Brackenridge Park Graphic Timeline

1890-1900: Emergence of Scenic Tourism in America

1858: The American parkway is popularized by the development of Central Park

1880-1890: Emergence of landscaped parkways for non-commercial traffic

1889: The American parkway is popularized by development of Central Park

1890: Arrival of motor vehicles in public parks

1899: First automobiles arrive in San Antonio

1900-1910: National Park Service is created, and expands allowance of automobiles in national parks

1900: San Antonio introduces rudimentary streets

1903-1905: George Brackenridge and Ludwig Mahler plan for a system of boulevards and parks

1900-1902: First motor vehicles in national parks are quickly banned

1906: Planned recreation was prioritized due to new trends in health and exercise

1920: Design of park fits to park employees and emphasized planned recreation rather than benefits of aesthetics

1930: Park administrators abandoned efforts to use parks as mechanism of social reform

1930-1935: Design of park fits to park employees and emphasized planned recreation rather than benefits of aesthetics

1936-1940: During Great Depression, parks nationwide provided horticultural employment opportunities promoting infrastructure, installing new recreation, buildings, remaking landscapes in some parks

1978 - PRESENT: UNESCO World Heritage Site

2019: San Antonio's missions named a UNESCO World Heritage Site

FIGURE 17-1. Timeline: Context. Source: Reed Hilderbrand
Figure 17–2. Timeline: Preservation & Archaeology - page 1 of 2. Source: Reed Hilderbrand

9200–6000 BC
Dependence on large game animals including mammoth and now-extinct species of bison during Paleo-Indian period.

1611: San Antonio River is named by Governor Domingo Terán de los Ríos and his company.

1724: Flooding results in relocation of Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo) to a safer site.

1724–1726: Construction of acequia carried out from 1724–1726 to supply water to the Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo). Structure was originally 3.5 miles long; eventually totaled 10 miles.

1739: The Mission San Antonio de Valero becomes secularized. Afterwards, the fields between the mission and the San Antonio river were granted to individual owners.

1819: Disastrous flood strikes San Antonio River.
Figure 17-4. Timeline: Cultural and Ethnic Imprints and Population Shifts - page 1 of 2.
Source: Reed Hilderbrand
1899: Brackenridge’s Water Works Company donated 199 acres of waterfront land to the City of San Antonio for use as a park.

1900: Ludwig Mahnke, as Brackenridge Park commissioner, laid out the initial park features; decided the park should be a driving park more than a picnic place.

1903: Animal species introduced in the park as viewing recreation.

1907: San Antonio parks improved through city investments.

1914: City Council approved twelve acres of old lardery property for a zoological garden.


1918: Golf course opens

1919: Ray Lambert new parks commissioner, identifies rock quarry as opportunity for park. Brackenridge donated personal land for Texas’ first city-owned golf course. The first Lambert Beach was constructed.

1920: City Council approved land purchase for access park. Entrance opened to east on River Avenue (Broadway) and to the south on Avenue A and Schumann Streets.

1860: cholera epidemic strikes the City of SA.

1870: A total of 9,094 German immigrants reached Bexar county, making Germans roughly one-third of population.

1910: Dr. Aureliano Uresti moved into palatial new home in Brackenridge Park