Through the approved budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21 (FY21) of $374.4 million, the San Antonio River Authority (River Authority) is implementing projects and programs to support its commitment to safe, clean and enjoyable creeks and rivers. The River Authority, through its tax supported general fund of $48.8 million, is accelerating the completion of critically important, multi-year flood related public safety and water quality projects.

FY21 funding by major category is provided below. Some projects and efforts budgets span over multiple fiscal years, most notably those within Capital Improvements.
SAFE:
The River Authority prioritizes reducing flood risk and improving public safety in the FY 2020-21 budget. River Authority engineering expertise is continuing to advance community flood preparedness by fast-tracking the completion of vital flood risk management projects that will enhance community readiness and protection.

The upcoming fiscal year anticipates the completion of major projects such as Floodplain Remapping ($4,033,656) and Predictive Flood Modeling ($1,850,000) projects that provide first responders innovative tools to assist in the effort to avoid loss of life and protect property during heavy rain and flood events. When storms are forecasted, the sooner a community knows when and where the impact will be greatest, the faster warnings can be given, and actions taken to reduce threats to life and property.

As these projects near their respective ends, projects such as Watershed Master Plans that use data produced through the Flood Plain Remapping efforts will move to the front burner. The Watershed Master Plan Integration project will update the River Authority’s master plan viewer and will inform the community on stormwater quality management through the update of existing water quality models in Bexar, Wilson, Karnes and Goliad Counties ($525,000).

CLEAN:
The River Authority’s FY 2020-21 budget is dedicated to inspiring actions for healthy creeks and rivers which includes improving the health of creeks and rivers in the San Antonio River Basin. The River Authority’s scientific expertise is generating lasting and recognized improvements in the health of the San Antonio River and its tributaries by leading efforts to protect and enhance water quality and preserve and restore natural habitats and aquatic ecosystems.

- Freshwater Mussel Propagation ($117,000)
- Brackenridge Park ($75,000)
- Wilson, Karnes and Goliad Household Hazardous Waste collection events ($130,000)

The River Authority is advancing the use of sustainable development practices within our growing communities. The River Authority is the champion promoting approaches that reduce the velocity of and filter pollutants from stormwater to ensure that the sustainability of our natural waterways is prioritized as we move toward the future.

- Watershed Wise Rebate Program ($500,000)
- GSI Broadway Alamo Heights ($100,000)
- South Flores Stormwater Retrofit ($60,000)

ENJOYABLE:
The River Authority seeks to enhance appreciation and stewardship through community recreational opportunities within the San Antonio River Watershed. The quality of life and health of citizens who live in the River Authority’s District can be impacted through recreational access along creeks and rivers. Over the past decade, the River Authority has added nature-based recreational activities throughout the basin including hike and bike trails, paddling trails, picnic and camping areas, playgrounds, fishing, bird watching and even disc golf courses. These river-based recreational resources have attracted thousands of users to bask in the beauty and enjoyment of nature. With more access, people can develop a greater appreciation for the natural resources and quality of life benefits provided by the San Antonio River and its tributaries. This will in turn, promote increased preservation and conservation of these resources by individuals, businesses and government.

In FY 2020-21, the River Authority will complete the construction of the Escondido Creek Parkway and begin operations and maintenance of that park ($142,371). The River Authority will also begin a master planning process for nature-based parks. This project will create a long-term plan for the development of Mann’s Crossing Park on the Medina River, Hendrick Arnold Park (Straus Medina), and Trueheart Ranch. Master planning these properties will lead to additional public spaces on park land adjacent to the Medina River and the San Antonio River. The development of Mann’s Crossing and Hendrick Arnold Park will also open paddling opportunities on the Medina River and expand the current paddling trails on the San Antonio River ($470,000).