In 2003, the city, county, and community embarked on a mission to save Blue Hole from encroaching development, and years of unmanaged recreational activities that had marred the ecosystem. To reverse the historical environmental degradation of the park, and to accommodate its large number of visitors, the design team included a variety of active recreation options while also achieving SITES Certification. Design strategies included in Blue Hole were a direct result of community crafted goals that informed the park design.

**Design Highlights**

- The park supports active recreational uses such as soccer, basketball, playgrounds, hiking, camping, and swimming.
- 96% of the undisturbed on-site area was protected from development despite adding 320,000 square feet of active programming.
- 70% tree coverage was maintained, providing shade for outdoor active spaces.
- 4.6 miles of recreational trails were added, including a connection to the regional hiking/biking trail.
- Pedestrian routes to spaces within the park are safe, visible, and well-lit.

**Innovation**

- To promote exercise among children, the design team created nature-based play features made from re-purposed materials found on-site, such as an interactive limestone water table, sand pit, and cypress "teepees.
- After increasing recreational options within the park, surveys show a 116% increase in visitor satisfaction.

**wimberely
texas**

**the blue hole**

**regional park**