



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Grand Unveiling Date Set for Confluence Park, \$13M Southside Environmental Educational Space

SAN ANTONIO, TX- Confluence Park, the \$13M environmental educational space on the Southside is set to open on Wednesday, January 17th, 2018. The opening ceremony will be from 10:30am-12pm. The Grand Unveiling will allow visitors to be the first in experiencing the special educational features within the park which sets it apart from other environmental education facilities in the region.

Confluence Park is a [San Antonio River Foundation](#) project funded by grants, corporate support, and private donations. "The dream of Confluence Park would not be a reality if not for the generous support of private individuals, corporate partners, the San Antonio River Authority, the City of San Antonio, and Bexar County. Through these amazing partners, Confluence Park will serve to educate and inspire citizens for generations to come." –*Frates Seeligson, Director of Confluence Park, San Antonio River Foundation*

In construction since May 2016, the three acre park transformed a former southside industrial laydown yard into an interactive learning and recreational space with special focus on stewardship of water resources. The San Antonio River Foundation's investment in [Confluence Park](#) will provide a world-class innovative outdoor classroom to accommodate the [San Antonio River Authority's](#) (SARA) well-established educational outreach program that reached 22,000 students in the 2013-2014 school year. Educational programs offered by SARA and supported by the \$1 Million Estela Avery Education Endowment will be offered to school systems free of charge. This includes the availability of free transportation opportunities for schools that otherwise could not afford to participate in these educational programs. This convergence of resources can eliminate financial barriers to the provision of hands-on scientific environmental educational experiences to students of Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad counties. "For the SARA Education Team, there is nothing more inspiring in our line of work than having students visit and connect to their river. Confluence Park will provide the perfect avenue to make this important education work happen." –*Carrie Merson, Education Specialist, San Antonio River Authority.*



Installation of BHP pavilion concrete petals, August 2017

With a design team comprised of Lake | Flato Architects, Matsys, and Rialto Studio, the design elements include a site-wide water catchment system, which takes advantage of the pavilions' geometric design by collecting rainwater by feeding it into an underground water storage tank. This underground reservoir is the sole source of water used in the park, with the exception of sinks and drinking fountains. Additionally, the multi-purpose educational center has a green roof providing thermal mass for passive heating and cooling. A photovoltaic array will provide 100% of the energy use for the project when measured over a yearly basis. These features allow Confluence Park to be an energy neutral space, eventually giving power back to the electric grid. The park's landscape is made up of five ecotypes found in the South Texas region. This native planting is suited for San Antonio's climate which means it requires less water and care as well as attracts fundamental pollinators like Monarch butterflies. "Confluence Park has been many years in the making. We worked through multiple concepts, site plans, pavilion designs, and landscape configurations before settling on the final plans. Watching the Park take shape has been rewarding beyond measure and we're thrilled with the results. What started as a fanciful, abstract concept is taking shape before our eyes. Soon, Confluence Park will be filled with students learning about the ecology and water dynamics of our region. So exciting!" *Stuart Allen, Confluence Park Project Manager*



Rendering of BHP pavilion

While acting as a life-sized educational tool and passive environmental restoration center, it is a place for the community to use and enjoy. With easy access adjacent to the Mission Reach, the park is an inviting gateway to hiking and biking trails. The variety of facilities available daily provide dedicated space for private or public programs and events. Or, people can come to the park on their own or with family and friends to relax, play, and connect with each other and nature. “This park, in partnership with SARA and our region’s powerful programming partner opportunities, holds the next wave of further inciting change for San Antonio.” .” –Robert Amerman, Executive Director, San Antonio River Foundation.

More on the park can be found at www.sariverfoundation.org/confluencepark.

In partnership with Las Casas Foundation, a [benefit concert](#) featuring Pink Martini is planned for that evening from 7-10pm at the Majestic Theatre.

ADDITIONAL QUOTES:

“Confluence Park fosters critical thinking skills. It is a living display of S.T.E.A.M. educational principals.”
–Robert Amerman, Executive Director, San Antonio River Foundation

“As a destination for all ages and interest groups, Confluence Park provides a unique opportunity to interpret the natural wonders of San Antonio River Watershed, this park is the place that you will want to visit when it rains!” –Matthew Driffill, Recreation Superintendent, San Antonio River Authority

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The Mission of the San Antonio River Foundation is to enhance the San Antonio River Basin as a vibrant cultural, educational, ecological, and recreational experience.