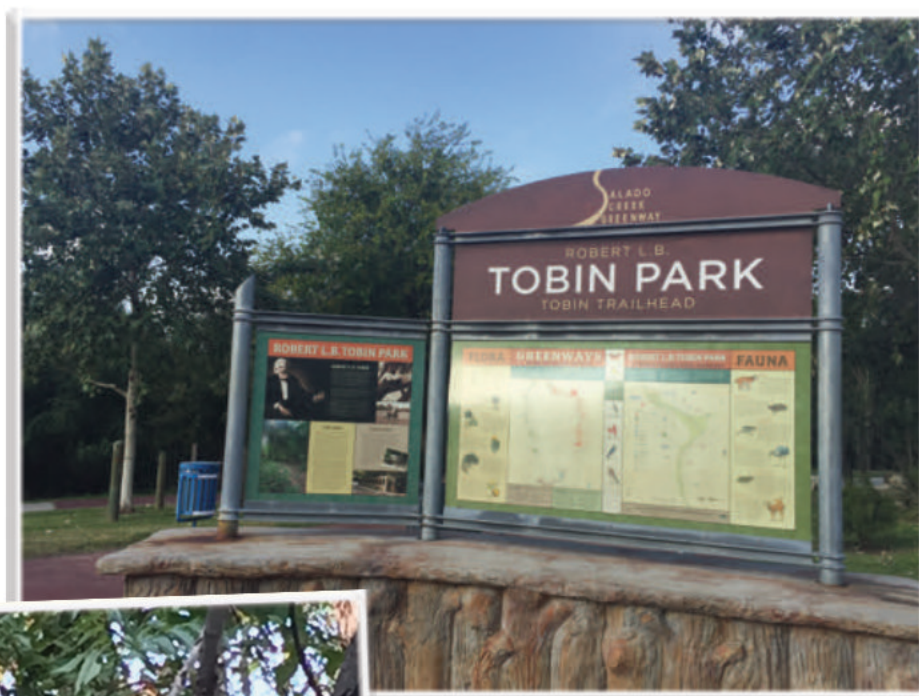


Adventure

Salado Creek Greenway San Antonio, TX



Nature in the City

Life flourishes on the green belt

For today's greenest challenge, I grabbed my dog, Bernie, and headed down to our favorite walking trail, the Salado Creek Greenway, that runs right through the heart of San Antonio. The green belts in San Antonio have been developed into over 45 miles of hiking, biking, and walking trails and have contributed to the city ranking in the fattest cities in the US to one of the 25 fittest cities in the nation. So, why the interest in the trails?



San Antonio, being plopped down into a semi-arid setting, has a huge issue with flooding. When the roads and buildings were put in, the creeks began to bulge whenever we would have a torrential downpour. Instead of trying to clear this land to make it arable for construction and development, the city decided to make it a recreational area for the citizens and visitors to San Antonio. I am so lucky that I live in a neighborhood that directly connects to the trail, so Bernie and I get to enjoy it all the time.

This morning, however, we were on a mission to find all of the items on our scavenger hunt.

Scavenger Hunt



2 Plant Species

Bernie and I found Turk's Cap and Prickly Pear Cactus on our walk, both species native to South Texas

1 Bird Species

While we regularly see cardinals on the trail, we always see them in our backyard. Here's one we saw in a

tree.



Wildlife

Even though we were only about 1/4 of a mile from the booming highway, wildlife was all over the place on the trail this morning. It was hard to get a picture since my ferocious beast of a dog couldn't stop barking at them, but we ran across a whole herd of white tail deer.

Terrain

The Salado Creek Greenway has been made accessible to everyone, so it is a nice paved trail. We regularly see the inclusiveness of the city when we see residents from the local nursing home taking a break by getting some fresh air on the trail.

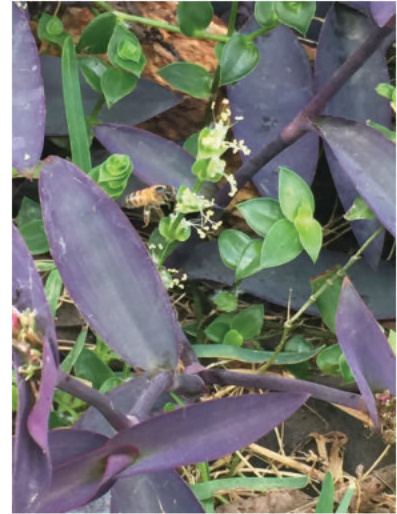


The Sky

The sky today was partly cloudy and it was hot hot hot just like it should be in South Texas in mid-October.

A pollinator and what it's pollinating

While I didn't see a pollinator on my walk (and I really tried to find one), I did go out in my backyard and found a bee pollinating my ice plant and wandering Jew. So, kudos to me for planting flowering plants for the bees!



What is something that surprised you?

I usually walk with Bernie on the trail in the evening, so I was surprised to see so many San Antonians using the trails at about 9:00am on a Saturday morning. We saw kiddos, adults, friends, couples, and families sharing a little bit of nature within the city limits.



What is something that took your breath away?

I understand that this question is supposed to make me think of something beautiful, but ever since we had torrential rains a few weeks ago, there have been piles of trash that have flowed downstream and settled right near the trail. It takes my breath away in horror as I see McDonald's and Whataburger cups, shopping bags, construction materials, tires, and bags of trash in this beautiful place.

While I go out of my way to find trash cans to put my trash in, I am shocked that so many people think that the earth is their own personal trash can. I saw people's doggie poop bags (with poop in them!!!) thrown on the ground near a trash can and seen little Dixie cups from races run on the trail system. It is heartbreaking that the beautiful gift that was given to us as a city is ruined by only a few people.

Invitation

My invitation to visit Salado Creek isn't just for one friend, it's for all of my friends and neighbors to attend a creek cleanup that I am hosting on November 5th. After seeing the

trash building up in the creek, I want to invite my whole city to be a part of the solution to our problem.

YOU'RE INVITED



Clean up Salado Creek Greenway!

Every time it rains, litter from the highways gets washed into the beautiful green belt causing trash to get piled up right by the beautiful walking and biking trail.

Come help us clean up the trail. Bring a trash bag and some gloves and come ready to get down and dirty!

Where: Tobin Park Trailhead

When: Sunday,
November 5th
10:00am

Who: Responsible
Citizens of
San Antonio

Why: To make our city the beautiful place
we know it can be!

