

From Comanche Lookout Park to the Salado Creek Greenway: a blue-sky suggestion

Background

One of the Big Ideas in San Antonio parks development is the network of hiking and biking trails connecting parks and recreational facilities across the city, avoiding busy and hazardous street traffic. The ever-expanding Howard Peak Greenway Trails system is a masterpiece of converting unused open space into a unique outdoor recreation resource. So, it's not surprising that park patrons not connected to any trail system might ask "Can we participate?"

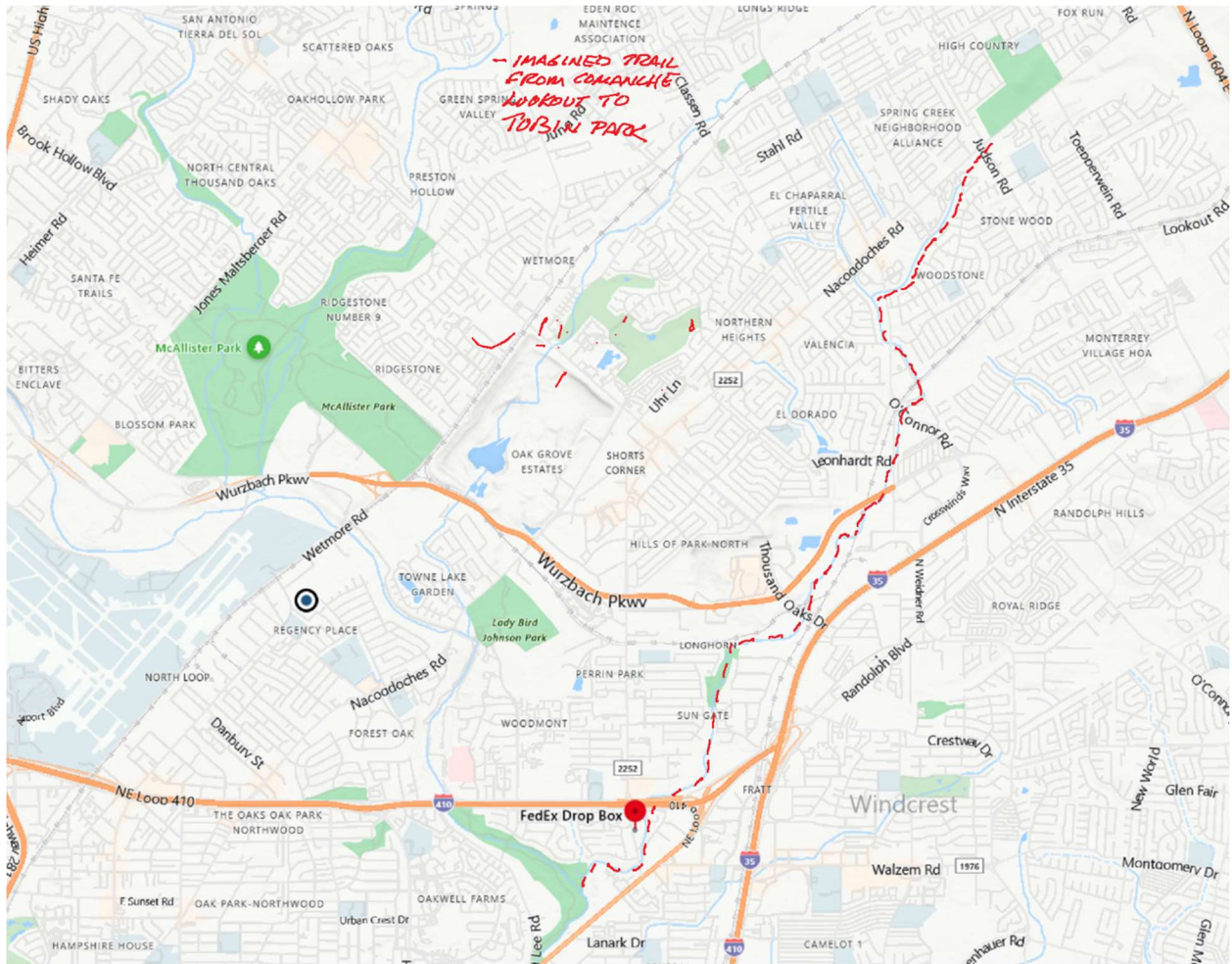
The Comanche Lookout Connection

Comanche Lookout Park and its supporters, the Friends of Comanche Lookout, became involved in this discussion pretty much by accident. The park lies in the southern corner of the Rolling Oaks Regional Planning area, so our group was invited to participate in the series of planning meetings. During those discussions, we surfaced the idea of connecting the park to the proposed Austin-to-San Antonio Trail network, but it was decided to be impractical. Nevertheless, the Regional Plan did provide the opportunity to suggest improvements and expansion of Comanche Lookout Park.

We thought we were done. But. All the discussion about connecting city parks with trail networks prompted the question "Would it be possible to connect Comanche Lookout Park with a city trail system?"

An Ambitious Suggestion

At first glance, this seems impractical, even absurd. Comanche Lookout Park has no nearby trail system or other parks that might afford such a connection. However, close examination of a city map reveals a possible route. Follow the eastern tributary to Perrin Creek from the corner of Nacogdoches and Judson Roads south, winding behind the Woodstone development and under O'Connor Road and then proceed south through Kallison Park and on to a crossing below Loop 410 to Tobin Park to meet up with the Salado Creek Greenway.



Is this feasible? Affordable? Reasonable? We have no idea. But now we have an outline of questions to ask and research to be done. And I really like the idea of riding my bike from Lady Bird Johnson Park all the way to Comanche Lookout Park without fighting street traffic.

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