



Recreation Engineering & Planning

RIO VISTA WHITEWATER PARK

SAN MARCOS, TX

The beautiful San Marcos River has long impacted its local economy by attracting visitors to enjoy its banks and test its waters. The Rio Vista Dam, an active low-head diversion structure, was no longer structurally sound. The City of San Marcos opted for a design solution that turned this liability into an economic asset through a drop-pool, whitewater park. The three new drops and resulting plunge pools created a safe course for the very popular inner-tubing run, a competition and training center for whitewater kayakers and freestyle kayaking opportunities. The grouted stone fill and hydrostatic pressure from the downstream plunge pool provided a creative engineering solution to the structural stability concerns. The Rio Vista Whitewater Park now provides a recreational amenity that has attracted thousands of tourists and locals alike throughout an extended boating season in San Marcos. The Whitewater Park solution ultimately reduced the cost of the dam replacement from \$1.8 million to \$500,000.



BEFORE



AFTER



ENGINEERING:

REP

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES:

REP

DATE COMPLETED:

MAY 2005

PROJECT COST:

\$500,000

Whitewater Park that repaired a failing dam and increased recreational use of the San Marcos River.

REFERENCE:

RODNEY COBB

DIRECTOR

CITY OF SAN MARCOS PARKS AND

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

GRANT HARRTS JR. BUILDING

401 E HOPKINS

SAN MARCOS, TX 78666

RECREATION ENGINEERING AND PLANNING

485 ARAPAHOE AVE.

BOULDER, CO, 80302

PHONE: 303.545-5883

WEB: WWW.BOATERPARKS.COM

E-MAIL: INFO@BOATERPARKS.COM