



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Fort Worth District

# Sponsor: City of San Antonio

## Ecosystem restoration on Olmos Creek degraded by detention basin and recreational facilities

### Project Fact Sheet

Continuing  
Authorities  
Program (CAP)

July 21, 2015

**Type of Project:** Section 206, Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration

**Authorization:** Water Resources Development Act of 1996

**Latest Project Milestone:** Feasibility Phase complete

**Status:** The sponsor has reaffirmed interest in the project for design and construction



**Background:** Olmos Creek is in the central portion of Bexar County, Texas, 5 miles north of the city of San Antonio's central business district. The study area lands are owned primarily by the city of San Antonio within the Olmos Basin Reservoir, a flood-risk management dry detention facility. The dry basin also hosts a variety of recreational facilities, including a city park, skeet range, golf course and baseball fields. The change in hydrology due to construction of the dam and these recreational areas negatively impacted aquatic ecosystems, grassland and bottomland forest habitat. This damaged one of the few continuous riparian corridors in this part of the state.

The recommended plan identifies ecosystem restoration measures to improve the aquatic and riparian habitat for resident and migratory species, returning the area back to a more natural condition. It would restore 73 acres of riparian corridor habitat with native tree, shrub and grass species. It would restore 17 acres of native prairie habitat. It would implement erosion control to reduce sediment deposits in 6 acres of Olmos Creek aquatic habitat. It would also create a continuous riparian corridor extending the length of the study area. It would provide passage from San Pedro Avenue to below Olmos Dam for migrating neo-tropical birds and other terrestrial species. Migratory birds use these areas as stopover points during long migrations to either nesting areas to the north or wintering areas in Central and South America. The riparian corridors connect with other habitats and provide a food source and resting area. These kind of habitats are diminishing and are very significant to the survival of numerous birds. The corridor would also provide much-needed shade to Olmos Creek and the vegetation would help prevent erosion.

