

## II PUBLIC INPUT & PLAN CONTEXT BRACKENRIDGE PARK

### MASTER PLAN

#### Section II: Public Input and Plan Context

This master plan has benefited from a process of public involvement which took place in three distinct stages. Planning recommendations have been extensively revised throughout the course of the project to reflect public input.

##### Public Input Round 1, Meeting 1

The first public meeting was held at Tri-Point YMCA on July 18, 2015. A media campaign including mailers, social media, and invitations to neighborhood groups was used to ensure public awareness of the meeting.

After a brief presentation of the Brackenridge Park Master Plan Phase 1 Report prepared for the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, the design team charged attendees with generating and prioritizing issues which they felt were most important to the future of the park.

In response to the question “What do you believe are the top three challenges facing Brackenridge Park?” the consensus was that vehicular traffic and parking; access to the park (pedestrian, bike and public transit); and the resolution of environmental concerns were key in their thinking. In addition to the challenges, other items (historic structure preservation, Catalpa-Pershing Channel transformation, river water quality, invasive plant control, and dealing with “encroaching entities”) were identified as issues that should be dealt with in the master plan.

Other specific issues as developed by the attendees were as follows:



1. Add/finish sidewalks along Avenue B
2. Pick up trash on weekends, especially Sunday, to avoid buildup of trash
3. Repair erosion along San Antonio River channel banks, especially on the west bank of the river downstream from Mulberry
4. Create linear trail connection from the park to the headwaters through Incarnate Word to the Olmos basin
5. Curtail Sunday “cruising” through the park
6. Solve the issue whereby the Miraflores and low water crossing bridges obstruct flow and create backwater in big rain events
7. Add interpretation of Dionicio Rodriguez art in the park
8. Avoid gentrification of the park
9. Fix poor pedestrian connections
10. Curtail dumping of animals in the park
11. Create an off-road bike route connecting the Tobin Center, San Antonio Museum of Art, DoSeum, the park, the San Antonio Botanical Center, the McNay Art Museum, and the airport
12. Establish an art committee for the park
13. Create public policy as it relates to the few remaining open, free use areas in the park
14. Create better connectivity within the park to the Japanese Tea Garden; establish better security for the Tea Garden



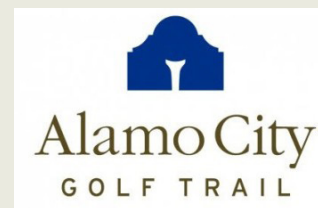
## II PUBLIC INPUT & PLAN CONTEXT BRACKENRIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN

### Entity Stakeholder Meetings

With City of San Antonio Staff from various Departments, the planning team identified a list of 23 stakeholder entities. These groups represent entities who operate facilities within the park, City of San Antonio Departments, neighborhood organizations, governmental subdivisions, educational institutions, businesses and private land owners. Over the course of several months, individual meetings/interviews were held with each entity. The outcome of those meetings were recorded and considered during team planning meetings. Notes from those meetings can be found in the appendix of this document.

#### Entity Stakeholder List

Council District 1 Roberto Trevino  
Council District 2 Alan Warrick  
Witte Museum  
San Antonio Zoo  
Alamo City Golf  
DoSeum  
Botanical Garden  
San Antonio River Authority  
San Antonio River Improvement Projects  
(Oversight Committee member Tony Cantu)  
Headwaters at Incarnate Word  
Glenn Huddleston  
San Antonio Water System  
Acorn School  
River Road Association  
First Tee  
Office of Historic Preservation  
Parks and Recreation Department  
San Antonio Audubon Society  
TCI Departments  
VIA Metropolitan Transit  
San Antonio Conservation Society  
Incarnate Word University





## II PUBLIC INPUT & PLAN CONTEXT BRACKENRIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN

### Public Input Round 1, Meeting 2

A second public meeting was held at the San Antonio Garden Center on April 26, 2016. Similar to the first public meeting, mailers, social media, email invitations, and invitations to neighborhood groups were used to publicize the meeting.

After an introduction from the Brackenridge Conservancy and city staff, the design team presented the major points of the draft master plan. The presentation was structured using the areas identified in the draft plan. Conceptual graphics were used to support the presentation.

In the question-and-answer session following the presentation, several themes emerged, including opposing preferences for closing Mulberry and widening it to four lanes, concerns about vegetation depicted in renderings of the Grand Lawn, a desire for parking to remain free within the park, and a desire for additional public input meetings in all council districts.

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE !**

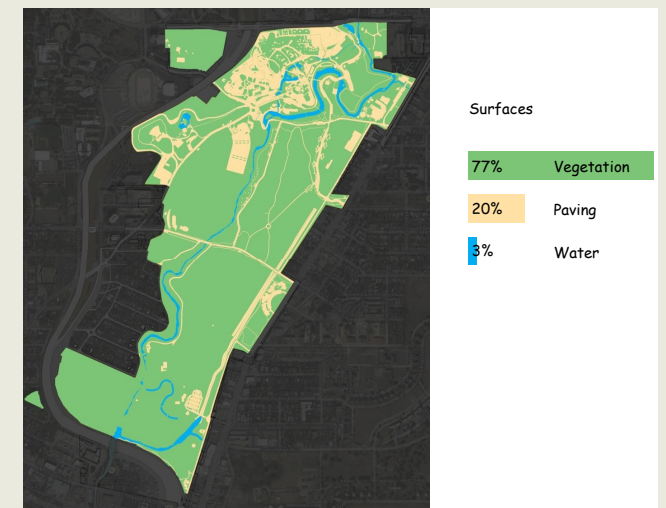
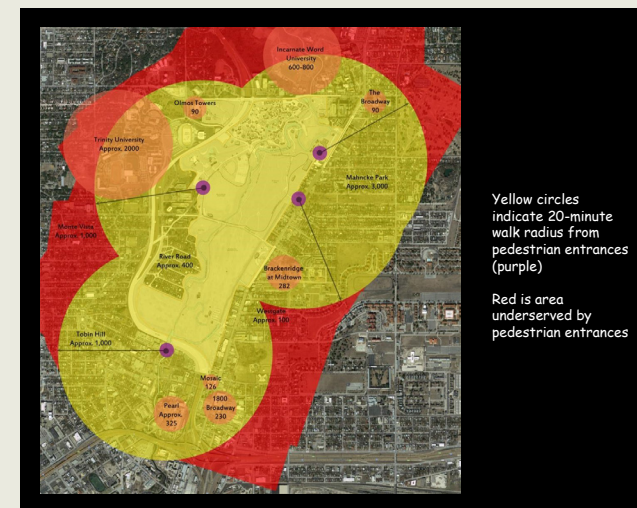
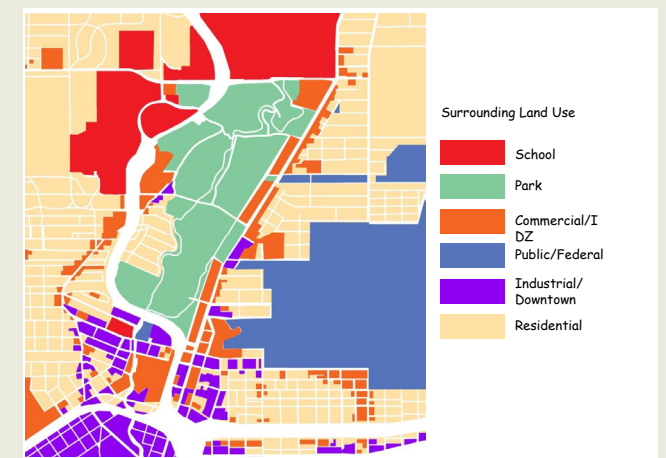
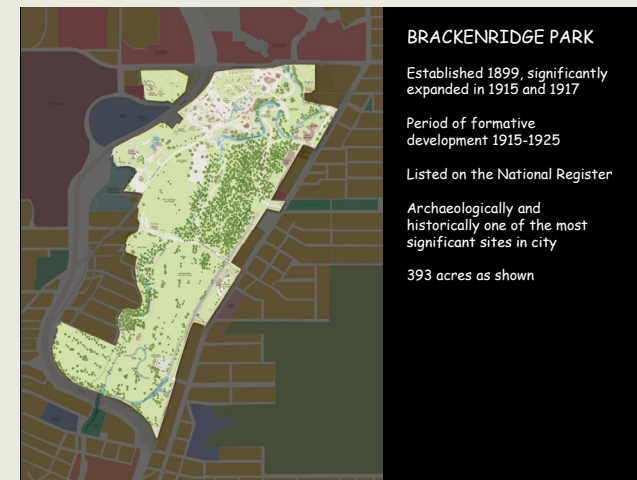
# BRACKENRIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN

Come express your ideas to help shape the future of BRACKENRIDGE PARK ... where history and the present meet !

**SATURDAY  
JULY 18, 2015  
9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM**

**Tripoint Event Center**  
3233 N. St. Mary's Street  
Corner of US 281 and St. Mary's Street

**BRACKENRIDGE PARK CONSERVANCY** **CITY OF SAN ANTONIO TRANSPORTATION & CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS** **PARKS & RECREATION SAN ANTONIO**





## II PUBLIC INPUT & PLAN CONTEXT BRACKENRIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN

### Public Input Round 2

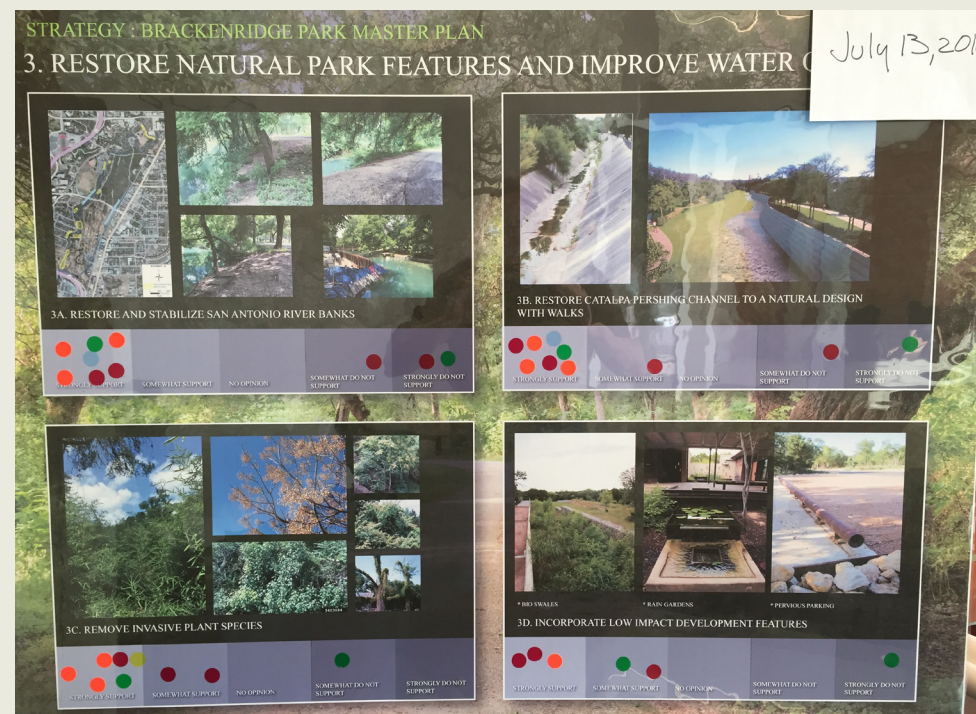
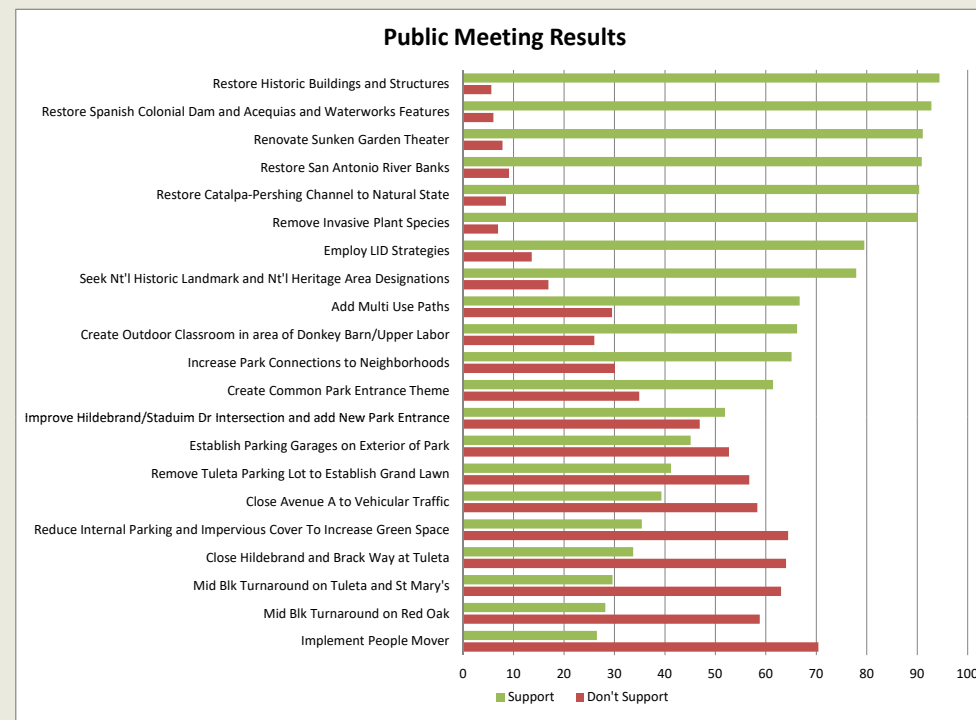
In response to requests from the public to councilpersons, a second round of public meetings was held in order to solicit further input on the goals and recommendations of the draft master plan. Six meetings were held:

- 1) June 14, 2016, at Lions Field Adult and Senior Center
- 2) June 21, 2016, at the Doris Griffin Senior Center
- 3) June 27, 2016, at the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center theater
- 4) June 28, 2016, at the Little Carver Civic Center
- 5) July 7, 2016, at the Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center
- 6) July 13, 2016, at the Ramirez Community Center

Each meeting included a presentation of the plan from city staff and responses to questions. The public was invited to provide feedback on the major components of the plan using dots placed on physical presentation boards, mobile digital devices, written comments, or emailed comments. The following is a summary of that feedback for each plan component, ranked in order of highest support to least support.

Public support was over 50% for the following components, listed in order of support:

- 1) Restore historic buildings and structures
- 2) Restore Spanish colonial dam and acequias and waterworks features
- 3) Renovate Sunken Garden Theater
- 4) Restore San Antonio River banks
- 5) Restore Catalpa-Pershing Channel to natural state
- 6) Remove invasive plant species
- 7) Employ low impact development strategies
- 8) Seek National Historic Landmark and National Heritage Area designations
- 9) Add multi-use paths
- 10) Increase park connections to neighborhoods
- 11) Create common park entrance theme
- 12) Improve Hildebrand/Stadium Drive intersection



**REUNIONES PÚBLICAS PARA DISCUTIR EL MASTER PLAN DE BRACKENRIDGE PARK**  
TU CIUDAD. TU PARQUE.

Queremos escucharlo. Lo invitamos cordialmente a una reunión pública para conocer más acerca del Master Plan de Brackenridge Park y darle la oportunidad de proporcionar sus opiniones y comentarios.

Lions Field Adult and Senior Center	Doris Griffin Senior Center	Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center Theater
2809 Broadway	6157 NW Loop 410, Ste 120	1301 Guadalupe
Martes, 14 de junio 2016	Martes, 21 de junio 2016	Lunes, 27 de junio 2016
6:00pm - 8:00pm	6:00pm - 8:00pm	6:00pm - 8:00pm

Little Carver Civic Center	Phil Hardberger Park Urban Ecology Center
226 North Hackberry	8400 NW Military Hwy
Martes, 28 de junio 2016	Jueves, 7 de julio, 2016
6:00pm - 8:00pm	6:00pm - 8:00pm

Si usted no puede atender a ninguna de estas reuniones, lo invitamos a visitar la página web [www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec](http://www.sanantonio.gov/parksandrec) en donde podrá ver la presentación preliminar del Master Plan, y tendrá la oportunidad de proporcionarnos sus comentarios y opiniones.

Envíe sus comentarios a [BrackenridgeParkMasterPlan@sanantonio.gov](mailto:BrackenridgeParkMasterPlan@sanantonio.gov)

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO PARKS & RECREATION





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**BRACKENRIDGE PARK DRAFT MASTER PLAN**  
YOUR CITY. YOUR PARK.

**ENVISION THE FUTURE OF BRACKENRIDGE PARK DURING FUN, FREE EVENTS!**

**BRACKENRIDGE CULTURAL SOIREE**  
**FRIDAY, OCT. 7 @ 5:30 PM**  
**MEET AT KOEHLER PAVILION**  
Enjoy the scenery of Brackenridge Park as you listen to a flute group and then a classical guitar as Flamenco dancers perform. Learn more about the Brackenridge Park Draft Master Plan and see an exhibition of archeological artifacts found within the park.  
**All ages**

**BRACKENRIDGE BY TRAIN**  
**TUESDAY, OCT. 11 @ 5:30 PM**  
**TRAIN DEPOT**  
And you thought a train ride through Brackenridge Park couldn't get any better! We'll be making stops to hit piñatas, fly kites and more. Registration is recommended as seating is limited. RSVP to [BrackenridgeParkMasterPlan@sanantonio.gov](mailto:BrackenridgeParkMasterPlan@sanantonio.gov)  
**All ages**

**MONSTERS, INC. AT SUNKEN GARDEN THEATER**  
**SATURDAY, OCT. 22**  
**GATES OPEN AT 6 PM**  
**MOVIE AT SUNSET**  
Enjoy a costume contest and free showing of Monsters Inc. in the historic Sunken Garden Theater along with a short film on the amazing history of Brackenridge Park. Food trucks will be on hand for an easy dinner. This is an alcohol-free event.  
**All ages**

**BRACKENRIDGE NATURE BIKE TOUR**  
**SATURDAY, OCT. 29 @ 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**  
**MEET AT JOSKE PAVILION**  
Bring your kids and their bikes for a guided bike tour to explore Brackenridge Park. Learn about controlling invasive plant species and identify ways to improve park flow both internally and externally.  
**Ages 4+**

**BRACKENRIDGE COFFEE & PAINTING CLASS**  
**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 9 @ 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM**  
**LIONS FIELD**  
Enjoy a painting class and coffee along with discussions about the Brackenridge Park Draft Master Plan.  
**Adults and seniors**

**BRACKENRIDGE ARCHEOLOGY EXPLORATION**  
**SATURDAY, NOV. 19 @ 10:00 AM**  
**BY LAMBERT SOFTBALL FIELD**  
We're recreating an archeological dig for children of all ages to uncover replicas of artifacts that would have been found within Brackenridge Park.  
**All ages**

**For more info on these events and the Brackenridge Park Draft Master Plan, go to [SAParksandRec.com](http://SAParksandRec.com)**



### Public Input Round 3

Results from the second round of public meetings were presented to the City of San Antonio Neighborhoods and Livability Committee, a subcommittee of the City Council. The committee requested a third round of public meetings, this time a series of gatherings in the park which were formatted as activity-based input sessions rather than as standard public meetings.

An additional six events were held to test the results of the citywide public meetings. Those events included a range of activities from a mock archaeological dig for children at the Lambert Beach Softball Field, to a guided bike ride through the park to learn about pedestrian/automobile interaction in the park and other topics including invasive plant species control.

## BRACKENRIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN - PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT FALL 2016



This is a summary of the *Event-based Planning* techniques utilized in the development of the Brackenridge Park Master Plan during October and November 2016.

The general aim was to spark new conversations and comments from a large variety of users, from both sporadic and frequent users, being those representatives of all neighborhoods and backgrounds; conducted in an appealing and interactive manner, to foster input and support for further steps on the Master Plan.

This round of public consultation was a Department-wide effort, made by Parks and Recreation, planned and coordinated by the Urban Designer of the Department as project manager, and developed and executed by the areas of Recreation, Parks Operations, Communications, Park Police, Urban Forestry, Volunteer Services, and Trail Stewards; as well as other supporting External Stakeholders, such as the San Antonio Zoo, UTSA, and Brackenridge Park Conservancy.

A key driver was the idea that the venues themselves were representative, of the aimed objectives of the Master Plan, so park users could visualize more easily what those policies could represent for the park, if successful, for those very same locations.

The activities were also crafted in a way in which each activity underlined specific policies from the draft version of the Plan, in order to focus and optimize the input from the public, while creating diversity throughout the entire spectrum of activities. The following matrix shows this correlation:

Policy Group	Sub-policy	1. CULTURAL SOIREE Friday, Oct. 7 <sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM	2. TRAIN TRIP Tuesday, Oct. 11 <sup>th</sup> - 5:30 PM	3. MOVIE AT THE PARK Saturday, Oct. 22 <sup>nd</sup> - 7:00 PM	4. NATURE BIKING Saturday, Oct. 29 <sup>th</sup> - 9:00 AM	5. COFFEE AND PAINTING CLASS Wednesday, Nov. 9 <sup>th</sup> - 9:30 AM	6. ARCHEOLOGY EXPLORATION Saturday, Nov. 19 <sup>th</sup> - 10:00 AM
<b>1. Restore natural park features and improve water quality</b>							
	1.A. Restore and stabilize San Antonio River banks	✓	✓				
	1.B. Restore Catalpa-Pershing channel to a Natural Design with walks		✓			✓	
	1.C. Remove invasive plant species				✓		
	1.D. Incorporate Low Impact Development features				✓		
<b>2. Restore, preserve and articulate park Cultural and Historical features</b>							
	2.A. Establish park as a National Historic Landmark and become the first National Heritage Area in Texas			✓			✓
	2.B. Restore and interpret Spanish Colonial dams, acequias and water works	✓					✓
	2.C. Restore Historic buildings and structures	✓		✓			✓
	2.D. Create outdoor classroom		✓				
	2.E. Renovate Sunken Garden Theater			✓			
<b>3. Increase visibility and pedestrian access to/within the park</b>							
	3.A. Create a common park entrance theme		✓		✓		
	3.B. Increase park connections to Neighborhoods / Broadway corridor				✓		
	3.C. Add multi-use pathways to increase pedestrian flow				✓		



**BRACKENRIDGE PARK MASTER PLAN - PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT  
FALL 2016**



1. The Cultural Soiree, on Friday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2016, consisted of an evening event themed around Spanish history and culture present at the park. It was a display that combined three performances, at Koehler Pavilion:
  - Caña Flamenca, comprised of the guitar player Luis Linares “El Tiburón”, and Gabby Rodriguez, and Isabella Longoria, both students with the SA Parks and Recreation Department’s Cultural Division.
  - Clint McKenzie, UTSA Center for Archaeological Research, provided a presentation focusing on Spanish Colonial and Riverbank archaeological findings.
  - Andean Fusion, Peruvian pan-flute music group who performed a blend of traditional and contemporary themes.
2. The Train Ride, on Tuesday, Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016, comprised a chain of ludic activities across the park, following the path of the Zoo train, such as a piñata bash, kite flying, and an obstacle course.  
The train ride helped to explain many of the elements of the park. And during these activities, attendees were engaged in conversations regarding Master Plan policies, such as creating a common park entrance theme, restoring Catalpa-Pershing channel, or creating an outdoor classroom.
3. The Movie at Sunken Garden Theatre, on Saturday, Oct. 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, was a great occasion to showcase the great potential of this unique space in San Antonio, by projecting the movie *Monsters Inc.* on a 26’x16’ screen.  
It was also projected a video –specially made for the occasion by SA Parks and Recreation Department- outlining the rich history of Brackenridge park and what it represents for San Antonians.  
Due to the proximity of Halloween, the entire event was themed around it, with costume contests for kids and adults. Food trucks rounded out a funny family movie night.
4. A Nature Bike Tour was planned for Saturday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016. It was going to be a guided bike ride for different parts of the park, many of them affected by invasive plant species, led by SA Parks and Recreation’s specialists in the subject.  
Probably due to an unpleasant weather, the turnout that day was low, so the activity was transformed into an informative talk with nearby park users, at Joske Pavilion. Children had the opportunity to do some tree-related crafts, learn about proper tree planning, and debate about native versus invasive tree species.  
Still, 36 surveys were completed by adults that day. And finally, a tree giveaway gave the chance to all participants to immediately apply what learned at their own homes.
5. A Coffee and painting Class was held on Wednesday, Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at Lion’s Center Field. It was an event specifically tailored for adults and seniors, to gather their input about the Master Plan.  
After an introduction of the draft Master Plan being undertaken, its key elements and the eventual benefits for the park, the focus was put on the importance of having naturalized riverbanks, with an eye put on the adjacent Catalpa-Pershing channel.  
Attendees had the opportunity to make their own painting of a Brackenridge riverbank, with the guidance of two SA Parks and Recreation Art teachers. Other staff members engaged in one-to-one conversations with participants, around hot coffee and fresh muffins.  
The artwork was later displayed in an exhibit at Lion's Center Field for approximately two months.
6. Finally, and Archaeology Exploration event took place at Lamber Beach softball field on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Conducted by UTSA’s Center for Archaeological Research. Kids became “archaeologists” for a morning and were able to navigate through 4 different stations: and exhibit of prehistoric and colonial artifacts actually found in Brackenridge; a Stratigraphic station, in which kids could reproduce a colored site-in-a-jar stratigraphic profile; mock dig boxes for kids to excavate and find staged replica artifacts; and an area where children and adults could throw arrows with a modern copy of an *atlatl*.

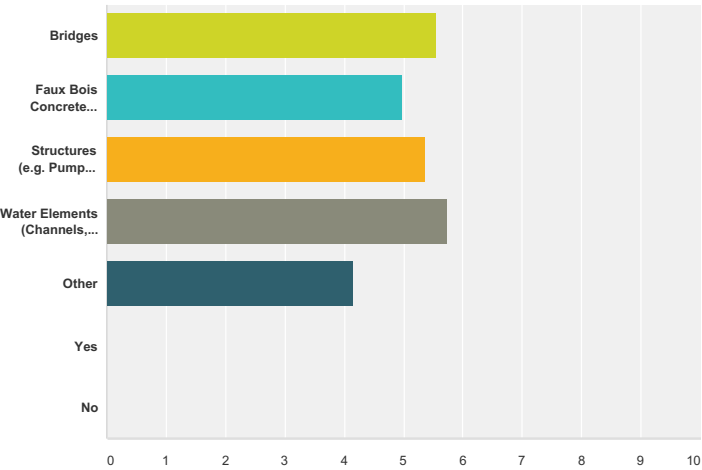
In all cases, the way in which public input was collected was through a comprehensive survey, available both in English and Spanish languages and in the formats of paper and online. A total of 861 residents attended the events, from a reported different 61 zip codes. Of those, 246 provided feedback through completed surveys.

This input has been carefully processed after the set of events and is directly informing the current version of the Master Plan.

**II  
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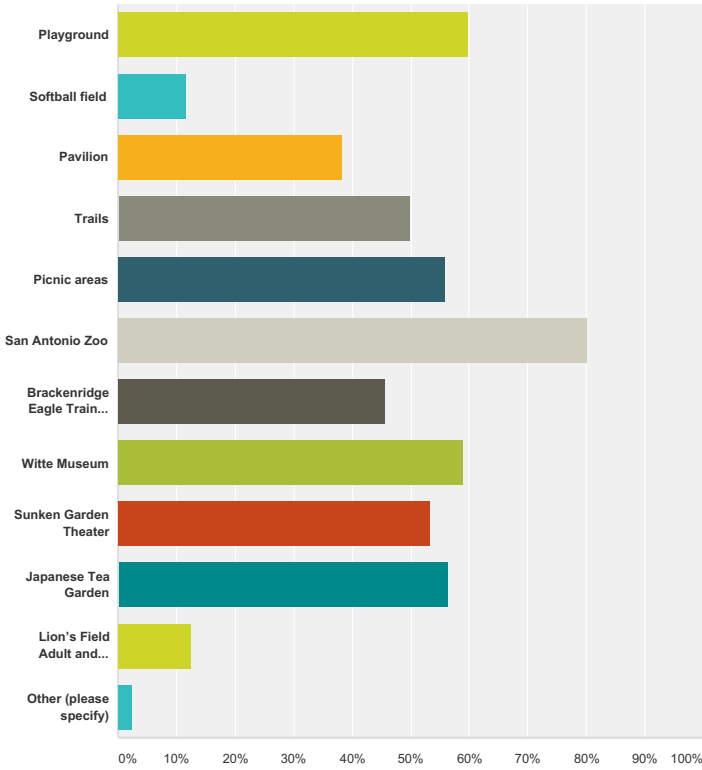
**Q12 If yes, please prioritize the historic features within Brackenridge Park:**

Answered: 148 Skipped: 89



**Q17 What amenities do you use within Brackenridge Park? (Check all that apply)**

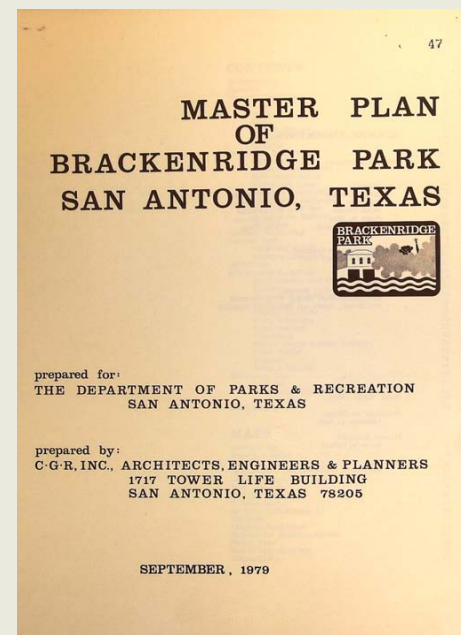
Answered: 232 Skipped: 5





## II PUBLIC INPUT & PLAN CONTEXT BRACKENRIDGE PARK

MASTER PLAN



### Brackenridge Park Biodiversity Study



**Prepared for:**  
Brackenridge Park Conservancy  
P.O. Box 6311  
San Antonio, Texas 78209

**Sponsored by:**  
San Antonio River Authority  
City of San Antonio Department of  
Parks and Recreation  
San Antonio Water System  
Bexar County

**Prepared by:**  
BIO-WEST, Inc.  
1812 Central Commerce Court  
Round Rock, Texas 78664

**Submitted:**  
October 2012

### Plan Context

Brackenridge Park is properly understood as not just another city park, but as the nexus of a great number of influences: politically, geographically, and socially. The complexity and comprehensiveness of planning documents related to the park, both within and outside the park's borders, is testament to that nature.

Public plans which affect the park, either through direct planning recommendations within the park borders or through changes to areas around the park, include:

- A - 1979 Brackenridge Park Master Plan
- B - 1998 Brackenridge Park Master Plan Update
- C - San Antonio River Improvements Project:
  - 2003 Preliminary Design
  - 2008 Park Segment Feasibility Plan
  - 2012 Vegetation Study
- D - 2012 Brackenridge Park Biodiversity Study
- E - 2011 MidTown Brackenridge TIRZ Master Plan
- F - 2009 Japanese Tea Garden Master Plan
- G - 2008 Miraflores Master Plan
- H - 2011 SA Vision 2020 Plan
- I - 2015 SA Tomorrow Plan
- J - 2006 Sunken Garden Theater Renovation Feasibility Study
- K - 2014 Brackenridge Park Masonry Survey

The 2014 Phase I report prepared for the Brackenridge Park Conservancy contains a complete listing of recommendations from those plans (with the exception of the SA Tomorrow Plan, which was not complete at that time), with notes indicating which of the recommendations are found in other plans and comments on implementation of those recommendations. The guide below indicates the recommendations from each plan which this master plan addresses and supports. Some recommendations which are consistent with this plan are sufficiently site-specific that they do not fall within the purview of this plan and are excluded from analysis.



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### A - 1979 Brackenridge Park Master Plan

- Restrict vehicular traffic on Avenue A
- Develop pedestrian connections under US-281 along Tuleta
- Clean and repair river banks
- Avoid concrete channelization, and remove it where it exists

### B - 1998 Brackenridge Park Master Plan

- Prepare a comprehensive planting plan
- Reduce pesticide use; apply organic gardening methods
- Plant native plants
- Restore Mexican Village as a park amenity
- Build all new structures within traditions in park
- Restore original structures
- Repair surfaces, including eroded top soil, lawn, and damaged paved surfaces

### C - San Antonio River Improvements Project

- Restore Catalpa-Pershing Channel to natural banks and incorporate walking and biking paths; divert water to channel
- Remove invasive species; plant native species
- Restore habitat and improve water quality in river
- Build path along Avenue A and restrict vehicular traffic
- Install coordinated signage in park

### D - Brackenridge Park Biodiversity Study

- Reduce feral cat densities; move feeding stations away from designated wildlife habitat areas
- Develop vegetation management plan
- Expand riparian buffers
- Prevent further spread or introduction of non-native species
- Improve aquatic health: Fish sampling and water chemistry data should be collected, target fish-count-based ALU upgrade to "high", target benthic microorganism-based ALU upgrade to "exceptional" for all areas
- Target normal levels of small vertebrates by improving habitat and reducing feral cat pressure
- Maintain rock wall streambanks to prevent deterioration
- Retrofit walls to manage drainage runoff which could cause wall failure
- Protect walls in area of high flood flow to prevent behind-wall erosion
- Expand areas of natural vegetation along river as possible north of Witte Museum



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### E – MidTown Brackenridge TIRZ

- Link neighborhoods to destinations, including Brackenridge Park
- Establish Broadway as a transit boulevard and complete street
- Rebuild Avenue B to be more bike- and pedestrian friendly
- Implement pedestrian improvements under US-281
- Restore riparian habitat along Catalpa-Pershing Channel
- Implement detention at Catalpa-Pershing Channel
- Redevelop streets as green streets
- Install park signage at Hildebrand and US-281
- Assist BPC in improving park access and visibility

### F – Japanese Tea Garden Master Plan

- Establish appropriate planting palettes
- Use appropriate site furnishings
- Install signage with historic interpretation
- Renovate Mexican Village for daily and event use

### G – Miraflores Master Plan

- Treat Miraflores as a cultural landscape
- Develop pedestrian link between UIW and park at river level
- Remove invasive plant materials
- Recreate/install new features in Miraflores

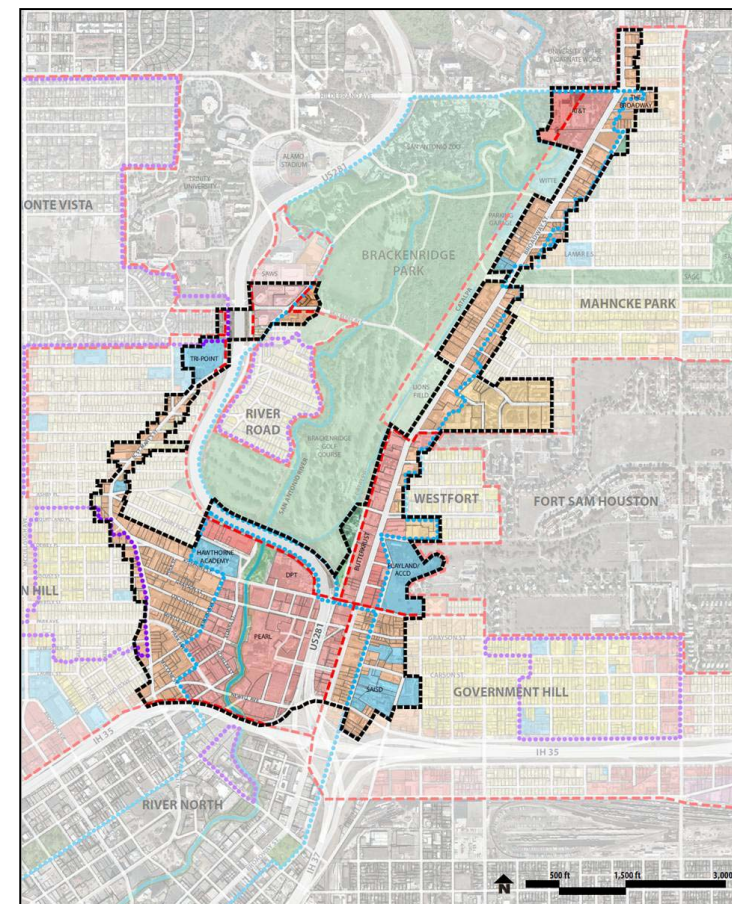
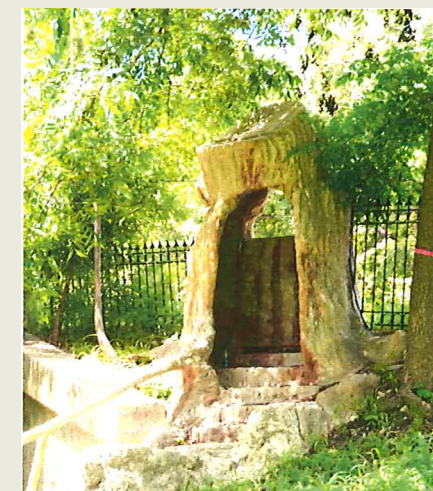
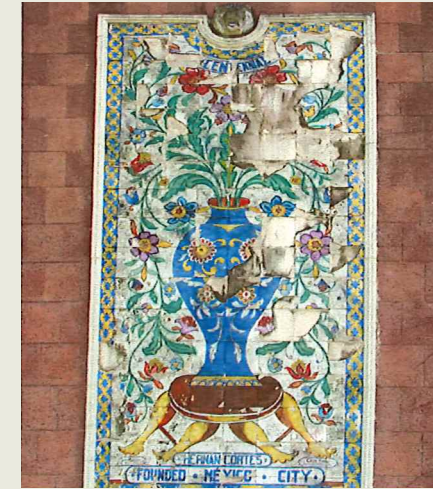


Figure 1. Map Showing Existing Land Uses and MidTown Neighborhoods within the Midtown TIRZ Boundary  
MidTown Brackenridge TIRZ

Images: Rehler, Vaughn, & Koone, Inc.



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### H – SA2020 Vision Plan

- Research and reduce barriers to access existing parks
- Add improvements such as crosswalks, sidewalks, gates, etc. to promote access

### I – SA Tomorrow Comprehensive Plan

- Ensure that all residents living in existing and new neighborhoods have safe and convenient access to jobs, housing, and a variety of amenities and basic services including great parks, strong schools, convenient shopping and nearby regional centers
- Connect safe and stable mixed-income neighborhoods with a system of walkable and bikeable streets, trails and pathways that celebrate and link natural greenways and drainage ways
- Conserve, protect, and manage San Antonio's natural, cultural, and historic resources and open space

### J - 2006 Sunken Garden Theater Renovation Feasibility Study

### K - 2014 Brackenridge Park Masonry Survey

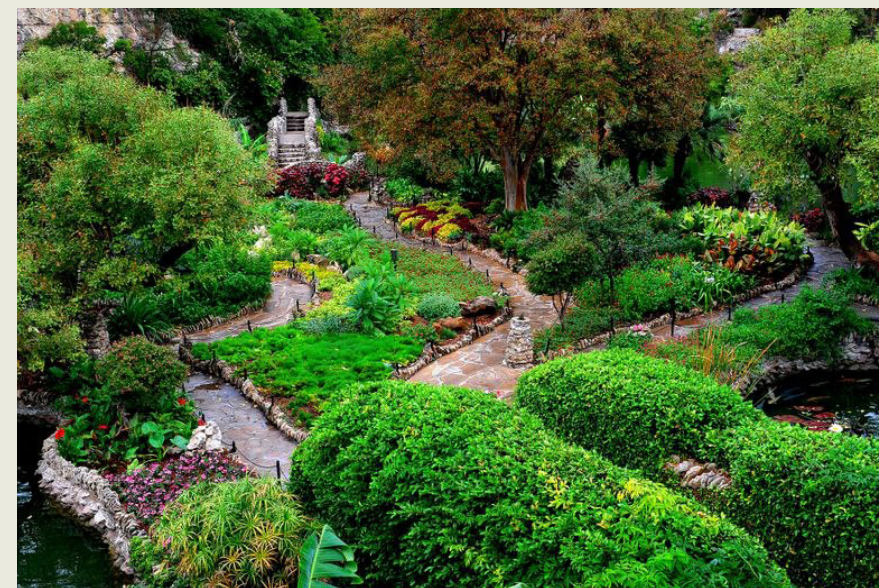


Image: San Antonio Parks Foundation