

Upper San Marcos River Watershed Protection Plan Updates

Mark Enders, CoSM Habitat Conservation Plan Mngr

2024 Clean Rivers Program Steering Committee Meeting





Background

- The San Marcos Watershed Initiative formed in 2012 to develop a Watershed Protection Plan (WPP) for the Upper San Marcos River. Led by The Meadows Center for Water & Environment
- Formerly a TDS impairment
- Upper San Marcos River WPP accepted by EPA & TCEQ in 2018
- City of San Marcos takes over as lead entity on WPP implementation



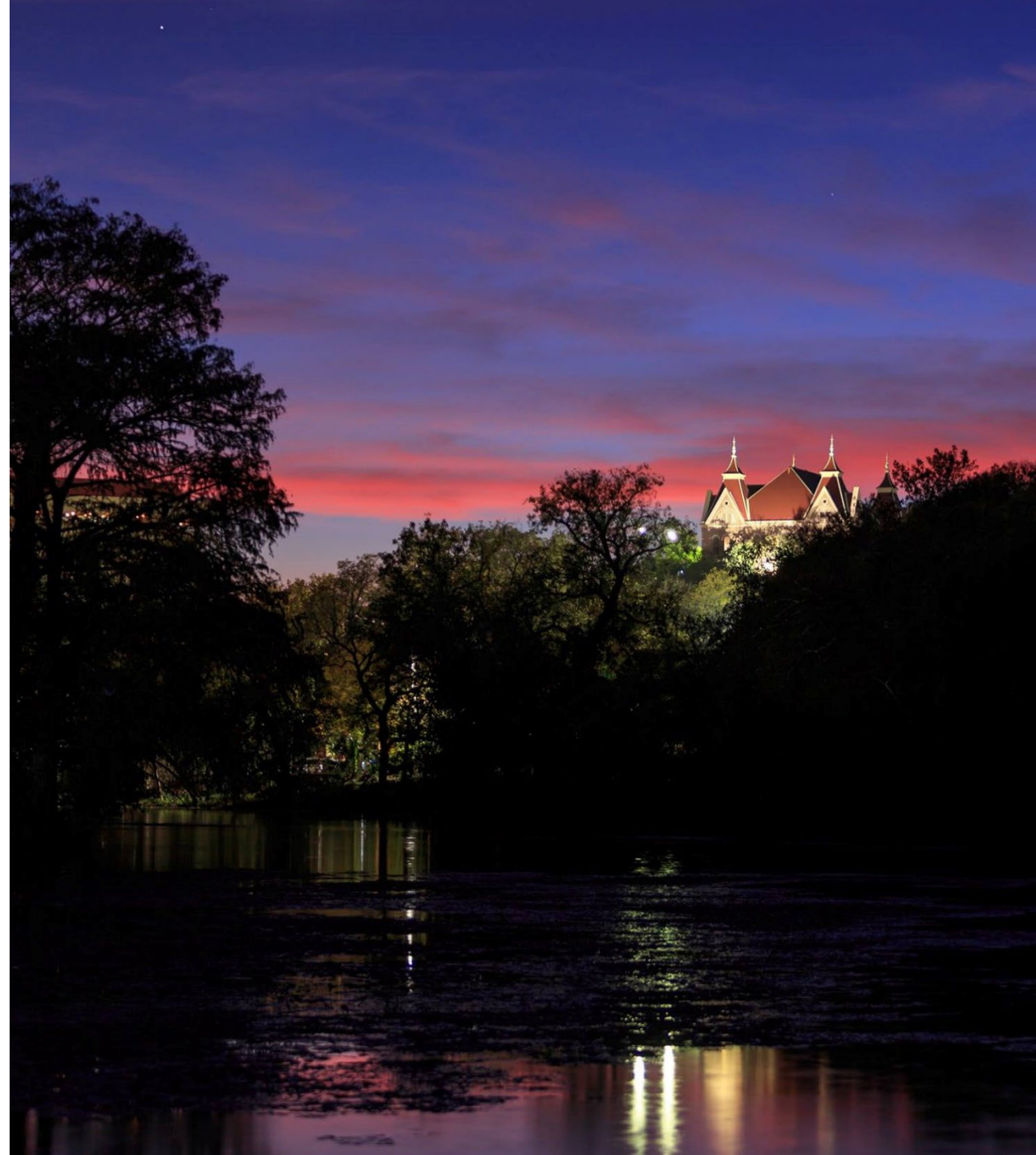
OUR MISSION

The Upper San Marcos Watershed Protection Plan (USMR) is a plan that seeks to reduce water resource concerns by addressing water quality and quantity issues in the Upper San Marcos River Watershed.



OUR VISION

A healthy watershed that supports a clean, clear, and flowing San Marcos River for the future as it was in the past.



Sessom Creek Stream Restoration & Sewer Line Rehab Project

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- Phase 1 completed in May 2023
- Phase 2 to begin in Fall 2024. Project includes stream restoration, plant restoration & relocation of exposed sewer lines
- CoSM awarded \$120,000 FY24 CWA 319(h) grant through TCEQ NPS program



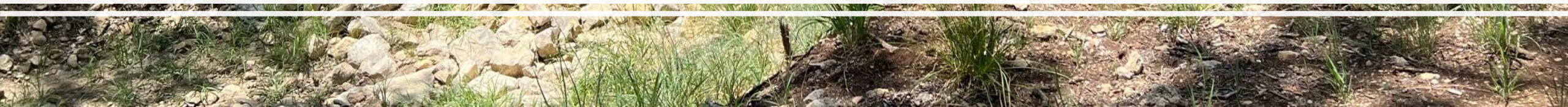
**Sessom Creek, Ph 1 Project Photos
Pre- & Post-Project**



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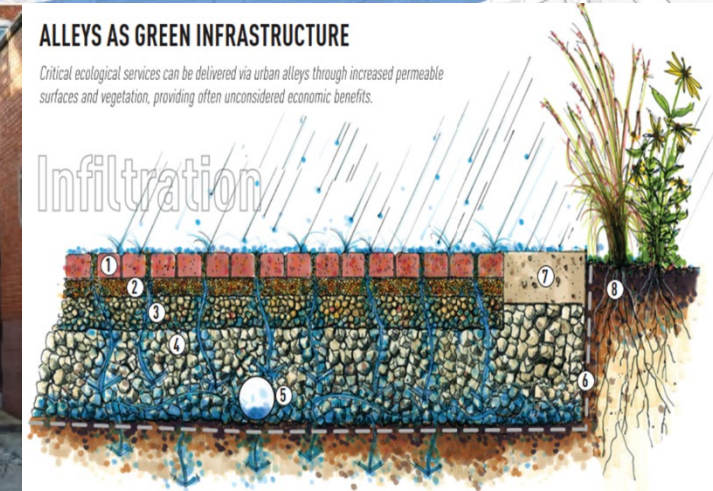
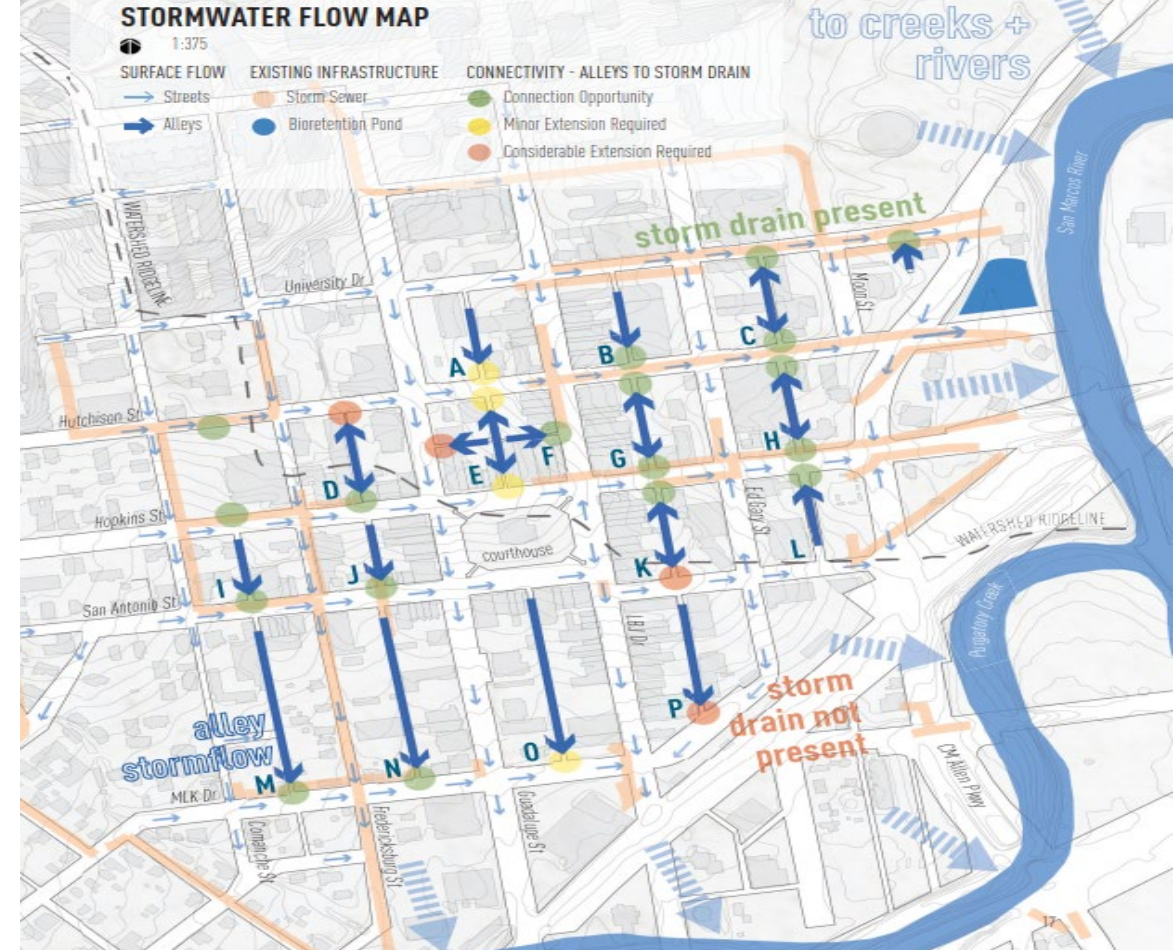


Sessom Creek, Ph 1 Project Photos



Downtown Alley Reconstruction Project

- Reconstruction of Kissing Alley and Jacks Alley in downtown San Marcos
- Project to include replacement of existing pavement with permeable paver surface & underdrain system
- Pilot project from the SM Green Alley Initiative
- CoSM awarded \$200k FY24 CWA 319(h) grant through TCEQ NPS Program



City of San Marcos Disposable Beverage Container Ban & Cooler Size Ordinance

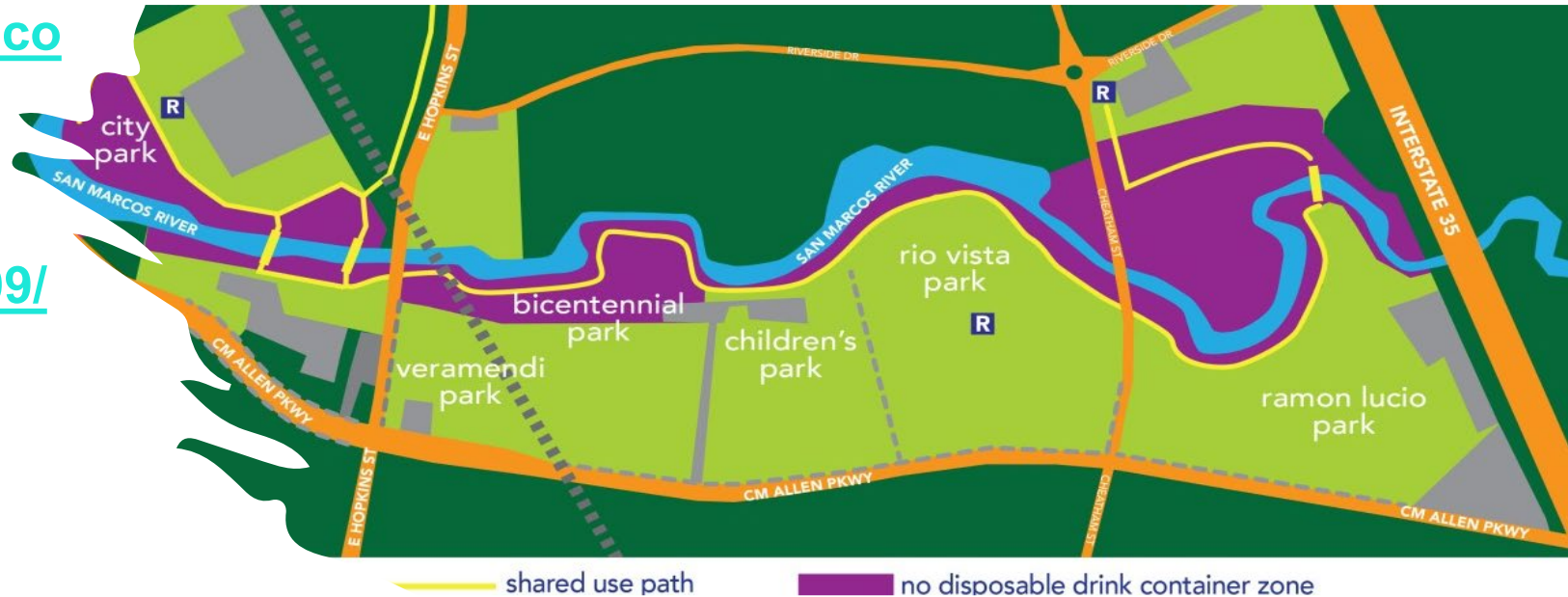


- New ordinance prohibits the possession of single-use beverage containers in or on the San Marcos River within City limits and within designated portions of City parks
- Prohibits the use of coolers >30 qts on or in the portion of the SM River adjacent to City park property
- Ordinance will become effective May 1, 2024
- 2024 will focus on outreach and education



City of San Marcos Disposable Beverage Container Ban & Cooler Size Ordinance

- “Reuse at the River” Educational Campaign
- San Marcos Convention & Visitor Bureau site:
<https://www.visitsanmarcos.com/reuseattheriver/>
- City of San Marcos site:
<https://sanmarcostx.gov/4299/Reuse-at-the-River>



Edwards Aquifer Habitat Conservation Plan (EAHCP) Implementation

- Continuing to implement endangered species habitat protection measures in the upper San Marcos River system as part of the EAHCP
- Ongoing projects include:
 - Mgmt of Recreation
 - TWR & Aquatic Plant Restoration
 - Litter Removal
 - Non-Native Species Mgmt
 - Riparian Restoration
 - Water Quality Protection



The background of the slide is an underwater photograph. It shows a dense field of green and brown coral or seagrass on the ocean floor. The water above is a deep blue, with some light reflecting off the surface. The overall scene is serene and natural.

Thank you!

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