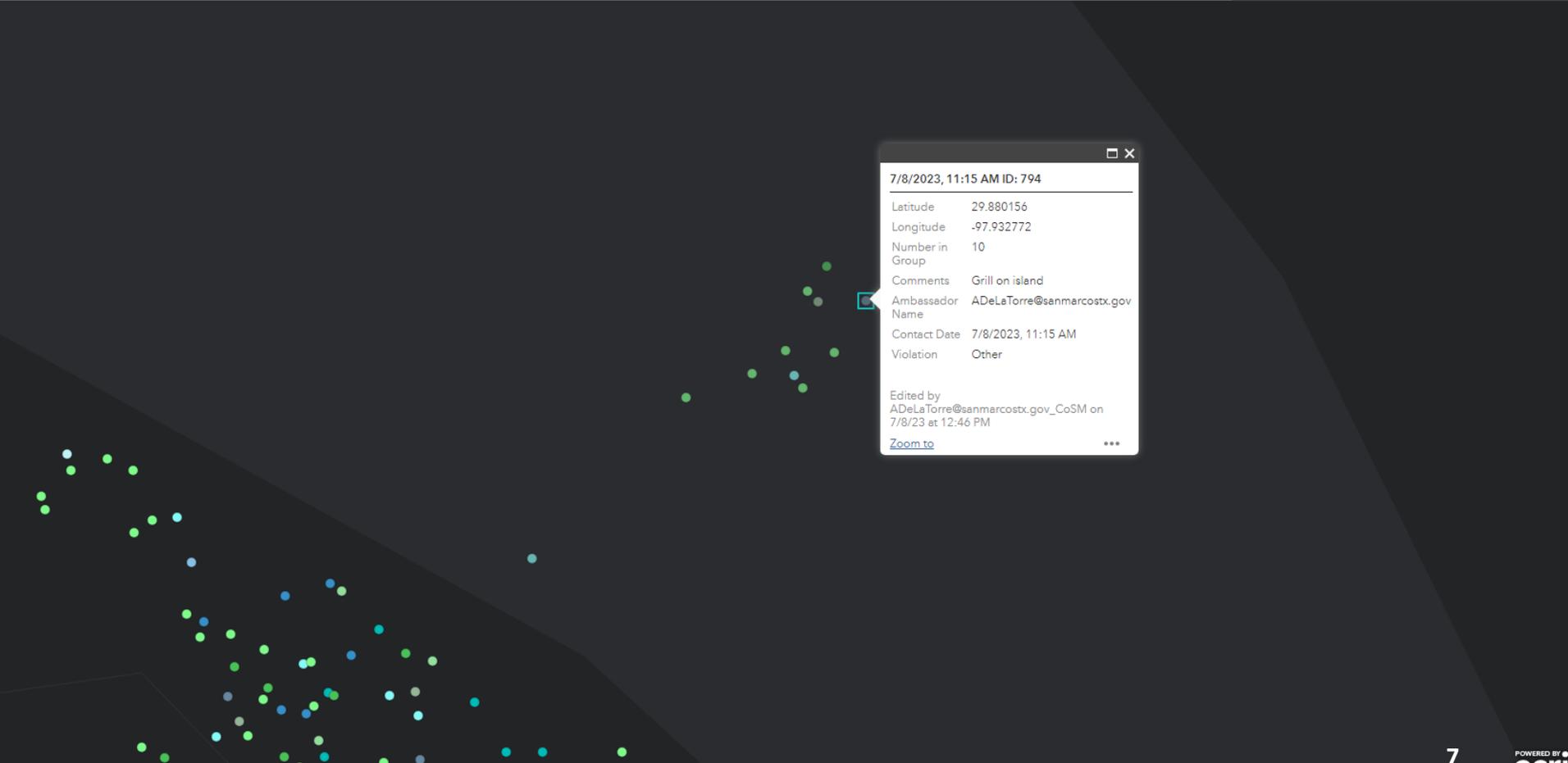


City of Austin, Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, HERE, Garmin, Foursquare, SafeGraph, GeoTech

Number of Patrons Interacted With by Day







# Park Ambassadors



- Lessons Learned:
  - Need more official looking uniform
  - Create zones to ensure all areas are covered with enough staff
  - Advertise positions earlier and attend Texas State job fairs

# New Signage



**PARK HOURS: 6:00am to 11:00pm daily**

**City Park**

**Please be courteous of other park goers, respect our river and keep our river and parks clean.**

- Dispose of trash properly
- Alcoholic beverages, glass and styrofoam containers not allowed
- Smoking and vaping devices not allowed
- Pop-up shade or tent only allowed at a City owned picnic table site (Limit 1)
- Propane grill only allowed at a City owned picnic table site (Limit 1)
- Wood or charcoal grills not allowed anywhere
- Animals must be restrained at all times; please pick up after your pet
- Portable tables not allowed

[sanmarcostx.gov/parks](http://sanmarcostx.gov/parks) en español

**1** City Park  
**2** Plaza Park  
**3** Veramendi Plaza  
**4** Bicentennial Park  
**5** Children's Park  
**6** Rio Vista Park  
**7** Ramon Lucio Park  
**8** Crook's Park

**R** Restroom — Shared-use Path  
**P** Parking — Street Parking



**PARK HOURS:  
6am-11pm daily**

**River Rules**

**The San Marcos River is a natural river.**  
There are many hazards which you cannot see from this location, such as: trees, rocks, dams, waterfalls and wildlife. As with any other natural body of water, you should use common sense and caution while on the San Marcos River. It is recommended that you use a personal floatation device.

- No lifeguard on duty
- Swim at your own risk
- Water currents and levels can change without warning
- Do not block, stand or stop in the spillway of Rio Vista dam
- Diving into the river is dangerous
- No jumping or diving from any bridge
- Know your exit point before you navigate the river. This river extends to the Gulf of Mexico. It does not loop back around!

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# New Signage



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# Additional Signage



# Additional Signage



# Challenges



- **Increase in patronage**
- **Litter**
- **Rule Violations**
  - Styrofoam
  - Charcoal Grills
  - Tables
  - Visible display & consumption of Alcohol

# Patronage

- Lion's Club Tube rentals were down 6% and shuttle passes were up 12% compared to 2022.
- Photo taken on July 4, 2023, at 5:00PM by Christopher Paul Cardoza.



# Rule Violations



# Litter



x.gov

# Litter Abatement Efforts



- Habitat Conservation Plan Contractors: Include litter removal as a requirement for HCP contracted programs. We now have litter being removed from the river bottom, surface and banks, as well as wetted tributaries. These are areas difficult for volunteers.
- Trash Receptacles: Animal-proof trash and recycle containers, trailers, and caged areas were added to contain trash. Receptacles in heavily-used parks were increased with recycle and landfill placed side by side.

# Litter Abatement Efforts



- Parks and Rec Department (PARD) crews service trash receptacles and remove litter daily from 7am-4pm.
- Contracted Litter Removal : Since the park curfew isn't until 11pm, the City contracts with Easter Seals, who removes bagged trash from the parks until curfew. This ensures that bagged trash is not left overnight for animals to spread.
- Park Ambassador program began this year.

# Litter Abatement Efforts



- Conservation Crew: Funded as part of the Habitat Conservation Plan. Focuses on litter removal from the river bottom, surface and banks.
- Enforcement: City Marshals are present 7 days a week to gain compliance through education of park rules or provide citations when the violation persists following education.

# Litter Abatement Efforts



- Community Enhancement organizes:
  - Monthly Hot Spot cleanups of creeks and tributaries
  - Bi-annual river cleanups
  - Oversees the Adopt a Spot program which further contributes to our efforts.
- \$191K is currently being allocated for the summer season.

# Litter Abatement Efforts



## 2023 Conservation Crew Litter Removal (May 17 - Sept 12)

Date	Volume (cubic feet)	
	Litter Boats	Parks
May	902.34	229.93
June	1296.70	326.18
July	1582.78	288.75
Aug	839.51	286.08
Sept	237.95	48.12





# Addressing the Issues

- Possible Ordinance Amendments
  - Single-Use Container Ban
  - Cooler Size Limitation
  - Prohibition of all BBQ grills
  - Allowing portable tables
  - Tube Size Limitation

# Addressing the Issues



- Paid Parking (non-resident)
- Managed access points
- Picnic permits (non-resident)
- Additional personnel and/or Easter Seals Funding
- Increased marketing and education in collaboration with the Convention and Visitor Bureau team

# Next Steps



- November 16 - Staff will begin reviewing possible Park Rules Ordinance Amendments with Parks and Recreation Board to provide formal recommendation to City Council.
- November 16 - Parks and Recreation Board consideration of Single-Use Container Ban Recommendation to City Council.



# Questions