

SARR Members,

If you stood all the SARR Training team members side by side on Salado Creek Trail, the line would reach from McAllister Park to... (*pause for math break...let me see...how many feet in a mile? how wide is the average person?*) never mind, but it would be a loooong way. This is a big team! How big? It's so big that our training runs are bigger than any race in town almost every weekend. We are off to a great start for fall training. Here are a few other things happening in SARR this month.

Non-Labor Day. While most people celebrate Labor Day by not working, we will be hard at work climbing hills at the **Labor Day Whine Run**. It's a hard run but the great post-race party at the Dry Comal Creek Vineyard makes it all worth it. By the way, we already have 750 runners registered; it's going to be another sellout. Registration closes FRIDAY. Signup [HERE](#).

Free. Family. Fun. Want to get your kids off their smartphones? Take them to the **SARR Monthly Fun Run** on Saturday, 9/7, at 8:30am, at McAllister Park. There are a Kids Run, Half-Mile, 1 Mile, and 3 Mile runs. All free; all ages. More info [HERE](#).

Run-tober. We have 2 more training programs starting in October. The **Kids Run SARR 5K Training** (ages 7-12) starts 10/13 (more info [HERE](#).) The **Walk 2 Run 5K Training** starts 10/12 (more info [HERE](#).) Both teams will be training for the SA Rock-n-Roll 5K in December, which is the biggest 5K race in town.

Keep it Clean. SARR "owns" a section of the Salado Creek Greenway that starts at Walker Ranch Park. We need your help to keep it looking great and trash-free. Join us for our **Adopt-A-Trail Clean-Up Event** on September 15 to help give back to the parks we love. More info [HERE](#).

Trailblazer. As you may remember from my story last month, I had discovered a soon-to-be trail from 1604 to Eisenhower Park that will be part of the Salado Creek Trailway. I re-ran that trail last week and have a few notes to add:

- This trail is remote, no phones, porta-potties, or water. Don't do it alone.
- This trail seems to already be a favorite with mountain bikers who don't actually like mountains. The course is mostly flat and would not really qualify as "off-road" to bikers (or runners for that matter). But there are still bikers out there in full gear riding the new trail so be on the lookout.
- You can't make it all the way to Eisenhower anymore. About 100 yards before the park there is a new, giant fence blocking the path. I'm sure this fence will be removed once the real trail is completed.
- They are making fast progress on the trail. Already a big section has been concreted. So, if you want to see it before it opens to the public you will need to go out there soon.

After my new trail adventure, I was curious where the trail would connect on the other side of Eisenhower Park. In other words, where will the trail go from Valero to Eisenhower that will be the final piece to connect the Leon Creek Trailway to the Salado Creek Trailway? I decided to find out.

I started at the Valero trailhead and ran north along the paved trail. After 2 miles the trail stopped abruptly in the field behind the TJ Maxx at The Rim. The concrete ended into a small grassy, rocky trail that heads off into the woods. No trail work has been done yet and it didn't look like anything was planned soon. So, of course, I decided if there wasn't a trail yet I could just make one. (*I really have no reason to be confident in my trail scouting abilities; I'm been lost at least once in every park in town.*)

The rugged path led to an abandoned ranch road that weaved along a gulch. It appeared that a vehicle, bike, or human had not been down this road in quite some time. The grass was high and I had to guess a few times which way the road turned. I kept going and it finally opened up into a clearing where the trail just abruptly ended, or so I thought. I was still a long way from Eisenhower and there was nothing but trees on one side of me and a mountain on the other side. So, how were they going to connect to Eisenhower Park? *Wait! Is that the trail going up the hill? Is that the trail going STRAIGHT up the biggest, damn hill in San Antonio? And is that Eisenhower Park way up there beyond that fence at the top of the damn hill?* Yes, Yes, and Probably.

Only one way to find out. Now, I have been known to downplay many hills in San Antonio. It is a running joke among SARR Training veterans that I love to take them on courses with “rolling hills” that were really quite steep. So, I kid you not that this may be the biggest hill in S.A. that someone can run up. (*When I say “run”, I really mean hike/walk*). The old road is still there but it goes straight up. I did the best I could to run (*mostly walk*) up the hill. At the top I had to sit down for a few minutes, my head was spinning and my heart pounding. When I came to my senses I stood up and was rewarded to a fantastic, panoramic view of San Antonio. That alone was worth the climb.

I walked along the fence a little bit and found a spot the wire had been cut and I could see a trail on the other side. I went through the fence and followed the trail for just 100 yards or so and I came to a paved trail. *Wait, I recognize this trail.* I was in Eisenhower Park.

I find it hard to believe that when they finish this trail that it is going to go straight up that hill. If so, I doubt we will see many bikers on it. Part of me hopes they do keep it the way it is. Our hill workouts will never be the same.

Ready to check it out for yourself? I'm going to host a free Meetup called the **Trailblazer Run** on Wednesday, September 11th at 6:30pm to lead any brave runners out there who want to go on this trail with me. (Info [HERE](#).) Bring water, a phone camera (for the great panoramic pic), and an oxygen mask (just kidding). This trail is not long but it is hard. Come earn your trailblazer badge.

Scott Peacock
President, SARR