



July 2018 Newsletter

Welcome to the Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas (FOSANA) e-newsletter! We share natural areas news, the Friends' efforts, and opportunities to get involved in volunteering or educational programs at San Antonio's natural areas parks. Please check our website, www.fosana.org, for periodic updates and program information.

Upcoming Natural Areas Events

- **Starting Out Wild: Water Everywhere! (ages 1-3)**
 - Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom | Friday, July 6 & July 20 | 10:00-11:00 a.m
 - Learn why water is important through stories, songs, and hands-on fun! These high energy, engaging programs are a perfect way to foster an appreciation of the natural world. It is recommended that a child be walking and a parent or caretaker attend with each child. Most classes take place outdoors. RSVP required. Visit fosana.org to reserve your spot. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov
- **First Saturday Hike: Fitness Hike (ages 10 & up)**
 - 8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. | Saturday, July 7 | Friedrich Wilderness Park
 - Enjoy a guided fitness hike along Friedrich's most scenic trails, including Bosque Trail, Vista Loop and Main Loop while learning about the park's diverse ecosystem. This hike will cover approximately 3.25 miles of trails. RSVP required. Visit FOSANA.org to reserve your spot. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.
- **Growing Up Wild: Deep Blue Sea (ages 4-7)**
 - 10:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. | Thursday, July 12 & 26 | Friedrich Wilderness Park classroom
 - .Learn about oceans and ocean life through stories, hands-on activities, and a guided hike. Growing Up Wild builds on a child's sense of wonder about nature and invites them to explore wildlife and the world around them. Activities are designed to provide an early foundation and appreciation of nature. RSVP required. Visit fosana.org to reserve your spot. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov.
- **First Saturday Hike: Tree Walk**
 - 8:00-10:00 a.m. | Saturday, August 3 | Crownridge Canyon Natural Area
 - Enjoy an early morning guided hike with City of San Antonio Arborist Mark Bird. As a tree climber, consulting arborist and city arborist, Mark educates people on the value and benefits of trees in our community. Most days are spent in the office working to preserve and plant trees as the city grows. When not at the office, Mark can be found riding his bike as many miles as time will allow. When it is time to find inspiration after a tough day, his

two favorite books give him lift: *The Lorax* and *The Man Who Planted Trees*. RSVP required. Visit fosana.org to reserve your spot. Suggested donation: \$3 per person, or \$6 per family. For more information, call 210-207-3782 or email nicole.mcleod@sanantonio.gov

Windmills in Friedrich Wilderness Park

When hiking in Friedrich Wilderness Park, you are sure to see the two windmills along Water Trail and Mill Pass Trail, which connects the northwest and southeast sections of Restoration Way. The windmill on the Water Trail still pumps water into a holding tank while the windmill on Mill Pass Trail is no longer functional. We take water for granted, and are only reminded of water conservation during periods of drought.

Windmills have played an important part in the [early history](#) of Texas settlers. Early windmills were built by Dutch and German immigrants and used for grinding meal and powering light, but the European style windmills were not practical for pumping water as they were bulky and needed constant repair. The first American windmill was built in 1854 by Daniel Halladay in Ellington, Connecticut. Halladay added a vane (a blade attached to a rotating axis) to the mill that functioned to direct the wheel into the wind

There is very little information about the history of the windmill at Friedrich Park. Retired Park Naturalist Peggy Spring described the windmill to consist of a pipe and rod extending about 200 feet beneath the ground. An old blade wheel and gearbox, made by the Dempster Company of Nebraska, were replaced in the summer of 2010. The current blade wheel and gear box assembly was made by the Aermotor Company in San Angelo. Aermotor has been making windmills since 1888. She also noted that the windmill works as "The wind rotates a tower-top blade wheel which is connected to a gear box that moves a sucker rod up and down inside a vertical pipe. The gearbox and crankshaft assembly converts the rotary motion of the blade wheel to the reciprocating strokes carried through a rod to the pump cylinder below. Valves on the bottom of the rod and in the pump cylinder open and close in concert with the movement of the sucker rod and water is lifted out of the ground. A working model at the Friedrich Park classroom has original well pump components and clearly demonstrates this process".

When the ground is parched during periods of drought, the windmill provides a valuable source of water for the wildlife that inhabits the nature preserve as there is very little surface water available.



Are you connected to San Antonio Natural Areas on social media?

You can like us on [Facebook](#).

Find us on [Instagram](#) @sanaturalareas.

Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas is dedicated to promoting stewardship of San Antonio's Natural Areas, and to the understanding and appreciation of nature through educational and scientific programs.

For the latest updates and more activities, please see the calendar on the FOSANA website.

[Friends of San Antonio Natural Areas Website](#)