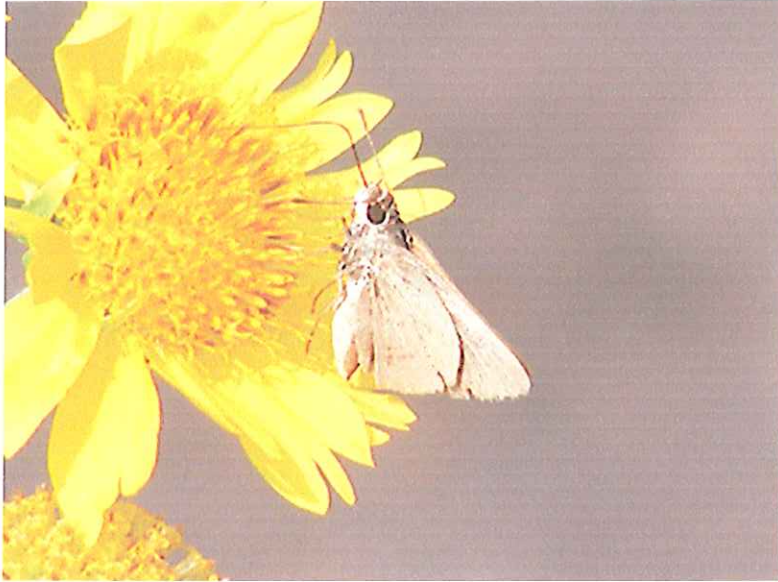




WM'S MESQUITE CREEK WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA (MCWHA) VOLUNTEERS WELCOME AT LOCAL PRESERVE



The Mesquite Creek Wildlife Habitat Area (MCWHA) is a 300-acre wildlife territory consisting of floodplain, wetlands, and open water habitat, located adjacent to Waste Management's Mesquite Creek Landfill on Kohlenberg Road. WM is implementing their plan to preserve, enhance, and protect this beautiful property from development in perpetuity; this will ensure that wildlife in the area will have a safe place to thrive, even though the surrounding landscape will

likely change dramatically as development continues along the I-35 corridor. The site is a participant in the Wildlife Habitat Council (WHC) *Wildlife at Work* program and will be eligible for WHC certification in 2010.

Current initiatives underway at the MCWHA include nature trail development, a pollinator garden project, and a pond enhancement program. Other approved projects for the location are an environmental learning center at the old barn located at the habitat entrance, a native grass/flower garden near the historic cemetery on the property and an invasive species management program. Projects under consideration include nesting structures and raptor platforms, restoration of wetlands and the riparian zone of the Mesquite Creek floodplain and a prairie management program. Public education programs and activities are also planned for the future

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The New Braunfels community is at the heart of Mesquite Creek's mission to restore native landscapes and positively impact natural areas in this wildlife habitat area. Volunteers on the Mesquite Creek Wildlife Team include many talented and committed conservation partners of all ages and abilities.



Domino's Pond



Earl Dittman, LMN Volunteer and Juan ?, Waste Mgmt Volunteer Working together to plant trees at the MCWHA site

All are welcome and no prior experience is necessary! Victoria Manning, MCWHA Consultant/Coordinator, said, "Service on the Mesquite Creek Wildlife Team allows individuals, and groups the opportunity to improve the environment and nurture long-term interest in ecological restoration and stewardship. Volunteers

experience a sense of real accomplishment, connect with others committed to wildlife and the environment, and develop new skills."

For more information about volunteering with the MCWHA Wildlife Team, please contact John Siemssen at jospost2000@yahoo.com or Victoria Manning at (210) 359-9826.

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Ann Tubbs
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