



## City of San Antonio, TX

City profile downloaded from CitiesWithNature

13 June 2025

Chapter 1

# Profile overview



## About

With thousands of years of rich history and culture, the San Antonio community has thrived around the river called "Yanaguana" (precious land) by the native peoples who lived here over 10,000 years ago. Today, San Antonio is the seventh most populous city in the United States and a powerhouse of economic growth in Texas. At a time of historic population growth — and climate change, the most significant threat to our community and the world — we have chosen to rise to the challenge of enhancing San Antonians' quality of life for generations to come. There is a wealth of natural resources in and around city, from waterways and the aquifer to pollinator gardens and bird nesting sites. Most recently, in October 2020, Mayor Nirenberg and Consul Generals from the City of Guadalajara and Montreal came together to unveil the North American Friendship Garden, located in Confluence Park. Since its unveiling, the garden has exceeded all expectations and continues to serve as a valuable resource in helping to increase biodiversity and cultivate environmental stewards. Additional milkweeds will be planted on an annual basis to create a more substantial area for migrating Monarch butterflies and other pollinators, cementing our status as a Monarch Champion City.

## Overview

1400000

Population size

United States

Country

North America

Region



## Ron Nirenberg, Mayor of City of San Antonio, TX

Head of government

San Antonio is proud to join CitiesWithNature as a Pioneer City. Established on the banks of the San Antonio River over 300 years ago, our city continues to thrive by respecting our abundant natural resources. We know that caring for nature is essential to a sustainable future, and have prioritized biodiversity, green infrastructure and healthy ecosystems in our SA Climate Ready, Climate Action & Adaptation Plan. We celebrate this initiative and look forward to working together as stewards of our planet.

## Platform engagement statistics



12

Actions made on the Action Platform

## Achievements

### Profile awards

The city has updated their profile and achieved the following:



Starter profile  
100% complete



Frontrunner profile  
100% complete



Star profile  
0% complete

### The Nature Pathway

The city has engaged with the Nature Pathway to integrate nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



Starter profile  
0% complete



Frontrunner profile  
0% complete



Star profile  
0% complete

Tools & resources hub

The city has made uploads to the CitiesWithNature tools & resources hub, which provides a knowledge-sharing platform for cities to share information and inspire one another.



Starter profile  
0% complete



Frontrunner profile  
0% complete



Star profile  
0% complete

Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Starter profile  
100% complete



Frontrunner profile  
100% complete



Star profile  
50% complete

Chapter 2

# The Action Platform



# The Action Platform

The CitiesWithNature Action Platform is endorsed by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity for cities to make commitments, share their actions and set targets for people and nature to flourish.



Action area 1

## Protect and restore nature

Commitment Made:

**Protect, connect and restore ecosystems**

**Restore and/or rehabilitate terrestrial, freshwater and coastal ecosystems.**

### Description of how city is taking action

**CREATE AN INTEGRATED GREEN AND BLUE INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN** Assess opportunities for creating connected networks to manage water and regulate temperature through ecosystem-based adaptation measures. This could include connecting existing park and open space networks and adjacent areas to provide cooling corridors and stormwater management benefits.

**Increase protected areas**

### Description of how city is taking action

**TREE CANOPY PROGRAMS** Incentivize, expand, and fund tree planting/replacement programs to promote more drought and wildfire-resistant native species, prioritizing the most effective locations for the plantings, and further develop Best Management Practices (BMPs). Consideration should be given to avoid potential disruption to critical infrastructure, such as overhead power lines.

Commitment Made:

**Control Pollution**

**Reduce plastic consumption and the amount of plastic waste generated and discarded**

### Description of how city is taking action

**MATERIAL REUSE AND CIRCULARITY** Support the development of a local circular economy to extend product lifespan through improved design and servicing and relocating waste from the end of the supply chain to the beginning.

Commitment Made:

**Climate change adaptation and mitigation**

**Reduce the urban heat island effect by working with nature**

### Description of how city is taking action

**URBAN HEAT ISLAND** Analyze and quantify the urban heat island (UHI) in San Antonio and develop an implementable and impactful UHI mitigation and adaptation plan with a focus on vulnerable populations and ecosystems.

## Promote integration of nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches into urban infrastructure maintenance & development.

### Description of how city is taking action

ECOLOGICAL PLANNING AND CLIMATE-SENSITIVE DESIGN Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into existing land development review and permitting processes with a goal of maximizing the benefits of natural geographic and watershed features.

## Increase the carbon sequestration potential of urban nature

### Description of how city is taking action

CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE Develop and implement a plan for carbon capture and storage that takes advantage of all available solutions including increasing plant material, restoring the soil landscape, increasing the use of Green Infrastructure, including increasing the tree canopy, enhancing wetlands, and implementing technological solutions that also support biodiversity and the regeneration of native species and ecosystems.

## Increase connectivity between natural areas

### Description of how city is taking action

The Howard W. Peak Greenway Trail System (Greenway) is a growing network of approximately 101 miles of developed multi-use and accessible trails open from sunrise to sunset. The Greenway trails wind through natural landscapes along many of San Antonio's waterways including: Salado Creek Leon Creek Medina River Westside Creeks (Apache, Alazan, Martinez, San Pedro, and Zarzamora) and Tributary Creeks (Such as Huesta Creek and Culebra Creek) There are over 50 major trailheads and neighborhood connections to access the trail system around the city. The four major segments of the Greenway are the Leon Creek Greenway, the Salado Creek Greenway, the Westside Creeks and the Medina River Greenway each offering several miles of uninterrupted trails. In addition, the Greenway trails connect dozens of local parks and consist of approximately 1,600 acres of creek-side open space and natural areas. The idea to build the Greenways was spearheaded by former Mayor Howard W. Peak. His dream was to build a "ring" of hike and bike trails along creeks around the City of San Antonio. This idea quickly became a shared vision among city leaders. Funding for the Greenways was first approved by voters in 2000, followed by three subsequent elections, to use 1/8 cent from local sales tax revenue to develop the trails. Current funding is being used to expand the trail system and to enhance the existing trails.

### Other commitments under this action area

Conserve and restore fauna and flora

Manage invasive alien species



Action area 2

## Use nature sustainably

Commitment Made:

**Biodiversity in urban agriculture, aquaculture and forestry**

## Include biodiversity in decision-making about the development and management of urban agriculture, - aquaculture and - forestry.

### Description of how city is taking action

LOCAL CROP DIVERSIFICATION Work with agriculture experts to identify and test more drought- and pest-resistant crop options for local food production in San Antonio and support wildlife that provides ecosystem services that enhance agriculture production.

Commitment Made:

Promote people’s access to green and blue spaces



Enable meaningful experiences of nature for the health and well-being of urban communities

Description of how city is taking action

SUPPORT AND ENHANCE COMMUNITY GARDEN NETWORK Provide resources to ensure the viability of neighborhood-based gardens that contribute to local food production and beneficial pollinator habitat.

Other commitments under this action area

Equitable benefits through sustainable use of wild species

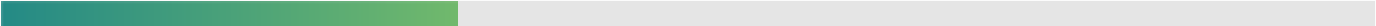


Action area 3

Develop tools and solutions

Commitment Made:

Mainstreaming biodiversity values



Integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into local policies, strategies, environmental assessments, planning and development processes, poverty eradication strategies and accounts

Description of how city is taking action

ECOLOGICAL PLANNING AND CLIMATE-SENSITIVE DESIGN Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation into existing land development review and permitting processes with a goal of maximizing the benefits of natural geographic and watershed features.

Commitment Made:

Sustainable production and consumption



Promote sustainable practices in production and consumption across all economic sectors.

Description of how city is taking action

MATERIAL REUSE AND CIRCULARITY Support the development of a local circular economy to extend product lifespan through improved design and servicing and relocating waste from the end of the supply chain to the beginning.

Reduce the city’s material consumption

Description of how city is taking action

ZERO WASTE Strive to achieve zero waste for all municipal government operations by 2030 with a focus on overall reduction, product reuse, and circularity.

Commitment Made:

Use relevant knowledge, including traditional knowledge, for effective biodiversity management



Commitment Made:

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making



**Other commitments under this action area**

Use relevant knowledge, including traditional knowledge, for effective biodiversity management

Equitable and effective participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in biodiversity-related decision-making

Mobilize resources for biodiversity actions

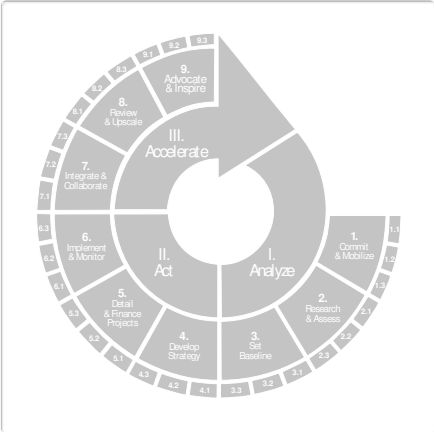
Chapter 3

# Nature Pathway



# Nature Pathway

The Nature Pathway assists cities with integrating nature throughout their city's plans, policies and operations.



## I. Analyze

### 1. Commit & mobilize

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 2. Research & assess

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 3. Set Baseline

No uploads or resources have been linked

## II. Act

### 4. Develop strategy

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 5. Detail & finance projects

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 6. Implement & monitor

No uploads or resources have been linked

## III. Accelerate

### 7. Integrate & collaborate

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 8. Review & upscale

No uploads or resources have been linked

### 9. Advocate & inspire



Chapter 4

# City Biodiversity Index



# City Biodiversity Index

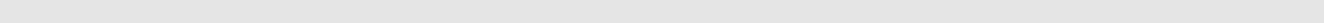
The City Biodiversity Index (CBI) is a self-assessment tool for cities to evaluate and monitor the progress of their biodiversity conservation efforts against their own individual baselines.

This city has measured the following total CBI score out of 112 points:

0 Points

## Native biodiversity in the city

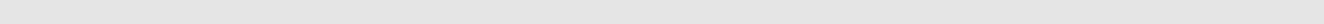
Core Component Total Score: 0 of 36 points



City of San Antonio, TX has not started on this biodiversity index section

## Ecosystem services provided by biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 20 points



City of San Antonio, TX has not started on this biodiversity index section

## Governance and management of biodiversity

Core Component Total Score: 0 of 56 points



City of San Antonio, TX has not started on this biodiversity index section

Chapter 5

## Tools & resources



## Tools & resources

All tools & resources the city has uploaded to the CitiesWithNature Tools & resources hub.

City of San Antonio, TX has not yet posted any tools and resources





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