



San Marcos Riverfront Parks

Survey Results
FINAL

04/01/2025

How important is San Marcos' Riverfront Parks System to you?

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Very important | 88% (489) |
| Somewhat important | 10% (55) |
| Unsure | 1% (8) |
| Somewhat unimportant | 0% (2) |
| Not important at all | 0% (1) |

Please share the reasoning behind your response.

I live within 2 miles of river front park system, and frequently use it.

I love them, but they are always so overcrowded with out of towners I never want to go.

I go multiple times a month (when its warm) and its the lifeblood of this city

One of the main reasons I live in San Marcos

The river front park is why I live in San Marcos

The San Marcos River brings all of San Marcos together. Being able to access the river so easily through the parks system is so important. My family loves to go and play at Children's Park, and follow that up with a dip in the river! Our riverfront parks are the jewels of San Marcos! We also like that the pool at Rio Vista is centrally located in the City and available if we're not feeling up to the river - if it were to be relocated, it should be within the Riverfront Parks system and not outside of it.

I run along the river all the time, as well as swim and play soccer. It is a treasure.

The river is unique, beautiful and can't be replaced. We have a responsibility to protect it at all costs.

My family spends a lot of time in these parks, using the Shared Use Path, going to Children's Park, visiting the River, playing baseball, etc.

I'm there all the time!

I love the volleyball and pickle ball courts, and I'd love to see more of them!

We spend a lot of time as a family there

important to economic impact and health of city tourism, but don't personally use very often

Kayaking, tubing, swimming.

They are a large part of the recreational and educational opportunities.

Used it in someway of the other most of my life.

The river is among the most important resources San Marcos has and the parks surrounding it should reflect that. It's also a floodplain so we must do our best to plan for flooding, encourage open spaces and encourage people to visit, recreate and be a steward of the river.

I utilize the trail along the river and swim year round. It's now a space that we take our daughter also to give her the same joy from these spaces!

The river is the most important resource our city has. Without the river we are just a cool small town. Without the river and our parks we are one of the coolest and most unique small towns.

We only have one River, we must protect the water, banks, and wildlife.

The river is a walkable distance from my home/neighborhood and certainly can bike to the river.

The San Marcos River is the lifeblood of the city.

I love goint to the river in the summer with my children.

I use the river parks daily during the summer and weekly during the winter.

The river is a natural environment that we should be grateful for and should protect at all costs for our future generations.

Public access to recreation on the river is a fundamental part of being a San Martian.

I love to enjoy the cool water on a hot day.

It's an important piece to the natural landscape of San Marcos. Residents deserve a well taken care of system.

Its what I enjoy the most about San Marcos and makes it unique.

I grew up in San Antonio and have been coming to the San Marcos river parks my entire life. We moved here in 2006 and we spend quite a bit of time (year round) at the parks. The river is a one of a kind, magical place. (This should tell you alot...of all the places that were closed during COVID, the river was what we missed most!)

Allowing our community to enjoy this beautiful work of nature.

The river is the heart of San Marcos. I think there are so many important messages that can be shared by valuing the river and it brings the community together.

I am not sure what the Riverfront Parks system all pertains to.

I believe that nature preservation affects communities in many ways. For one, natural habitat for animals to thrive is important, eco systems to sustain wildlife is vital to communities living near the waterways, plant life affects air quality which is important because San Marcos has many interstate highways that run through the town. This relate to the people in the community, young and old are affected by harmful air, this is why it important to maintain the preservation. This is related to mental health for people with PTSD or other mental challenges, parks and nature can help with grief, loss of a loved one and other mental issues we deal with daily. To protect wildlife and maintain it for all surrounding communities and its patrons...

Parks make the quality of life in San Marcos much higher

The river is the heart of our city and the parks give us access and a peaceful setting (usually) to enjoy it

Public river access is most important.

Relaxing, walking, swimming, beauty of our city

I live here in San Marcos and we enjoy going to the riverfront parks weekly.

Our river is the heart of San Marcos. It's such a beautiful ecosystem to native species and a joy to so many people, including myself. Since I was a little girl, I've been floating the river and visiting the parks. I hope to see a continuation of the protection and development on our Riverfront project.

I think it's important to keep those parks intact, they invite and engage the community together while giving back to the people and environment.

The river is an amazing place for our community to hang out at and enjoy but it's also important to keep it safe and clean.

It's a great area that needs to be preserved.

San Marcos is known for its natural spring water that flows in and through the San Marcos River.

It is necessary to maintain the unique ecosystem of San Marcos.

The river is what makes San Marcos special, the biodiversity and retention of the natural beauty is invaluable.

Public Parks/greenspaces, especially with water access are crucial to mental health

The Riverfront Park system is what brings people to San Marcos. It is beautiful and needs to be maintained with pride.

It's a healthy green space.

I'm 79 and can't negotiate the terrain.

It is a unique river that should be respected, protected and enjoyed without being destroyed through overuse.

We are here to be stewards of the sacred springs and river that flows from her. We have all been so blessed in this community to have San Marcos to enjoy the river while swimming, sporting, relaxing with family and friends, meditating alone or rejuvenating our body and soul.

I spend a lot of time at the river. It's why I moved here.

Policies in place to protect river from erosion and trash.

Our whole reason for living here is the beautiful river!!!

I have been frequenting SM parks for over 25 years

It is one of the key essences of San Marcos. It makes us who we are.

I can't go to the river as often due to having 4 little kids

Preserving our parks and making them an inviting environment for our citizens and children is a top priority

I feel it is the heart of our city.

Pickleball, walking, swimming

The river is what makes San Marcos special. The spring fed water is beautiful.

I am a San Marcos Native and so much keeps changing

Want the area to be sustainably maintained.

The river is the heart of the city and its origin. It is sacred to the indigenous people and should be treated that way by those of us who have come to be here as well.

Parks are important but there are other more pressing needs in San Marcos

Natural parks are places to get back to nature in an ever expanding city environment

I kayak regularly and enjoy public access points to get in and out.

Grew up at the river and want my child to enjoy it the same

My family and I frequent the San Marcos River in several different locations and would like to be able to continue to do so.

Beautiful and unique

An option for the families of local residents to gather and enjoy a no-cost natural resource.

Management of riparian portions should continue to be actively managed to ensure these areas are not further degraded by overuse, as well as for habitat restoration and flood mitigation

The river is

I think preserving natural areas and safe community areas is important.

It is a wonderful asset for the City and its' residents

It helps protect riverfront property for all to enjoy and I love walking along the trails there.

My next-door neighbor uses the park sidewalks along the river to walk their small dogs, and I sometimes go with her. My other neighbors use the park river areas to swim and picnic.

It's how my family has spent lots of recreational time together for decades

One of the main drawing factors for so many people to San Marcos/Central Texas is its beautiful rivers that are clean and accessible. They also have a rich history for Native communities and should be respected, upkept, and natural.

Our rivers are our lifeblood for our community. They must be respected and resourced / planned usage so that last for hundreds/thousands of years to come... for all of us to enjoy

I'm planning to live here for a very longtime and would love my children and grandchildren to have beautiful and a variance of available parks to them.

Moved here 17 years ago to enjoy the river, parks and walking trails..

It shows the City of San Marcos cares about the environment and its citizens.

Usually very crowded and parking is full

Great place for a long walk and enjoy the river scenery

I have heard that there is a chance for dedicated pickleball courts and that is very important to me.

We swim, walk and meet at the parks on a frequent almost daily basis

Outdoor activities are key to a healthy life!

It's what makes our city special and personally it's my favorite things about San Marcos.. also as humans we should be protecting and preserving our natural areas to the Best of our ability. Seems like everyday there is a new apartment building we need to protect our green spaces!

Beauty and connection with nature essential to human well being

The ecosystems are important and the parks give us beautiful places to play and rest

Natural areas are important to the ecosystems

Keeping the river cane parks clean and safe.

The river and its surrounding areas are a special place

I live close to Rio Vista Park/River

It's the reason I live in San Marcos

We enjoy walking along the trails and bridges

It is vital to the health of our river.

The riverfront parks are a major reason why I moved here

The riverfront is suitable for relaxation and finding peace for every age.

It is a unique asset to San Marcos and enjoyable to everyone who lives here.

I love the parks and would love more options

I love having the San Marcos River in our town and all the activities it brings.

They are a recreational treasure.

The San Marcos river is amazing

Rivers are the heart of SM

I am 82

I love the river parks, glad they are there, but I don't go there very often.

The San Marcos River front park system is priceless, a jewel in this city, where we hold our annual church picnic, baptisms and floats, kayak etc. It is vital to the area

Great outdoor space to enjoy by all

It is why I live in San Marcos. It's extremely important to me that decisions made regarding our parks protect the water quality of the river and the species that live in the river.

I enjoy the outdoors and walking.

River parks are an essential thing that helps the human species and nature.

I regularly go to the river.

It's always important to have a great parks system nearby.

Because the river is the main feature that I love in San Marcos

The river activity is a vital part of bringing more tourist activity to the city and it is what makes the city unique.. Green space, parks and river access, river maintenance all are critical for SM growth.

My family enjoys being active.

Walk and swim there

played a major role in childhood development

I'm there almost every day. For recreation (running on the trails) or transportation (using the multi-use path to get to work or the grocery store).

Important part of bioregional identity and native ecosystems

Our system adds to the beauty of San Marcos, Plus its a great way to de-stree!

The river is at the heart of San Marcos!

I am there every weekend, mostly paddleboarding but also walking.

The river is the reason I live in San Marcos

Protecting the River and it's ecosystems/wildlife are paramount on my priority list.

Its a great place for recreation - paddleboarding, fishing, swimming, hiking, etc

I don't even know what the riverfront parks system includes (in terms of what parks are included).

it's the best, and probably most popular, aspect of san marcos. i go there every day

We must preserve our natural resources and take care of the earth.

Na

Great nature space close from home

I utilize it very often

Water recreation and access to clean water is an issue in Texas and the USA. I love how clean our river is, but unhappy about how outsiders and some locals trash it.

It is the most unique part of our city and nature is so important for people to have access to

I frequently use the San Marcos River trail to walk my dog & enjoy spending some time in nature. I try to go to the river at least once a week.

Most importantly because it is the home of native and endangered species and it provides a space to learn about these things and form a connection but also because it is a wonderful recreational asset to the community and really increases the quality of life for residents.

Only moved here about 5 years ago

Our family loves outdoor activities

It makes the city beautiful and protects the area around the river.

Environmental sustainability

The parks are important for the community to give us a chance to get outside and enjoy San Marcos.

The river is the heart of the city

beautiful natural area, easy to access, provides setting for events and recreation- exceptional resource

The San Marcos River is an absolute gem and we need to be good stewards while also enabling community-wide enjoyment.

I often find peace and solace walking along the San Marcos river trail. In summers I often swim or kayak there.

The San Marcos River is the single most important cultural, economic, and aesthetic resource we have. Protecting it should be highest on our list of priorities as a city.

I go there with my children regularly.

I have so many memories with my family at this park. It's one of the few things that is still free. This park is a location we frequent during the summer. This park is a great getaway for families who can not afford a luxury trip to other states or countries.

it is such a vital resource to the community.

It's one of the main draws for living/visiting here.

Because even though San Marcos ignorantly changed its slogan to "we love your company", San Marcos, a Texas natural is really what we are about.

The river is one of the big things that makes San Marcos special.

I grew up going to the river with my grandpa

It's part of our city

Partly because of the wildlife that depends on the area, river included. Partly because folks need a safe place to relax and enjoy the outdoors which many of can always use more of. Gives us a good reason to enjoy the outdoor environment and wildlife.

I use it daily. I moved here and started a family here because of the river and this parks system.

The river is an extremely valuable natural resource and every precaution should be taken to preserve it in its current natural state.

We love and enjoy using the river quite frequently. My office was at one time on the river where I would enjoy my lunch on the banks and those times are some of my favorite.

They are part of what makes the city unique and beautiful. They are part of the reason this city has thrived for as long as it has and they provide its residents with entertainment and a sense of pride.

Clean rivers

I enjoy having a space to bring my friends and family to chill and hangout in a scenic environment near water.

The riverfront system is the heart of San Marcos. Residents and visitors alike can enjoy the outdoors and beauty of the area.

I visit the riverfront parks often. These spaces provide a healthy space to relax and unwind. It's great for socializing and connecting with other community members and visitors.

The river and associated park system are an integral part of what draws people to visit the city.

My family and I use it all the time; swimming, fishing, walking, concerts in the park. It's the reason we chose to move to San Marcos

The river is a beautiful highlight of our town and given the native species only found in our river I think parks are needed to protect the area surrounding the river.

The parks are an important space for recreation and meditation/well-being for me and for many people, and the pristine river is central to the identity of San Marcos.

I love our water resources.

Parks are just so important for kids and families to have a fun and safe place to hang out.

I'm homebound and don't leave my apt very much.

The system helps preserve the land with its flora and fauna, while allowing community use of this beautiful resource

The river is a core feature of San Marcos and largely defines the city. Protecting the river park system is as important as being able to celebrate it and use/leverage it for both the community and others.

The river is the crown jewel of San Marcos

I think having parks and access to the river is important, but each space should serve a different purpose and function.

We need our parks.

one of the reasons I decided to stay living in SM was because of how much our city focused on preserving nature and keeping the city as green as possible

Recreation and playgrounds

The san marcos river is the heart of san marcos. I grew up by the river where the city pool is now. We need to keep it beautiful and clean.

I now live in Wimberley.....but I am in San Marcos often.

I have avoided park due to overcrowding and parking for years.

I do not live in San Marcos or utilize the parks but do care about the park systems for the residence. And one day I may bring my own children to play or visit the parks.

I work here and bring family members here

The river is a big tourist attraction and brings a lot of money into our town. It is also a beautiful area and adds character to the city. It is very important to the wildlife and ecosystem in San Marcos.

I don't visit often

The River and SM park system are the things that most make San Marcos unique. Plus the river is, well, unique in the world.

The San Marcos River is sacred and is a unique resource like no other. It is important we protect it at all costs.

The San Marcos River is what defines and highlights our town.

Everyone in my family has a strong connection to the river.

We must coexist with the river respectfully and sustainably. In addition, there must be equitable access to water for all communities.

If the parks don't exist, I'm out of a job

We enjoy using the river while attending SITP and when tubing regularly in the summer.

Do any of your 'plans' or 'solutions' have PUBLIC TRANSPORT as a fundamental element? Do you plan to keep burning fossil fuels? Are you going to make San Marcos pedestrian friendly? Or, is San Marcos going to continue to be a parking lot and race track for rich kids?

N/A

San Marcos has grown so much that I feel it is losing the small town atmosphere that I love. Having open areas and green spaces, like the riverfront parks, helps to maintain the quality of life we moved here to enjoy.

I visit all the time, and live in the Rio Vista neighborhood. They are the reason I live here.

We use the river as a family all summer.

One of the main reasons we chose to settle in San Marcos was the river and the parks

I think it's the most beautiful part of the city. I love that there are quiet spots and that it's natural but safe to walk. It's important to wildlife and the local ecology, and it's amazing to be able to get so close to it. I like that there are different spaces for different kinds of interaction with it -- you can go tubing but you can also wade somewhere else, or just watch the water in another place without being in anyone's way. It's a great place to walk, too.

We all need fresh air and exercise and to be with nature to be healthy.

The river is a major reason we choose to live in San Marcos. My family uses the parks weekly to enjoy the river and playground

The San Marcos River is more important to me than most other things in this community.

I retire to San Marcos to be close to the San Marcos River.

I value parks in general but haven't used this one specifically

I moved here over ten years ago because we love the river so much, it's my family's favorite place.

I don't use it often but enjoy seeing others using it and the beauty.

Access to the exceptional San Marcos river in ways that don't impact its integrity keeps San Marcos special.

Attracts visitors to San Marcos. Gives the local residents activities to do at a low cost weather it's swimming, tubing or fishing.

It's a beautiful area that is enjoyed by many people in the warm months. I like to go floating and walking on the river path. I would bike there if it was possible.

I visit the river parks every single week.

I love to go to the river to relax and paddleboard when it is not busy. The river is truly a gem and should be protected at all costs.

They are the front line in protecting our priceless river.

don't use it much

I live here and I care about the environment

Our most precious natural resource put to good use for the public.

I take walks everyday and like to go out to the park to enjoy the outdoors and river.

I love river recreation and the unique natural ecology of the area.

The riverfront parks are a large attraction and source of revenue for the city, via tourism.

It's my favourite way to connect with friends :)

It is the focal point of life in this city

The river is the only thing of real value in town

It is my favorite thing about San Marcos. The river and nature is why I moved here.

I believe it is our duty to be respectful and responsible visitors to this unique place. It is important to set a good example of what a community can accomplish.

I like the natural aspect to the parks and the lack of development. I don't get to use it much but when I do it's great.

Beauty of the city, accessible recreational spaces and walking connections between parts of town

6 days a week I am out walking, hiking, cycling and enjoying the parks with my family

I occasionally like to walk around the river in the park.

The river access is my number one reason for wanting to live in San Marcos

I have been swimming in this river since the mid 60's. It is a beauty.

We moved here for the water. We swim multiple times a week with our family and dog.

The river was a major part of my growing up and we use the parks weekly even in winter. The improvements and renewal of the river are transforming San Marcos to a beautiful place to live.

Frequent user of these parks

The San Marcos is the center of the city's history, culture, and environment

I absolutely love the San Marcos River. It is my oasis in the summertime.

My family and I visit the riverside parks regularly. They are what attracted us to this area.

The only running trail in town besides purgatory. Purgatory isn't up kept for real running. So really its the only place to run in town off the roads.

The river is the heart of the city.

Haven't visited the river front park

We utilize the river daily. Running or walking the trails, swimming or kyaking in the river.

I am a frequent park user and recreation enthusiast.

My family and I walk and jog along the river. We would enjoy swimming and wading in the river, but recently it has become too crowded and I don't feel safe (my children are young.)

My family loves to get outside

I think a vibrant and clean riverfront park is great for the city and property values

I use the parks several times a week!

The river is essential to San Martian culture and home to endangered species. The river and its inhabitants must be protected at all costs. Keeping the river clean and safe is very important to me.

They are great and part of the character of San Marcos. Without them, we're just a small city attached to a university.

I enjoy that it's there and enjoying using them when I do, I just don't go that often

I believe keeping the river clean is very important, but do not want strict rules!

Regularly visit city parks for birding.

It is a natural resource that is unique to this region and needs to be protected from tourism and over use.

Projecting the river and natural surroundings of San Marcos is important

The highlight of living in San Marcos is the river. It's the gem of the City. People live here and stay here because of the river. We access it regularly during the warmer months of the year.

The health and beauty of the river had a direct impact on the health and beauty of our town.

It's the number one factor of why my family decided to live here. I take my children to the area several times a week to teach them about environmental responsibility, wildlife, etc., and it's such a rich part of the town's history.

I'm a citizen and taxpayer in San Marcos Texas.

Careful and coordinated access to our river in specified locations along the river are important for not just the ecological well-being of the resource, but also enables community members to engage and appreciate this life-source so that they too can become its stewards.

Its important as an additional layer of protection and provision for river

One of the things we like about San Marcos is the River and the downtown area parks

It is a place to enjoy nature, swim, meet people. Having theses beautiful river parks are amazing for the metal well being.

I walk there often and take visitors there. It's important to be able to enjoy the river.

We need to protect the river from developers. I moved from Austin. They have destroyed the banks of Lady Bird Lake with development.

The river is historically important to San Marcos and continues to be a big part of our city's personality.

I love the river. I grew up going to the river & just relaxing & hanging out. I took my kids there and hope to take my grandkids.

It's part of the landscape and a staple of San Marcos.

The property adjacent to the golf course was owned by my great grandfather and is still mostly in the family. I grew up walking along the bob wire fence on the backside of the course picking up golf balls up to the Blanco river. I have many fond memories of playing golf at quail Creek. My oldest son misses the course because now we have to travel out of town to play golf. We used to play golf at aquarena springs and at quail Creek. We cannot afford kissing tree. The demographic on this side of town needs a nine hole golf course which is a whole lot easier on our pockets. Very similar to aquarena springs. These two courses were for the locals and kissing tree caters to a totally different upscale demographic. We miss it and hopefully y'all can give us nine holes! Also please no more soccer fields because all of five Mile damn is soccer fields and even the old aquarena springs golf course as well.

This concept is a little more confusing to me than the Eastside Regional Park. Does this refer to some kind of unified vision plan for all riverfront parks? There isn't something like that already? Or a general parks master plan?

Much of the beauty and activities in the area are connected to the river and outdoors.

I depend on the activities to enrich my life.

I live here and the river is a huge part of our community

It is the center of life in San Marcos

I enjoy the parks but they are too crowded and the crowds are typically too rowdy for my family.

They are part of our identity and allow access to the San Marcos River.

We need to protect this beautiful river and its ecosystem

Parks give patrons safe areas to enjoy the San Marcos River while protecting habitats.

Access to the river is so important

The river is my reason for living here, and so many others. It is vitally important that the city keep the health of the river as a primary goal, while allowing for free and responsible recreational access.

The river is a huge part of San Marcos and surrounding areas

One of the main reasons I've chosen to live in San Marcos is the beautiful river

We need to preserve our natural areas because they are important for our well being and the animals we share our environment with. We should take care of our environment.

I go there often with my family.

I work at the headwaters and the health of the river not only rely on the health of the springs but also the riparian areas and the quality of the water the first several miles of the river.

These parks are extremely important because they directly impact the runoff that enters into river system because they are built in a Riparian Zone.

One of the highlights of San Marcos

I love to walk along and get in the SM River! The river is also important environmentally and economically as a driver for tourism.

I enjoy the opportunity to visit parks near the river

The river is the heart of San Marcos

It gets people outside and brings visitors to San Marcos.

I chose to live in San Marcos because of the rivers. Without the river and its parks I would not have bought a house and started a family here

We love visiting the river all year, we really enjoy all of the parks around the river and would love to see them improve and grow!

San Marcos is built around these rivers. They should be important to everyone. They need to be protected and kept healthy.

We live here and we love these parks.

Outside family time

It smells like pee half the time, or I'm smelling pot.

This ecosystem is so rare and it gives the community the opportunity to connect with nature, something that is so important to conservation.

Public, free access to the river is a basic right and much appreciated.

Recreation and natural space are vital to a healthy and happy community

The San Marcos river is the greatest treasure of the city. The access for all people to enjoy the beauty of the river and swim in its waters during the heat of summer is so vital to who this community is. We are regular visitors to the river and cannot imagine a summer without access to it.

Protect our rivers

It's one of our most vital and delicate areas in town.

I take my family to the parks and river fronts they are the best in the area and one major reason I love living here.

Born and raised and love coming out, here at the river now with my grandbabies carrying on traditions

San Marcos has unique natural areas, and has for centuries. People have enjoyed these areas for both survival and recreation. San Marcos is the unique college town it is because of these spaces. San Marcos is the attractive town it is, because of the green spaces that are both environmentally and socially significant. Preserving and enhancing these spaces, and furthering their contribution to BOTH the environment AND social enjoyment are important for keeping San Marcos a relevant city in central Texas.

The San Marcos River is my favorite part of town. I want places to enjoy it, that also ensure its protection.

The river is a precious and fragile resource—invaluable and irreplaceable.

Been visiting

I love them, but I think the park system as a whole is more important. Like, the way to relieve pressure on the river is to make sure everyone has easy access to pleasant green spaces and to protect and beautify all the waterways within the city, not just the river.

Beautiful for recreation and helps to get community buy in for water conservation/protection.

They provide easy access for the general public

Bring revenue to the city when people come to visit the river area

They are natural resources that are at the heart of the community

Over development, exhausting the aquifer, plastic pollution

They are part of why we moved here in retirement

Me and my kids spend time on river, the trail and parks 125 or more days a year. From an hour to many hours at a time. The river and parks is the life and culture of san marcos and the community i am most part of.

We need nature, nature needs us.

With limited parking and access im unable to utilize river parks often

Born and raised on one of the nations most precious water sources, the waters are healing and the people deserve to use them freely and responsibly.

The SM river is a very special part of the city and managed access to it is very important for me as a resident.

It's just such a unique resource for the city and larger area. It allows residents of all subgroups (socioeconomically, racial/ethnic) access to the river and fun activities that are free of charge.

The river is the life blood of the town, It is important for people to have access to enjoy it responsibly at parks.

Building environments for children to learn about, discover and teaching them to are about our natural beauty .

The river is the heartbeat of the city

Making sure all planning & construction has the River's best interest in mind is the only reason any planning or construction should take place. Transparency is vital. The WHY for the projects should not be for what they can provide for humans. The only action taken should be to protect the river from devastating construction that some people within the public sector think is okay. The only initiative should be to protect the river. Keep people in the parks that exist. Especially downriver where the runoff and sewage treatment plant already have the river crying for help.

The river brings a lot of business to the local economy.

Having easy access to the river is important so that all people, no matter their mobility needs can enjoy the water and experience the wild life up close. It also allows all to up close and personal with the river even if you don't want to get in.

I love very close by and enjoy using them regularly!

It's important the people have safe, maintained access to our public resource, the San Marcos River.

Free family fun during the Texas heat

I grew up here in san marcos, and the one thing we always did is enjoy the beautiful river. I now continue with our tradition and take my kids to river almost daily. I teach them about the ecosystem and why we need to care for our river. I love this river so much and its surroundings.

They are amazing parks with access to a wonderfully clean river and associated rec activities

The public parks are the best way to enjoy the river

The river front parks add value to the community, and serve as a level of protection of the environment around the parks.

It sort of defines our city- it's what we are known for and it offers free recreation for our families

I snorkel in the river in City Park & Sewell once a week.

These places are sacred and important not only enjoy but protect for now and the future.

We do not have a lot of open spaces in Texas for people to enjoy the outdoors. Spaces like the parks along the San Marcos are very important because they offer the opportunity to get outside, experience nature, exercise, and enjoy what is so special about San Marcos, the river.

Always there

I take my family almost every weekend and sometimes during the week. We play baseball, swim, fish, paddle board, kayak, use the parks and Rio Vista pool. One 6yr old and one 8 year old. We love the river parks but it's a challenge to enjoy it through the open drug use and day trippers that trash our parks. Btw good call taking away those three little league baseball weekends to accommodate more parking for the drugs and thugs that trash our parks.

Protecting and preserving the river.

It is a central importance to the community of San Marcos, the children of San Marcos and the families of San Marcos

Riverside parks often results in the protection of the river and provides aesthetic enjoyment of the community.

My family frequents the parks and the river. It is the heart and soul of San Marcos

We moved to San Marcos for the river, city leadership has ruined the river culture, it is completely different then the town we moved to 6 years ago.

It's where I grew up and I know I will never move away from San Marcos.

It's a place that holds very special family memories

We love it and use it all the time! It is a defining part of this community's identity.

I love our river! It is my place of peace.

Recreational activities

Because they are beautiful and because they are for the wildlife that lives near the river but also for the people who live near the river and in the city who enjoy the river.

Kids use the park for sports

I live within a 5 minute walk to the river and I pay high property taxes. My family enjoys the riverfront parks and would like to see them improve.

The river is the most important feature of our town.

There are few spots as peaceful and pristine as the San Marcos River. Anytime I need to rejuvenate, that water does the job. It is truly something to cherish.

We have to preserve our parks and the land and easements. Not jura for our enjoyment - but to maintain green space

Rivers are important to our parks.

It's a main reason why we moved here.

I love going and enjoying nature. It's such a special place!

I've lived here a few years and I'm still figuring out how and where to take my little kiddos to play/ swim in the river that's safe and not over crowded.

I grew up playing in the San Marcos River in the 80s and 90s and continue to recreate there today. It is very important to me that equitable usage and environmental impact be balanced in any plans regarding the system.

Recreational space that brings the community together around a variety of events that occur around the river (heart) of COSM

Makes the river accessible at many locations, enjoyable to see the river while walking the trails.

It provides public access to the water in an area where that is rare.

The rivers in our city are, perhaps, the best natural resource we have that we can share and enjoy.

My dog loves the water, and I enjoy birding. So we spend a few days a week on the river almost year-round.

Public & natural green spaces are incredibly vital to the health of community. With the privatization of many natural spaces in Texas, the consistent destruction of native ecosystems for development and private greed (thanks, Jane!)- we are actively watching our state become a playground for the wealthy. All natural spaces matter if we are going to claim to be a "bird city" (have y'all even seen the amount of light pollution you've invited to our town??) and whatever other phony accolades you're aiming for. Especially as you continue to look to privatize our natural spaces, driving a wedge between the public and nature. Take some time to read the Nature Fix and Blue Mind- then remind yourselves what you are doing to our town.

To feel apart of the city

The San Marcos river is the reason I moved here in 1971

Family history living along the San Marcos River

Provides outdoor sport and recreation for the community while saving endangered species.

Gives life to this town

I surf the rio vista wave every weekend

I still have kids under 18

I believe the San Marcos river, as well as the parks along it are the crown jewel of the city. It's a place where people can congregate and be themselves, while enjoying nature and celebrating cultural heritage.

This was my primary reason for moving to San Marcos. I want a quality experience for my family.

I go to the river almost every day, whenever the sun is out and I have the time. I follow the trails or just swim and lay by the river to relax.

The river and the parks associated with it are one of the best and most unique parts of living in San Marcos. It bums me out a lot when I go to NB or Wimberley and have no access to the river or the lands alongside them. I like how welcoming the parks are to everyone.

The rivers have been a big part of my life, I love the San Marcos River

I am 69 years old and I use the riverfront parks on a daily basis. I live here to swim in the river!

I spend a lot of time with my family at the river parks

Love the water and paddle board as much as I can

Water is life. We have destroyed the river for profit and because no one can say no to the Lions Club!

It is a place for my friends and I to spend time together. I also bring my family when they are in town.

I visit at least two times a week because it helps my mental health.

We need to keep our nature and parks available for our community, it's what makes San Marcos beautiful! My favorite part about San Marcos is the easy access to nature and outdoor activities.

The river is my respite and sanctuary to increase positive mental health care, increase motor abilities, and increase social skills with fellow river lovers (and dogs).

I often walk the trails along the river. Green space is important to me and benefits the community.

Child loves to spend time at the river, attend family events in the parks

I live here and use these services constantly

It is imperative to preserve wildlife and parks

It is without a doubt the main reason we have lived in this city for over a decade.

Appealing part of the city, the nature and clean river is a great perk of the city.

The San Marcos River is unique so it's only fitting that a public park system surround it for people to enjoy

I am an avid water sports enthusiast, a paddling guide, and have extensive experience in the water quality regulatory world and see San Marcos' Riverfront Parks as a vital human right and anthropogenic buffer.

The riverfront parks provide a buffer between commercial developments and the flood zone.

They enhance our quality of life.

That is one of the main reasons I moved here. Access to a clean natural body of water for my family to enjoy.

To get out and enjoy nature, also the greenscapes are good for the rivers water quality and limiting development in the floodplains.

Our river is everything and deserves to be protected

Tourism, walking trails/nature

I am passionate about protecting our valuable resource & conserving the gem that is our spring-fed river for future generations to enjoy. We cannot do so without mindful & vigilant people speaking up about how best to continue our efforts to keep our river healthy.

We love to spend time in the river during the summer, as well as walk, bike, and run on riverside trails.

Enhances the enjoyment of the River for San Marcos

I've lived in the house I purchased 26 years ago specifically because it's within a quarter mile of the San Marcos River and riverside parks. Spending time in those parks almost daily is the key to my health, physical and mental. A healthy river is part of that.

That is the only park dedicated to children's sports. It's a San Marcos tradition and important to my family and many many others.

My family and friends love tubing.

I love to canoe

It's a huge reason we moved here

The river is our towns original source of life, and protecting it is our responsibility. It is a place for gatherings, renewal, and inner calm!

As a San Marcos resident the river is the soul of this town. It's important to keep it clean and safe for all its creatures.

It is very much the blood of the city, if we set aside that san marcos is a college town, the one thing that brings people to our city is the river. It has done so for thousands of years, having once been a site where native americans lived

I am a long time resident of San Marcos and mother to a small child

The riverfront parks are important to the community.

My son & I have been in the SMYBSA since he's been in t-ball. I love coaching & teaching the kiddos everything about baseball. We don't have any other fields here in town & the location of those are so convenient for the parents.

I care about the future of our precious river and want it to be well cared for

It is a great place to enjoy nature, and as a wildlife biologist it is a crucial part of the ecosystem here in San Marcos

The parks system provides the San Marcos community with natural areas for recreation in the city, as well as providing habitats for some of Central Texas's most important wildlife. Much of my childhood was spent in the park, and has been forever changed for it.

I've lived in San Marcos since I was a kid and the river is very dear to me and my family.

It's nature

Parks and recreation are important for keeping a healthy and active community. Health promotion is key in our community.

I visit the parks at least once a month to use the trails or access the river. The parks system is a very important alternative to development along the river corridor.

The river parks are important to the community as well as wildlife. Keeping this area as natural as possible is imperative to the health of the river.

I grew up in San Marcos and have done multiple city clean ups. I really believe it is important

Born and raised here in SMTX, the rivers are an integral part of San Marcos and its culture. The rivers cleanliness for both wildlife and human use must be prioritized over any commercial gains or entity. The river is very important for the habitat it provides for local flora and fauna and the healing it does for the community.

Climate change. This is necessary so that our children, grandchildren and future generations are able to enjoy them. Our ancestors respected the land and waters and we should do the same.

I was born and raised here as were my kids. I've seen many changes to our parks and rivers-not all good. I remember the days when we as kids would ride our bikes to the rivers to have a swim.

The ecosystem itself, the water source, the community around it all make SMTX what it is

Cultural hub for families and people of all ages, races and creeds to meet and enjoy one another's presence.

It's a crucial element to our community culture!

Because all of our riverfront parks affect the wildlife underwater and affect the river itself. Damage to these parks can damage the river itself.

I love the river and feel that it is sacred ground

The San Marcos river is what makes San Marcos such a wonderful place to live.

Opportunity to connect with nature, see wildlife, birds, etc.

My family and I visit the river every Spring and Summer

It's the heart of the City and important to the culture and future of San Marcos.

I am a San Marcos local, and the river is like family to me. It's what makes San Marcos so special.

I go to the park almost daily

This is a place that has been inhabited for 7000 years. Special waters. Please help conserve this area for future generations to enjoy. NO AI centers in the hill country! Billions of gallons of water wasted using one, and that is not sustainable

The river is the only reason that I interact with CoSM parks system.

Part of the reason I moved to San Marcos was to enjoy the beautiful river

The San Marcos River has been one of the longest inhabited areas on our planet since time immemorial. For us to not cherish the water and land would be foolish beyond words. The parks system is in place to help preserve the natural beauty and resourcefulness of our waters and parks around our fairly depreciating city. As the college grows ever larger the locals who've spent their whole lives here are choked out due to higher cost of living and the ever suffocating apartment complexes killing our city. If we don't have a park system the river would be full of garbage and broken dreams of the children who play and make memories there, we must have a system in place otherwise we are no better than wild beast with no regard for anything other than our self's.

Adds so much beauty to the San Marcos area. It's important to save the habitats of many species.

Spent time as a child here

Quality parks and public access to our precious outdoor resources are essential to a vibrant city now and in the future.

I love the river, and access the parks weekly

We love the parks and how communities can come together.

More parks equates to better healthier lifestyle and longevity

For the beauty, refresh of trees and water!

It's a beautiful eco system and a wonderful source of recreation

It's our River I love cleaning it up and swimming

My family loves the river and use it frequently

I don't live in San Marcos

Would visit

Outdoor recreation is essential for happiness. San Marcos deserves access to its river! How else are we going to keep cool during these terrible summers? It brings in tourism as well, further supporting the rest of the city.

The river is extremely important for both humans and nature/animals/plants.

The parks system keeps our environment beautiful

I live in Rio Vista neighborhood so by proximity, I find the parks very important. I walk the parks daily with my family and dog. I believe we all have a shared responsibility to maintain and protect these areas.

Healthy living.

The river is an incredibly precious resource and we need to start treating it as a dwindling resource

I've lived here all my life and the river is the main reason why I'm in love with San Marcos. The fresh water has always been a way to bring the community together and i think it's important to conserve her the best we can.

They are a staple of San Marcos and a reflection of the city

It's a regular part of my life, as much as anything else in this city, perhaps more.

Utilize the spaces frequently with family for hobbies

I love the river and it's more important than ever to have free public spaces where people can both be in nature and in community.

The parks system allow the citizens of San Marcos to feel like they are part of the environment, by walking alongside, boating or floating, we can be a part of the river system. It is OUR river and we are part of it.

The river is one of the most vital resources and unique features of the city

I wouldn't live here without riverfront parks

Riverfront parks are a great way to connect with community in Nature.

I've grown up in the San Marcos river, it's always been a place of solace and a second home to me. It's also home to many endangered species. It's serene and needs to be protected.

I love being able to swim any time so easily for free

In the past, how often have you or your family visited the Riverfront Park System to do the following activities?

| Question | Daily | At least weekly | A few times a month | A few times a year | Rarely | Never |
|--|-------|-----------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------|-------|
| Nature viewing/Learning about the natural environment | 6% | 31% | 25% | 27% | 7% | 4% |
| Walking/Jogging on the trails | 7% | 33% | 30% | 21% | 5% | 4% |
| Fitness/Yoga activities | 2% | 15% | 12% | 13% | 25% | 34% |
| Picnicking (informally) | 0% | 8% | 20% | 35% | 26% | 10% |
| Picnic tables | 0% | 6% | 14% | 30% | 30% | 19% |
| Picnic pavilions | 1% | 4% | 6% | 23% | 40% | 26% |
| Playground activities | 1% | 12% | 21% | 21% | 20% | 24% |
| Floating the river (using Lions Club tubes and transportation) | 1% | 4% | 8% | 25% | 30% | 34% |
| Floating the river (using own tube) | 1% | 12% | 18% | 35% | 18% | 16% |
| Swimming in the river | 6% | 29% | 24% | 24% | 10% | 7% |
| Swimming at the Rio Vista Pool | 1% | 6% | 6% | 13% | 25% | 48% |
| Kayaking/canoeing/paddle-boarding | 2% | 10% | 17% | 25% | 21% | 24% |
| Fishing (where permitted) | 1% | 4% | 6% | 15% | 19% | 55% |
| Basketball | 0% | 1% | 5% | 8% | 17% | 69% |
| Tennis at the Rio Vista Tennis and Pickleball Courts | 1% | 3% | 4% | 9% | 17% | 66% |
| Pickleball at the Rio Vista Tennis and Pickleball Courts | 1% | 4% | 4% | 8% | 13% | 69% |
| Playing baseball at Ramon Lucio Park | 0% | 5% | 3% | 5% | 10% | 77% |
| Attending concerts and seasonal events | 1% | 4% | 14% | 54% | 18% | 9% |

Expand all / Collapse all

Daily At least weekly A few times a month A few times a year Rarely Never

Nature viewing/Learning about the natural environment

6% 31% 25% 27% 7%

Walking/Jogging on the trails

7% 33% 30% 21% 5%

Fitness/Yoga activities

15% 12% 13% 25% 34%

Picnicking (informally)

8% 20% 35% 26% 10%

Picnic tables

6% 14% 30% 30% 19%

Picnic pavilions

6% 23% 40% 26%

Playground activities

12% 21% 21% 20% 24%

Floating the river (using Lions Club tubes and transportation)

8% 25% 30% 34%

Floating the river (using own tube)

12% 18% 35% 18% 16%

Swimming in the river

6% 29% 24% 24% 10% 7%

Swimming at the Rio Vista Pool

6% 6% 13% 25% 48%

Kayaking/canoeing/paddle-boarding

10% 17% 25% 21% 24%

Fishing (where permitted)

6% 15% 19% 55%

Basketball

5% 8% 17% 69%

Tennis at the Rio Vista Tennis and Pickleball Courts

9% 17% 66%

Pickleball at the Rio Vista Tennis and Pickleball Courts

8% 13% 69%

Playing baseball at Ramon Lucio Park

5% 5% 10% 77%

Attending concerts and seasonal events

14% 54% 18% 9%

If you do not visit San Marcos' Riverfront Parks frequently, why don't you? Check all that apply.

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Too far from where I live | 11% (32) |
| We use similar parks/facilities in nearby areas or cities instead | 12% (36) |
| Lack of security/I don't feel safe | 9% (28) |
| Parking is challenging during busy times | 63% (192) |
| Parks are too crowded during busy times or weekends | 69% (211) |
| The riverfront parks do not meet our needs or interests | 10% (31) |

If you indicated in the question above that the Riverfront Parks do not meet your needs or interests, please let us know what you feel is missing? (Open Answer)

There are park rules in place, yet no one to enforce them. So all the rules i place for safety reasons are for naught.

I visit frequently but I definitely avoid busy times.

N/A

Parking can be a bit frustrating during peak seasons, but overall, we've always found a way to get to the river or the parks.

Nothing missing. I live on the river about 3 miles from town.

No place to play pick up soccer games.

WE NEED SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS!!!

Sand volleyball courts

Parking is hard on weekends. Usually only go on weekdays. Too many people set up camp for the day. You should have to use designated picnic areas.

Na

The overcrowding in the summer keeps us away. The trash and overuse makes me too sad to enjoy the parks.

If you're not there at the crack of dawn, it's PACKED!!

.

Not much can be done about distance, but parking is a big issue that a lot of people face especially for people that have disability(ies)

I'm no longer able to walk to the river.

Accessible parking is the biggest barrier

The park and river are over usually overcrowded, park rangers don't enforce any rules, the language is vulgar and people are disrespectful so I hesitate to bring young children. When I came to San Marcos 35 years ago, our parks were family and kid friendly. Not any more.

Parking management and lack of enforcing No-Littering ordinances. Charge out of town visitors and increase budget for Parks and Rec.

Too crowded and trashy for anything but a quick swim or launching kayak

Children's park needs a gate that closes with a latch so small children aren't at risk of running into y the parking lot and getting hit by cars or wandering off. If you have more than 1 small child, it makes going to the children's park impossible without multiple adults. It's also so hard to keep a clear line of sight. Just closing the gate would make it easier for parents of small children or children with autism who tend to elope to use the facility.

Splash pad

Limited parking and access due to overcrowding and overgrown vegetation makes it less appealing than other riverfront parks.

A lot of the recreations we utilize in the park we can do elsewhere so we infrequently use the space.

We don't usually spend a lot of time outdoors due to crowds, parking, heat, etc., but I enjoy seeing others use the parks.

Not enough parks, not enough parking, Do better

I am disabled. I love to swim but it is too hard for me to get in and out of the river without the aid of friends. Please have handicap rails installed! Or areas where the rocks steps are less steep.

Rio Vista pool has had limited hours and shade which makes it hard.

Y'all do an awesome job considering community, budget, etc.

My age and disability means I am uncomfortable in river area

I would love to the development of restaurants along the river - similar to IVARs - where possible.

I would like to see more painting classes, some outside along the river. Might need to have small, cleared, level spaces along the river for this.

Well, we also play outdoor racquetball (aka 1Wall). We heard that San Marcos is considering adding 1wall racquetball courts. We are very excited about this possibility. We were asked to take this survey and state our feelings.

I think the river front parks try to pack too many activities into a too small area. Activities that aren't about the river (basketball; random office building at corner of Hopkins and CM ALLEN) should be moved elsewhere so that the precious, limited land of the riverfront parks can be focussed on enjoying and protecting the river. This is especially true for the narrow upstream parks.

There is not enough communication regarding there being multiple parks for river access. I honestly had no idea until now.

Ample parking

Clean restrooms - shadow areas

Parking for fishing

Adequate parking at Pickleball courts and Children's playground

Parking . Handicap accessible to water

Accessible parking for the pickleball courts without fear of being ticketed. There are some dedicated spaces, however during busy times, those spaces are taken by people using the picnic area or mostly by river floating. The pool is rarely open and spots are dedicated to lifeguards from May thru Sept, but never used.

More pickle ball courts, Could use more places to enter/exit the river, extend trails down river

Better trash collection during periods of peak use.

Parking is really difficult to find

Although I love swimming and going to the river I prefer to go to the new braunfels river because to me the river in New braunfels is cleaner I think that we should be cleaning the river in san marcos to make it more pleasant

The park meets most people's needs. We mainly use it to go kayaking and canoeing ourselves.

I'm disabled and do not go anywhere but the Dr's office. So, I don't ever see any of these things/places.

There is only one major playground with almost no parking. There should be more options for family units and not just individuals. Also, the city removed grills and other comfort items that allow local families to picnic and enjoy the parks they pay for. The river is also congested with wild rice that is protected (understandable) but in some places has forced the river to be so shallow and unusable. Other similarly sized Texas cities with river access (not beautiful springfed rivers in most cases) have far superior park systems with real attempts to beautify and utilize the resource for the community. There are smaller cities with far more beautiful amenities and efforts than San Marcos, which is disappointing.

None

It would be nice to have a park for older adults with accessibility to walk and without a lot of kids and loud music.

Over crowding and lack of parking

When the parks are busy on holiday weekends they appear dirty and perhaps unsafe. After a busy weekend the trash in the parks is unacceptable.

The fact that many people especially college students are dressed so immodestly and their bathing suits show all private areas, I don't feel comfortable bringing my kids there.

Its loved to death. Gets too busy for me when the weather is nice.

I'm there 40 hours a week 5 days a week. Thats enough time spent there

Parking is an issue

PUBLIC TRANSPORT. PEDESTRIAN FRIENDLY. Get rid of the cars and turn downtown into a no vehicle zone. Close the roads and open them up to people! Look to Europe to learn how to do this right. No need to reinvent the wheel. It's already been done everywhere else. This is not 'rocket surgery'. COMMON SENSE. Do what has been proven to be effective.

N/A

Maybe more trash cans and facilities during high volume weekends

They get overrun with tourists during the busy season and the parks become completely unusable and trashed.

Please limit access. The river banks and surrounding areas are being destroyed.

too many weeds and plants to swim safely

Trains keep me from coming into this part of town

Lack of time for me, even in retirement!

Lighting is the worst. It gets pitch black at 6:00 in the fall and winter which is a great time to be out there.

While there are pickleball courts at Rio Vista they are in terrible shape. The lines are very difficult to make out mostly because they are painted over the tennis court lines. There are too many pickleball courts crammed into too small of a space. The court surface was in terrible shape when I visited. I would love to use free outdoor pickleball courts. I would suggest installing dedicated well maintained pickleball courts. I would most definitely use them.

Your question is worded oddly. It does meet my needs. Where is the "not applicable" option

Needs water refill stations throughout the park.

Parking at Rio Vista is nearly impossible during the busy times. Finding street parking down the road can be a challenge too. It is usually easier to park in the Lions Club lot, but then the walk back is long when using my own tube for floating.

Crowding and trash can be a serious problem.

Not handicapped accessible

Another shared use trail that goes under I-35 on the side side of the river; A shared use trail that continues past river road; Fees for visitors who are not residents

Our riverwalk is not inviting nor does it feel safe. We should make it a lovely place to walk for all generations of San Marcos citizens. It feels like you're walking under a freeway or bridge, someplace you're not sure you're supposed to be. It could be beautiful!

More inviting (updated), activities/events

The little store front where Balcones bank stands- that should be a convenient store - selling ice , drinks , river shoes , towels, sunglasses, sunscreen , chips , beer etc all the stuff for river goers. In the off season it could be a graduation card/flower store, quick bite to eat before class store. Someone could make a million bucks there!!!

Need to charge out of town visitors for use and parking

Need more FREE parking especially for those of us who live in San Marcos

I have young children and there aren't many spots for kids to safely play and learn about the river.

The use of drugs keeps me and my family away.

NA

More parking would be amazing

too many people and they leave it trashed.

Na

Need a map showing all nearby parking options

Too many people!

Parking can be challenging

WAY too much trash in the river. Too much trampled river bank. Too much damaged habitat. The parks should provide access for river recreation. Clean, maintained Public access to the river is as far as it should go.

Its becoming too restricted. Need a food park.

The park nearest us has been closed for 10 years now. When will it open? It was the biggest selling point for my home and I had one year of use before the flooding closed it forever.

parking and crowds are the biggest hindrance on the weekends

I avoid the river on the weekends during the summer because there are too many people

Security is inadequate given the amount of drugs, alcohol and gangster environment that is becoming the norm.

The city and county have made it impossible to access the river out side the couple of places in town or locations that charge. This forces everyone to the hand full of locations still available causing overcrowding, lack of parking and excessive trash. It is clear that the city wants to make it like NB and block if the river so they can control access and make money off it. The smell of pot has gotten so bad I can't take my 3 year old on the river without bringing her home smelling like we were at a Willie Nelson concert.

Too many trashy people

With all the fencing and blocked areas it make it look ugly and not family friendly. It makes it hard to find areas to relax, all the fencing takes away from the river and park

I love to float and swim in the river. I don't really play sports. But float it all the time . I appreciate the easy access. However, I love to kayak. It is not easy to access the river in a kayak. There is no place near the river where I can safely drop off my kayak. The police will not allow dropping it off at the turn around near the swimming pool and dropping it off at the Lions club drop off by Ivar's is too busy. Cars and buses dropping off tuns of people. Leaving my kayak in the way and easily stolen when I leave it to park my car. The river cops are rude about me taking 3 minutes to unload it. I am pleased with all the other services but I wish the pool was open for free swim longer

Improve parking and security.

In order to have less crowded parks, we need to work across municipalities to open more green spaces. Clearly people want to be outside, they NEED to be outside. We will not fix anything by requiring people to pay to enter or reserve a spot. Wimberley, SM, NB, Austin, Martindale, Lockhart, Dripping Springs, Georgetown and every other nearby city need to come together to discuss how to better serve all recreationalists AND wildlife.

To many people

There are too many people from "out of town" and they are loud and messy and rude and leave dirty diapers in the parking lot. I don't want my family to be around them.

Stop putting a fence around the river Jane! Hire more trash cleaners. Stand up to the lions club.

I feel that there needs to be more security roaming the parks. I also think that there needs to be more trash/recycle areas for proper disposal.

The leash law added in with the can ban needs to be revisited (how can I play fetch in the river?) or there needs to be more dedicated off leash river areas.

Proper parking for residents and more police officers available to patrol and keep parks safe

During the busy season it is awful. I live in the Rio vista terrace and it can get dangerous from the influx of people

I do use the parks weekly for multiple things. The cameras that will be installed, and increased security efforts are appreciated!

Need temporary loading and unloading parking by the river at Ramon Lucio behind the baseball fields.

I avoid using the parks for recreation/leisure when crowded, but instead use these times to volunteer with litter clean-ups.

More shade

Way to many students admitted to TXST every year, crowding the river and straining the fragile ecosystem. I say this as an alum - why are we breaking admittance records every year? Over development of housing and facilities that over use water. We are projected to run out of water in the next thirty years - what is short term capital gain if we have no water left for the animals and people?

Littering is a huge problem! Plus, the lack of parking and ada accessible walkways, ramps, etc...

There have been a couple of occasions in the past where unhoused folks were camping by the river in areas where we would normally visit on mornings to enjoy outdoor recreation/nature. During those times it felt a bit unsafe and we couldn't enjoy our normal public spots. I haven't seen that as much lately, which is appreciated.

We need to improve our security on the river and address overcrowding

N/a

There are very few potable water sources, limited hours that bathroom facilities are open, and trash causes issues during busy seasons.

Too many tourists overflow the river parks, makes it difficult or impossible to utilize the parks

Would also appreciate unlocked bathrooms

Parking is hectic, there are several people smoking weed and drinking

Over the past five years, do you think the quality of the Riverfront Park System has...

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Improved | 46% (256) |
| Stayed the same | 35% (197) |
| Declined | 18% (102) |

In a few words, tell us why you answered the way that you did in the question above?

See question 5.

Lack of security and too many people

I haven't been here for 5 years. The question doesn't apply to me

Improvements in sidewalks, and shoreline improvements have made it safer and easier to access

I love the addition of the shared use path! I hope it connect under IH 35 soon.

I moved to San Marcos in 2015. Over the past decade the River Front parks have noticeably improved. The playground has been updated, the riverfront trail has been paved, and the pedestrian bridges have been updated.

While I still think that there is a lack of picnic tables & seating to just enjoy the parks, I think overall the trail system has improved as has the vegetation remediation and maintenance. I can remember when the elephant ears were very prevalent and couldn't imagine the river without them. Nowadays, you don't see that. And I think that's been a great improvement!

I can't think of any major improvements, and it hasn't deteriorated too much

The park system seems to be more conducive to the public's interests.

Riverfront sidewalks and dedicated access points that are not eroded, except on the east side of 35 where every access point is dangerous and eroded.

The Shared Use Path is an amazing amenity. Parks are clean. The paid staff and volunteers that commit time to this are invaluable.

No major changes

Pickleball courts

Parks are great just crowded.

The paths are more accessible

There have been improvements made to the parks on the river such as the dog beach and better recycling/trash bins. There is room for improvement within the parks. I don't think a water fountain for feature is an improvement or a good idea for an area like the one we live in where we barely get enough rain to meet the current water demands and expect sustained growth for the foreseeable future.

I've seen constant improvements at the playgrounds along the river trail and with trash cleanup organization systems over the years and appreciate the dedication to keep our river spaces clean and appealing to use:)

The extra erosion control and stone barriers are a welcome sight. The rebuilt damn in Rio Vista was great. I think there should be some enforced regulations on tents and tables being popped up.

The quality of experience has decreased. There is very limited parking to bring my child to the park, too many people are at the river covering the banks. The water is still beautiful, if you take the noise and people away, it's wonderful experience.

Paths along the river certainly have improved.

I haven't quite lived here five years, but it doesn't seem like there have been major changes.

Too many people from out of town abusing the river.

Access around the RR tracks has improved. Like the murals.

There are more people packed into the same amount of space - or so it seems.

I would say the culture of the people visiting the river has changed drastically. They don't value the river like we do. Trash gets dumped everywhere and you have 10 different large speakers blaring music in competition with one another.

I haven't seen any new improvements to the river.

Walk ways being improved to be able to walk along the parks.

The parks have become overused and the trash situation is ridiculous. I realize the City has dedicated alot of staff and time to cleaning up, but I feel there are restrictions that could be put into place that would reduce the need to have staff cleaning up after the riff raff, and spend their time improving the condition of the parks and protecting the river and its plants/wildlife.

Overcrowding. Abusing/littering our parks and river. Micro-litter. Overcrowding on holiday weekends. We love to share our beautiful river with out of towners, but they should contribute financially to the maintenance staff. Paid parking is an option. Like New Braunfels.

I can't think of many changes that have been made to the park system, though I don't know that that is a bad thing.

I believe improvements have been made. Appearance has been kept up with and made more accessible. Just a crowded area for families with young kids that also enjoy their space when out.

Ive only lived here for six months, cannot provide suffice response.

Projects have made the park more coherent and accessible

The shared use path is amazing and the renovation of the falls at Rio Vista and the parking area at City Park are fantastic. The crazy over use in the summer makes it hard to remember sometimes

The new bridge and walking path are great.

Walking trails, entry to river, no bbq pits

Although some areas have improved, I am disappointed that nothing has been built to replace the playground near city park. safer and well monitored, parks crew keep it clean and beautiful.

I have not notice much change in the years I have visited the parks

The amazing sidewalks, the rules to keep the park clean, the cleanliness- it really looks amazing

I only know the condition over that past 2 years.

cleanliness has definitely improved

The city entertains development on land that would directly impact the wellbeing of the river and the ecosystem it maintains.

The preservation of the river has maintained, but it could be improved through city action.

Riverbank restoration/stabilization

I can see the work.

Parks needs to provide more programming and events for all ages. We need more day camps that focuses on the outdoor for children and youth and their families.

Just my casual observation.

I'm happy with the erosion control.

Our population in the region has grown and everyone comes to our "free" parks system because we don't charge any parking, entry fee and don't have city funds and support for park rangers to force any rules. So San Marcos River and parks gets disrespected and abused and those that live here and pay city taxes don't feel safe or comfortable there.

They have closed off to many access points making the only access points extremely busy and unsafe.

City does not plan for managing crowd sizes and enforcing littering ordinances. Pay parking should already be in place. City needs Land Manager to help preserve river/banks conservation.

The parks are great! We haven't been here long enough to provide best feedback

Trashy people

The crowds have become too large on holidays & weekends

Not much has changed. The sprayers don't work at children's park.

Same answer as Question 5

The arrival of throngs of college players on the pickleball courts in the evening has made finding a court difficult.

The City has done great things with the accessibility along the river. My boys are able to ride their scooters along the sidewalk.

the city has taken on some good projects to improve. There is still a long way to go.

I see changes but feel it could be better. Adding to make it more kid friendly some how would be amazing.

Have only lived here 2 years have not noticed any changes.

The extension of the trail has been really positive.

The parks seem cleaner.

Definitely been updating and very happy with the direction so far

We can see the improvements around the park.

I've lived here for 2 years and I have not seen any changes.

Too crowded and dirty

less trash discarded inappropriately, more area cleared to provide a safe area for younger children can enjoy freely.

Appears to be more activity managed and stricter rules have been adopted, if not enforced

Big improvements to walkways and entries into the water.

The playground we went to had several pieces of equipment that were broken

The addition of the walking trail near Rio Vista.

I'm unaware of changes that may have been made to upkeep or maintain a pleasant environment.

The river access has been better since the downriver builds more walkway and kid friendly

There is much more emphasis on native species, pollution mitigation, designated access points to allow for accessibility as well as decreased erosion. They look healthier and feel healthier to be in.

I don't feel we are doing enough to protect the natural beauty and resources. Parking/traffic. Things are run down and over used.

If you're not improving, you're getting worse. And, San Marcos has done nothing to improve our Parks System.

Have not seen much change..

More concern about safety

Folks are leaving more trash in and around the river. Water levels are much lower due to bad water policy and drought.

need more walking paths

It has mostly seemed the same to be other than land erosion

dont know

They haven't had a lot of improvements

I've lived here three years, I don't see a difference

Some improvement has been made, but the real issue is overuse

There used to be picnic tables by the green area at Rio Vista Park (east side of the park) and now they're gone. So there's a whole area with no tables which is lame. Now you can only sit in crowded areas on the west side of the river.

Landscaping and pathways have improved

I have only lived here for three years.

There are some artworks on the edge of the riverfront and also, there are some fences for protecting specific races of wild rice.

Expansion and upgrade of paved walking trails. Transitioning some tennis courts to pickleball courts.

I think the city has done a great job of stabilizing the bank and restricting areas to bring back native vegetation.

better maintenance is needed. When things are added, they don't seem to last long....

I really don't know whether it has changed

N/A

It just feels better

Parks are well maintained

Many people come to the river and I would like to see more effort made to give citations for littering and protecting our waterways. Making sure people pick up their litter and trash and not leave it for the passionate locals to take care of. Also, can we do something about people that bring loud speakers to the river and blast it? Sometimes the music is a vibe, but other times it is quite obnoxious.

I have not been here long enough to assess improvements over time.

It always gets used, which is good, but parking can be a problem.

I haven't witnessed a change.

Trash, overcrowding in summer, trash, and more trash

There are so many people that come to swim in our river and the parking is very limited.

We have only lived here 3 years and can't really compare the rebut condition to the past.

Less trash. More people?

Redevelopment of children's park; reconstruction of dog beach area; rio vista falls improvements.

The trails have been developed. It's easy to go under the train tracks now, and the route under I35 is almost finished.

Unregulated use, unmanaged parking, lack of re-investment in infrastructure

Parks here been "reworked" and maintained well.

more connected paths/trails

I feel like walkways have improved. They have a less natural feel but they seem to be better for higher traffic.

There is more natural areas and more volunteers

people are learning to respect the river.

Efforts in preserving the river, added trash facilities and rules to help everyone enjoy the river

I don't know enough about them.

continued investment in the system, without overdeveloping it

No one picks up after themselves. The community that uses rio vista leaves the park worse than they found it.

Because not much has changed.

We stopped going as most of the time the facilities were dirty, with very bad smell and not well maintained. Parking has always been challenging.

River trail is now continuous and path under I-35 is finished

Additions to trails, sidewalks, trash collection, parking, repairian zones, interpretative signs

We are in the midst of a drought and the buildding continues The river is low; it is threatened by development. I think the parks maintenance and facilities have imporved. It really is the quality and amount of water. If the river dries up, I will move.

I have only lived in San Marcos for 2 years, so I can't attest to much. I have noticed some positive changes along the river in my short time here, such as recently the trash can/recycling bins being repainted, additional signage (in both english & spanish), and implementation of the ordinance regarding the elimination of single use containers by certain parts of the river.

I like that the bridge at city park was redone in 2024 , changed from the plywood. I think removing entry points can be a point of tension in the community but I think at times it has resulted in a prettier landscape with viewing opportunities and rehabilitated ecosystems such as under the railroad tracks before entering rio vista heading southbound from city park. Speaking of under the rail road tracks I like that the trail was extended and you don't have to crawl under anymore. I like the addition of more picnic tables in the park.

The addition of permanent pickleball courts

I have lived here for 3 years, I have not noticed any decline in the quality of the riverfront parks

I think it's the same as years ago

The steps at lions club are an improvement

The investment in the permanent pickleball nets has been an improvement. The other issue is there is no rules or monitoring of those courts. When the college is in session, there are crowds of people, dominated by the college students that all the courts are not shared. Many municipal courts across the country have playing rules that are adhered to, but not San Marcos.

better access points, more natural plantings and landscaping, better parking (outside of summer weekends) clean, better sidewalks and paths. endangered species are marked off, nice bridges

Erosion control has improved but parking and crowds are terrible during busy times.

The trail improvements were completed.

Parking and access are slightly better, but maintenance and water quality are poorer, especially during periods of peak use. Bank erosion is prevalent, and the large stones used to as steps are sinking and shifting in most places. Also, the limestone blocks used to re-line the banks at Rio Vista are polished by heavy use to the point of being hazardous.

Our Riverfront Parks are excellent! The walking path is paved and we have lots of opportunity to walk, run, bike, swim, fish, etc.. Certain areas have been paved Ma king it easier to safely access the river.

The riverside trail system is very nice and has gotten nicer. Trash pick up is quite good. I do not like the idea of fencing off the parks. There are too many fences already. I think it is ok to charge for parking especially during peak use periods. The restrooms at rio vista and city park can use improvements...especially for handicapped users. It would be great if the huge university parking areas by strahan could be used by the public with pay kiosks.

More accessible when you can get in to the area.

I like the infrastructure in place (esp bathrooms) and areas to sit without having to bring chairs.

I've lived in San Marcos for the past 5 years and the park still looks the same specifically Rio Vista Park noticeable improvements to trails, and river banks from what it used to be.

I haven't noticed any changes.

The rice grass is something that used to be maintained, since it has been allowed to grow a lot of sediment has built up around Sewell Park and it is just nasty feeling to even swim in. This grass can be maintained and still protected.

The path was paved which is much better, as well as the improvements at the falls. Cutting down invasive trees. Fixing up one of the bridges.

See question above

We don't use the park enough to really say. We mainly use the river area or other natural area/greenspaces around town.

Better sidewalks along the system. Better overall connectivity.

I have seen beautiful changes to the river over the years where new banks have been created to help control erosion as well as the development of the rapids. Stunningly beautiful.

Despite all the work that has gone into the maintenance of the falls at Rio Vista, parking remains a massive issue and overcrowding makes the area less enjoyable. Children and adults standing in the middle of the falls are a hazard and annoyance to anyone trying to use the falls for tubing or just swimming. I also witness on a semi regular basis, fights break out between rival groups of teens after much yelling and throwing gang signs back and forth.

Improved, but some improvements unnecessary

Haven't seen major development or improvement. Felt like the single use container ban wasn't super effective.

Children's Park updated...parks seem cleaner

Seems people litter more. Also no one likes that one person that thinks he's a DJ and everyone wants to hear their speaker turned to 11. Seems to have gotten a lot more crowded too.

While the construction was a bit cumbersome during the process the end results in multiple areas has created for great spaces to sit out and enjoy the river. Also access to the river has improved because of the construction in these areas

Several of the parks have had upgrades and improvements

I think it's been more than 5 years since the riverfront parks became so walkable/connected -- and I love that you can walk right along the river from City Park all the way to the interstate.

I don't have 5 years of experience with the parks, but it doesn't seem to have changed much in the time I've spent here.

I really like the improvements made to the falls at Rio Vista. I feel it's much safer now.

Taken over by college students who are immature and don't care. Will not take my kids around that, especially the river activity.

Because you didn't have an N/A option.

Upgrade to Children's Park and Rio Vista dam area

There has been no meaningful change. If there is change it has been attempts to limit access and usability.

Accessible trails

I haven't seen a whole lot of change the damn is nice but it's just so busy. I really wish the parks over by cape st were open and had better parking.

It seems to have reached a plateau.

I have seen an improvement with signs, some of the trails, habitat restoration projects, river clean-ups, wild rice protection, more picnic tables

The playscape is lovely

Side walks add

I see more people using it.

Always overcrowded and still same

Since I am not from the area and have never visited parks, I do not know if they have improved or declined.

It's more crowded but thankfully staff has been able to keep it nice and clean

I can see the city is making an effort to curb litter/trash and maintain our beautiful parks

The parks are so busy on most weekends and with that comes trash and feeling a little unsafe.

Better signage on policies and endangered species and river protections. Improved riparian environments

Although the city has taken steps to reduce trash, the river front areas are still littered with trash on busy days. I have seen people litter in front of park rangers and are not reprimanded or told to pick it up. Out of towners are destroying our river

There has been obvious infrastructure improvements as well as environmental / ecological improvements with wild rice and riparian restoration.

Too many people, there should be at least one day a week swimming is not allowed.

New construction, path finally connects from Lucio to city park

There should be more railings for access to the river.

You are finally waking up and realizing that you need to make the spaces in San Marcos PEOPLE FRIENDLY.

N/A

I see no major differences in the walking trail along the river. Also, the last time we tubed there was too much growth in the water to allow for a smooth trip.

Parks are consistent, people are worse

I've been here 2 years and I haven't noticed any changes.

The improvement to the rapids

I know they have been working on the park and the habitat along the river nearby

Not much improvement

The paved trail is a huge improvement along with street parking near dog beach

Infrastructure has improved slightly, but more visitors than ever make the river dirty, and dangerous. I would much rather have gone to the river on a Summer weekend pre-covid than after.

Artificial construction and features, commodification, tourism

I haven't lived in San Marcos long enough to know if it has improved

the beautification and accessibility projects, sidewalks, etc

Vandalism, trash, lack of safety

Sidewalk system has been improved with connectivity. River access points have preserved important riparian areas.

The drinking of alcohol and party goers not allowed on dry land. They tend to get out of hand at times.

I just have been here a year.

There is more and more trash at all the river parks. They are getting more and more crowded and it isn't fun to go most of the time.

I've seen steps being taken to reduce trash, but more has to be done.

Can ban

more weeds and plants than years ago

Honestly they close down parts of the river and I disagree with that

Haven't lived here 5 years

Improvements were made around the water fall and parking for that area. There's also pickle ball courts, not just tennis courts. There is a fence around the train tracks for safety.

I like the new regulations, trash stations, and informative bulletin boards.

The river side has consistently been clean and maintained for the past 5 years.

I wish we could have dogs in Sewell. I understand no dogs in the river, but mine loves to lay outside with us :(

Trash & no enforcement of rules

It's overrun

Maintenance at children's park is poor.

I see more people bringing reusable bottles and more wild rice

Construction wrapped up on enhancements

Never less people.

It hasn't changed in the couple of years I've lived here.

Overcrowding

There just isn't much parking and it hasn't gotten better.

The only real improvement I can think of that's happened in 30 years is whatever was done to CM Allen by City Park/TSU

In general, the city has become more sensitive to environmental issues, with many still to contend with.

So much litter. And not enough enforcement.

restoration; more space to enjoy river

Lighting has gotten worse. Before it was paved the whole way was lit. Now none of the light turn on or are in correct spots. No soft surfaces is the worst. Lady bird lake is a great example and we had our own mini version. Now it's all paved.

The work was put in to improve the banks, but the river is still being overrun with family encampments and trash. Reliance on volunteer organizations to keep the parks clean and very little parks officers. We stick to the off-season, and never around graduation or holidays.

I've only lived in San Marcos for 2 years so I really don't have a good point of reference. I did check out the pickleball courts at Rio Vista but I was very disappointed and found them to be unusable.

Love the paved trails and new bridges that have been put into place. The addition of more trash & recycling cans is great too.

The users need to be cited by the park Rangers for leaving trash. It is an absolute travesty to let the park get trashed the way it does. People should not be allowed to picnic so close to waters edge with all sorts of plastic bags and single use containers

I've noticed more attention to the park system. It's being kept up with more

the waterways are kept clean

The river has gotten way too crowded to be able to get in and out easily. Water fountains were never turned back on after Covid. Need water refill stations throughout the park.

I have not spent enough time there recently to say.

There is still an issue with trash, the boats on river where trash could be placed at were a big help

Not sure how it was more than a couple years ago

Accessibility for more physically challenged individuals, also restoration efforts and trail connections

Parking is an issue. It's very crowded during breaks and summer

Habitat conservation and limited areas of ingress/egress

The trails are much more stroller/wheelchair friendly. The lighting at night seems to have improved as well.

No water due to overbuilding and global warming.

The establishment of designated access points allows for people of all capacities to enjoy this natural feature, so long as it's not at the expense of the river's wellbeing.

We've lived here only a few months and I can't really answer the question

Water level down

I feel like people are tearing up the river more. Because this is a free park. People take advantage.

The paths are in better condition but there is more trash.

Have's noticed much change

Only slightly I'm sorry to say, but it is better and getting better.

The have made improvements. Some places are easier to get in & out.

There's still a lot of people littering and not really enforcement for this. It makes it look trashy.

Parks are always clean

We have only lived in San Marcos for 1.5 years so I'm hesitant to answer this question. I can understand y'all have a lot to juggle as population increases, and parks are forever underfunded in the face of that. I will say we frequent City Park and Rio Vista and they're always pretty clean. We also tube regularly throughout the summer and love the trash boats and dedicated trash volunteers. I don't expect there to be much compliance with the can ban, sorry. I wish there were dedicated park police (coming from PD budget, excuse me) to actually enforce that. I would love to see it.

Just haven't noticed differences

I like the new walk ways

Overuse

Better trails along the river

Less river access compacts people into smaller areas.

During the summer the park is overcrowded, and there isn't parking available.

Improvements to Rio Vista as an example.

Improved river access, more trash bins, better sidewalks.

I live across from school and constantly see cleanup, and an effort being made to keep the area clean and functional

In some ways it has improved (maintinance across from Lions Club, for example). In other ways it has degraded (water levels are historically low, and you don't get to have a river park without a river).

I have only been here 2 years and have not seen much change

I have enjoyed the expansion of bike paths in the downtown area and the greenbelt alliance's expansion/maintenance of nature trails.

I have lived here just long enough to visit, but have not noticed changes necessarily.

Traffic has become out of control and with the drought we have been, it has destroyed the banks.

the San Marcos River is getting increasingly low, however San Marcos is treating it like it is flowing just as high. Plus, I feel like there is more people than ever using the river front parks. I think those combine to lead to a more unhealthy river system.

Restored natural river banks

I think fencing off some riparian areas has been helpful. Policing has improved.

Improved walking trails

I see the parks are well kept and some improvement over the past couple of years

Too much recreation. Unregulated use.

I don't see many new things at the park, though I appreciate the dog waste bags being so plentiful!

The crowds are nasty and don't care about the rivers obviously

I haven't noticed any major improvements, we still love the parks though

I think the crowds have increased and it's harder to maintain.

Upgrades to the wooden park, dam/rube chute and walking trails.

Riverfront access is easier to manage

#Ghetto

I believe efforts to protect natural riparian areas have improved.

Love the streambank stabilization project, and the access points are lovely.

New amenities and infrastructure have been added

I believe the city has done a lot to maintain and improve our riverfront parks. The improvements for safety at Rio Vista was a fantastic improvement for safety and beauty. The can ban will greatly improve it as well.

More arts has been enjoyable

The beautification and cleanliness of the area has improved

I have only lived here a year but the parks seem to be well maintained all year

I believe there needs to be strict enforcement and fees to come to the park and enjoy it. out of towners pay more

I grew up here. San Marcos and Kyle are my home. I have seen the river enhancements for recreation and also the efforts of nature preservation. I believe we need to continue allowing for tubing, swimming and fishing in the rivers. I also am supportive of efforts to ensure that ecological systems are considered in balance. Efforts to restrict tubing need to be balanced with efforts to keep the river clean. PARKING. The Lions Club has decent parking. Rio Vista park is severely lacking in parking or available ways to access the chutes.

I have not lived in SMTX for 5 years, but the parks appear unchanged to me.

The parking is horrible especially when it's baseball season, you can't access the Rio Vista in a decent walking range when bringing kids/picnic gear/fishing gear. Sewell seems to have been reserved for only students of TxSt which is unfair to families that have little to nothing to do in this city.

There hasn't been much of a change over the last few years.

Trails under railroad tracks

The only improvement I know of has been the re-work at Rio Vista. I really wish you would do the same at Thompson Island.

It has gotten way too crowded

I haven't seen much change

Maybe the changes have been gradual and may not easily notice them but I do constantly see construction projects ongoing

prohibition of single-use beverage bottles

Some trail improvements like crossing under the RR tracks

The trail improvements are good and extending under I35 out to Stokes is great

Protections for habitat along the river

Ongoing construction limits parking even more

Building designated entries will help keep the banks from eroding.

Many projects have been completed along the river, including sidewalks and protected areas. The Rio Vista shoots completely redone and more.

I think the most important thing is to keep free access for city residents (non-residents, I am happy to restrict access to, but that brings a host of problems and complications), and I think the city has done that well. We like to go, but it gets so crowded after mid-morning in the summer - especially on the weekend - that it's just not that much fun. I like some space to enjoy the river. With that said, I absolutely would not restrict access for city residents. May lower income individuals use the parks because they are a great way to access the river and other green space/play areas, and the lack of a cost is a key part of that. I think restricting access would be a major problem.

Improved maintenance and restoration

Better river access

TRASH. Spend money on cleaning and protecting the river. Save the water. The extra river traffic upriver is more than obvious for those of us who have enjoyed the downriver stretches for years.

Its become to crowded and not enough supervision. You have people at the falls standing in the falls and jumping over people sometimes hitting them.

Only the busy parks in the main area of town are taken care of. Those of us that live in Blanco Gardens don't have any repairs started for our area of the river.

The beautification has improved how it looks but also the functionality of it!

I haven't seen much change to it since the major renovations

I see the efforts of making accessing the river safer, such as paving the rocks around lions club, and the diversion effort at Rio Vista made me feel safer letting my loved ones go down the rapids.

Ever since the Children's park got renewed I feel like there is always something wrong there. Something is closed or being fixed. I do not remember running into these issues as a kid. But now when i take my kids there is always somthing broken or closed. As for river that hasn't changed, other than when it starts getting crowded over the summer but i feel like that has never been a talk to fix the trash left being and the over crowded of tourists.

bank stabilization & native plants

The influx of people, lack of decorum, out of town people not invested in our community

Minimal changes over the past few years

I think staff has done an incredible job at improving the parks systems including the shared use pathway and new parks amenities.

I think it has been good and is still good

All of the steps and bank stabilization improvements were completed more than 5 years ago. That said, the steps at Dog Beach WERE replaced more recently, so that was an improvement.

Some areas of severe compaction are under restoration and have been blocked off from foot traffic. There are many areas still to improve, but this is a start.

There are too many people tubing in the river and leaving their trash behind. I avoid the river on the weekends during the summer because there are too many people. Tourists come from out of town and trash our river. I think we need to charge nonresidents for parking.

The drugs and inconsiderate trippers.

I really like the extensions that they've put in for walking the riverfront i.e. sidewalks under the railroad tracks

The protection of areas is good. And the improvements at Rio Vista are good as well.

Love the reconstructed river banks and walkways

I can't take my 3 year old daughter to the river floating in town without her smelling like pot when we come home. Trash everywhere. The can ban only made it worse, now people ditch the trash in the water so they don't get caught instead of holding on to it and properly disposing of it. They are scared to get a ticket.

Well the usage has exponentially increased due to out of ownership and it's free to them. It saddens me with the over use of the river, all those people isn't good for the natural environment of the plants nor the river.

All the fences and signs make it look abandoned and dirty

The constant upkeep and regular information from the discovery center and newspaper

The banks of the river across from the lions club is really nice. The parks are clean and beautiful. I love the areas that have been replanted with natives keeps our river healthy

General seating

Because we were told that we couldn't even have a table To put our food And drinks on at the park when we were there for a memorial for our friend just hanging out visiting with each other. We were told to have a reusable container, but then told conflicting information and told to use a Disposable plastic cup which is worse for the environment than a reusable container. We pay taxes to the park we should be able to have picnics and use the barbecue pits that used to be there and have tables and we should be able to drink our beer if we want as long as we clean up after ourselves.

The City has grown yet Baseball parking has not fields were closed a few years back from lack of attention watering etc.

Trash pickup is terrible. There's trash everywhere, not enough trash cans, trash cans are overflowing.

While I have seen small changes over the last 5 years, for the most part it has stayed the same.

The improvements done to the banks by all three falls ending at Cheatham Street are a vast improvement for that area. The walk way bridge down towards I-35 is nice too.

Improved security.

We've been visiting for years, decided to make a permanent choice to live here. It doesn't seem to have changed a lot and that's just fine. The conversion of some tennis courts into pickleball is very nice though.

I'm so tired of the litter. The rules should be enforced. The rangers should be out more on weekends.

There wasn't an answer for "I'm not sure" as we have only lived here a handful of years and still figure it out with small children.

It is too crowded and with that number of people visiting (especially college students or people wanting to drink) people don't feel a responsibility for upkeep.

Bank restoration has taken place and is occurring in some areas, banks were stabilized and awning put over near the children's park, sidewalk going along the entire river has been improved/built out/decorated, KSMB trash boats, safer to go down the falls after construction

Lots of positive improvements to the trail

Have not noticed any visible changes to the parks. It is still nice.

My prior answers speak to this.

The renovation has improved

To many people and trash and a swimming pool next to the river?

The cleanup and improvements are very welcoming and safety upgrades are appreciated.

I'm not really sure

I have seen improvements but still feels like there's a lot more we can do as locals and a community

Better playground.

Light above the wave was fixed, bathrooms seem cleaner, trash is picked up often

The baseball fields don't show much improvement and the parking is still horrible

I've been in the San Marcos area for 2 years. The current state of the river and the parks adjacent to it I feel like haven't changed much. Though I think there's always room for improvement.

Overcrowding on the weekends with people disrespecting the facilities.

I have seen an increase of trash cans & recycle bins, more informative signs to reduce pollution from tourists and cleaner trails.

I have only been here that long, and it seems consistent to me over that time.

The river has gotten very dirty from overuse

I like the summer help(river ambassadors) you have employed to educate and role model picking up trash and letting people know rules, etc.

I have only been here for little over a year

The murals are beautiful. The wide walks are lovely. The parking has improved. I am angry about the fences and the tubing workers. Make people bring their own tubes.

It has overall stayed consistent.

I think that not much has changed in my experience, which is not a bad thing in my opinion. I love going down and visiting. If anything, it's just gotten busier (annoying, but what can you do)

I did not notice a major change

I miss the rope swings. lol.

I have not noticed any changes in the area I frequent

I was astonished by the amount of trash when we went during a busy time especially the amount of glass people had by the river. We were at Rio Vista

I've seen more put into the events from advertising to properly clean spaces held

Other than the children's playground everything seems the same

Overdevelopment combined with drought conditions leading to historical low flow rate, leash law, can ban instead of more waste pickup and staffing, overcrowding due to lack of alternatives

No longer clean or safe. Many unhooked subject camp and littering daily

The city does a great job of maintaining and improving existing surfaces, facilities, etc.

Because they are routinely trashed and abused by overcrowding and the city has done very little beyond relying on volunteer organizations to combat the problem. Additionally, there are not sufficient river Marshals to combat the issues.

Removal of non-native trees with evergreen leaves has created habitat for native understory shrubs that attract pollinators and birds.

Seems that it is cleaner than in the past.

I haven't seen any change, the mural is in need of repair and I haven't seen any.

Mostly the litter issue, in my opinion the rules in the parks and recreational use on the river needs to be enforced more.

Enjoying the habitat restoration but lots of other "improvements" have never superseded their previous state i.e. the limestone blocks will never be as good and stable as trees and plants with intensive root systems to hold the bank

Enhanced walking trails

I like to see the sustainability & focus on protecting our river from pollution. Offering people specific places to recreate, ensures they won't be able to destroy the entirety of the riparian areas along the banks.

Improvement of trails, bridges, and removal of invasive species along the river.

I only put neutral because the facilities and maintenance have improved but the condition due to visitors' litter has made the quality of parks decline.

There have been several additions and improvements in the last 5 years. The fields have been redone nicely.

Loss of 2 temporary loading and unloading parking spaces at city park.

The updates at pyramid park etc have been nice bc it allows river access without mud and added places for people to lounge and gather by the river

Murals, accessibility

The kids areas have been cleaned up and the river bed areas itself have been maintained to help growth after the floods.

we are seeing more of the natural life i.e. rice coming back in areas that are blocked off

For the amount of use to the Riverfront Park System, I expect better and more frequent improvements to be made

There's plenty parking now, I used to be bad but then they added a bit more parking which helps out.

Better signage and trash/recycling areas, (though we need more), better ADA access, park advocates

i havent seen much change, but i have noticed the habit restoration areas which i like to see

Because of the huge influx of students to Texas State University, as well as the low water levels of the San Marcos river, it seems the parks system has been overwhelmed and is in a state of decline. Waste is prevalent all around the parks system, as well as bad etiquette and cruel treatment towards wildlife. The ecosystem that exists inside the parks system is one that is vital to the people and the wildlife that live around it, and these issues are ones that need to be addressed.

I haven't notice much of a difference, but I can't say I was paying very close attention either

Cleanliness

There is too much encouragement for overcrowding, more and more picnic tables, minimal enforcement of existing rules, and not enough resources to handle the crowds, noise, litter, public display of drinking, etc. I do think the quality of the trail system has improved, but not the park settings.

I like the access points and fencing so there are only minimal areas heavily impacted by people. I also appreciate the efforts to remove invasive species. I wish the city had used pervious pave for the multiuse trails to minimize impervious cover near the river, but like the multiuse path that is accessible to all.

Definitely cleaner

Too much traffic (especially to Sewell) and the drought has been bad for water levels. Too much development too, why are we building more housing when we are projected to run out of water in the next 30 years?

Because I'm a NATURE lover and a PEOPLE lover and an ANIMAL lover.

There are too many areas that are not accessible like they used to be.

The hike and bike trail between parks has increased accessibility to the river and is great for skating and biking along the water

Didn't notice any changes.

The park system is old and while loved, it is still old. But I still dont feel like much needs to be changed.

They're better now

The walking paths are much nicer and well taken care of and the river is looking great.

I appreciate the habitat restoration/erosion mitigation projects going on, and the increase in native plants that attracts more birds, butterflies, etc.

Too many people, too much alcohol in the parks, too much litter

The sidewalks along the river have improved. There are more murals and signs that advocate for river stewardship (more need to be in Spanish). I appreciate the areas that have been blocked off to keep our wildlife safe.

I have only been in san marcos 2 years

Closing off areas to allow wildlife to regenerate. More trash cans but we need more help cleaning up the trash.

The overall system has been improved to help access, inclusion, and function; however, the unlimited increase of tourist use of the system has caused significant decline in my want to use the parks, except during times outside of the busy season.

I have been a local for 29 years going on 30, as a child I remember the river was hardly conserved and anyone could go anywhere there were much more people leaving trash behind and making the atmosphere dingy, now we have restoration projects, protected waters, more publicly involved clean ups. All around a more beautiful family friendly place.

The riverfronts are safer with the large rocks that have been placed. Less trash surrounding the parks.

Water levels have been dropping

Increased public facilities and access has enhanced the quality of our parks.

Restoration of Rio Vista Falls.

too much people on westside along Rio Vista Park, city park, Sewell, below Kirby lane (near spill way). Seen same at Stokes park - over crowded, trashed out. Go with paid parking at city park, along CM Allen, and river road.

I haven't noticed any new improvements.

Renovation

Banning single use beverages

There are a lot of fences and I feel like less access. We pay a lot in taxes and would like to be able to use the river when and how we want.

Bank Restoration

I feel access between parks is easier as well as accessible.

I have seen some change to improve and protect the river.

We moved here 5 years ago, seeing the landscape cleaned up and the amount of community events are impressive and I've seen improvements every time I've gone out.

It has increased with visitors which means increased litter, noise pollution, illegal parking and general inconsiderate behaviors. The City has made attempts to control some of these negative behaviors but in my opinion, it is out of control.

Not improved as much as I would like

The improvements that have been made do not stand up to the immense pressure we allow on the river parks that increase year after year

For the most part the parks and systems have stayed the same, nothing too new has been added.

I don't notice any real change in the last few years. Some beautification has occurred though.

I haven't noticed any major changes to the area

I've started biking a lot the last year and have just noticed an easier time getting around and cool new spots I hadn't seen before.

I know a lot has been put into education about trash and can bans, but I know that is also incredibly hard to enforce. I don't really see that the trash situation has gotten better. Also, just the rise in population and popularity of the river has increased usage and that heavy usage makes it difficult to maintain quality.

I really have enjoyed walking the connecting trail from Rio Vista to the city park

Lots of litter Due to the growing crowds

The river quality has gotten worse, the waters gotten lower and because there's more people, there's more trash and dirt that is stirred up.

I haven't been here for 5 years so I don't really know

What is your favorite section of the Riverfront Parks System? Choose up to three (3) of your favorite features or areas from the following choices below.

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Children's Park Playscape | 28% (158) |
| Veramendi Plaza Park and the Historic Charles S. Cock House and Merriman Cabin | 6% (35) |
| Events/concerts at the events stage area in Plaza Park | 31% (173) |
| Pauline Espinosa Community Hall/Lion's Club Tube Rental | 8% (42) |
| Picnic areas around the Lion's Club Tube Rental Center | 6% (32) |
| Dog Beach (across from Lion's Club Tube Rental) | 18% (100) |
| Trails along the river | 61% (340) |
| Texas States' Sewell Park | 30% (166) |
| The Falls and Dam at Rio Vista Park | 38% (213) |
| The Island in Rio Vista Park | 13% (72) |
| Scenic views along the river | 46% (255) |

What do you like most about the three areas or features you chose in the previous question?

Family fun for all ages

It's a beautiful place when we do get to enjoy it.

Great areas to chill out near the river before I jump in it!

Deeper waters, sometimes less people

The island in Rio Vista Park is where I first fell in love with San Marcos and knew I would move here one day. This island will forever hold a special place in my heart. I walk the trails almost daily during my lunch break. I really love that in a matter of minutes I can be on the river trail feeling connected to nature in the middle of the City. The stage at plaza park, in my opinion, is one of the best things about the park. My church hosts service here once per year, I've attended the concert in the park Summer series, I've watched plays/musicals at this stage, and I've attended festivals (petfest) with activities on the stage.

It was hard to choose just 3! But the ones chosen reflect the ones that meet my family's needs most at this stage in our lives.

I like the less crowded places, especially the plaza park area

Seeing our youth enjoying the river.

All exhibit a natural feel

Access points that are safe and not difficult to enter the river, as said above everything on east side of 35 is extremely dangerous and very difficult to access especially for my parents who are in their 60s.

Accessibility, Children's Park is the BEST, Dog Beach is a great location to get in the river

Perfect blend of nature and activity

Volleyball! And to run by the river

Locations, amenities, quality of facility

Love being in and on the water

Great views of nature

Currently my main usage of the riverfront parks is a weekly pickup soccer game that takes place at Plaza Park (on the concrete slab). This is a really great spot for this because it is well lit, centrally located in town, open to the public and in a beautiful area that we all know and love. While the removal of the slab seems imminent, it's hard to imagine a water feature going in there. Yes water fountains are undeniably beautiful and tranquil but are an enormous waste of what most residents of San Marcos consider our most valuable resource, water. It is not uncommon for cities to provide a soccer field or court for residents to use just as they do basketball, tennis, pickleball, football and volleyball. These are all very good activities for a floodplain as well.

Cleanliness accessibility and respect for nature

The attention given to the river in those areas. I also like the stone barriers. I think the trails connect to the different parks pretty well.

Dog beach

Accessible safe clean.

To be clear, I like the community hall. I actually wish Lions Club did less business since tubing is my least favorite river activity. My actual favorite part of the river is the headwaters below Kerbey Lane.

Everything

Good Bike Access.

It's an opportunity for us to all get outside.

Sewel is clean, quiet. Childrens park is fun for the kids, but parking is an issue! And the concert in the park is such a treat.

Water access

We enjoyed the scenic views and nature as well as walking trails.

We attend the music in the park series every summer and love it. We need more of this type of activity during other parts of the year. We frequent the trails to run or walk for exercise (at least once a week, probably more). We prefer Sewell because it is usually a little less crowded in the summer, but its even getting too crowded sometimes. We stay far away from the crowds at Rio Vista in the summer. The amount of people that are allowed to congregate in at Rio Vista is taking away from its natural beauty and is a detriment to the health of the river.

Prefer the quiet areas downstream. Absolutely love and appreciate the concerts and events in the parks.

I love to walk along the riverfront and the trail system makes it easy to travel between all the parks along the way while staying along the riverfront. I also love the event space for community events, so that everyone gathers at the local watering hole. :)

Trails along the river

They are beautiful and easy to enjoy. Peaceful walks and great music at Plaza Park

Walking swimming

We like to walk, swim and play!

I personally use these the most!

I love the idea of a concert in the park; it's a fantastic way to engage the folks in our town. It also provides another great activity for all ages. The trails are perfect for daily exercise and keeping people outdoors, allowing them to explore what we have to offer. The scenic views in our town are important, promoting engagement with the nature and beauty that San Marcos has to offer.

It provides a beautiful environment to make memories with my family

Nature

events/concert on the event stage

The river itself.

Beauty and tranquility.

The opportunity to swim and free cultural and music events are really nice.

Events/ concerts

The natural beauty that is so unique to this portion of the river.

Swimming accessibility and community concerts and events.

The trails

The clarity and uniqueness of the SM River

Super fun! Great places to spend the day

The natural beauty & wildlife

Views and accommodation for children

It's fun to play, seasaw

I like the views while floating the river or walking the trails.

This was so hard to answer because we truly value and enjoy each area listed above so choosing three was hard. We love the park in front of the veramendi park because it's flat and beautiful grass area. We love all of the area around the lions club and the trail to Sewell park, which we love to go to as well. The dam and the kids park of course is such a huge part of San Marcos

The beauty of nature.

Children's Park is amazing! One of the best parks around. I do wish it had more shaded seating for parents. The added shade is great but only covers the actual park. Parents often sit around the wooden structure that used to have a tree but it's in the straight sun. There is only 1 small bench by the money bars that is covered.

biodiversity and not a lot of structure

I love the scenery and being able to walk along the river is great

Popular space with my daughter to take her.

We love the natural spot in the middle of the city.

The quiet scenic atmosphere.

Play scape and the trails

River access and concert in the park is always fun

Family friendly

We love walking the trails along the river the most.

Ability to swim

Children's Park - a safe place for smaller children to enjoy; Rio Vista Park - large amount of room to enjoy the water that isn't too deep; Trails - makes exercise enjoyable

Easily accessible

Great areas for kids and family activity.

Concerts are fun to attend and listen to the music. The trails along the river let you experience the beauty of nature.

Easy access.

The views and falls are pleasant to be near.

Spending time with my family outdoors

serenity, walking, enjoying the river.

Reminds me of Austin, but a lot smaller. I wish I could jog 10 miles on a gravel trail by the river.

Natural beauty of the river

the upgrades to the children's park are wonderful

Concerts

It is all about the water. I grew up in San Marcos and practically lived at Rio Vista!

access and ease of use.

walking

I spend the most time there

Beauty

Ease of use, clean area

Swim and relax

Access to the river

Great walking path and I love the added safety light to cross Hopkins!

Most common areas i use

Feel safe to walk around

Veramendi is a great place to walk my dog. And great entrance to the river. I enjoy walking along the the trails of the river.

The beauty and peace of those locations remind me of a good and happy memory.

Views and nature

Love to get outside and it feels like our town.

Kid-friendly - San Marcos needs more kid-friendly activity options

They involve the river

Community

Meets my expectations

Pleasant river focused activity

time spent in nature refreshes me and concerts are fun

safe place to enjoy biking and hiking

I like the accessibility to swim with ease. I also love the island at Rio Vista because it is such a unique and beautiful part of our river. i like to go there and meditate quietly.

Good music, beautiful scenery.

Beauty of nature/river

Swimming at the falls

These areas draw me in to want to see more. They also provide shade in the summer

Swimming, tranquil views, positive ions, good every day dog walking

Quiet, removed from the noise of the city, and the pristine river.

Access to visually rich landscape and family friendly facilities

Easy access, easy parking

Being able to enjoy beautiful nature and walk easily along the river

Sewell is best for swimming and snorkeling. I like walking the trails and I like the falls for fun.

Not as busy

The natural beauty and safe access to the water

Easy access and scenic

They're open and easily accessible

i like running along the river and swimming with my dog

The open space and combination of nature and play

Proximity to the river. The river is just beautiful.

Swimming and hopefully not too crowded when I go.

I love walking along the entirety of our portion of the river and seeing all the different scenery & greenery. I frequently see wildlife which I also enjoy.

Rio Vista is fun because it is like a free amusement park going down the falls over and over again is a quintessential summer experience, plus it is on a lot of public facing materials so it's like have you really been to San Marcos if you haven't been to the falls. Sewell park and headwaters is nice because it has a nice lawn because there's always people doing something tossing the football, spike ball, slack lining so it's a good place to people watch. It's also really nice to jump in because it has a couple deep spots. It's fun to jump in, and with the outdoor center there and as being an alumni it's nice to rent goggles or a kayak and get in the river there. Lastly I selected Vermandi Plaza because it would be my top 3 from the list provided. I like the landscaping and it was a great learning space while I was in school for my horticulture classes. and it's fun to read the historical signs. I think the list is missing some spaces like I interact a lot with an area that some people refer to as Girl Scout park but it's the gravel loops at the end of the river trail I like to get in the river there and set up my hammock and stokes should be on the list of parks too.

Love the playground!!

Natural water features

Beauty of the river

Enjoy the peaceful walks

We use the Children's playscape with our granddaughters frequently.

Ramon Lucio would have been my first choice. Easy access, to river, right depth for swimming, easy access to parking, beautiful and scenic crystal clear water and all the trees

It is a cool, shaded place to walk in the summer, to watch the birds and wildlife and people watching

Public areas with opportunities for exercise.

Easy access...get in and get out quickly.

I love to swim in the river. No tube needed. No ice chest. Just access to the water in a lovely spot.

Very pretty along the river. My kids love to swing at Rio Vista because of the falls.

Family friendly, free, close to our town's best feature (the river)

My toddler loves the Children's park I just wish it had gates to prevent them from running off in to the parking lot. It would also be useful to block the toddler area and the older kids playground. My toddler sees the big play space for older kids and wants to go on it but some of the attractions are too high and he could get hurt.

the healing energies of the river

Most accessible places to swim and hang out

It's pretty and is usually kept clean.

I love free public concerts. They help bring the community together. When I was a student at TXST, it was great to go study at Sewell, and I love to see the college students out enjoying it. The falls are fun to go through, and I love seeing all the families out enjoying the area.

I love the scenic route and nature as you are walking the trails as well as swimming by the water falls and just relaxing on the side

The wildlife and view.

My kids play here or I swim or run along here.

Natural beauty and also well-maintained space.

When accessible, they are beautiful and an amazing place to swim and have fun.

Natural

those sections of the river are great for swimming as they are large, shallow, and slow-moving

Enjoying the outdoors and river

River access and nature

Parking is typically easy to find, easy access to the water, ample space to set up your sitting space, great opportunities to socialize and connect with community

Places to enjoy the river and be with my community in recreation, celebrations and entertainment

I like the open areas and the easy access to the river.

It's actually the stretch of the river behind Veramendi Plaza that I like -- it's usually pretty quiet, and I like to go there to cheer on the Water Safari participants. The events in the park are fun, a great way to see or meet people, and a wonderful asset to the community

The river is beautiful and valuable.

I love going down the falls at Rio Vista.

Taking my children to experience what I did as a child. But so much has changed.

I haven't been to anything in so many years but I used to love live music so much.

We like going to lunch at the **** House

Free to use and good quality

Accessible but busy. I like that you can walk the river by veramendi to the dam. Wish it was longer and had more lights at dusk.

Pleasant views.

they are calm and relaxing, I have had birthdays at picnic areas and I always run the trails along the river+

Relaxing outdoor spaces and trails

The falls

They are part of the El Camino Real de los Tejas trail.

Scenic and serene

The unprogrammed and passive nature of those activities

Easy access to the water for recreation and wildlife viewing

Can bring my dogs

They get you near or on the river.

Less people and its more natural (we go early or late)

I get to tell people about a house called "The **** House" and usually people go "the ****? It's called that??"

I love that SITP is free and such high quality. I love being able to tube without worrying about getting back to my car.

I only chose one. Get it together people. This should be simple stupid.

N/A

The concerts in the park are a way of bringing the community together. We've attended since my children were young kids. They would meet up with friends & we would visit with other adults we knew. It always reinforces the small town quality that I love. The scenic views are a reminder that we need the beauty of nature in our lives more than the construction of tall buildings. The same is true of the nature trails. They are good for the soul as well as for the body.

Tranquility when not inundated with people

How peaceful it can be

The family atmosphere

The beauty of it

It's such a beautiful place to walk. I also really like Pyramid Park.

Fresh water

Dog beach and the trail is our favorite way to enjoy the river with younger kids. The events at the plaza are fun for all ages and well attended so there are always friends around, gives the strong community feeling

The children's park is fun for my kid. And walking trails or scenic areas are nice year round, except for the peak times when drunk visitors are destroying the habitats for fun.

I like to hike and bike along the riverfront trails. I like to sit and meditate on the island. In the summer time, the cold waters provide a refuge from the searing summer heat. It is fun to watch and listen to the joyous laughter of the people with their children frolicking in the water feature at Rio Vista.

I actually like spring lake and peppers the best; we need safe access-for those places to thrive as natural areas and for us walking and skating around the river area

Play activity for my children, easy access, and exceptional swimming

Easy access.

I feel fortunate to be able to enjoy walking, floating or reading by the river. The water and the limestone rocks are very scenic. I would kayak there if I knew a put in and pull out for a kayak.

Sewell has no pets and few children. No crazy loud music, either and fewer tourists.

Sewell generally has less people and trash

hiking

It's nice having one or two activities near the water but I would not want to see the water be obscured for a lot of the crap the city wants to build

The greenery and ease of access to the public

I enjoy the serene nature and bike/pedestrian trails

The natural beauty of the wildlife and river clarity. The new children's park with the soft surface is a great improvement.

I love being surrounded by nature and i love the socialness of sewell.

Less people, relaxation

They're not shoulder to shoulder

The park -even with the needed repairs- is one of the best in the area! The island is magical and events at plaza park are keystones of our community.

I like the open grass at Sewell which is great for relaxing. I like the bridges to see beautiful views of the water and wildlife. The trails are clean and clearly marked.

Good water access, usually a bit less crowded, good tree cover

Being able to hike in nearby parks.

Peaceful

Water access

Areas for swimming

Different ways to enjoy nature and swimming.

They are easy to access and with river improvements they are coming back to life, instead of being trampled

I enjoy walking the riverfront. Family enjoys RVP whenever they visit

Without small children, we seldom use the park's picnic areas, pool, and children's park, but those are crucial for children and their parents.

Swimming

River access

Provides the longest stretch of mileage in the town without having to cross the street.

Invalid question since they each have their own purpose.

I like the natural settings for walking / hiking / biking.

I love the live music, wish there was more throughout the year at the parks. The trails are peaceful and I love having the river view nearby.

Sewell park is a favorite spot to swim, but Rio Vista and Lion's club area come in close 2nd!

Gotta get it in nature to quiet my mind

community

I love how clear the water is and being able to see the wildlife in the water and on the shores.

I feel like my answer would be all of the above. The scenic views are available because of the trails and the rest are the scenic views.

River flow is great, live music is always great

Birding potential

I enjoy going here with my family because it is quieter and lower risk, more specifically we go past the falls after the tubing exit in the shallows.

When there is room and space to enjoy the river and natural surroundings

swimming / kayaking

We like the quiet spots away from the large crowds.

They bring joy and peace to my family.

Being in nature and enjoying quiet walks

They provide designated areas for individuals to appreciate the park space with minimal disruption to the riparian environment.

peaceful and beautiful area to walk and relax

Jumping in the river; views of the river

The SMR is a beautiful area and I love enjoying it's nature and most activities.

I love attending music performances and I love walking on the trails.

Being with nature with family

The entire river experience is our unique thing! It should be beautiful!

They are fun for the family and a nice place to hang out.

Wildlife and fish you see at night. We sometimes see beavers swimming around.

Kid friendly

Incredible seasonal programming

The playscape is awesome

I like to take in the nature

Unique beauty

Access to swimming and cycling

Family Friendly

Easy river accessibility

Water feature and ease of access

Easy access, biking to the river and exploring and Sewell, provides a short float and lots of shady space to relax.

Close to my house

I like the clarity of the river at Sewell Park. I like being able to stroll along the river (and appreciate that some areas are not accessible). As an avid river swimmer (I swim the whole length between Rio Vista and Sewell once or twice a week) the "scenic views" both below and above water are the only wilderness experience I feel like I have in this area. The San Marcos river is truly an incomparable natural resource, despite being urbanized. The wildlife, native plants, and general natural feel of many stretches of the river in town are critical to the river park experience, and the experience of living in San Marcos.

Lions club- parking Rio Vista- the falls & the accessibility

Amazing swimming and outdoor activity location during the summer

The spring river is very unique to this town and should be preserved by the community. I love to swim in the clean river a

I love the community aspect of dog beach and the concerts. It is more locals and less people there to spend the day creating trash to leave in the parks.

Use of space and atmosphere

I like other areas of the river, particularly the area just up from the Rio Vista Railroad bridge. It is wild and natural.

Cooling off from the heat in the river!

We enjoy the children's park and rio vista park but the parking is horrendous that we don't go as much as we would like to. Trails for walking are nice.

Need more places where dogs can go into the water and cool off

The views and how clean it is

We love that they are friendly places to get our family and kids out in nature and enjoy the river

This for my kids to enjoy

The river itself and beauty of surrounding areas

Better area of the parks

I like sections of the river that are quiet where people do not play loud music or overly crowd

Easy access points to the river

River access, activities for visitors, scenic character

It was hard not to include Sewell on this list. However, the summer concert series has become a staple for my family. The trails along the river are one of the best ways to get exercise and the Falls at Rio Vista, while crowded are the most unique features of the river and a great community gathering spot.

Falls

It's peaceful and right near the Square

Sewell is overrun by the the kids at the school. It's fine for big events. The water is now overgrown with plants and the water level is low. However, the school can fund any enhancements here. Rio Vista and the river walkways are the prime areas for most families. Lions Club is fine, and the river access there is great. I would put effort toward more parking and additional activities along the walkways, and make the island area a more attractive space while balancing preserving the nature. Do we have "park ranger" type staff to enforce park policies such as the litter, illegal activities and general behaviors of the public? That may be good to have friendly, non-SMPD patrols of "rangers" that are helpful, informed and citizen-empathetic.

Access to the river. I like the limited trash in Sewell park.

Native landscapes

Lots of shade

I love the swings at Children's park and the informality of Rio Vista by the island.

They allow me to recreate and connect with nature

great water for kayaking

communing with nature

Tranquility, and Summer in the Park music series.

Multiple access points to ride down the river trail and choose where u want to jump in..

Accessibility

Parking, accessibility, dog friendly, away from the crowd.

Access to some of the best areas of the river.

They are what I use the most, have easy access, and are well kept.

Easy access, great for kids. Good swimming

The natural sections of river.

Dog beach is easy to enter. Rio Vista can be nice when its not so crowded.

Just being present in nature

They are close to my home and generally well kept. I usually feel very secure there.

The accessibility and proximity to each other. We like to swim down to rio vista from sewell, and walk back. We love how natural the banks/riparian areas are. We love spotting the signs of wildlife and enjoy coexisting and enjoying the same river as them.

The beauty of the river and that no matter how big the city and the population has gotten the river is the one thing that remains the same.

for exercise

beauty and facilities

When my kids were little we spent so much time at the park that had the purple dinosaur slide. We spent a lot of time at Sights and Sounds and the kids always had dance or concerts on the stage. They also love going to the river and going down the rapids at rio vista. It's so fun to see people having so much fun!

They provide access to the river.

Beautiful big trees, views of the clear running water, the sounds of birds.

Dog beach is the least crowded. Sewell the water is the clearest. The trails along the river are nice because you get to see the river while walking and admire how beautiful it is.

They are the safest places and have the least amount of drugs and thugs.

Swimming picnic when they're space faster you go

Access and aesthetics

Swimming in the river and enjoying nature

Floating the river before city policies destroyed it. It was nice when they maintained it and took care of the fallen trees and debris.

The accessibility.

The O Lu area that looks good enough to enjoy a day at the river everything else feels cluttered

That our kids can run and play freely

I couldn't choose just three

Activity, and ability to walk

Relaxing And beautiful.

It is San Marcos

The natural beauty, water access

The ones that feel natural, wooded and wild.

They are really great areas for different reasons. The trails are convenient to get around without being on the street. The stage is great as an outdoor venue (which I've had the pleasure to perform on several times). The falls are a fun place to swim and snorkel.

Also Thompsons Island area

The scenery is beautiful.

It's beautiful

We love the Summer in the Park concert series.

I chose those because I have a 3,6,8 year old and that's what we use the most currently in this stage.

They are beautiful!

The natural features/landscapes (mini nature haven in the city)

Easy access. Great views

Provides good fishing and environmental related access as well as wildlife habitat.

They are unique and provide a beautiful backdrop to many different types of activities.

I like the more natural areas of the river, not so much the lions club are that's more man-made. Our river is a haven for wildlife, so I cherish all the activity I'm able to enjoy whenever I'm there.

The sense of community. Although, UPD has done a horrible job at patrolling TXST's water ways & the University needs to work much harder on crowd control/littering.

I like the ice house waterfall

Enjoy the natural habitats.

Good for family time or alone time

Calm during the week and places to lay on the grass

It's a nice river.

The whitewater in the park is amazing and some of the only available in Texas

Easy access to the water

The trails provide space for me to go on runs and explore nature. Sewell provides a space where I can hangout with friends and make new social connections. The views along the river bring me peace.

Being able to lay on a blanket in the sun, enjoy my crafts or live music and close access to the river.

I love the river and the FREE ACCESS we have to it!

The water at TX state and at Rio Vista falls are the cleanest to swim in. I walk all year round on the trails. I like seeing trash picked up. Please don't concrete the hiking trails across the bridge from Rio Vista. We have enough concrete walkways.

I can take my kids there

I love how the Lions tube rental gives right back to the community so I utilize as much as possible

I think they're beautiful and interactive.

It gives me great peace to be able to go to these places whenever I need an escape

Shade in the area and dogs enjoying the river just as much as me.

Peaceful

Clean and not crowded. I don't go to Sewell when it is crowded with students

Just being outdoors close to home

They are all excellent places my family can enjoy and in most cases also bring our dog, meet up with friends and enjoy the river

Nature capabilities to sit and relax and enjoy nature

Nature and being and able to run along the river.

Scenic views.

Community Hall is a nice setting for meetings of San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance. Trails along the river provide easy way to entertain out-of-town guests. Scenic views along the river remind me of positive changes that have occurred since I moved to San Marcos more than 20 years ago.

Variety of people and things to see or do.

The scenic area and the energy of the community. We usually go weekday evenings.

The scenic views and access to the river

Consistent local access

Like nature

Sewell is special to me as an alumni, the trail system is great for walking or running, & the scenic spots along the river are wonderful for quiet reflection.

It's just lovely to be near water so often!

Being in or having a peaceful view of the river and the animals in and around it. And exercise opportunities (walking, swimming, biking)

Cleanliness

Ramon Lucio Park! Please do not leave this out. A lot of the river parks are crowded, littered and reek of pot. The baseball fields are for the kids and very very needed!

They're affordable, accessible fun for everyone

Access points

Easy to access the river and the natural beauty and you can still have the wildlife

Variety and diversity of use

That they are safe and clean. The areas are well maintained.

we can see what type of people come to our town to enjoy our water

They are free and better maintained

I honestly like the Ramon Baseball fields a lot! Fields have been improving every year.

Good swimming access, nature preservation, and responsible community events

i love the way nature is accessible to me and i get to enjoy it whenever i please

The connection to the wildlife is what is most important to me about those features I chose. Being able to immerse oneself in nature while still being close to necessary amenities is very special.

I like the beauty of our river and the sense of community provided during concerts/events

Inclusiveness

I love the beautiful water and the river community

Prefer Sewell because of the better water quality (less turbid) above City Park. River side trails are a great use of river corridor area and provide good running opportunities free of vehicle traffic issues and exhaust. Scenic views of the river, riparian forest, and the wildlife is great from the river or trails.

I actually like the more natural areas of the park, but that wasn't a choice :). I like to watch bats and sit at cypress island in the evening. I like to birdwatch, walk and run on the trails, I like the summer in the park concert series.

I love being out in the sun to tan. I also have a dog who loves the dog beach

I love lounging in nature, picnicking, swimming, hiking and these places are all great for it.

My entire family, no matter the age can go together.

They were areas I frequented as a child growing up here.

I enjoy the less crowded areas and scenic views where I won't lose my mind watching people litter and destroy the environment. Not mentioned above but the river access at Ramon Lucio and girls scout parks are the best for this.

The social hub these areas provide.

Sewell Park has always been a popular location to take a dip and sunbathe. The falls at Rio Vista give a waterpark vibe without actually being a waterpark and the plaza park stage is a great place to see great live music.

We like the bridges to look at wildlife in the river, the more natural inlets to the river along the trails, and opportunities to bird and wildlife watch.

Native vegetation is doing a great job to cool off the trails, it's targeted access to the river, and beautiful.

I like that I can walk the trails and enjoy the beauty of the river. It's a great place to bring visitors as well as walk my dogs or take kids in strollers.

They are relaxing

The trail is amazing and when it's not crowded rio vista is beautiful spot

They allow a connection to nature and prioritize nature over development.

I love exercising and socializing with friends at these areas

I love most the walking trail that passes by all these locations, it's a wonderful path to walk, run, bike, rollerblade, ride a scooter, or skateboard.

They're just very nice parks. When my grand daughter visits in the summer we spend every day at one of the parks. We absolutely love floating and swimming and she loves exploring the area.

The relaxing feeling of being outdoors in nature is priceless.

We love to lounge at the parks

take kids to playscape area, trails offer scenic view, and fun to shoot the falls.

Entertainment w concerts. Cooling of in the river. Ease of access to water.

Water features

Community

We enjoy music, swimming, and walking the trails as much as possible

N/A

Easiest to access and free! Awesome events are always going down there.

Enjoying nature.

The natural landscape and the riverways are the best parts

They are close to my house, scenic, and the playscape provides lots of entertainment for my 2 children.

Good fun outside

The river is instrumental to our parks and why they need to be more intensely protected

It's accessible while having great views of the river.

They are so peaceful and pretty to walk my dog along

Beauty, community, not overly busy, clean, friendly

Places to sit, dog friendly (bar sewell), scenery and plant life.

My friends and I snorkel from Sewell to Lion's club multiple times a month over the summer. We also check out the Broke Thespian's Theater Company's summer musical every year.

the scenic areas, the easy access, the history

I love being able to take a dip in the river and like snorkeling from Sewell to Lion's club. Our dog also loves to swim in the river

I love summer in the park

I enjoy the community aspects as well as just being in and around the river.

The beauty and easy comfortable swimming

When you access the San Marcos Riverfront Parks System, how do you get there?

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Drive alone | 41% (227) |
| Drive with others | 74% (409) |
| Ride a bike | 23% (130) |
| Walk/run | 32% (178) |
| I don't go to the Riverfront Parks System | 1% (5) |
| Other | 3% (15) |

If you chose "Other" in the previous question, can you please provide further details?

When it's just me I access it through walking or biking but when my family comes and we take my nieces to the Children's park we normally carpool.

I'll sometimes take a TXST bus to campus then walk to the parks from there.

N/A

Shared ride systems since parking is limited.

.

I don't always have access to go to the park due to distance

Na

Bus

N/a

Other

I drive because it is my ONLY OPTION.

Skateboard

Weekly I cycle from my home in town to the river trails

Park somewhere else and walk in.

NA

Roller skate

Whenever we go to float the river we usually take two cars and park one at Rio Vista, then get in the second car and go to the Lion's Club parking lot to start the float at Sewell Park. This way we do not have to walk back to Sewell. Sometimes we take only one car and park near Sewell, start the float there, and then walk back from Rio Vita with our tubes. Occasionally we will get out of the river before reaching Rio Vista so the walk is shorter. When I lived downtown I would walk from my apartment. I now live too far away to walk.

I can walk to the Meadows park area by way of Spring Lake Preserve, but then need a car to safely access the walkway along the river.

my husband

E-scooter

Rollerskate

Different every time

Texas state bus system

Ride a moped

How informed would you consider yourself to be on the significance of the natural environment of the San Marcos River?

Very informed (I know a lot about the environment and maybe even volunteer with environmental groups in the area) 48% (268)

Somewhat informed (I have heard of the importance of the San Marcos natural environment before) 45% (248)

Not very informed (I might have seen something about this once) 5% (27)

I am not informed (This is new information to me) 2% (9)

Unsure 1% (3)

When thinking of environmental protection, what are the top environmental aspects that you feel need to be protected?

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Edwards Aquifer | 89% (493) |
| Water quality (by cleaning drainage runoff from surrounding areas) | 86% (478) |
| Habitat conservation | 76% (420) |
| Endangered species (e.g., Texas Wild Rice) | 66% (366) |
| Flood control | 57% (318) |
| Reduced dependence on vehicles | 42% (235) |

Thinking ahead to the future of the City’s Riverfront Park System, how important or unimportant is it for the City to address the following issues?

| Question | Priority | Not a Priority |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Increase parking availability | 45% | 55% |
| Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the Riverfront Park System | 73% | 27% |
| Create better connections from the riverfront parks to a citywide or regional trail system | 74% | 26% |
| Add additional river access points to lessen impact of existing access points | 65% | 35% |
| Improve water access for swimming and wading | 58% | 42% |
| Improve water access for canoeing/kayaking | 39% | 61% |
| Improve water access for people with disabilities | 66% | 34% |
| Increase habitat conservation and environmental preservation efforts to safeguard the natural environment of the San Marcos River | 85% | 15% |
| Increase efforts throughout the Riverfront Parks System and surrounding areas to help with water quality, stormwater runoff, and aquifer recharge (e.g., permeable surfaces, green roofs, landscape design to help water flow, etc.) | 91% | 9% |
| Provide additional opportunities for public art along the corridor | 42% | 58% |
| Provide additional seasonal opportunities for food and beverages via mobile food vendors and other concessionaires at strategic locations | 32% | 68% |
| Improve the overall quality and appearance of the riverfront parks | 71% | 29% |
| Upgrade the existing facilities/amenities in the riverfront parks (e.g., playscapes, restrooms, picnic tables, shade opportunities, etc.) | 67% | 33% |
| Enhance areas for additional picnic or family gathering opportunities (e.g., more pavilions or covered picnic shelters) | 37% | 63% |
| Enhance areas for additional community events (e.g., add an amphitheater or lawn for concerts) | 34% | 66% |
| Add additional historical, cultural, and natural resource interpretative signage | 52% | 48% |
| Add additional environmental learning content and outdoor classroom opportunities | 60% | 40% |
| Expansion of the riverfront parks by acquiring available properties listed for sale that can be used for park purposes | 79% | 21% |

Expand all / Collapse all

Priority Not a Priority

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Increase parking availability | 45% | 55% |
|-------------------------------|-----|-----|

Improve pedestrian and bicycle access to the Riverfront Park System

73%

27%

Create better connections from the riverfront parks to a citywide or regional trail system

74%

26%

Add additional river access points to lessen impact of existing access points

65%

35%

Improve water access for swimming and wading

58%

42%

Improve water access for canoeing/kayaking

39%

61%

Improve water access for people with disabilities

66%

34%

Increase habitat conservation and environmental preservation efforts to safeguard the natural environment of the San Marcos River

85%

15%

Increase efforts throughout the Riverfront Parks System and surrounding areas to help with water quality, stormwater runoff, and aquifer recharge (e.g., permeable surfaces, green roofs, landscape design to help water flow, etc.)

91%

9%

Provide additional opportunities for public art along the corridor

42%

58%

Provide additional seasonal opportunities for food and beverages via mobile food vendors and other concessionaires at strategic locations

32% 68%

Improve the overall quality and appearance of the riverfront parks

71% 29%

Upgrade the existing facilities/amenities in the riverfront parks (e.g., playscapes, restrooms, picnic tables, shade opportunities, etc.)

67% 33%

Enhance areas for additional picnic or family gathering opportunities (e.g., more pavilions or covered picnic shelters)

37% 63%

Enhance areas for additional community events (e.g., add an amphitheater or lawn for concerts)

34% 66%

Add additional historical, cultural, and natural resource interpretative signage

52% 48%

Add additional environmental learning content and outdoor classroom opportunities

60% 40%

Expansion of the riverfront parks by acquiring available properties listed for sale that can be used for park purposes

79% 21%

The existing location of the tennis/pickleball courts at Rio Vista Park is subject to constraints which limit expansion opportunities and the addition of supporting amenities (e.g., improved parking). Please allocate a total of 10 points across the following alternatives based on your preference, with higher points indicating a stronger preference.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Relocate the tennis/pickleball courts WITHIN the Riverfront Parks System to a better location that fits the six (6) existing tennis courts and eight (8) pickleball courts, which may allow for some future expansion | 22% (1,185) |
| Relocate the tennis/pickleball courts to a location OUTSIDE of the Riverfront Parks System that fits the existing six (6) tennis courts and eight (8) pickleball courts and allows for future expansion and supporting amenities | 45% (2,434) |
| Leave the tennis/pickleball courts in their current location with no possibility of future expansion and limited addition of supporting amenities | 18% (966) |
| Remove the existing tennis/pickleball courts and rely on other existing courts in the San Marcos area | 15% (805) |

The existing location of the swimming pool at Rio Vista Park is also subject to constraints which limit expansion opportunities and the addition of supporting amenities (e.g., pavilions, parking, expanded pool house, or other additional amenities). The pool itself is aging and has significant on-going maintenance needs. Please allocate a total of 10 points across the following alternatives based on your preference, with higher points indicating a stronger preference. If your choice is to relocate the pool, note that the existing pool would not be removed until a future replacement pool is funded and constructed.

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Invest in renovating the existing pool at its current location with similar facilities (i.e., a lap pool) and very limited capabilities for expansion | 24% (1,315) |
| Relocate the pool to another location with facilities similar to what exists today at the current Rio Vista Park Pool | 17% (965) |
| Relocate the pool to another location, and invest in an expanded modern, family-friendly aquatics facility (e.g., swimming pools, water slides, splash pad, water playgrounds, and lazy rivers, etc.) | 47% (2,604) |
| Remove pool from its current location and rely on other existing pools/water amenities in the San Marcos area | 12% (666) |

The existing location of the five baseball fields at Ramon Lucio Park is also subject to constraints which limit expansion opportunities and the addition of supporting amenities (e.g., adequate parking, pavilions and concessions, restrooms, or other amenities). Please allocate a total of 10 points across the following alternatives based on your preference, with higher points indicating a stronger preference.

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Develop a new enhanced Little League complex at an alternative site and remove the existing Ramon Lucio baseball fields once the new facility is built | 39% (2,020) |
| Develop a new enhanced Little League complex at an alternative site and remove all but one of the existing fields at Ramon Lucio Park, which could be enhanced, once the new facility is built | 21% (1,121) |
| Develop a new enhanced Little League complex at an alternative site and keep all existing fields at Ramon Lucio Park | 13% (677) |
| Remove one to two existing fields and upgrade the remaining fields and areas around them | 11% (551) |
| Leave the existing Little League complex where it is, with no room for expansion, but undertake upgrades (subject to constraints) | 16% (851) |

Do you live in San Marcos? If yes, which area of San Marcos do you live in? Please reference the map above.

| | |
|---|----------|
| 1 | 9% (48) |
| 2 | 16% (86) |
| 3 | 12% (67) |
| 4 | 6% (34) |
| 5 | 16% (86) |
| 6 | 7% (40) |
| 7 | 6% (35) |
| 8 | 5% (29) |
| 9 | 10% (58) |
| I do not live in the City of San Marcos | 13% (71) |

In which category is your age?

| | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| 18-24 years | 6% (35) |
| 25-34 years | 23% (126) |
| 35-44 years | 29% (163) |
| 45-54 years | 17% (92) |
| 55-64 years | 12% (65) |
| 65-74 years | 11% (62) |
| 75 years or older | 2% (10) |

What is your gender?

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Woman | 60% (329) |
| Man | 38% (210) |
| Identify in another way | 2% (11) |

Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

| | |
|-----|-----------|
| No | 58% (322) |
| Yes | 42% (229) |

What is your race and/or ethnicity?

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| American Indian or Alaska Native | 2% (12) |
| Asian | 1% (8) |
| Black or African American | 2% (12) |
| Hispanic or Latino | 24% (130) |
| Middle Eastern or North African | 1% (4) |
| Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander | 0% (2) |
| White | 77% (423) |
| Other | 4% (24) |

Tell Us Your Story! Tell us about a good experience you had in the San Marcos Riverfront Parks System, why it is important or meaningful to you, or just anything about your interaction with the San Marcos River in general.

....

I wrote in this info earlier.

Growing up in the Chihuahuan Desert, it's not lost on me how precious the San Marcos River is, nor the parks that run alongside it. It's where my husband and I first held hands as we took a stroll along its banks, it's where I learned to kayak, it's where our son learned to swim - the river has woven itself into the very fabric of our family's history!

I have found a community of futsal soccer players that play in plaza park weekly. It has become the highlight of my week. I would LOVE if San Marcos would partner with Austin FC's nonprofit

<https://www.austinfc.com/minipitches#:~:text=4ATX%20Foundation%2C%20the%20nonprofit%20arm,families%20to%20gather%20and%20play> to install a proper soccer mini pitch in the river park system.

In 1960 I learned to swim at city Park. It was safe enough for us to ride our bikes and swim up and down the river, our only requirement was to be home by dark. I don't remember even being aware that the university was here as a child. I later attended Southwest Texas and continued to utilize the river. I would stand on the bridge at city Park and play my harmonica to passing tubers almost daily during the summer and frequently other times of the year. I'm pleased to see that, there's more effort in keeping the river clean than there were during certain times of the past. I have hope that our interest in saving it and keeping it pristine will have a positive impact on it. I love the river so much that I got married on the river purchase property on the river and currently live on the river between San Marcos and Martindale. I can say that I have always picked up any trash that I can reach and have never thrown so much as a Paper match stick into the river. I support all cleanup efforts and thank all of them from the bottom of my heart. My ashes will be spread in this beautiful river. Thank you for your efforts.

River surfing at Rio Vista Falls, pick up soccer at the Plaza, using the river trails to access other parts of town. Please do not remove the Plaza concrete slab, this is the only place where we can play pick up soccer. The city has provided no other places to play. Capes Dam needs to be turned into a wave/rapid, and thompsons island needs to be opened up! East of 35 needs access points that are not dangerous and difficult to enter/exit the river.

The Riverfront Park system is very important to our family! Our kids love going here for various things: events, park usage, birthday parties, river time, etc. We tend to stay away during busy weekends in the summer but come during the week in the evenings.

WE NEED SAND VOLLEYBALL COURTS!!!

I love the river. I got baptized at Rio vista! And I play pickleball all the time. I would love some sand volleyball courts.

More sand volleyball courts and a city league for the community

I just love the river itself. I participate in the water safari every year.

I take my disabled mother to walk along the river. We can spend hours looking at the river and the area around it.

I've grown up in San Marcos alongside the river and therefore in the riverfront parks system with extreme frequency during different parts of my life. I love the recreative aspect of the river, playing soccer, swimming, laying out, being among nature, etc. I love the idea of expanding and/or upgrading the parks. It seems however it will be at the expense of the slab at plaza park. I would love for a soccer field/facility to be included in the future of the San Marcos riverfront park system. Our Wednesday night pickup game has been going for almost four years now and attracts one of the most diverse groups of people I've seen in San Marcos activities.

I went to school and graduated with a teaching degree in 2013. The river has always been a space for exercise, social meetups and walks, mental clarity, and a place where family and friendships have been created and strengthened. I moved to new braunfels and purchased a house there in 2016, but worked in the school district here. It wasn't but only 2 years before I purchased a home back here in San Marcos because of the natural areas and river spaces compared to the concrete play spaces of new braunfels. I love it here and have a family of my own here now. I would greatly appreciate and love to see sand volleyball courts added inside the riverfront space areas!!!

The San Marcos river and its parks are such a wonderful natural treasure that must be protected and thoughtfully maintained. Not every town has a spring fed river at its core and we are very blessed to experience it. At all costs it must be preserved.

Walkable and accessible from the east side of town.

We love walking to the river for a low impact hangout. I don't think the River parks are ideal location for non River uses like tennis or the pool, but I defer to folks living nearby, especially those whose communities were demolished to create them.

The River Parks have been a huge part of my San Marcos experience.

The river system is a great way to teach my daughter about the endangered species that call SM home! We love to picnic and fish also and swimming at Rio Vista is always a great time!

Having a beautiful clear water river to snorkel in.

Grew up on this river

My family enjoys visits to the San Marcos river and parks during the spring and summer.

My favorite part about living in San Marcos is being able to walk along the river, which I do by the riverfront park paths.

I would like to explain why I answered the way that I did in question 14. I believe prioritizing and protecting the health of the river is of utmost importance. I listed as "not a priority" items like additional river access points, additional picnic tables and pavilions, etc. because these things would only encourage more people to come and use and abuse the river in ways that may be irreparable. I believe we need to reduce the crowds that come and completely trash the parks in the summer. I believe a fee to enter the parks or for parking would reduce the crowds some. I would gladly pay a minimal parking fee or entrance fee to use the parks, if I knew it would help protect the river.

Parks staff maintain the current parkland with the limited resources and staff. My family sees the crews working weekends. They look exhausted attempting to do their job. Sometimes there is a need for an afternoon/evening shift to make sure trash/litter stays out of the river.

I am from Washington state and grew up being able to walk in nature and swim in natural waters all the time. When I moved to Texas, I missed those experiences deeply. Moving to San Marcos completely changed my outlook and I've fallen deeply in love with this city, which I truly believe is due to the river. This is the heart of our community and I love that nature and water shape our community and also bring us together!

I loved growing up here and visiting the river way more often than I am able to now. I loved opening my eyes and seeing how clear the water is by Sewell Park.

I have relocated from NYC to San Marcos and we love it here. The river and all the parks offer makes it worth the weekend trips our family takes, I have 2 girls 5 yrs old and 15 yr old son. We all enjoy the parks and waterways, when I started jogging and sight seeing by myself, I truly had chance to enjoy the nature and what San Marcos river provides. Keep SAN MARCOS Beautiful !!!

The park system provides habitat for animals and places for people to relax and enjoy the river and participate in family and community activities. As the I-35 Corridor continues to grow and be developed, we need more green, open places.

Going to the park after work melts all the stress away - hopping in the river on summer evenings or just sitting and soaking up the view in the fall/spring. It always rejuvenates me

Been enjoying since 1977

We have raised our kids here in San Marcos utilizing the river access, trails, playing on the playgrounds and attending summer events. We love it here and how San Marcos has become more family oriented while still practicing conserving the river and animal habitats.

Jumped in the river on new years day :) bestowed another year of good fortune

The parks in San Marcos are a staple to our city, and a part of our history, it builds our community together, many memories grow from our parks. Since a lot of our Riverfront parks are closer in the city, it allows many people to use them. I remember being younger and visiting the parks a lot, with family, friend attending events the city would have. We need to make sure we can enhance what we have, make it fun for everyone is a big part that I think need attention, were all ages are able to enjoy our parks and have fun.

N/A

I was born and raised in San Marcos. I have seen this town make improvements drastically since the early 70's. With growth comes change. These changes made are not done for local residence but for visitors.

The San Marcos Riverfront is a unique and beautiful space that brings the community together. It's a space of many opportunities for recreation and gathering. I hope the SMRP can bridge and partner with TXST to enhance the space and opportunities.

Much of my respect and value for this river was developed during Master Naturalist classes, that included tours, guest speakers and appropriate resources. It is truly a treasure!

We love the parks and the river! We would like to see better litter and picnic zone enforcement and bans on loud personal music devices. We wish everyone respected the parks and river as a natural habitat not just a public pool.

While launching my kayak early morning at city park last summer I found a pile of human feces and dirty napkins on the river bank

The parks provide affordable recreation for families. This needs to be prioritized. Families live in this town. Most families are lower income. The parks system could help to make life more doable to these people and lower some of that stress and burden. Keep this in mind!

More volleyball courts! I am a Texas state alumni and I love the river for more reasons than I can name here! Connecting with nature, being outside in the sun and river, meeting like minded people and making friends. The river brings the city together. My number priority would be adding more sand volleyball courts. Vball community is extremely friendly, makes people more active and healthy, great way to make friends, and most importantly build community.

I love that the river supports homes for wildlife.

I have lived here for 7 years and learned how much the San Marcos river and the aquifer mean to our community. The river is even a key recruiting tool for TxST and it is the forefront of graduation and now when TXST teams win a championship. But more importantly it provides a constant water source for not only recreation but survival. By having the community focused on the river and parks surrounding the river, the community learns from a young age it's importance and hopefully will continue to preserve the area around the river and learn how their choices (i.e. dumping, littering) can effect our way of life.

I originally moved to San Marcos in 2011 after my mother moved here. My brother attended TX State before that and we all just fell in love with the area, especially due to the green spaces and water. When I went to TX state myself, being able to go relax after a tough day at Sewell park was the highlight of my school days. Now that I am raising a family here, the riverfront parks system is an integral part of our lives. From the

beautiful trails along the river to the fabulous kids park that attracts visitors from all the neighboring cities, we are truly blessed to have this area.

Attending Sights & Sounds was always a great seasonal community event.

I love playing pickleball with friends at Rio Vista Park. When my children were smaller, they enjoyed Children's Park playground.

We love visiting Children's Park in San Marcos. We often make a full afternoon of fun playing on the park and exploring the trails.

My daughter loves going to swim in the river and constantly asks when we can go back. I like all the wildlife I can show her in the river that she wouldn't see in a pool.

I love the river. It was a primary way we convinced our son that moving here would be OK. I love paddling it, swimming, birding and just relaxing there. I question some of the decisions over the years regarding placement of facilities that do not relate to it along it, seemingly because there was an open space, but that show a possible lack of regard for the river. The ball fields are one example. Ball fields and tennis courts do not need to be by a river and are detrimental. What is the story there? Same with the pool. Why a pool by a river that is legendary for swimming and tubing? All of those things bring increased traffic to the area that should be distributed elsewhere. Having the pool literally anywhere else in town makes water recreation readily accessible to twice the number of people who currently have it, since the two water recreation options are literally yards from each other. I even question the location of the activity center and library. Neither needs to be near the river. Sure the location is central, but those things could be ANYWHERE. The library isn't particularly walkable / bikeable from much of anyplace. Those obviously aren't moving. But we can make more careful decisions. The more natural the space around the river, the healthier it is as a river but the more we are able to be in connection with that sacred beauty that makes San Marcos unique.

Love the river

I took my daughter there almost every week just to play and be together. Even now we still go at least once a month or so just to have fun

My family and I walk to the river from my house and enjoy it very much.

We visited family during a vacation from our home in Chicago in 1991. Went home after 2 weeks, packed and moved to San Marcos with our 5 month old. Her 3 children were born and are being raised in San Marcos. We can't imagine living anywhere else.

The city should prioritize purchasing any available properties along the river or that can connect to the river and existing greenbelts

The San Marcos river is uncommonly beautiful and we need to do all we can to protect it for future generations.

I enjoy going to the river with my family.

We love Music in the Park and we kayak in the river year round! During the warm seasons we also love to dip in the river.

The riverfront park system is a wonderful asset for the City of San Marcos. It should be enhanced and cared for.

Walking along the trails and just enjoying the river.

floating the river, kayaking, stand up paddle board

Enjoy the water along with the walking trails.. hopefully soon they will revamp caps damn off of river road..

Concerts, I love water and spent a lot of time at the river when attending SWT. We do not come to town as often now that we are in our sixties due to parking and crowds.

I find the paved trail along the river to a very nice place to exercise.

I grew up in San Marcos and lived on Sycamore street. I was at Rio Vista daily! I could do a 1 1/2 off of the railroad bridge and was proud of it... especially as the only girl/woman. That place was my life!

So many wonderful memories at our river parks! I would love to see incentives for residents to enjoy the parks, as they can get extremely overcrowded in the popular months. Maybe a parking program where residents park for free while non-residents have to pay for a day pass?

I went to Texas State and spent a lot of time in Sewell Park, now as a member of the community who works in San Marcos, I spend a lot of my summer on the river either swimming or paddling.

scenic walks are my ideal exercise

We have had so many good memories there one I will always remember is taking our elderly dog swimming before she passed away.

I often walk to the river to enjoy the cool way

When I first had my baby, our walks along the river were what kept me sane most days. I was very appreciative of the construction of the path that connected under Cheatham.

I love the river. My friends and I soak in it every Friday morning in the summer heat. We love that it is a cool 72 degrees. It is also a favorite place to walk the rest of the year. I enjoy sitting on a bench that overlooks the river and just being peaceful. One of the reasons I moved to San Marcos is the river. I love that it is so clean.

We spent our summer in Riverfront, Also when My kids were small we used the San Marcos playground a lot of time.

I have enjoyed tubing and kayaking the river many times. I also enjoy walking my dog on the trails along the river. Finally, I have enjoyed taking my great-nephews to the playscape and buying picket fences with their names on them when the space was renovated.

i've loved floating the river my whole life, as a kid, and now as an adult! yay San Marcos parks!

Love having the river to float, swim, hike, pickleball, concerts...

I love quiet evening/night kayak paddles! I wish parking was better but also fear more parking means even more crowded. Concerned that food trucks and more parking will make the park more congested and less pleasant for residents. We don't need to use the parks for tourism and revenue. They need to solidly be resident recreation only.

The river's protection to take priority. Please don't over develop it. Do not add parking lots. Remove the baseball fields and replace them with a wooded area that has dirt trails for hiking and mountain biking. Move the swimming pool to another location outside of the park.

N/A

I enjoy the parks and would probably go more often if parking situation were improved. I'm a tennis/pickleball player, the courts could be relocated to a non-river location/park, as could the pool.

Saw my first barred owl near Rio Vista park a month ago! Love walking and biking along the river- so beautiful! Had my 68th birthday party at Rio Vista park with friends- lots of laughs and fun.

The San Marcos River is a sacred place. It is central in my experience living in San Marcos and is largely why I have chosen to stay here after college. The countless quiet moments I have sat on the banks watching herons, kingfishers and other creatures in the water, the cleansing and restorative nature of the river and the incredible feeling of cooling off in the summer with an afternoon swim. Our river is precious and must be protected. This includes water quality. Planning and zoning efforts must be mindful of our river. We must make decisions that will take into account the future generations as the natives that lived in this land before us did. We must plan for the future, not the current moment, even if that means missing out on a potential immediate economic boon. Let us play the long game. Not the short game.

I lived in San Marcos for 30 years and enjoyed the river parks and access all year long for swimming, fishing, tubing, picnics, family gatherings and music.

I sat in a tube, cooling off, listening to the live music from my seat on the river on July 4.

The summer is overrun and overcrowded with tourist who bring nothing to our city. They don't stay in our hotel hotels they don't eat at our restaurants. They don't pay for parking..They bring nothing but trash. The residents (who love and respect the river) pick up the trash and pay with our time to clean up after these slobs.

Loved my nighttime kayaking trip. Also my walks and stops along the river to take pictures. Upon entering the downtown area, I like seeing the park with preserved /usable buildings, veterans plaza, and space for summer concerts.

We love playing racquet sports. While we like pickleball and tennis, outdoor 1wall racquetball is our favorite. We could love to see outdoor 1wall racquetball courts built in San Marcos. There is a community of players in both Austin and San Antonio, and the sport is a worldwide sanctioned sport. Thanks for making this survey.

My 68 yo friend & I ride our bikes there in summer to float without tubes from Sewell to dog beach. My dog and I walk several times a week to dog beach or Rio vista.

The riverfront parks are very important for families in San Marcos - access to nature is important as is the opportunity for recreation like at Rio Vista pool. However, the parks are severely neglected. I was so saddened and disappointed to take my child to Rio Vista for the first time and see that it is almost entirely unchanged and poorly cared for since I last visited when I was in grade school - crumbling infrastructure and all. Whether it is at its current location or another centrally located location, the city needs to invest in infrastructure like an aquatic center that shows families they are valued and desired. Similarly, parking is unmanaged which is an open invitation for people to walk all over the river and the land surrounding it. Charging a few bucks for vehicles parking in this area is completely reasonable and would send the message that this area is cared for, while also raising funds to plant more native plantings, install nature-based playgrounds, etc. that again are incredibly needed and valued by families.

It's beautiful and i love its natural aspects.

I remember tubing down the river when the lions club used those actual black, rubber inner tubes that burned your legs.

I live in San Marcos because of the river. I want to raise my daughters on the river. I work in water. However, you are about to ruin that by charging me \$15 every time I go to my own river.

I met my wife while floating the San Marcos River

Every time I go paddleboarding down the river it brings me peace which is much needed in these times :) plus my dog loves to swim too i want to be able to swim in this river for the rest of my life

I can't pick one experience because they've all been positive. I can only think on and offer ideas for improvement. Things I've seen in other cities are adult play areas (guaranteed to be used) and splash pads for families with Littles (also guaranteed usage) I love our parks and I love our trails!

It is beautiful ecosystem and would love to visit more often

My first memory of the San Marcos River is visiting Aquarena Springs when I was 3 years old. I remember watching the mermaids and Ralph the Swimming Pig at the underwater theater and riding the glass bottom boats. Since moving to San Marcos as an adult, my kids and I

frequent the parks, trails, and river often. We've learned so much about the history, geography, and ecology of the river. My kids learned to swim, fish, and paddleboard on the San Marcos River. My sons have participated in and won The Great Texas Birding Classic by observing birds in Rio Vista park and Spring Lake. They have learned and developed nature photography skills and my son has won a photography contest with a photo he took of a green heron on the river. His love of nature has expanded throughout his upbringing and he is now about to start his journey to his bachelor's degree at Texas State in hopes to one day become a Texas Game Warden to continue to educate his community and protect Texas rivers and wildlife. I have found many mental health benefits being on the water of the San Marcos River. The river has helped me heal depression, anxiety, and PTSD while being a single mother. I now share those healing benefits with others by leading stand up paddleboard yoga classes on the river while also sharing my knowledge of the river with my class participants. Anytime we have out of town guests we usually end up at the river or trails. The San Marcos River and parks systems are big part of my family's life and we are so grateful to live here. I'd love to share my son's winning photo with the city.

When I was considering moving here to college and as soon as I determined I could afford college, the first place I visited was city park. The river creates a place for all kinds of activities, but the most important part is to protect the river and the aquifer from being damaged. Drought is real. Global warming is real. We must figure out a plan to keep crowds small and educate them to take care of trash.

Having moved to San Marcos from the east coast, I was (and still am) so amazed by every aspect of the river. I mean it flows right through our magnificent town, it's amazing! Simply being in the presence of the water is so refreshing, and I often say the river heals all. I am so grateful to have access to a green space that is so close to where we live that we can even walk to it. My dog (a border collie) is very active & adores going for walks on the river trail. She curiously watches the turtles and even learned how to swim in our beautiful river.

So many good experiences, learned to canoe might be one of the best.

It's a beautiful river and must be protected.

We moved here to be near our granddaughter who LOVES the Children's Place playground. We also love pickleball and have met many wonderful people at Rio Vista. Parking is a challenge at both places.

Near the island at Rio Vista park I saw my first kingfisher, this really kicked off my interest in birdwatching.

I went to TXST and loved the river. I raised my kids at the river. They love to swim and tube. They played baseball at the fields. Please keep the SM River beautiful and let SM people have access to it for years to come.

Have spent many summers floating, picnicking with friends and family.

Our granddaughters live in S. Austin area. When they come to our house, they always ask to go to the park to the Children's Playscape (we call it the Mermaid park). Also, it is convenient for us with the pickleball courts being so close and in the city.

I live right outside of San Marcos, so I feel I can weigh in on this issue as this is where I live, put kids through school and spend my money. I love these parks and am so proud that San Marcos invested in these areas which makes our town so very very attractive and provides a beautiful natural area for many many people to enjoy. It is truly a natural gem and we should treat it that way.

Getting in the San Marcos River and keeping it clean has been a family priority for 30 years!

The river and parks are why I choose to move to San Marcos 8 years ago

I grew up on the San Marcos River and it is the reason I moved back to raise my family here. It's important to me and this area cannot be overstated. Access and preservation must be balanced - a tough job, but worth it for a resource that has supported us for millennia (or longer).

The River is an incredible place. Many days have been spent there with family and friends! Looking forward to continuing to enjoy this place for many years to come. It's a place that for no money, can bring joy and peace to all that visit.

Nothing makes me feel better than a swim in the cool clean waters of the river.

Visiting the river is a favorite pastime for me and my family, and I enjoy running on the river trail.

My family and I are from Houston and the San Marcos Riverfront was where we would vacation during the summer for 2 days. For two days I was in a paradise. I love the parks. Please continue the work that y'all do.

I am a diver that helps get rid of invasive plants in Spring Lake. I have been swimming, diving the river system in San Marcos for over 25 years. I am very disappointed with what the city has done to parts of the river by blocking it off, not keeping the rice grass at a level that prevents sediment from building up making school Park mostly into a wading area and not a swimming area. I think the rules about what you can have on the river go against the laws of navigable waterways.

While I don't have kids, I have enjoyed taking my nephew to the big kids park along the river. We should continue to improve and maintain the parks along the river, and connect the downtown area to them. We should do our best to have walking/biking paths connecting to the parks from across the city.

Growing up my grandpa used to swim with me all down the river then when I went to Texas state I still would swim down the river and now I take my son to the river so he can play

I'm a former wildlife rehabber and my husband and I support conservation for wildlife and habitat. I'm also an outdoor photographer who likes using natural areas to photograph wildlife, native plants and landscapes. Having the park and other natural areas helps me document our ever changing natural world through photography due to climate change which I also study.

I like to run along the river. I used to live by the head waters and swam there. Now I'm on the other side of 35 and wish I could walk there again. I don't mind a hike.

It is so beautiful! I have lived here since 2015 and just love seeing the river and all its beauty. We are lucky as San Marcians to have this in our backyard.

My wife and I moved here almost 4 years ago and immediately fell in love with the city and the rivers. I am employed by the city and she works in the city. We enjoy going to spend the afternoon at the river and have really been wanting to snorkel the river as well. Sadly we work nights so the only time we regularly have available to visit the river is the late morning and afternoon. At these times of day the river is virtually inaccessible at the major parks due to lack of parking and overcrowding. The overcrowding also leads to excessive waste by groups of people that don't care and an increasing number of altercations by groups of middle school and high school aged children. I have heard of people sighting river otters in the area and that is a huge encouragement for our conservation efforts, but I worry the overcrowding and overcommercialization of the river will lead to steps backwards.

First time to kayak fish, lots of time running and cycling river trails

Love to bring our grandchildren when they visit to Children's Park and river

I grew up on these waters every summer. They're dear to me and a natural resource that should be jealously preserved.

I visit the riverfront often and love this aspect of the community. I've learned a lot about the ecosystem, its history and importance and feel preservation of the river should be a top priority. I have a great experience every time I visit the riverfront!

It is the center of our community. Please keep on improving for the local people! We love the river!!

Every time I go to the river is a good experience. I was baptized in the river, I've spent many an hour swimming or wading or just scooping water over my head to cool down on a hot day, I go there for the Water Safari and the New Year's Day Plunge. I love, respect, and want to protect the river, the aquifer, and everything and lives in them.

I am an aquatic science teacher, and the San Marcos is a huge part of how I teach sustainability and ecotourism. The waters there are invaluable.

I've lived in San Marcos for over 25 years. I raised my 2 daughters here and we spent every summer going to the river. Our favorite spots were Rio Vista and City Park (Lions Club). Now I'm a grandmother and get to share the same experiences with my 2 Grandsons.

I sometimes take a friend's child or my grandchildren to the Children's park which they enjoy a lot. I also enjoy birding or just walking along the paths in the park

The trails are wonderful. It is also very important that the parks, open spaces and green spaces are connected. Wild life can move

Since living in San Marcos for the past 8 years I have had almost every birthday at the river. I love when my whole family comes down and they are able to experience and have fun in the city I call home.

First time ever tubing at age 66. It was a blast!

Grew up by river. As a kid helped pull weeds out for a man that sells them to people for their aquariums.

When my wife and I lived in San Marcos (for six years) we enjoyed walking around the parks.....a granddaughter went to TxState and enjoyed the parks also, especially Sewell of course.

I have none that stick out. Everytime we went to the river it was always overcrowded. We enjoy the playscape!

I haven't experienced the San Marcos Riverfront Parks.

I've seen life saving measures by park marshals and many volunteers cleaning up trash

My husband and I love the river and love the environmental events the city puts on during the summertime. It's a beautiful area that needs to be protected, but is often overwhelmed by tourists who don't take care of our natural resources. We understand it is a huge economic attraction in our city, but it also needs to be preserved for the benefit of our ecosystem.

enjoy the kayak experience on the river

I've lived in San Marcos for 33 years. I love the parks and the river. The river is what made we want to live here. But I mostly go to Sewell Park. It is nicer than the city parks. The city parks need an update.

The San Marcos River is my teacher, my healer, and my meditative space. San Marcos is blessed to have this river and it is the foundation to our community. It is economically, culturally, and morally important to protect the river, riparian areas, and parks that surround these ecological sensitive areas. Last thing we want is for our river to turn into a gross Lady Bird Lake or San Antonio River Walk.

The river is the heart of San Marcos! It is the main reason I wanted to live here, not even for the recreational opportunities, but because of the incredible (and rare) wildlife and endangered species. While I think it is great to use recreation as a learning tool, I would prefer if the priority of the river is conservation and wildlife focused!

I have been swimming in the San Marcos River since I was twelve years old. My children learned to swim here before they could walk. We must preserve it at all costs. It saddens me that Texas state owns so much of the land around the river that our old timers enjoyed and are now blocking our use of it. It saddens me that apartments are being built on the river and polluting it for profit. Some things are more important than tax dollars. The river is more important!!!

The river is a special asset to have in this city. People enjoy it in different ways, so it is important to strike a balance between the sports crowd and the nature crowd.

My ancestors are native to this area, and the river is a part of my being and is a sacred spiritual place.

Brought my ex there once to show her some of what I do and what I've done.

It is one of the few things I can do to get out in nature and also to enjoy music.

LOOK TO EUROPE AND DO WHAT THEY DO! FFS...

N/A

I recently had relatives from the East Coast visiting me here. We spent a day tubing down the San Marcos River, and they loved it. They were very surprised at the beauty of the area, the pristine quality of the water, and the opportunity that the river provides for a different view of the town.

The river is where I take my dog for fun and peace. I enjoy seeing the wildlife and all the plant life as well. The bit of nature running through my neighborhood is the favorite thing about living here.

Tubing and swimming with the family.

I'm amazed at the wildlife I see there

Coming from a town with family parks all over, I have been frustrated by the focus of the SM Parks and Rec programming on river front parks exclusively. The trail systems and neighborhood parks play an understudy roll in importance to this city, and I understand the reasons for that. Nevertheless, I am frustrated that so much city money goes into improving and repairing the parks up and down the San Marcos river almost exclusively to cater to people who do not live here, nor care about the sensitive habitats that make up our beautiful river. I think we should fence the river, add additional park police/rangers/marshals and make visitors by parking passes, like those sold at the Texas Beaches every year. Enforcement of bad behavior should be enforced by a revoking of the parking pass and a season-long ban from the river in the city limits of San Marcos. For too long, we have enticed these river visitors year after years with little to no economic surplus to show for it. In fact, our budgets have been constrained and tightened due to deficits. It's time we took a stronger approach to the communities responsibility of preserving our greatest asset.

I worked as a geologist protecting the waters of the State of Texas and the Edwards Aquifer for 30 years at the Texas Water Commission. I retired to San Marcos, mainly to be close to the sacred springs of the San Marcos river. To be close to and to swim in the wonderfully cool waters is both rejuvenating to the soul and to the body. Observing the undulating, wild rice as you float down stream is a meditative experience. I love to peer into the depths and observe the fish, turtles and other wildlife living in the cleanest coldest, clearest water in the State of Texas. In the summer time, the cold waters provide a refuge from the searing summer heat. It is fun to watch and listen to the joyous laughter of the people with their children frolicking in the water feature at Rio Vista.

I've performed multiple marriages and baptisms in the water

My family loves the river and especially enjoys skating at plaza park and along the trails please create spaces for rollerskating

Swimming, baptisms, Aquarena tours, viewing

San Marcos River is why I set roots in San Marcos. It's extraordinary and feel we should all do our best to ensure it thrives for future generations.

The river is refreshing, beautiful and fun. I go during the week because of parking and crowds on weekends in the summer. I've bumped into a lot of nice people while floating.

San Marcos would not be the same without the river. It is the whole reason why I moved to San Marcos.

The river and the surrounding parks are central to why my spouse and I choose to live here. Additionally, we really appreciate the efforts from local governments to support and conserve the fragile ecosystem while still providing access opportunities. This city is unique to Texas in the river management, and would love to see a continued effort to conserve the natural ecosystem of the river.

I proposed to my wife in 2012 on a pedestrian bridge during sights and sounds over the river. My wife and I are Texas state alumni. We chose to make San Marcos our home after graduation with a large part being the beauty of the San Marcos River. Summer music in the park is also a fantastic family experience.

I love going to Sewell with my friends, it always helps me relax and destress being outside surrounded by good vibes. I always get jealous seeing everyone else at Sewell if I'm not there!

I grew up on that river

I love San Marcos! The riverfront parks are great, I don't think expanding parking is a good idea. Having limited parking limits the negative impact on our river. The river is at capacity in the summer, don't add more stress to that ecosystem!

I am from Dallas and had no idea this treasure of a river existed until I moved to San Marcos to pursue biology at Texas State University. The river has truly given me many opportunities to make memories and gain career experience. It is what got me into learning about water resources. The river fosters culture and innovation which I believe is important for cities.

Between long walks during college to clear my head, swimming to cool off, scuba dives for training and cleanups, and many dates, the river's been part of my love for this city since the beginning.

I deeply care about the river and spending time outdoors. Glad for can ban but Lion's Club & Tx State Outdoor rec need to be pressured to enforce! I find so much glass and trash in the river when I swim. Very limited bike trails in the city - would love bike trails that connect multiple parks. Thank you for being interested in feedback.

I was married in the Juan Vera Mandi gazebo and my son was too.

I love kayaking and fishing the river

We moved here for the water and the park period.

I swam and snorkeled the river when I was a kid. My Dad would bring us almost every day to the river in the summer because it was free entertainment. I moved back to San Marcos because I wanted to give my kids that same life. We have snorkeled and caught minnows and pretended to be mermaids, which are memories I'll never forget. When I'm at the river I feel at peace.

My family loves to visit the RPS, and I take them whenever possible. But I personally avoid the area because after 30 years there has nothing been done about congestion caused by trains. BTW if there are errors with answers, and system prompts to go back to a question (say 15) then it'd be a good idea to number the questions.

As I indicate above, the river is a treasure that is central to the city's identity and must be preserved and used, although always with respect for environmental, cultural, and community needs. I enjoy watching the sunrise near the headwaters: a chance to remind myself of the presence of nature in an increasingly urban setting.

I take my dogs walking along the paths at least once a week. I love swimming and snorkeling in the water, but I cannot stand the crowds on the weekends. It makes me sad to see how some people treat the river.

I love the river. I have raised my kids here with so many wonderful memories. The river is the only way I survive the Texas summers.

Our family spends a ton of time in the river parks area, my oldest works at Lion's Club, and has cross country practice regularly on the trails. My youngest plays softball and practices there all the time. Both kids have enjoyed the kids park, the river year-round, and have learned a ton through the Mermaids programs and at the Aquerena Center at Springlake. As a family we have enjoyed the live music, the summer theater and the use of the trails. All of these are important and should have a thorough community review. I do not think a splashpad at that location is going to do what you want it to do. This should be thought about more in the pocket parks that are located in all of the neighborhoods. I can only think of 2 parks that might not have the space, but the rest... The whole city needs to be the destination not just the river and you are doing a disservice to forget that.

New resident to the area but would like to see improvements.

I love my daily routine of walking, running, or biking to and on the river trails, then plopping in the river as an exercise reward. It's an amazing feeling to jump in the river after a run or bike along the river in the middle of summer. So hot, sweaty, and exerted, to cool, calm, and rejuvenated- it's one of the best feelings in the world!

The river and parks are my mental health support. So is community and roller skating. Please invest in River Ridge Park in the near future. It is in desperate need of attention. Please do not leave it to be even more dilapidated

Floating the river is a right of passage. I first floated with friends going to Southwest Texas State. I became a student at Texas State and loved the spring and river complex. It's the heartbeat of San Marcos!

I love spending time at Sewell park and being in the river (floating and swimming). The river is my favorite part of San Marcos. I prefer Sewell to Rio Vista because the latter is always too crowded. I like that the park is a family friendly place, but I do not like being so crowded with all the kids.

Being at the river is always a great moment, best way to cool off in summer

Growing up in San Marcos I was able to spend summers swimming and playing soccer in the open areas by the river. Now I enjoy quieter spots such as the shallows after the tubing exit in Rio Vista with family, that include young children.

Enjoy tubing, kayaking, walking and nature watching along the river.

The river is greatest in it's most natural state, additional access points will just create new erosion issues - not alleviate existing locations...just more problems and money spent

My wife and I have lived here for only 5 months but one of the reasons we moved here is the Riverfront Parks System. We've visited the park a few times and enjoyed walking along the river. We plan on spending much time enjoying the parks in San Marcos.

The riverfront parks are a safety net for my mental well being. I can go walk, swim, float, fish, kayak and take my mind off the day to day. We're lucky to have such a beautiful area.

The river is what makes San Marcos special. I've lived just outside of San Marcos for 45 years and have always been proud of the natural beauty and history of the river. It has spiritual and natural value and needs protection.

I enjoy the Parks System when our Grand-Niece and Grand-Nephews visit.

My wife and I are in the San Marcos parks system everyday! Being outside in nature is one of the reasons we moved to San Marcos. The riverwalk in San Marcos is an undeveloped, seemingly unconnected, concrete walking area with zero attractiveness other than the beautiful river of course.

I taught my daughters to swim in the San Marcos river. We go tubing several times a year with family & friends.

I lived in Hays county all my life, so I've been visiting the park system since I was an infant. It's where my family held many gatherings and birthday parties. It's very important to me to preserve and protect the habitat/environment. It's needs to be a priority to enforce the laws on littering all throughout the Riverfront. Especially around the Woods of San Marcos.

We need less concrete. We don't wanna lose our small town charm. We need to preserve the natural woodlands along the river to help filter debris. Honestly keep it the way it is but with upgrades.

Like so many, we got priced out of Austin. Heading north seemed way more boring than heading south. Our first interaction with San Marcos was the Mermaid Festival, and the rest is history. I have dreamed of mermaids since I was a kid (yes, I have a tail), am a SCUBA diver (though not yet at Spring Lake; expensive hobby), and am personally and professionally involved in conservation in the area (Master Naturalist, Stream Team, currently serving as Kyle's first Water Conservation Coordinator). San Marcos is a blue (literally, politically) oasis for us that feels so removed from the bustle and ugly development of the I-35 corridor. We originally lived on Sturgeon St. and walked to the river daily. Now we live in the Oak Heights neighborhood and still hit City Park most weekends when the weather is good. Chase Norris is an active member of the Lion's Club as well. Hopefully I get a chance soon to sport my tail in the river.

I absolutely love having the river so close and need to visit the parks more often.

My kids learned to swim at Rio Vista Pool, sing at sights and sounds and play baseball on the fields! Let's make San Marcos better for the next generation of kids coming up. A town we can be proud to call home!!!

The river and the riverfront parks are what drew me to attend Texas State in the first place. The local community and our emphasis on nature is what has kept me here. Without the infrastructure of the riverfront park system, I would spend so much less time outside enjoying our beautiful town.

Sights & Sounds

I come to the river often and have seen the impacts first hand that the busy season brings. I enjoy the river most in the off season when it is able to grow and flow naturally. I love swimming and paddle boarding here and my favorite part of being on the river is seeing all the natural wildlife. I would hate to see the wildlife get driven out to make it more accessible for people to visit and potentially harm the river more. I think there needs to be more emphasis on educating visitors about taking care of the river so we can all continue to enjoy it for years to come.

The SM River is one of the major reasons we moved back to San Marcos in 2010.

In answering the sliding scale questions above I found myself wishing I had more information about the environmental implications of each action.... A good experience in the river parks: A child my dad would bring me to the San Marcos river and I would happily swim in the shallow water near the headwaters. It was the closest thing to paradise that I knew, and when I was given a school project to create a brochure for a paradise-like place, I chose the San Marcos river. As an adult living here today, I think river stewardship should be one of the city's primary goals. I think ecological considerations, public access, and education are incredibly important (but I don't think signs are the best way to do it... though I do think it would be great to have a very public digital sign that shows the C.F.S. flow of the river for public awareness of drought conditions).

The river is the healing entity that keeps me alive. The river is where I go to help with my depression and to remember the impact that nature has on our community. Thank you for helping keep the San Marcos culture flowing!

It is the lifeblood of San Marcos, the identity of the town. If we don't do all we can to protect it, then we're just another podunk town in the middle of an ever expanding hellscape that is the trashy I-35 strip mall of **** businesses and fast food restaurants. Please keep our natural areas natural.

We moved to San Marcos last year from Washington State. We are originally from Texas and wanted to be closer to our family. We chose San Marcos because it is one of the few cities in Texas that offers walkability, bike paths, and abundant nature trails—all centered around its unique, spring-fed river. This city has a strong community of people who care about the environment, and it holds great potential to further enhance sustainability and connectivity. While many parts of Texas continue to prioritize car-centric development, that approach weakens communities rather than strengthening them. San Marcos has the opportunity to set an example for other Texas cities by championing smart urban planning, environmental stewardship, and a more livable, people-first future.

We love being by the water with our family and eating at Ivar's on the water.

The river is the reason that I am still living in San Marcos 20 years later. After COVID, I really stopped going to the river because it is no longer fun. It has become overrun with people who only want to use the river and trash it.

I have lived in San Marcos for 7 years and the riverfront parks systems have changed the trajectory of my life! I now study Water Resources and I work at the Meadows Center because I love water so much.

Love to walk along the river for exercise, getting in the river a couple of times to cool off along the way. Used to love informal yoga classes on City Park lawn near river, followed by a dip in the river in the summer heat, back BEFORE any informal class had to be taught by a certified instructor. Used to love P&DS' "float to work" annual event.

We love the parks system, we meet up with friends and family every week to learn and play.

My family has been here since 1900. My best memory of the river is all the animals I have seen and the grounding you can experience in such a beautiful place!

We live up Lime Kiln/Hilliard. We need to beautify our parks. TXState needs to stop trying to protect the wild rice or at least limit the areas they are attempting to preserve. The growth is out of control/over grown and an eyesore. Nobody eats Texas Wild rice, they can grow it in labs if needed! LOL. Give us our river back!

Really don't like to go around it. Smell of drugs keeps me away.

I am so blessed to live in a city where I can interact with habitat of endemic species. I believe that San Marcos is special because it considers conservation rather than only development.

LOve, love the public access. I also spend many hours cleaning up the river and hope that the City can invest more in keeping the river clean, clear, and accessible to all.

The river parks are what made me fall in love with this city! Before experiencing them, I only knew the college and commercial areas.

While the river didn't draw us here, it has kept us here. What a treasure it has been to us, from polar bear plunges to summer concerts and cool offs, I cannot imagine San Marcos without the river. Thank you for all you do to make the river accessible, safe, and beautiful.

Protect our rivers. Teach our children the history and the importance of this amazing river.

I got married in the Plaza Park Gazebo and it was perfect!

My family and I enjoy swimming often all year as long as warm outside. I have spent many hours with kids and grandkids swimming or floating. I take my grandkids to the park to play as well

We've always been able to enjoy the river and picnic/bbque/play volleyball. now we can't bbque or play volleyball and enjoy the park or the river. must there be so much wild rice? is that truly necessary? i feel that impacts usage of the river and we did not have or need all the wild rice growing up.

I do NOT support areas for concerts and cultural performances as hosting events in the city, such a Sights and Sounds of Christmas, are much too cost prohibitive. If an event cannot afford, due to costs to the city for services required to host an event, then why have a space to offer events? Address the cost prohibition on cultural events before spending on this type of enhancement. SIGHTS AND SOUNDS should be a city priority.

I first saw the San Marcos River when I was 18 years old and fell in love. I moved here with my husband in 2023. We are starting a family, and the San Marcos River and parks is a big reason we moved to the area. I am so excited to bring our kids to swim in the river, learn about endangered species and conservation, and enjoy music at Summer in the Park.

There needs to be better pedestrian access from CM Allen to Children's park. There's overflow parking on CM Allen, but then kids are walking on the path to the park without a sidewalk.

Being able to run through town and running along the river.

I enjoy paddling through San Marcos multiple times a week and have a strong environmental connection with the area.

I love San Marcos and I love its natural resources that should be protected and maintained at all costs

The map above needs street and highway references. I can't tell which area I live in.

The Spring and River are heart of San Marcos

I was baptized in this river, I went to college here and have owned multiple properties here. This river is what gives life to San Marcos no the university and they need to make some donations to help the city make these changes. The river is free community social time, exercise, nature exploration. It's what the world is missing don't put a price on it and don't make it unaccessible.

The SM river is an amazing and special piece of nature and i hope to see a future where we can balance protecting it and still letting people enjoy it for its many attractions.

The San Marcos River is one of the reasons I live in San Marcos. It is really important to me to be a steward of the river and protect the endemic and endangered species as well as the spring flows that make this place so special.

I love the river. I want the river to be protected. I cleaned the river forever, but it is the government's job to manage. Enforce littering laws. Enforce SWPPP laws for construction. Don't allow the river to keep going downhill.

Moved here in 2006 and have saw the growth. The river is becoming to crowded at the limited access points. I used to enjoy going down riding my bike around then stop at Rio Vista and jump in to cool down. I would also take this time to snorkel and remove trash from the river.

Being able to go to the river to meditate or read has been a healing experience! Also being able to just enjoy the water either by paddle boarding or swimming has drawn me close to the wildlife that thrives here. Just to be able to take a step away from the struggles and constraints of day to day life is healing!

We love to take morning and evening walks along the river. Rio Vista and Ramon Lucio are about one block away from our home on Encino, so they both heavily affect our days. This is great in the office season, as we are able to enjoy the space as locals, but can get pretty

uncomfortable during the busy months with a lot of foot traffic and overflow parking. I would love to see more public transport and hygienic improvement of the surrounding neighborhood to encourage public care of our spaces (added public trash and recycling)

I met my partner and his son while working at the Meadows Center for Water and the environment. We three have been inseparable ever since. It was the river that brought us together. We go every weekend to swim, snorkel, and float along the TX Wild Rice. We clean up any trash we find, and explore the wonders our beautiful river has to offer. Without these parks, we wouldn't be able to enjoy the river the way we do.

The river has such great meaning to me because my dad used to take me to this river. We spend summer here eating watermelon and swimming down Rio Vista. He has since passed and now I continue our tradition.

I snorkel in the river once a week year 'round, taking underwater photos and picking up trash, so my main concerns are with the river itself and its protection. These are some things I'd like to see done: • charge non-residents for parking in City Park • enforce can/plastic bottle ban • improve steps at City Park (the bottom step is the problem) • add hand rail on one side of steps at Dog Beach (I use these only when City Park is closed for Sights & Sounds, but find them very hard to navigate.) • create a walkway between Sewell & City Park (the university might not like this, however, because it would probably increase use of Sewell, which is already used by non-students/faculty/staff)

The river has been there for me in moments of solitude and healing, sharing space with my friends and others, bird watching, appreciating nature's beauty, and so much more.

I swim from Rio Vista to Sewell and back down at least once a week. It is one of my absolute favorite things to do. I feel like I really get to experience how special the San Marcos is with the various fish species, wild rice, and turtles because I am submerged in it. The San Marcos is special because it is a water source that has never gone dry (with the aid of groups like San Marcos River Foundation) and we need to do everything we can to protect it. Water is sacred and water is life. Our town would not be the same without it.

The river is awesome! The racist question at the end of this survey is pathetic! This survey, the river and the parks have nothing to do with race. It says alot about whoever put it on the survey.

I have lived and worked in Sm for almost 30 years. I've been enjoying the park system ever since I got here. We have to accomodate for expansion/growth. Some of these questions are difficult to answer because it's more of a process, as in "if a happens, then b needs to happen". The survey is good but I feel like there could be more engagement to get more definitive answers from the public who uses the parks and river.

Love living in San Marcos and would love improvements to our town without destroying the culture and small college town vibe - don't Kyle my San Marcos, and definitely don't Austin it.

I have tried to clean up dead debris and branches along the river, I was stoped by park rangers and told it wasn't allowed even though I was removing a branch that punctured multiple tubes including one of mine. It was a safety hazard. I have not returned to the river to float since, we also decided to move away from the SM area shortly afterwards. This was a leading factor in our decision. I check 1 month ago and the dead branch was still there with a tube and trash hanging in it. It has been like that for for at least 6 months. The person in charge of maintaining the river for safety and cleanup needs to be fired immediately. I have submitted these issues several times with no response. This is why I have decided to take my tax money elsewhere.

I love the San Marcos River, the peace, serenity and natural powers it has, floating the river without all the tourists polluting our river and city is what I love the BEST!

It was one of the first things we did as a family when we moved to San Marcos and why we fell in love with the city

We moved to San Marcos during Covid. The parks and the trails were absolutely crucial for my family during that time and continue to be central to our activities and overall quality of life.

There is not enough space to write about all the good experiences I have had a the river. I raised my kids on that river and now, as a senior citizen my best days are kayaking or floating the river. It is the reason I live in San Marcos. Personally I would love easier access for my kayak. Our river access is just not friendly to that which is way you usually just see males and couples kayaking at the river as it is easier for them to carry it long distances. I selfishly do not want it to become more of a tourist destination because I see how that tears up the Comal in New Braunfels. I believe San Marcos has a lovely park system. People from out of town do not feel invested it keeping it in good condition as locals.

My daughter was Baptized in the river behind the playground, kids grew up playing at Lucio Fields

I love the river. It's beautiful and so nice to have easy access to nature.

My husband proposed to me 15 years ago next to the river in the area back behind the baseball fields.

The river offers a sacred connection to this place and a glimpse at magic in the natural world. When I go I want to continue to see and feel the raw nature of it. I like to sit on the ground and be wild with it as if it's only my special place. Please don't over develop it for recreation. It's wildness and purity are interwoven with the heart of San Marcos. Laid back and nature loving. The pool needs to move and be better designed for residents. Its too hard to access so it's never worth it. Kids need a splash pad somewhere in town. But somewhere that's near the pools future new location but please not in the pool. Somewhere open to access.

We moved to San Marcos in 2011, and I instantly fell in love with the river. We went for a night swim soon after we got moved in, and my wedding ring flew off my hand while swimming! My wife and I searched, but never found it, so I had it replaced, but to this day, my wife still says I'm married to the river.

I saved a person who had drowned.

It's wonderful to have beautiful parks to visit nearby any time of the year!

I loveeee the water and love taking my kids to swim in any natural body of water. The best place we've found thus far is just passed the dam/bridge. We played for hours and hours and we love making memories at the SM river. We look forward to more this summer !

I love how diverse and family friendly it (usually) is when I go to the Riverfront Parks during busier times.

Born and raised in COSM, the river and activities around the river are central to the culture of growing up and living here. I love being able to walk along the river on weekends after being downtown. I have so many memories around Rio Vista and the Falls and would love to see how river amenities can cater more to locals rather than to tourists.

Access to the river

I love how the community recognizes the importance of keeping the river and its parks in mind when discussing future plans concerning its state. It shows in the parks systems for all of the city.

My dog and I frequent Rio Vista almost every Friday to play fetch, and I also get to swim. When the weather is a little too cold to swim, I enjoy birding while my dog doesn't mind the cold water and will continue to play fetch year-round. It's hard to describe the connection I feel when I'm in the water, but it's something I thoroughly enjoy.

The depletion of healthy soils along our waterway, and turning what was once a natural swamp habitat into a concrete lined river was a grave error made of European colonizer's parts. What we do today can either reverse that, or continue to make it much worse.

Good river lots of fun

Use to snorkel from from the ice house waterfall down to Rio Vista after class and never see another person.

Children play softball & we frequently visit the river to swim & picnic.

I love walking along the River and watching the pets and families. Additionally, me and my family have enjoyed attending sights and sounds every year since my daughter was just a baby. Such great memories!

I can't go to school here for art and fell in love with the river and stayed, she has given so much life

The parks are too crowded along the river in the summer. I don't want to take my family there because of the parks being overrun.

I use Rio Vista every weekend to kayak and surf. It's a huge part of my life and I love going there

As a student at Texas State, one of my favorite things to do in San Marcos is enjoy running/walking the river. It's something about the location that makes me enjoy spending time there. I've also enjoyed going to Sewell with friends and even making new friends. I've always enjoyed nature and San Marcos definitely values its natural spaces. I'd love to stay informed about the improvements and efforts being made to preserve and enhance the San Marcos river and the beauty around it.

The improvements made to the river in the past decades are incredible. My family and I enjoy the river frequently on weekdays and off season weekends.

The river is a central part of my life in San Marcos. I find great serenity in the nature and river here and always make time to go sit by the water or walk/skate a trail. I have grown and changed with the flow of the river over the years, met friends and fell in love. The river is here to cleanse and nurture us and we must do the same for her. I think that restoration should be more important than creating new complexes and structures and pools/splash pads (especially in such a major drought). I hope that the city will make effort to protect the lands and water ethically and with less regard to profit.

I was hesitant to move to TX at all. The only thing that really allowed me to comfortably come here was the river in town. It's my favorite place to take friends when they visit me, and I love how crucial and unique it is.

I'm a active 69 year old female who fell in love with the river in 1974 when I went to college here. My first 16 years were spent in Lufkin, TX. I lived in Houston twice for a total of 30 years, Austin twice for a total of 13 years and San Marcos twice for a total of 7 1/2 years. My children and I and their dad have tubed this river since they were very young. They and my grandchildren come on summer weekends and we spend every day on the river together. I use the parks system downtown to swim, do yoga, and walk everyday. Sometimes I tub or kayak. I feel very safe here and have not had any issues to deal with. I adore this river and have bought a telescoping large net to pick trash out of the water. I talk to the University paid and volunteer students and ask questions to learn more about our river and what their job entails along the river. I love interacting with families, individuals, the city arborist Kelley, the river ambassadors, and students while swimming, walking or kayaking. I stopped the other day for an hour to help Kelley spread out the mulch at the Lions Club. I appreciate the San Marcos River Foundation and hope the City of San Marcos will continue to partner and learn from them!

Lions tube rental is perfect in the summer and off season I paddle board. Love that the Lions give back to the community

I moved here for the river. I bought a house in Rio Vista. I am now leaving Tx. Everything has gone to ****. Unfettered growth and greedy council who prioritize developers over what matters. Life! You are killing our town. It has lost its charm and its heart. The river.

The San Marcos River is the core of SM and the priority should be to protect it and increase access for public use. Amenities can be added, but not if they compromise the SM river or the Edward's Aquifer

Going to the river is an integral part of my daily life here in San Marcos. I think we're so lucky to live beside such a beautiful body of water and I'd like to keep it just like that: beautiful. More parking will only be an eyesore and will absolutely lessen the value of visiting the natural area. Additionally, if we keep installing more and more parking, the already challenged aquifer will only have a harder time recharging.

My happy place to relax and recharge.

the park is my favorite field trip lunch spot

We spend time with family who come from out of town at the river. We also utilize the Ramon Lucio fields year round.

My wife and I spent almost every day at the river during the summers and we go often during the other seasons. We have brought friends, family and even when we were expecting we were there daily. I taught my son how to wade, our dog to fetch and come when called and several other formative experiences both while living here and visiting.

I run the trails along the river a few times a week, and my wife and I play tennis at Rio Vista at least once a week. It's great to see our taxes at work, and in this part of Texas, it's a blessing to have public facilities, areas, and infrastructure that is so accessible and well maintained. I don't take for granted running along the pristine river, and I'm grateful for the city's approach to keeping it accessible and even expanding it.

The river is my church and place of refuge.

The parks along the river provide places where people can meet up to enjoy a little wildness and contribute their special talents to preserving that wildness for future generations.

The ability for families to take their kids to the river and cool off during the summer is a special privilege that those of us who live here get to experience.

We love the River. It is so beautiful we try to go there as often as we can.

I enjoy kayaking, hiking, and enjoying the views and natural habitats around the river.

As a local, the river is the most important reason I'm here. I am committed to being a voice for it as well as immersing myself in nature as often as possible

Eliminate some signs. There are WAY too many. We are not stupid. Interferes with nature. Open up the river front at the falls (the old ice plant) for swimming. The city has done an excellent job with the river improvements over the years. Thank you.

I knew from the moment I laid eyes on the river at 19 years old, I knew that I would like to go to college at Texas State University & immediately understood how special the ecosystem surrounding the river was (& still is). I have spent the past 15 years volunteering, cleaning up, & helping to educate people on the importance of our sacred waters. In September of 2023, I got engaged along the bank next to headwaters & have the coordinates engraved inside my wedding band. This place has become more of a home than any other place I've ever known & I want to ensure others get to enjoy the wonderful, healing energy that surrounds the river.

We have two kids in baseball and absolutely love Ramon Lucio. While I know that the location may need to shift, it's deeply important that we have a great facility for our kids, especially since we don't have baseball options in the middle schools.

I visit almost daily by foot or bike. I raised my 3 children to do the same. It's the reason I live here.

These parks have been critical throughout my life. Some of my earliest memories are in the river at Sewell Park with my family. Conservation of the ecology is incredibly important.

Our kids are in (and have been in) the Ramon Lucio baseball family for years. We frequent the River and use Rio Vista pool for swim lessons. Leave Ramon Lucio fields where they are!

The public art + natural beauty makes us unique

Off-season paddling is great.

I love people watching on the trails where you and old come together to find peace in nature, joy in family time, and fellowship with one another.

I've taken my son to the river since he was tiny. He's learned to swim on that river. He's learned about all the different creatures that call that river home and how important it is for the environment.

I grew up outside of San Marcos in a low income area. Whenever our AC unit broke in the worst of summer we would go to the river

Being able to take my child to the Children's Park for playing, then jumping into the river to cool off from the Texas heat and sitting out to dry off while enjoying a homemade picnic are some of the best memories we have made as a family. And getting to do all that with little cost is not available anywhere else these days.

My son is in the baseball league & we're constantly there with our kids playing baseball or at the park as well

We should do all we can to raise awareness about the vulnerability of our river. The goal is to conserve as much as we can

I have had many good experiences in the Parks System. One notable one is getting to swim in the San Marcos river, play volleyball, and eat out at a restaurant all in a single day.

I've been visiting the San Marcos river with my friends and family since I was about 6 years old! I've made a lot of good memories there and it's very nostalgic for me whenever I go there. I especially remember going to Concert in the Park every week during the summer growing up

and running around the slab with my friends! I still swim the river every time it gets warm enough! Nothing else will ever live up to the feeling of the water on your skin when you submerge in it for the first time. It is probably the most refreshing thing I have ever felt.

The area has been maintained and clean. Great job!

The biodiversity, high water quality, and density of endangered and native species present with the upper San Marcos River ecosystem exists no where else in the world. Having the opportunity to experience and interact with this sensitive ecosystem is unlike any other experience I can have in other river systems. Seeing people appreciate this and not take it for granted is always heartwarming. I love passing by people that are sharing the river through responsible, respectful behaviors and actions, and are not abusing this incredible resource we are fortunate to access and experience. If the tennis courts, pools, or ball parks are removed - please do not replace those areas with parking or more picnic tables - I strongly encourage planting them with native landscapes, pocket prairies, and unpaved walking trails.

Too many to count; I spent countless summers skateboarding around town with friends, picnicking, swimming, hiking and the like. I can't imagine San Marcos without access to the beautiful pristine river. It is an integral part of the town as well as the ecosystem in which the town has been developed and inhabited. This river raised me as much as my parents did. Please take care of it like it does us, please don't sell off our town (and water) to the highest bidder.

I'm a nature lover so I spend a lot of time outdoors, I walk the roads where I live and pick up trash. I walk the river trails and other hiking trails. We kayak regularly. I love to swim and would like a lap pool. I volunteer for the river cleanups and hope to join the trail alliance group soon. I'm a master gardener. This is the beauty of aging, I have time for the things I love.

As kids, we used to all get on our bikes and ride to Rio Vista, Blue Hole, Sewell, City Park or the Isla (Thomson Island) and spend all day swimming, playing and just exploring! I wish kids nowadays could have the freedom and security to grow up as we did in what used to be a small beautiful town.

I love the river parks and see the efforts being made both for conservation and to appease the public. It's a fine line to walk and there will always be people who are dissatisfied with whatever happens. I implore the city to put the environmental factors over money or public opinion (tourism etc) and continue to take care while expanding and growing our city. It is not the locals but rather the visitors 99% of the time who are ruining it for the rest of us. Education and cracking down on littering should be top of mind

I go to the river just about every week and I enjoy the sea life that shares the water with me. I've been living in this little city for 27 years and I've seen the growth from Texas State and just the city overall throughout the years. I know hundreds to thousands of people come from all over central Texas to enjoy our riverfront parks and that is why the conservation of our river parks is kept safe.

The trails and walk ability of the parks has greatly improved my personal health

It's very meaningful to have a natural river park area that one can visit to unwind and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. I love seeing the birds in the trees along the river—and fish, turtles, and waving Texas Wild Rice. The San Marcos River is a special place that allows for connection with nature, walks with my family, and relaxing floats down the river. I hope that with the addition of "gray structure" amenities -- e.g. parking lots, pavilions, play areas, etc., the San Marcos River park area does not become overly manicured, congested, and developed like other city parks. I think it would take away from what is truly special about park and river, and why the people who live here, love it. To create more parking and amenities, just means more people can access the river and riverbanks at the same time. Is that what we want for our river and our river experience? That takes away from the experience while you are there, and would create more problems for the river, the environment, and it's sensitive wildlife. In that line of thinking, it was difficult for me to answer the scale questions regarding what to do with existing amenities because it sounds like if they were moved, it would just be for additional parking lots, etc. Also, do we want concessions that then add to the trash potential in the river? If that's what the opened up space is used for, I'd rather them stay what they are.

Please don't put more parking in the floodplain!!!!

I love living by the river. It truly is the heart of San Marcos. I think we should also be asking the indigenous community what they'd like to see done. As long as we moved forward with the best interest of the river (not basing decisions off greed) I will be happy.

Countless times of good experiences. I was playing music with a friend near lions club and a US Marshall complimented out playing.

I grew up here. Left for ten years but missed this place all the time. I'm home again and I want to see that river to be the top priority, not tourism.

PLEASE!! do NOT build AI Centers in san marcos!!! it will ruin the river!!

Hello there, my name is Jacob Rose. As I mentioned before I have been a native San Martian for going on 30 years. In all my life I've been from east to west coast of our wonderful country, even Hawaii, but nothing on this world that I've seen compares to the natural healing energy our waters have. As a young child I learned to swim at the local pool and shallower waters of our river, as a teen I spent all my free time at Sewell park playing volleyball or throwing a frisbee. As a young adult I spent all my free time skateboarding all around the river and parks. And now as an adult I still spend most of my free time there taking photos with my camera or walking with friends and family catching up. It would be the end of the world if we didn't take care of our river. Please whoever is reading this just know that the water our town is blessed with is much bigger than any one person and we must protect it as such. Thank you for your time.

We moved here over 20 years ago because I fell in love with the river. My husband came sightseeing unseen just because of the river.

Love and respect the SMR. Always enjoy bring family and friends to SMR to experience it.

When the water is flowing I like to hold on to the stairs' handrail and stretch out so the water waves me like a flag.

I grew up in San Marcos and spent the majority of my youth and life visiting the river

Nature is everything

n/a

I love how close I feel to the earth when I recreate outdoors in San Marcos. It's so beautiful and the water is so clear. During the summer when the students are gone, you can find some peaceful moments and just relax. It's essentially why I decided to live here after graduating Texas State. The river and the sense of community around it is unmatched!

Preserving our water and nature is priority.

After moving here, the first time we went down to the park, I was amazed that I could live in a place that had such a beautiful landscape. Because of that feeling I've tried to be more conscious of our impact, and the impact of so many people who moved here in 2020.

11 years ago, we purchased our home in Rio Vista on Riverside Drive to always have easy access to the beautiful river and parks. I walk by the river everyday (sometimes twice if my schedule allows) and I am always so grateful that I am able to regularly experience such scenic views. One of my favorite times of year is in the winter when it is so peaceful by the falls. Even better is when it is so cold that the river produces steam. The sunrises are especially beautiful that time of year. Girl Scout Park is probably one of my most favorite places in the world. It feels magical! My 2 children love to play hide and seek behind all the trees and we always stop along our walks to admire the river. We like looking out for deer and flowers, and listening for bats and owls. In the summer, the river offers perfect spots for them to go wading and searching for special rocks and shells. I am so appreciative of my children getting to grow up with these experiences in San Marcos.

One of the first volunteer experiences I had in San Marcos was planting native riparian species along the river trails of the San Marcos river. This was 10 years ago but I feel that is more important of an activity now than ever as we overly strain this precious resource. Every summer I pick up diapers and cigarette butts and Styrofoam out of the parks and river and we are not treating it the way it and its tributaries needs. I am not originally from SM but I see what a privilege and limited resource the SMR is.

I hold the San Marcos river very close to my heart because it's like a breath of fresh air compared to places like New Braunfels or Austin where access to the water may be limited by having a fee or having too many people around. I think it's important to keep the wildlife and nature of the river as top priority. Sewell's water levels have decreased tremendously with how many people are in San Marcos. I hope for the future of the river we keep her health as number one. I would rather have river and wildlife conservation over amenities for us.

I love the trails along the river to walk my dog

Riding my bike to the river with my kids, floating lazily on a weekday in the summer when it's not too busy, and watching the wildlife together. And they're teenagers now, so anything they enjoy doing with me is a bonus!

Grew up playing in the dams, went to school at TXST and spent my free time at Sewell, and now utilize the space to participate in volunteer work.

I grew up in San Marcos after my parents moved here in 2006. I have moved away but came back because this city is special. I also volunteer with the San Marcos Greenbelt Alliance which has taught me a lot about the importance of our watershed areas in town and their relationship to flood mitigation, drought prevention, and so much more.

The river is one of the reasons I stay here in San Marcos

I care about the river so much! It is one of the most important public features of our community. Protecting the natural habitat and up-keeping the area is extremely important to the city.

Please don't build AI data centers

I have had nothing but incredible experiences at the San Marcos river. I've educated myself as much as I can about the river, specifically the environment. I believe deeply the San Marcos river needs to be protected at all costs. I also believe that Texas state needs to have an educational course.

Floating on the river helped this area feel like home when we moved here. Everything was new and scary, but the river was free, accessible, and calming