

Stop 5 – Yanaguana Trail

Watch and listen for the sounds and sights along this 1/3 mile loop trail. They may waft your thoughts back to the 1700s when the natives left their hunting and gathering way of life to build the mission and farming community behind you.

A short stroll on the boardwalk ahead takes you through natural woodlands to the banks of the San Antonio River. This river's refreshing waters, called *Yanaguana* by the natives, still draw visitors and wildlife to its banks. The river is rich in resources. It helped make the missions successful. Franciscan Father Isidro Espinosa stood at this river on May 14, 1716.

“By an open path we arrived at the River San Antonio, worthy to be coveted, praised for its pleasantness, location, abundance of water, and multitude of fish. It is surrounded by very tall Pecans, Poplars, Elms, Grapevines, and many medicinal herbs. In its blue, crystalline, and sweet water there are varieties of fish that are most savory.”

Fr. Espinosa knew this river was the key to community survival in the harsh South Texas environment. San Antonio is here today and will continue tomorrow because of the *Yanaguana*.