

WE BUILT IT AND THEY CAME



A PRESENTATION ON RIVER PARKS OVERCROWDING/CAPACITY ISSUES

PRESENTED BY PARKS AND RECREATION STAFF AND
PARKS ADVISORY BOARD



DURING THE SUMMER OF 2016 THE CITY OF SAN MARCOS
EXPERIENCED RECORD CROWDS FROM CITY PARK
TO RIO VISTA PARK

City Park



Rio Vista at Cheatham



City Park



City Park



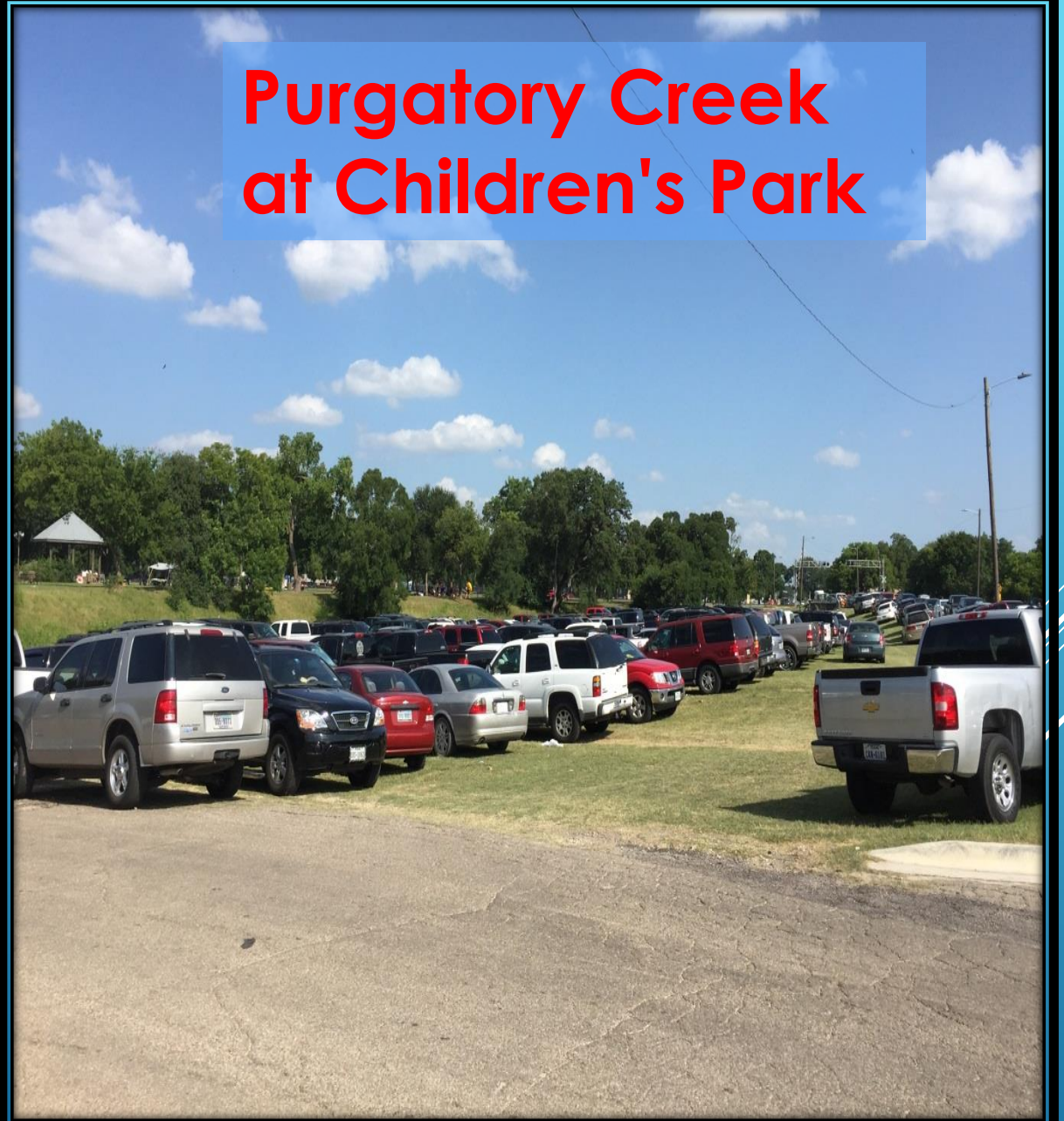
Rio Vista at Cheatham



City Park



Purgatory Creek at Children's Park



Dog Beach



City Park



Dog Beach



City Park





Wildlife Habitat at Cheatham



Rio Vista at Cheatham



City Park



Rio Vista Park



Dog Beach



City Park



Rio Vista



Rio Vista at Cheatham



Rio Vista at Cheatham



Wildlife Habitat at Cheatham



Rio Vista at Cheatham



CITY PARK



City Park



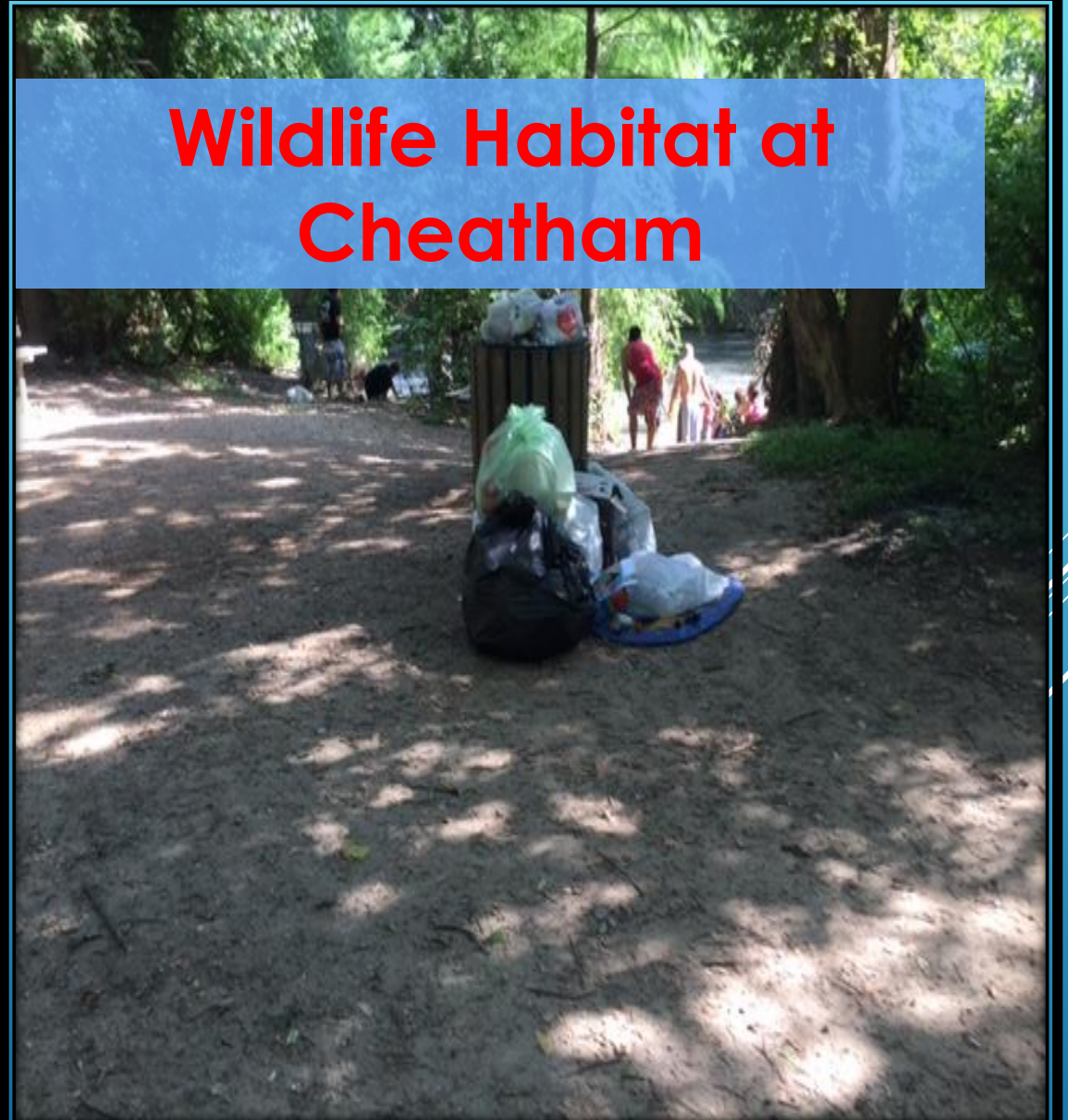
Rio Vista at Cheatham



Rio Vista at Cheatham



Wildlife Habitat at Cheatham



Summer Trash Volume from Parks





Current Summer Trash and Recycle Removal Program

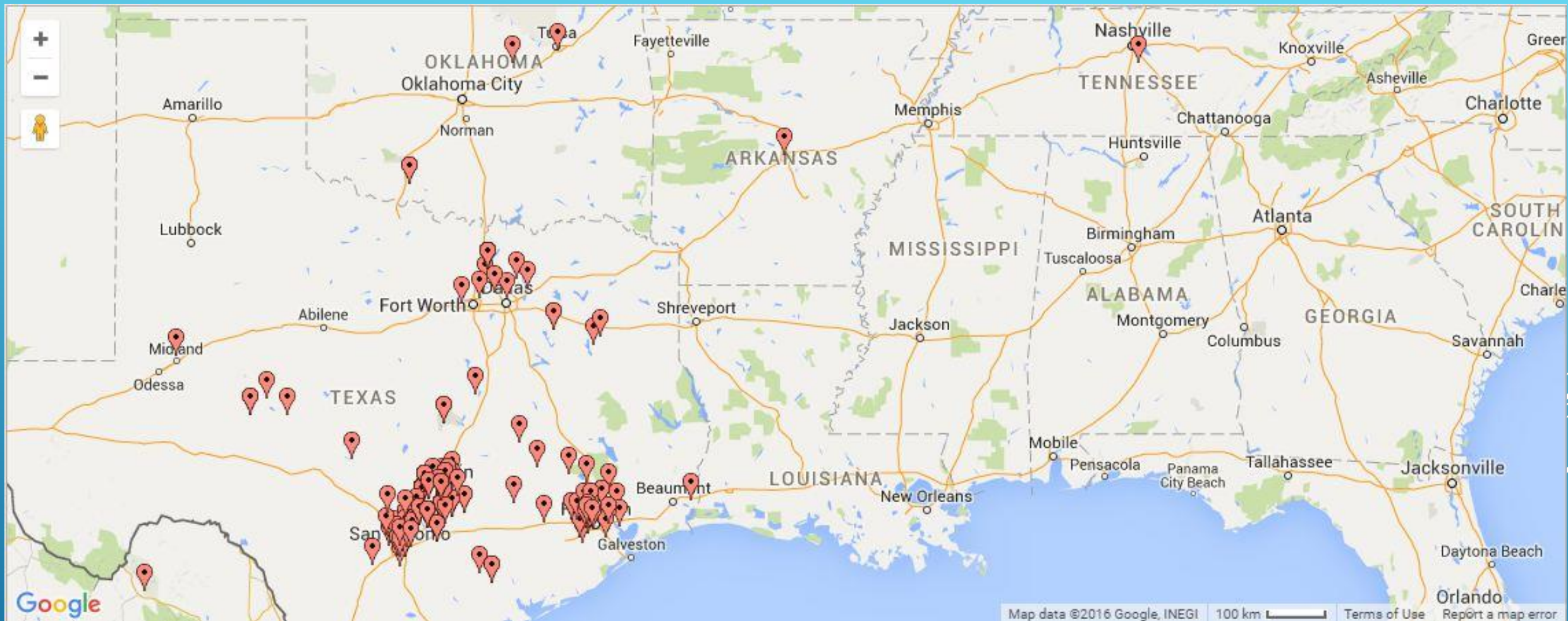


Preferred Density of People When Visiting River and Parks:

◦ Very Many	2%
◦ Many	26%
◦ Few	56%
◦ None	14%
◦ N/A	3%

>3,000 RESPONSES

Supply and Demand of Parks and Protected Places in San Marcos and the Greater Austin Region, Jason Julian, et al. 2016



Geographical Distribution of Visitors answering a survey performed by Graham Daly in 2015

Source:

Graham Daly

Doctoral Student, World Regional I.R., Water Resources I.A.

Texas State University, Department of Geography

Landscape Land Use Change Institute

Survey performed by Graham Daly in 2015 for his PhD project:

Total Survey = 599

San Marcos Area = 335 (56%)

Out of Town = 264 (44%)

Survey Methodology

- o Email, In-person, Mail-out questionnaires resulting in convenience response sampling
- o Stratified random sampling to target different sociodemographic populations
- o Primarily forced, closed responses
- o Resulted in mostly ordinal data
- o 49 questions total
- o 20 minute average response time
- o Spring & Summer of 2015

PARKS BOARD RECOMMENDED SHORT-TERM SOLUTIONS FOR OVER CROWDING OF RIVER PARKS

- 1. MOVE PICNIC SITES BACK AWAY FROM RIVER IN ALL RIVER PARKS (Adding 30 additional tables away from the River)**
- 2. ON –STREET PARKING REMOVED ON CHEATHAM STREET AT RIO VISTA (Weekends and holidays only)**
- 3. REMOVE PICNIC TABLES AND GRILLS ON CHEATHAM STREET (This area will be for accessing river only)**
- 4. NO SHELTER/TENTS EXCEPT IN DESIGNATED PICNIC SITES (Tents can only be used over a city provided picnic table)**
- 5. NO PORTABLE GRILLS IN CITY RIVER PARKS (City Park to Lucio Park)**

LONG-TERM POSSIBILITIES TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE PARKS MASTER PLAN AND PARK ORDINANCES

- 1. NO CHARCOAL GRILLS AND REMOVE EXISTING GRILLS**
 - 2. GATES TO ENTRANCES OF CITY RIVER PARKS TO HELP ENFORCE CURFEWS**
 - 3. ADDITIONAL RESTROOM FACILITIES**
 - 4. PARK USER FEES**
 - 5. PARKING FEES**
 - 6. ADDITIONAL PARKING AREAS**
 - 7. ADDITIONAL PARK RANGERS**
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