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News Release

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San Antonio River Mission Reach Wildflowers in Full Bloom *SARA to Host Guided Wildflower Tour*

SAN ANTONIO -- Each spring, wildflowers paint the roadsides and fields of Texas with myriad colors, but often it is necessary to venture outside the city to see them. This year, the San Antonio River Mission Reach is providing area residents with a new venue for viewing these beautiful spring blooms without ever leaving the city limits. The San Antonio River Authority (SARA) will be celebrating the wildflowers on the Mission Reach with a guided hike on Saturday, May 7. The public is invited to join special guest Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff as SARA experts and members of the Alamo Area Master Naturalists identify the numerous native wildflowers that line the banks of the San Antonio River Mission Reach.

"I have anxiously awaited the arrival of wildflowers along the Mission Reach and now they are here," says Judge Wolff. "Lee Marlowe and the rest of the SARA Watershed Operations staff have done a great job seeding the river for the wildflower season and I invite everyone to come on the walk to see the banks of the San Antonio River exploding with beautiful colors."

As a part of the ecosystem restoration of the San Antonio River, over 60 species of native wildflowers and grasses were planted along the river. Because of the current dry weather conditions, many areas of Texas did not receive the amount of rain necessary for a substantial wildflower bloom. However, in order to nurture the newly seeded Mission Reach, the area has been regularly irrigated. This has resulted in one of the most dazzling wildflower displays in our area.

The hike will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will leave from Roosevelt Park at the pavilion by the river. The walk will be less than one mile and take about an hour to complete. For more information visit www.sara-tx.org.

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The Mission Reach Ecosystem Restoration and Recreation Project is transforming an eight mile stretch of the San Antonio River into a quality riparian woodland ecosystem. The Mission Reach project is being primarily funded by Bexar County, with additional funding from the City of San Antonio, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the San Antonio River Foundation. SARA is overseeing construction on the project and will oversee operations, maintenance and concessions when the project is complete. For more information about this project please visit www.sanantonioriver.org.