

[ SAN ANTONIO ]

# Urban Oasis

The Alamo City has added another crowd-pleasing attraction: **Civic Park** opened downtown last fall and will host free concerts and cultural events year-round. The 9-acre park adjacent to the city's famed River Walk is part of Hemisfair, a multiphase urban-renewal project transforming the former 1968 World's Fair grounds into parkland and a residential, cultural, and entertainment district.

As many as 15,000 people can gather on the Great Lawn for performances by nationally known artists and acclaimed Texas musicians. Annual events include October's Dia de Los Muertos Festival and a family-friendly New Year's Eve celebration.

Civic Park is also a community green space for locals and visitors to enjoy every day. A wide promenade shaded by 200 mature trees (pictured) is perfect for leisurely strolls, and the benches and tables dotting the promenade invite quiet reflection under the trees' shade. Fresh water that flows through limestone channels flanking the promenade bubbles up into 5 shallow wading pools for splashy play.

Future plans include restaurants and shops in 4 restored 1800s homes in the park, and a large plaza that will be constructed and connected to the park via a new hardscaped terrace. **» KIT BERNARDI**



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