

SALLY BUCHANAN'S HANDY-DANDY TIMELINE OF SAN ANTONIO (MOSTLY) RIVER HISTORY

SALLY BUCHANAN IS THE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER FOUNDATION BOARD, AND ALSO SERVES ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY.

SHE IS A LIFE-LONG RESIDENT OF SAN ANTONIO; AND HER LOVE FOR THE RIVER AND KNOWLEDGE OF ITS COLORFUL HISTORY ARE LEGENDARY.

HER "HANDY-DANDY TIMELINE" IS A FASCINATING COMPILATION OF DETAILS THAT SPAN NEARLY 500 YEARS, REFLECTING MS. BUCHANAN'S INSIGHTS AND VIEWS, AND PROVIDING AN IN-DEPTH HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER.

Location: San Antonio is 28°30"N, 98°31"W. The sun at the Summer Solstice in June is 85° overhead at noon and 38° overhead at noon on the Winter Solstice in December. The topography has three types of land coming together in the heart of the city: the Black Land Prairie to the east and north, the Coastal Plain to the south and west, and the Edwards limestone to the north and northwest. The water source for the region is the Edwards Aquifer that extends from Brackettville, 125 miles west of San Antonio, then east and north to New Braunfels, San Marcos and the south part of Austin. Springs at the base of a fault line in the limestone are the sources for the San Antonio River and San Pedro Creek. Brackenridge Park, downtown San Antonio and Concepcion Park are over a major aquifer pool.

The San Antonio River is a highly managed stream – for visual appearance and flood control. The river's source is the spring field in the Olmos Basin. Waters from the tributary Olmos Creek join the flow from the mainspring Blue Hole (only if the aquifer level is above 680 ft.) several yards to the south. Because of the pumping of the Edwards Aquifer to supply San Antonio, the natural river level is substantially less than that written about by Olmstead and Lanier in the 19c. To elevate and create the level of the river, weirs have been constructed to dam water in the river channel. There are 4 in Brackenridge Park, all with vehicular roadways on top. The others are: the tunnel inlet dam at Josephine; the weir above Lexington soon to be replaced by the lock and dam at Brooklyn; the leaf dam at Flood Gate 4 which holds the water in the downtown river bend; the Nueva Street Dam that holds back water for the entire downtown section; the Alamo Street dam that holds back water in the King William section; a weir carrying Ashley Road to Mission San Juan; and the Espada Dam with a weir to its south carrying Camino Coahuilteca to Mission Espada.

- 1520s Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca, a shipwrecked captive of Indians, visits the interior of Texas, sees and describes the river.
- 1691 June 13. Domingo Teran de los Rios, first Governor of the new Province of Texas, accompanies Father Damian Massanet on his return trip to East Texas. Camping at a rancheria of Payaya Indians on a stream called Yanaguana; they celebrate mass and rename the stream San Antonio for the feast day of San Antonio de Padua.
- 1709 June 29 - The Espinosa-Aguirre-Olivares expedition stops at the springs and celebrates a mass which Father Espinosa names San Pedro in honor of the saint's feast day. (The San Pedro Springs now flow if the aquifer flow is above 660 ft.) Father Olivares also notes the SA River as a good site for missions.
- 1716 The Spanish Council of War approves a site on the San Antonio River for a presidio (fort). The Domingo Ramon expedition, accompanied by the trader St. Denis from Louisiana (who had come to the site two years previous), established a presidio on the river. This same council also approves the request by Father Olivares to establish a mission near the site.
- 1718 May 1 – Martin de Alarcon, Governor of Texas, reinforces the presidio. Its ten soldiers and their families are recognizes as the beginning of the villa. Alarcon names the presidio San Antonio de Bejar in honor of the Duque de Bejar, the viceroy's brother, who died a hero's death defending Budapest from the Turks in 1686. The Mission of San Francisco de Solano is moved from the Rio Grande to merge with Mission San Antonio de Padua. Father Olivares renames his merged mission San Antonio de Valero, in honor of San Antonio and the viceroy Marquis de Valero. The presidio, the villa and the mission comprise the municipality named San Antonio de los Llanos (of the Plains) by Gov. Alarcon.
- 1719 Mission San Antonio de Valero moves to its second site on the east bank near present day St. Joseph's Catholic Church.
- 1720 Mission San Jose y San Miguel de Aguayo is founded by Father Margil de Jesus, who names it in honor of San Jose, San Miguel and Governor Aguayo (Jose de Azlor y Virto de Vera, the Marquis de Aguayo, appointed Governor of Texas and Coahuila in 1719). Olivares protests its closeness to Mission San

Antonio. Captain Alazan lays out the 10-league distance between the missions required by the Laws of the Indies in order to give it the protection of the presidio.

- 1722 The Marquis de Aguayo moves the presidio to the present site of the Plaza de Armas, where permanent quarters are constructed for the soldiers. In 1726 the settlement population is 200, including 45 military and their families. First huts erected to house soldiers' families on the riverbank at La Villita site.
- 1723 May 10. The King of Spain issues a royal cedula ordering that 400 families be transported from the Canary Islands for the purpose of establishing a civil settlement in *the* vicinity of the Presidio de Bejar. Acequia Madre de Valero/Alamo Ditch is dug from the east side of the San Antonio River, south of springs and north of what was the Alligator Gardens structure in Brackenridge Park. Acequia = irrigation ditch in Arabic.
- 1724 Mission San Antonio de Valero moved to third and final site (Alamo Plaza) because of major hurricane flooding.
The first 15 families of the 400 originally planned for the settlement of Texas begin their trip to the Presidio San Antonio. The King of Spain completely funded their journey via Havana and Vera Cruz, then overland to their new home. Provisions are provided for rest stops along the way.
- 1727-1744 Francisco Dubal, resident of Mexico, is appointed guide for the first group of settlers from the Canary Islands to their final destination at the Presidio.
San José Acequia begun.
- 1731 March 9. The first 15 families and one bachelor arrive at the Presidio to establish the first legally recognized civil settlement. They call it Villa de San Fernando in honor of Fernando II.
Three missions from east Texas: Mission Nuestra Señora de la Purísima Concepción, Mission San José del los Nazonis and Mission San Francisco de los Neches, moved and re-established along the San Antonio River "at an easy distance from one another." Mission Concepción keeps its original name, while San José becomes San Juan Capistrano and San Francisco becomes "de la Espada." Father Gabriel de Bergara and Juan Antonio Perez Almazan, Captain of the Presidio, officially dedicated all three missions.
- 1731-1739 San Juan Acequia built and in use until the 1960s. It is the oldest water right in the State of Texas.
Concepción Acequia / Pajalache Ditch built. In use until 1869.
- 1731-1745 Espada Dam, Acequia and Aqueduct built. Still in use.
- 1734 Spanish Governor's residence moved from East Texas to San Antonio. The Comandancia becomes known as the Governor's Palace. Cornerstone of San Fernando Church (later Cathedral) laid.
- 1736 Construction of the first bridge to span the San Antonio River, connecting the Presidio with Mission San Antonio de Valero, at site of present day Commerce Street bridge.
- 1738 Acequia Principal/San Pedro Ditch begun, diverting water from San Pedro Creek and returning it to SA River south of town. It was place on the ridgeline separating the San Pedro Creek and the San Antonio River watersheds. Water could be drawn from both sides of the ditch.
- 1773 La Villita area opened to refugees moving from East Texas.
- 1776 Beginning of the American Revolution. Acequia Labor Arriba/Upper Labor Ditch begun, diverting water from west side of SA River south of Hildebrand and terminating at the Acequia Principal near Five Points (Flores, Fredricksburg Rd., Blanco Laurel, Cameron).
- 1793-1794 Spanish Crown orders missions secularized with their lands and holding to be distributed to the mission Indians attached to the compounds.
- 1809 La Villita develops down river from Mission San Antonio and across from Villa de San Fernando.

- 1810 September 16 – Dolores. Fr. Miguel Hidalgo issues his call for Mexico's independence from Spain.
- 1819 July 5 – A serious flood causes some prominent settlers to relocate to La Villita on the higher east bank. Socializing between Spaniards and others of different backgrounds and races becoming more accepted.
- 1820 Moses Austin petitioned the Spanish Governor in San Antonio for a permit to settle Americans in Texas.
- 1821 Mexicans oust the Spanish governors; Mexico now an independent nation. Stephen F. Austin petitions the new Mexican Governor to bring in American settlers.
- 1824 Texas and Coahuila are combined into one territory.
- 1825 U.S. immigrants reach the settlement of San Antonio and purchase land on the river.
- 1830 México declares U.S. immigration illegal. The first regulations established for the use of waters from the river, creek and ditches.
- 1835 Fall – Stephen F. Austin and a revolutionary army lay siege to the Mexican-held S.A. after a detachment under James Bowie wins the Battle of Concepcion. General Cos, brother-in-law to Antonio Santa Anna, surrenders to the Texians at what is now 515 Villita Street.
- 1836 March 2 – Texas Declaration of Independence signed in Nacogdoches.
March 6 – 13 days after Santa Anna's entry into the city, the Alamo falls.
April 21 – Sam Houston's army routs Santa Anna at the Battle of San Jacinto.
- 1836-1845 Republic of Texas. The border with Mexico is the Nueces River.
- 1845 Texas annexed to the United States of America.
- 1840s Political and economic unrest in Germany; extensive German immigration to Texas. German immigrants settle in La Villita area, to be joined later by the Swiss and French.
- 1845-1848 The Mexican War – Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo signed in Queretaro. Mexico cedes Texas, California, New Mexico and most of Arizona to the United States for \$18,250,000. Texas border now the Rio Grande.
- 1851 Ursuline nuns establish San Antonio's first school for girls on the banks of the San Antonio River.
- 1852 St. Mary's School for boys established on river at St. Mary's Street.
- 1858 First St. Mary's Street Bridge built.
- 1850-1890s The King William area develops on land that had been Alamo farmlands. These had been divided and granted to the Mission San Antonio de Valero Indians some 50 years earlier.
- 1861-1864 U.S. Civil War.
- 1862-1876 French intervention in Mexico. Battle of Puebla, May 5, 1862. Maximilian executed in Queretaro in 1867. Republic of Mexico re-established under Benito Juarez.
- 1865 A serious flood and cholera epidemic in San Antonio. Footbridge opened over river on Commerce Street. F. Schleicher, F. Giraud and V. Considerant prepare a report on measures that should be taken to minimize flood damage – remove in-channel dams, reconstruction and enlargement of bridges and establish rules that would prohibit construction would affect floodflow.
- 1870 City of San Antonio passes ordinances to control development along the river.
- 1872 Valley Ditch branching from Alamo Ditch constructed on East Side.

- 1872-1876 Alazan Ditch built on the west from the juncture of Upper Labor and San Pedro Creek.
- 1876-1910 Porfirio Diaz is President of Mexico.
- 1899 Another major flood. San Antonio City Charter amended, abolishing the office of Ditch Commissioner and replacing it with the Office of Street Cleaning and Sanitation.
- 1900 The Original Mexican Restaurant at 115-119 Losoya opens (closes in 1960).
- 1901 San Juan Ditch Corporation founded, but has oldest water right in State of Texas—12.31.1731
- 1910 Francisco I. Madero flees to San Antonio after a failed attempt to establish democratic elections in Mexico. Plots revolution, gives speeches in Milam Park about democratic elections and prints his Plan de San Luis Potosí here, calling for an uprising on November 20. President of Mexico from 1911 until assassinated by forces of Victoriano Huerta in 1913. Venustiano Carranza spurs a civil war, forcing Huerta to flee, but Villa and Zapata refuse to recognize him as leader.
- 1911 W. E. Simpson prepares engineering report on managing flood control. Suggested designing a conduit to divert and carry off storm water from San Antonio River and filling in the river bend.
- 1912 On death of Mayor Callaghan, new mayor Augustus Jones appoints the City Plan Committee with Atlee Ayres as chairman. Four days later Harvey Page presented his plan to handle flood control and beautification. George Surkey's implementation was low concrete covered rock walls that established a uniform width for the channel and sodding and planting of the river banks.
- 1913 Major floods in San Antonio in October and December with heavy damage. The City really pushes for a solution to control the flooding.
- 1915 Battle of Celaya – Carranza defeats Zapata and Villa forces.
- 1917-1921 Carranza President of Mexico; enacted a new constitution, assassinated at the end of his term. Some of his supporters flee to San Antonio.
- 1920-1921 Metcalf and Eddy of Boston release a comprehensive study on flood prevention in San Antonio. Among their solutions are a flood retention dam in the Olmos Basin, straightening of the river channel throughout its course, and flood bypass channel from Travis to Dolorosa Streets.
- 1921 September 21 – Cloudburst over the Olmos Basin and San Antonio River causes flooding; 9 ft. inundation on Houston Street. 50 people killed and millions in damage.
- 1921-1924 City and US Army Corps of Engineers work on flood control plans. Álvaro Obregón, President of México.
- 1924 March 22 – The San Antonio Conservation Society organized to save the old Market House, specifically, but generally to keep the physical and cultural heritage of San Antonio. In September, Emily Edwards and Society members present their puppet show, *The Goose with the Golden Eggs* at City Hall. In November, several Conservation Society members take the commissioners on canoe rides to show them the river's beauty.
- 1925 The old City Market House on Market is torn down to make way for a flood bypass channel for the river. Its columns, entablature and pediment are replicated on San Pedro Playhouse in 1929.
- 1926 Construction begins on flood bypass channel, designed by Hawley and Freese of Ft. Worth.
- 1927 Olmos Dam completed.
- 1929 June 28 – Robert H.H. Hugman, after showing his plans to the San Antonio Conservation Society, presents his plan for *The Shops of Romula and Aragon* to Mayor Chambers, two city commissioners, property owners and civic leaders. The proposal endorses the bypass channel and recommends a

floodgate at the north end with a small dam at the south end to create a pool of water in the bend. Bypass channel completed, but the Depression prevents further expenditure on river beautification.

Adina De Zavala's historical group involves SACS in saving the Spanish Governor's Palace, with restoration successfully decided in a bond election. The Palace is opened in 1930 with the Society in charge of its operation.

Construction of Smith-Young Tower and Plaza Hotel designed by Atlee Ayres for Bowen's Island completed.

- 1934-1940 Lázaro Cárdenas, President of México. Redistributes land and nationalizes oil.
- 1936 Texas Centennial. Jack White, owner of the Plaza Hotel, visits City Hall to urge clean-up and beautification of the river. White and the Mexican Businessmen's Association stage *A Venetian Night*, the first river parade.
- 1937 The San Antonio River Authority created by the Texas Legislature. In April SACS purchased a 1.5-acre strip on the north boundary of the Espada Aqueduct.
- 1938-1940 The full aesthetic potential of the river recognized. Congressman Maury Maverick, Mayor C.K. Quin and a group of citizens, headed by White, push for development of the river. On October 28, 1938, a special election is called to approve a tax of .015 cents per \$100 valuation to raise the \$75,000 needed to leverage the \$325,000 in WPA funds for river work. The tax passes 74-2, with 71 voters living in White's hotel.
- 1939 October 12 – La Villita Ordinance passed by City Commissioners. Work begins with O'Neil Ford as architect. October 25 – River project breaks ground with Hugman as architect.
- 1941 March 14- a river carnival and night parade are held. Through WPA the walkways, staircases from street level, footbridges, rock walls lining the banks and the Arneson River Theater are completed. Restoration of La Villita also completed through the NYA.
- 1941-1945 World War II
- 1942 San Antonio Conservation Society purchases Jeremiah Dashiell house at 511 Villita Street to be used as its headquarters.
- 1945 Funding approved for extension of the river walks from the northern end of the river loop to Lexington on the east bank.
- 1946 A major flood strikes downtown San Antonio, but damage is minimized by Olmos Dam and bypass channel. Casa Rio Restaurant, the first river level restaurant, opens on river south of Commerce St.
- 1951-1955 San Antonio River straightened from McCullough to Woodlawn low-water crossing weir in Brackenridge Park. A tainter gate is installed in bypass channel.
- 1954 Congress authorizes the San Antonio Channel Improvement Project to provide flood protection for 31 miles of the San Antonio River and its 4 tributaries in Bexar County.
- 1956 Bob Frazer, Director of Parks and Recreation from September 1955, establishes a botanic garden on the river walk with philodendron, banana plants and palms. Custodian Gentry Taylor and his 3 man staff maintain the park.
- 1957 Park Rangers, organized in 1955, placed on river walk.
- 1959 David Straus forms the Tourist Attractions Committee under the auspices of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce to study economic development of the river walk, which is now a city park but dangerous at night. Lung Jeu, a Chinese restaurant, opens in the river level of the Clifford Building
- 1960 New San Juan Dam completed in new functional flood-proofed river channel.
- 1961 Marco Engineering Company, major designers of Disneyland, completes a report, funded by the City and the Chamber, on the commercial potential of the river. The plan suggests that all buildings which back up

to the river be redeveloped in an early Texas or Mexican colonial style. As many as possible should be rehabilitated to create river level basements that open onto the walkways to accommodate retail and entertainment facilities. Criticism arises over the carnival-like aspects of the plan. Other elements, such as forming a merchant' association and holding frequent festivals, are used as a basis for further development plans.

- 1962 Straus along with Harold Robbins and Jimmy Gause from the Chamber staff visit Carmel, CA, and New Orleans Vieux Carré Commission to look at their ordinances guiding development. Straus writes an ordinance based on these two documents to establish a River Walk District and seven-member River Walk Advisory Commission. Council adopts the ordinance on March 28. The City completes a major landscape program along two miles of river walk, including 17,000 trees, shrubs, vines and ground cover. El Tropicana, the first riverfront hotel, opens on Lexington. La Sirena, a folkart shop with a river level patio, opens at 107 West Commerce. On South Alamo, The Three Wives Antique Shop with its riverside garden opens in November.
- 1963 April 15 – The American Institute of Architects, San Antonio Chapter unveils a plan for the Paseo del Rio. The plan takes the form of drawing, text and scale model. It includes a land use plan, forming the basis for a planning district and capital improvements program for public and private development. The Chamber of Commerce creates a staff position to assist the Tourist Attractions staff manager of the Paseo del Rio project
The Landing, Jim Cullum's Dixieland Jazz club, also opens in the basement of the Nix Hospital Annex.
- 1964 San Antonio voters approve \$500,000 bond issue for Paseo del Rio improvements. City Council adopts ordinance regulating signage on river walk.
March 17 – the Paseo del Rio Association formed with staff person funded by the Chamber of Commerce staff position augmented by monies used to pay a PR person to write the Rio Ramblings column for the Express-News.
- 1966 La Paloma del Rio opens at 215 W. Broadway (Losoya). The Billboard Theater opens at street level of 231 S. Broadway over Venice Restaurant, which opened in 1965.
- 1967 The Little Rhein opens in the Bombach House on South Alamo (purchased by San Antonio Conservation Society in 1950).
- 1968 March – Hilton Palacio del Rio opens on S. Alamo, site of former Three Wives Antiques.
Hotel La Posada on College Street opens in old St. Mary's Law School site.
April-October, HemisFair '68. Construction completed on river extension and convention center complex in time for fair.
August 12 - Kangaroo Court opens at 512 River Walk.
First Fiesta de Las Luminarias held at Christmas time. The bypass channel is modified.
San Juan Dam is extended so water can be diverted into the San Juan Ditch.
- 1969 The Stockman Restaurant opens at 409 E. Commerce.
Casa Paja, a basket shop, and 1836, a barbecue spot open in basement of Chandler Building,
First Paseo del Rio Assn. Great Country River Festival.
New Espada Dam constructed in the new river flood channel.
- 1970 Voters approve a bond issue for river walk beautification and flood gate revamping. La Posada reopens as La Mansion del Rio. An addition to the hotel is completed in 1979.
- 1971 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers complete river improvements from Alamo to Johnson Street. The Fort Worth District and the San Antonio River Authority are given a Corps Award of Merit for general landscape development design. The San Juan-Espada Ditch relocation project is completed.
San Antonio Conservation Society presents Las Posadas on the river walk combined with Fiesta de las Luminarias. Las Posadas held downtown since 1965.
Travelodge Hotel on the River is opened.
- 1973 The River Corridor Feasibility Study is completed, a joint effort of six local governmental entities. The *River Corridor Plan* provided a framework for making long-term developmental decisions.
- 1974 Floodgate 5 is relocated further down the bypass channel and Floodgate 4 is constructed to allow for circular boat traffic on the river bend and bypass channel.

- 1975 The old Ursuline Convent, saved from demolition by the Conservation Society in 1965. The Southwest Craft Center opens on site in buildings partially purchased and restored by the Society. Bicentennial construction of Alamo Plaza. Downtowners do Christmas lights in river walk trees, rather than tree on plaza.
- 1976 The San Antonio River Authority moves its offices to Guenther across the river from the Steves Homestead.
- 1977 September – the new San Juan Dam fails.
- 1978 Robert H.H. Hugman is honored at a ceremony inaugurating the Hugman Bells at the Arneson River Theater.
- 1979 Marriott Riverwalk Hotel opens on the river extension, supplanting the 1968 marina. The Casino Building, the Losoya Hotel and the Riverside Hotel are refurbished as new rental apartments, using special federal monies for rehabbing second to top floors in downtown buildings. Left Bank Condominiums across from Southwest Craft Center completed.
- 1981 March – The Riverbend Parking Garage opens for business at Commerce & Presa. Its location was a controversial debate between this site and one overlooking the river where Hyatt Hotel located. May – Espada Aqueduct/Piedras Creek Bypass project completed. December -- Hyatt Regency Hotel and Paseo del Alamo open, linking the river walk and Alamo Plaza. First Holiday River Parade held Friday after Thanksgiving.
- 1983 February – San Antonio Missions National Historical Park established. The Johnson Street pedestrian bridge opened. Club Giraud opens in the old Ursuline laundry building adjacent to SW Craft Center.
- 1984 River channel “betterments”-beautification completed from Alamo to Arsenal Street.
- 1985 Channel improvements begin from Arsenal to Durango. August – HEB Headquarters open at old Arsenal site.
- 1986 Construction begins on San Pedro Creek tunnel with inlet in expressway area south of 5 Points and outlet at Guadalupe Street. Boudreaux’s opens at 421 E. Commerce. Chandler Building river level excavation completed and retail shops leased.
- 1987 January – First Mud Festival for river draining. The Nueva Street Dam, Bridge and Marina completed. San Antonio River tunnel project begins. Tunnel will carry storm waters from Josephine Street inlet, south of 281, 150 feet underground to return them to the river through outlet at Lone Star Boulevard. Holiday Inn Riverwalk completed. Dick’s Last Resort opens in basement of Nix Hospital.
- 1988 Channel improvements from Commerce Street to Houston completed, incorporating Hugman details. Hugman wall across from La Mansion and below Aztec completed. Rivercenter opens – Mall in February, Dillard’s in May and Marriott Rivercenter in October. April -- The Original Mexican Restaurant opens at 415 E. Commerce/528 River Walk.
- 1990 First Carnaval del Rio held. Blue Star project rehabbing an old pickle factory into housing, art gallery and artists’ space opens.
- 1992 San Antonio River Authority begins repairs and drainage work on Asylum Creek, No Name Creek and San Juan Ditch. Work completed on San Pedro Creek Tunnel.
- 1993 Eckert’s Drugstore opens in Noah Spears/Flo Kampmann Atherton Crichton Building
- 1994 Work completed for San Juan Ditch project. Pumps now able to put water in ditch.
- 1995 Southbank project between Presa, Crockett, Navarro and river opens. Newly constructed buildings designed to fit in with existing architecture of San Antonio. Tenants are County Line, Fat Tuesday's, Hard Rock Café, Paesano’s, Starbuck’s and Howl at the Moon.
- 1996 Presidio Plaza between Crockett, Navarro, Commerce and river opens with Planet Hollywood, the Edge, The Presidio and Dos Chihuahuas.
- 1997 January – Homewood Suites opens in old San Antonio Drug Company building. April – Havana Riverwalk Inn on Navarro opens. August – Adams Mark opens in 1950s National Bank of Commerce Building on river. December – San Antonio Tunnel project dedicated.

- 1998 September 10 – International Center opens, a conversion of old Main Library on S. St. Mary’s.
 October 16-17 – a 20” rain flooded many areas in San Antonio, particularly on the Salado and Leon Creeks. The tunnel worked beautifully in saving downtown San Antonio.
 November – Bexar County and the City of San Antonio formally inaugurate the San Antonio River Oversight Committee to oversee the further development of the river from US 281 to Mission Espada.
 The Hawthorne Suites open on N. St. Mary’s.
- 1999 May – Drury Inn opens in old Petroleum Commerce building on N. St. Mary’s
 Mexican Manhattan on Soledad opens riverfront patio overlooking flood channel river walk.
 November – Westin Hotel opens on site surrounded by S. St. Mary’s, Market, Navarro and river.
- 2001 January – Construction begins on the central section of the S.A. River Improvements Project.
 September – Civic Center Plaza at bypass channel west of Plaza de las Islas dedicated.
 November – Landry’s opens in the location of Bayous in the Riverside Bldg.
 December – River Walk from Presidio Plaza to N. St. Mary’s on Crockett Street side dedicated.
- 2002 March – River Improvements from Convent to Lexington dedicated.
 July 4 – Major flooding on Westside creeks and San Antonio River.
 October – River Improvements from Houston to Convent dedicated.
 Silver Ventures purchases Pearl Brewery site in latter part of year with the idea of creating a varied premier mixed use development.
- 2003 January – Hotel Valencia opens at Houston, St. Mary’s & river.
 September – Kangaroo Court closes. Pat O’Brien’s opens on Losoya.
 September - Watermark Hotel opens across from La Mansion.
- 2004 January – Construction begins on the Mission link of the River Improvements Project.
 October – Five & Dime General Store opens in Kangaroo Court Building.
- 2005 November – Hotel Contessa opens on south bend of the Paseo del Rio at Navarro.
- 2006 January – Rainforest Café opens in Chandler Building.
 March – Waxy O’Conner’s opens in Peterson Bldg. next to Aztec. Iron Cactus opens in Aztec Building.
- 2006 March – Center for Foods of the Americas opens at Pearl Brewery
 May – Pearl Stable opens at Brewery. Grandly renovated Aztec Theater opens.
- 2007 January – Newly and brightly renovated El Tropicano opens under Holiday Inn management.
 February – Drury Plaza opens in old Alamo National Bank building with a sidewalk in the bypass channel connecting the northern and southern parts of the river bend.
 May – Construction begins on the Museum Reach (Lexington to Josephine) of the San Antonio River Improvements Project.
 October – Saltgrass Restaurant opens in Casino Building on river and street levels.
 November – Initial construction begins on Mission Reach of San Antonio River Improvements Project.