

BRACKENRIDGE PARK TIMELINE

PREHISTORY AND NATIVE AMERICAN HABITATION (9200 BCE – 1690 CE)

YEAR EVENT/USE/FEATURE ANNOTATION

9200 – 6000 BCE	Prehistory Archaeology	Paleo-Indian period (late Pleistocene) ... was a time in which there was at least some degree of dependence on large game animals, including mammoth and a now-extinct species of bison. (Hester, 2)
6000 BC – 500/1000 AD	Prehistory Archaeology	“People of the Archaic Period ... hunted modern species of game including deer and rabbit, and gathered edible roots, nuts, and fruits. A multitude of types of projectile points and tools of bone, stone and shell are characteristic of this period. By far, the largest number of sites reported in the study area fall into the Archaic.” (Hester, 3)
500/1000 – 1500 AD	Prehistory Archaeology	“By the time of the Neo-American period ... a number of innovations were appearing, such as the bow and arrow, pottery, and in some parts of Texas, the beginnings of agriculture. There has been little indication that the prehistoric peoples of the San Antonio and Guadalupe River basins practiced agriculture.” (Hester, 3)
1535	Spanish Exploration + Settlement Colonial Spanish Imprints Population Shifts	Beginning of Spanish Exploration: Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca first documents the San Antonio River during his early explorations of Texas in 1535. (Simons and Hoyt, 230-31)

SPANISH EXPLORATION, MISSIONARY CONVERSION, AND ACEQUIA CONSTRUCTION (1691 CE – 1775 CE)

YEAR	EVENT/USE/FEATURE	ANNOTATION
1691.06.13	Spanish Exploration + Settlement	San Antonio River is named: Governor Domingo Terán de los Ríos and his company camped at a rancheria on a stream called Yanaguana. They rename the stream “San Antonio” because it is Saint Anthony’s Day. Father Damian Massanet accompanied Governor Teran on this trip. (Porter, Jr., 25)
1691	Spanish Exploration + Settlement Archaeology	“On June 13, 1691, a group led by Governor Domingo Terán de los Ríos and Father Damian Massanet arrived at a Payaya Indian village named Yanaguana. Because the explorers arrived on the feast day of St. Anthony, they called the place San Antonio de Padua. The location of Yanaguana is unknown.” (NRHP, 35)
1691	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Spanish Exploration + Settlement	Damián Massanet expedition visits the springs. (Brune, “San Antonio Springs”)
1716	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Spanish Exploration + Settlement	Isidro Félix de Espinosa describes the springs in his diary. (Brune, “San Antonio Springs”)
1716	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Domingo Ramon Diary notes that he accompanied Espinosa on the expedition. Diary translation in digital project archives. (Porter, Jr., 26)
1718	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Spanish Exploration + Settlement Spanish Missions	“A permanent settlement comprised of Mission San Antonio de Valero [Alamo] and the Villa de Bexar was established in the spring of 1718 by the governor of Texas, Martín de Alarcón, and a small group of priests, soldiers, and families.” (NRHP, 35)
1719	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Earliest acequia is constructed at San Pedro Springs. Due to flooding a few short years later, it would be moved a few years later to present-day Brackenridge Park. (Pace, Eileen, Texas Public Radio, 2013)

1719 – 1724	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Spanish Missions	<p>“The entire month of January, 1719, was spent in the construction [of] the acequias for the presidio and mission. The first site of Valero was on the west side of the San Antonio River, but it was moved to the east to its permanent location in 1724. The Alamo Madre Acequia was started to water the fields of Valero in 1724 and took four years to complete.” (Porter, Jr., 27)</p> <p>“The first mission, Valero, named for the viceroy, was followed by four other missions: San José in 1720 and in 1731 San Juan, Concepción, and Espada.” (Porter, Jr., 27)</p>
circa 1720	Spanish Exploration + Settlement	“San Antonio was a major stop on El Camino Real, and about 1720 the King’s Highway from San Antonio to Goliad was established as ‘El Camino Real a la Bahía del Espíritu Santo.’” (Simons and Hoyt, 3)
1722	Spanish Exploration + Settlement	“The Spanish presidio, Presidio de Bejar begun in 1722 and located in what is now downtown San Antonio.” (“OHP Overview”)
1724	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Spanish Missions	“Engineering the river to protect the community from flooding became inevitable. Flooding was a recognized hazard as early as the flood of 1724, which resulted in relocation of Mission San Antonio de Valero (The Alamo) to a safer site.” (“The People’s Waterway”)
1724	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Spanish Missions	<p>The relocated “Alamo acequia originated on the river’s east bank just above today’s Witte Museum, ran south to water the lands of Mission San Antonio de Valero, and returned to the river below the mission. The land between the river and the ditch was controlled by the mission.” (NRHP, 35).</p> <p>“The acequia system of San Antonio was more than just an irrigation system for agricultural use. The system distributed water for all uses by all the settlers, including personal consumption and other household use. It can therefore be said to have been the first municipal water system in the United States.” (Porter, 48-49)</p>
1724 – 1744	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Spanish Missions	“Construction of this canal was carried out from 1724 to 1744 to supply water to the Mission San Antonio de Valero (the Alamo) ... The acequia ‘originated at the...ford of the Paso de Tejas’ from a diversion dam in the San Antonio River. The ditch then followed a ‘sinuous path as it moved between the river and the low hills to the east to the south-southwest, passing through the mission grounds before returning to the San Antonio River at its largest bend.’ The structure was originally three and one-half miles long; however, later additions ‘branching near the mission and irrigating additional farmlands to the east and south, extended its total to approximately 10 miles.’ (“Mission Trails Historic Sites”)

1729	Park Precedents	“San Antonio’s oldest designated park—is located on land reserved for public use by the Spanish government in the 18th century. Only one public park in America is older—Boston Common, which dates to 1630.” (“San Pedro Springs Park,” sanantonio.gov)
1730s	Spanish Exploration + Settlement SA Park Development	“San Pedro Park, set aside by the Spanish as public land in the 1730s.” (NRHP, 47)
1731	Spanish Exploration + Settlement Canary Island Imprints Population Shifts	“Sixteen Canary Island families sent by the King of Spain to establish a permanent municipality.” (NRHP, 35) “As early as 1731, Salado Creek was recorded as the northern boundary of the surveyed pasturelands of San Antonio (then called San Fernando). It drains an area of 223 square miles – drawing from a long-relatively narrow watershed thirty-five miles long and six miles wide, beginning in the Edwards Recharge Zone of the Edwards Plateau.” (Jennings, 47)
1745	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	San Antonio de Valero Mission (The Alamo) digs ditch from springs (acequia) to the mission. (Brune, “San Antonio Springs”)
1773	Spanish Exploration + Settlement Spanish Missions Population Shifts	“The Adaesonanos ... relocated to San Antonio when the Presidio de Adaes in east Texas was abandoned.” (NRHP, 35)
1773	Spanish Exploration + Settlement Spanish Missions Population Shifts	The Regulations of 1772 require soldiers, missionaries, and 500 settlers to leave Los Adaes and relocate to San Antonio. They petition to return to Los Adaes but are only allowed to go as far east as the Trinity River, where they establish Nagodoches. (Weber, 222).
1775 – 1783	American Revolutionary War	

POST-MISSIONARY PERIOD SUBURBAN DEVELOPMENT (1776 CE – 1844 CE)

YEAR	EVENT/USE/FEATURE	ANNOTATION
1776 – 1778	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“By the 1760s, serious consideration was given to building an acequia to irrigate land west of the river to San Pedro Creek. The area became known as the ‘upper farm’ – formally named Nuestra Senora de los Dolores (Our Lady of Sorrows). The Upper Labor acequia branched from the river’s west bank within the park just below Hildebrand Avenue. In the late 1770s, twenty-six long, narrow parcels (suertes) running from the acequia to the river were awarded to those who financed the ditch. The northernmost parcels were retained by the city and not sold until the nineteenth century. Other land within today’s park boundaries and west of the Upper Labor acequia was retained by the city. Much of this property has remained publicly owned since the Spanish era.” (NRHP, 36)
1793	Spanish Missions	The Mission San Antonio de Valero becomes secularized. After the mission’s secularization, the fields between the mission and the San Antonio river are granted to individual owners, notably the Adaesanos. (NRHP, 35)
1800 – 1850	National Park Precedents/ Influences	“By the early nineteenth century, the United States was being traversed by tourists both foreign and American... ‘Picturesque travelers’—that is, tourists in pursuit of picturesque scenery—were so common and their accounts so varied that they were often satirized.” “The object of picturesque travel...was the discovery of the particular beauty in ‘the scenery of nature’ which could be achieved by following two basic principles. First, ‘the ingredients of landscape – trees – rocks – broken-grounds – woods – rivers – lakes – plains – vallies – mountains – and distances’ should be contrasted: light and dark, high and low, rocky and wooded, cultivated and wild... Second, these scenes should be viewed as if in a frame. The eye must be led from the foreground in an orderly fashion into the distance...” (Robertson, 189)
1810 – 1821	Mexican War of Independence	
1812 – 1815	War of 1812	

<p>1812-1813</p>	<p>Mexican War of Independence</p> <p>Spanish occupation of the Alamo</p>	<p>“On August 18, 1813, the royalist and republicans clashed twenty miles southwest of San Antonio at the Battle of Medina,” where the army “crushed republicans, executing and pursuing rebels even to the Louisiana border.”¹ For a year after, the royal army’s leader occupied San Antonio.” There,</p> <p>He continued to execute rebels, confiscate property, imprison the women of San Antonio, who were forced to cook for his soldiers. During this time, some prisoners were held at the Alamo. Other expeditions were attempted but none were as serious as what occurred in 1812-1813. Their cumulative effects depopulated Texas and left in in economic disarray. Moreover, the drastic decline in population set the state for the opening of Texas to foreign immigrants as a way to repopulate the region...(Winders, “San Antonio and the Alamo...”)</p>
<p>1819.07.05</p>	<p>Humans, Hydrology + Water Management</p>	<p>Disastrous flood strikes “San Antonio river and ditches which destroyed much property ... with a list of drowning casualties.” (Corner, 125)</p> <p>“The flood of July 5, 1819, had been even worse than the 1921 inundation – a solid, overflowing stream roaring south, spread east and west from the walls of the former mission San Antonio de Valero all the way to San Pedro Creek. The La Villita area suddenly became popular with town folk as its elevation overlooked the flood.” (Jennings, 38)</p> <p>A period of resident frustration is capped by the flood of 1819, when the city is all but destroyed. (Porter, 83)</p>
<p>1833/1834</p>	<p>Humans, Hydrology + Water Management</p>	<p>Cholera epidemics in 1833 and 1834: the outbreak is so severe and long-lasting that the town is depopulated to such an extent that the city cannot conduct the annual census. (Porter, 83)</p>
<p>1833/1834</p>	<p>Humans, Hydrology + Water Management</p>	<p>“The epidemics in 1833 and 1834 indicate that the acequias were under stress not from population demands but from lack of maintenance and managerial control to police their cleanliness.” (Porter, 83)</p>
<p>1835.09.15</p>		<p>“At midnight on the night of September 15, 1835, church bells began to ring all through the town of Bexar. They signaled the beginning of festivities marking Mexico’s independence from Spain... The commemoration temporarily lowered barriers between military and civilian, elite and poor.</p> <p>...September 16, 1835, would be the last time Independence Day was celebrated in Mexican Texas.” (Ramos, 1)</p>
<p>1835.10.28</p>	<p>Spanish Missions</p>	<p>Battle of Concepción occurs on the grounds of Mission Concepción. It is the first major campaign of the Texas Revolution. (Barr, “Concepción, Battle of”)</p>

¹ Winders, Bruce. “San Antonio and the Alamo in the Mexican War of Independence.” September 18, 2018. medium.com/the-alamo-messenger/san-antonio-and-the-alamo-in-the-mexican-war-of-independence-2db481c718db. Accessed November 16, 2019.

1839	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“William F. Wilson and his men camped here in 1839 [at the headwaters]. (Pierce, 1969, Quoted in “San Antonio Springs and Brackenridge Park”)
1843	City + Business Development	“The 200-acre tract [later acquired by George Brackenridge] had been acquired in Mary Maverick’s name in June 1843, shortly after her husband, Samuel A. Maverick – a signatory of the Texas Declaration of Independence – returned to Texas after being held for seven months in Mexico’s Perote prison. Mary Maverick wrote in her diary, “In June, and again in September, Mr. Maverick visited San Antonio – to attend to court and land business.” Apparently, it was during his June trip that Maverick purchased the property at auction for the high bid of \$267 and placed it in his wife’s name.” (NRHP, 40)

TEXAS STATEHOOD, GERMAN IMMIGRATION, CIVIL WAR, AND CITY DEVELOPMENT (1845 CE – 1898 CE)

YEAR EVENT/USE/FEATURE ANNOTATION

1845	Population Shifts	Texas Statehood
1845	Population Shifts	“As San Antonio grew during the nineteenth century under Spanish, Mexican, Texan, and eventually United States sovereignty, the acequias became unable to supply the water needs for the community safely and eventually became a source of pestilence and disease.” (Porter, Jr., 96)
1846 – 1848	Mexican - American War	
1846	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“The Texas Democrat described the effects of the 1849 cholera epidemic: “We are pained to hear m as we do by every arrival the most unfavorable accounts of the progress of the cholera at San Antonio. Our information is that there had been as many as thirty-five deaths in the space of twenty-four hours...It is said that at least two thousand persons have quit the city and scattered in the country in all directions. The cathedral bells are no longer permitted to toll for the departed.” (Porter Jr., 96-97)
1847 – 1861	City + Business Development German Imprints Population Shifts	“From 1847 to 1861, a total of 7,634 German immigrants reached Bexar, and after this initial period of settlement, Germans made up roughly one-third of the population of the county.” (Benjamin)

1848	City + Business Development	Jean Baptiste (J.B.) Lacoste immigrates to Texas, in 1848, and subsequently settles in Mexico, where his various enterprises include the production of ice. He returns to San Antonio after the fall of Emperor Maximilian and becomes a well-respected businessman. (NRHP, 40)
1849	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	William Jennings Worth camps around the springs in San Antonio. The encampment occurs during a cholera epidemic in which Worth and 600 other people die. “The campsite came to be known as ‘Worth’s Spring’, possibly referring to what many believe is the large spring at the northeast end of Olmos Dam.” (“San Antonio Spring and Brackenridge Park”)
1850s	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“The portion of the ‘Adasanos farm’ lying within today’s Brackenridge Park was granted to Vicente Flores and Jose Antonio de la Garza. The Flores family’s property at the north end of the park included the dam and head gate of the Alamo acequia where the ditch was diverted from the San Antonio River. To the south, the de la Garza property included a return or waste channel of the Alamo acequia that join the river below the park. Much of the Flores and de la Garza land remained family-owned until the middle of the nineteenth century.” (NHRP, 35. See also footnote 21 and 22 of same page)
1850s	National Park Precedents/ Influences Roads/Paths	“American landscape architects such as Frederick Law Olmsted planned the development of parks that would preserve, reveal, and often enhance the existing scenic characteristics of a place by regrading, planting, and otherwise ‘improving’ as necessary to create calculated visual compositions. The construction of a refined system of roads and paths, as well as places to congregate and promenade, all were combined in a single work of landscape art: the public park.” (Carr, 5)
1852	City + Business Development	The City of San Antonio first resurveys the city lands, and then begins selling land to meet city fiscal needs. (NRHP, 36)
1852	SA Park Development	The City of San Antonio declares the springs in San Pedro Park “a public reserve.” (NRHP, 47). San Pedro remains the only public park of any substantial size until the Brackenridge/Water Works donation.
1852	City + Business Development	A tract south of the quarry consisting of nineteen acres is sold to R.E. Clements in 1852. (NRHP, 37)
1852	City + Business Development Agriculture	Laszlo Ujhazi flees Hungary in the Revolution of 1848-1849. He purchases land during the 1852 land sale, and his “Sirmezo farm occupied much of today’s Olmos Basin north of the river’s headwaters.” (NRHP, 44)

1852	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“Old Sweet Homestead” [Sweet being the name of the owner, city alderman James Sweet] is constructed at Head of the Rivers. (Bennett)
1852/1859	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“The 1852 land sale included property immediately to the north and east, where springs forming the San Antonio River were located. The ‘head of the river,’ as it came to be called, was purchased by city alderman James Sweet in three transactions that took place in 1852 and 1859.” (NRHP, 36)
1852	SA Park Development	“In 1852 he City Council officially established a reserve around the springs and then leased the area to John Jacob Duerler who built pavilions where visitors enjoyed food, drink and entertainment.” (“San Pedro Springs Park”)
1856	City + Business Development Agriculture	“The de la Garza family sold two suertes of their property to noted horticulturalist Francois Guilbeau in 1856. Guilbeau’s many enterprises included wine production and he was credited with shipping mustang grape vine cuttings to Europe when phylloxera devastated the wine industry there in the 1870s. It is possible that Guilbeau used this riverfront property for agriculture.” (NRHP, 37)
1857	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	<p>“The whole river gushes up in one sparkling burst from the earth...The effect is overpowering. It is beyond your possible conceptions of a spring.” (Olmsted, “A Journey Through Texas”)</p> <p>From the article: “This great spring was once a fountain spring rising up to twenty feet in the air. It joins Comal Springs, San Marcos Springs, and Barton Springs as one of the four fountain springs of Texas. Indeed, there is evidence to suggest these same four fountain springs may be depicted in a rock wall painting, known as the White Shaman Panel in the Lower Pecos, dating back some 4,000 years ago.” (University of the Incarnate Word Website, “History”)</p>
1858	National Park Precedents/ Influences Roads/Paths	<p>“The term parkway... originated in Williamsburg, Virginia, in 1699 and was initially applied to roads with wide, grassy central medians. The concept was popularized by the development of Central Park, New York, in 1858 by the pioneer landscape architects Frederick Olmsted and Calvert Vaux.” (Lay, 314)</p> <p>“At Central Park, therefore, the lion’s share of the construction budget was spent on elaborate systems of carriage drives, pedestrian paths, and bridle trails, not new buildings.” (Carr, 22)</p>
1859	City + Business Development	“Sweet built a house on the property [at Head of the River] and then sold this land to George W. Barnes in August 1859.” (NRHP, 36)

1859	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	<p>Traveler Richard Everett provides the following account of the headwaters of the San Antonio Springs and the San Pedro Springs:</p> <p>“Two rivers wind through the city [San Antonio], flowing from the living springs only a short distance beyond the suburbs. One, the San Antonio, boils in a vast volume from a rocky basin, which, environed by mossy stones and overhanging foliage, seems devised for the especial dwelling-place of nymphs and naiads. The other, the San Pedro, runs from a little pond, formed by the outgushing of five sparkling springs, which bear the same name. This miniature lake, embowered in a grove of stately elm and pecan trees, is one of the most beautiful natural sheets of pure water in the Union – so clear, that even the delicate roots of the water-lilies and the smallest pebbles may be distinctly seen.” (Eckhardt, The Edwards Aquifer Website, “San Antonio Springs)</p>
1861 – 1865	American Civil War	
1863	City + Business Development	<p>John H. Kampmann purchases the R.E. Clements tract of nineteen acres in 1863. He constructs a small stone building there, still extant, but in ruins. Because of the structure’s size and the maintenance of a large mansion in the city proper, it is not believed that Kampmann ever lived in the house, but instead used it for workers or rented it to a family. (NRHP, 36)</p>
1863	<p>City + Business Development</p> <p>Tannery</p> <p>Civil War and Enslaved Labor</p>	<p>The Confederate States of America successfully settles a lawsuit between Pedro Flores and the city of San Antonio and purchases 75 acres on the SA River in order to construct a tannery and sawmill – part of their effort to establish “a system of home manufacturers.” Construction is underway in 1863 using rock quarried from “No. 24 and 25 quarries at no charge for constructing their works at the head of the San Antonio River.” (NRHP, 37-38)</p>
1863	City + Business Development	<p>Jacob Duerler, local landscape gardener who had leased San Pedro Springs Park, “created five fish ponds west of the lake, planted a flower garden, and constructed a speakers’ stand and exhibition building with ballroom and bar. Duerler also...opened a small zoo” at the site. (“San Pedro Springs Park”)</p>
1865	SA Property + Business Development	<p>George Brackenridge moves to San Antonio in late 1865, after experiencing success as a cotton trader during the Civil War. His acquaintances include both statewide and national political and business leaders. (NHRP, 39)</p>

1865	National Park Precedents/ Influences Roads/Paths	“The circuit drive would be complemented by a system of pedestrian paths leading to ‘points of view accessible only by foot.’... This formula for the careful, minimal development of Yosemite Valley was based on the formal and theoretical precedents of the landscape park, a genre Olmsted had already exploited with great success to accommodate large numbers of tourists seeking picturesque scenery in a public setting.” (Carr, 29)
1865	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Floods on the San Antonio River. (“The People’s Waterway”)
1865 post	City + Business Development Population Shifts	“San Antonio continued to grow and prosper in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Many new residents moved to the city after the Civil War and the United States Army established a permanent post east of the river on a rise known locally as Rattlesnake Hill; this post is now known as Fort Sam Houston.” (NRHP, 39)
1860s late	City + Business Development	Helen Ujhazi Madarasz moved to San Antonio and “was hired as bookkeeper at George Brackenridge’s First National Bank, and the mother and son [Ladislaus] became close friends with Brackenridge and his sister, Elanor.” (NRHP, 44)
1866	City + Business Development	“In early 1866, Brackenridge established the San Antonio National Bank, which became the foundation of his extensive business holdings.” (NRHP, 39)
1866	City + Business Development	“Lacoste established the San Antonio Ice Company in 1866.” (NRHP 40-41) Lacoste designed water works for Kansas City, KS and Austin, TX. (NRHP, 41)
1866	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Population Shifts	Cholera epidemic strikes the City of SA. “Local physicians argued for construction of a safe municipal water system. Progress on this issue was slowed by Reconstruction politics (NRHP, 8) The need for a better system of water than the acequias was obvious to the San Antonio Board of Health, which on September 30, 1866, issued recommendations to the city about control of the disease’s source, no doubt standing water and floating filth in the irrigation ditches.” (Porter, Jr., 97)
1866	African American Imprints Juneteenth	Juneteenth is particularly unique to Texas, marking the formal emancipation declaration in the state. African Americans began annual celebrations in 1866 in public parks, plazas and thoroughfares on, and around, June 19. (Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)

1867	City + Business Development Tannery	The city of San Antonio begins negotiations for purchase the 75-acre tannery tract from the Freedman's Bureau. (NRHP, 8)
1868	National Park Precedents/ Influences Roads/Paths	"Brooklyn park proposal by Olmsted and Vaux led to the construction of the Ocean and Eastern parkways (Patton 1986). Consequently, a number of fine landscaped parkways were built in New York and Washington in the period between the world wars. They were effectively linear parks containing a road built for noncommercial traffic. In many ways the parkways were similar to current-day freeways, but were usually designed for lower speeds and thus had less generous alignments and permitted side access to the roadway." (Lay, 314)
1868.05	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Tannery	Storm devastates the City of SA, badly damaging the tannery works, now owned by the federal government. (NRHP, 38)
1869	City + Business Development	"[George] Barnes then sold it [the land] to Isabella Brackenridge, mother of George W. Brackenridge, in September 1869." (NRHP, 36)
1869	City + Business Development	"Three years later [from 1866], he purchased property with an antebellum home ["Old Sweet Homestead" mentioned in 1852 entry] at the head of the San Antonio River. Because the word "bracken" was the Scottish word for "fern," Brackenridge named his new home "Fernridge." (NRHP, 39)
1869	City + Business Development	The Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word come to San Antonio directly from France to provide support in that years' cholera epidemic. They establish what would become Santa Rosa Hospital (today Christus Santa Rosa). (Bennett)
1850 – 1870	City + Business Development	"San Antonio grew from 3,488 to 12,256 residents between 1850 and 1870. The demands of this growing population ultimately led to the introduction of industrial and commercial uses into the rural landscape below the river's headwaters. This process began in the early 1850s and accelerated during and after the Civil War." (NRHP, 36).
1870.07	Archaeology Tannery	City finally completes negotiations on the purchase of the tannery works land and purchased the land for \$4,500. "There have been no archaeological excavations to document the tannery." (NRHP, 38)
1872	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The City tries but fails to acquire the springs that feed the river and makes no progress in establishing a public water system. "It was in this context that George Brackenridge began to purchase additional riverfront land." (NRHP, 40)

1874	City + Business Development Tannery	City council votes to sell 47 acres of the tannery tract, retaining 28 acres under city ownership. (NRHP, 38)
1875.01	City + Business Development Tannery	City holds auction to sell the tannery tract lands. “The City retained the property at the junction of the Upper Labor Ditch and river that included the greatest amount of river frontage as well as some springs. Six of the tannery tract lots were acquired by prominent local individuals and firms: J.H. Kampmann (Lots 1,3, and4, totaling 16.65 acres); F. Groos and Company (Lots 2 and 5, totaling 9.3 acres; and Lockwood and Manning (Lot 8, totaling 3.33 acres). Most significantly, prominent banker George W. Brackenridge purchased four of the five uppermost lots – Lots 6,7,9, and 10, totaling seventeen acres.” (NRHP, 38-39)
1875	City + Business Development Tannery	“George Brackenridge acquired four of the upper five lots in the tannery track adjoining and west of the river in 1875.” (NRHP, 40)
1876.01	City + Business Development Agriculture	Mary Maverick signs a lease for the 200-acre tract that Brackenridge buys six months later. “The lessee, M.M. Morales, was to maintain the irrigation ditches and protect the pecan, walnut, oak, and elm trees. Mr. Morales was allowed to cultivate and harvest crops in addition to the sugar cane that was already growing on the property.” (NRHP, 40)
1876	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management City + Business Development	“Brackenridge made his most significant purchase in June 1876, when he and his brother paid \$25,000 to Mary A. Maverick for a wooded 200-acre tract on the east side of the river that ran from the head gate of the Alamo acequia south to the property of Francois Guilbeau. The land was bounded on both the west and north by the river and on the east by the Alamo acequia.” (NRHP, 40) (Cross-reference this purchase with Maverick 1843)
1877	City + Business Development	“After years of planning, a rail connection was finally completed in 1877. (NRHP, 39)
1877	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“The Waterworks Raceway is a straight, earthen ditch with sloping sides constructed to deliver water from the west bank of the river to the Water Works pump house...The raceway was designed with a nine foot fall that provided power to drive turbines and pumps” (NRHP, 10)

1877.04.03	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	<p>“The council approved a contract to construct the municipal water system. (NRHP, 41)</p> <p>“Ferdinand Herff pressed for a sanitary system of water and discontinuance of use of shallow water wells and the acequias for domestic water supply. The stage was now set for a municipal water system that would guarantee pure water for the people to avoid disease. Yet according to local historian Lewis F. Fisher, “it was not sanitation but he need for more water for fighting fires that in 1877 finally prompted the city to change directions and sign up with the new San Antonio Water Works Company, formed by immigrant Frenchman Jean Baptiste LaCoste.” (Porter, Jr., 98)</p>
1878.07.05	City + Business Development Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	<p>“The water works was in operation by July 5, 1878, when it was accepted by the City Council. Five months before the water works was completed, the City Council voted to extend Avenue C from Grand Avenue north to the head of the river, a distance of approximately three miles, and to name the new street River Avenue. This straight, direct route to downtown on the east side of the river was an improvement over the many twists and curves of Jones Avenue and Rock Quarry Road, both to the west of the river.” (NRHP, 41)</p>
1878	City + Business Development	<p>“In 1878, he [Brackenridge] sold Lots 6 and 7 to local gardener Frank Gutzeit.” (NRHP, 44) Brackenridge reserved “all water power and right of riparian proprietor.”</p>
1878	City + Business Development	<p>“Brackenridge acquired Francois Guilbeau’s thirty-acre parcel in 1878.” (NRHP, 42)</p>
1879	Geology	<p>William Loyd, an Englishman, visits San Antonio on a hunting trip, and identifies a blue argillaceous limestone which he believes to be cement rock. He works with George H. Kalteyer, the city’s leading druggist, and W.R. Freeman, the engineer who designed J.B. Lacoste’s water system, to analyze the material. Kalteyer had trained in chemistry in his native Germany and assisted his mentor, German scientist Carl Remigius Fresenius, in studying cements for the German government. Further testing determined the material to be “natural cement rock” containing the proportion of lime and clay needed to manufacture Portland cement. (NRHP, 43)</p>
1878	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	<p>“Beginning in 1878, the San Antonio Water Works Company, was granted exclusive responsibility for the sharing and management of the municipal water resource under the skittish and inconsistent direction of various city councils.” (Porter, Jr. 109)</p>

1879 – 1880	City + Business Development Horticulture	<p>“The Madarasz Place is located opposite Maverick’s Grove on the west side of the river near the rock quarries.” [This must have been a previous home, as the later acreage purchased from Brackenridge was on the east side of the river.] (NRHP, 44)</p> <p>“Ladislaus Madarasz was interested in horticulture, and in 1879-1880, established Ilka Nursery.” (NRHP, 44)</p>
1880	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Floods on the San Antonio River. (“The People’s Waterway”)
1880.01.15	City + Business Development	“George Kalteyer, William Loyd, and other organized the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Company (later called Alamo Cement Company.” (NRHP, 43)
1880	City + Business Development Tannery Quarry	“The City did not sell the rocky area west of the river and Upper Labor ditch, which was a source of high-quality, hard limestone. Stone was needed to sustain the city’s building boom, and the City Council chose to lease the quarry to private interests. The quarry operated on a small scale until 1880, when the Alamo Roman and Portland Cement Company lease the area for a major plant.” (NRHP, 36-37)
1881	City + Business Development Tannery	Brackenridge purchases the fifth of the tannery lots in 1881. (NRHP, 40)
1882/1883	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Brackenridge sells property: “Lots 8, 9, and 10 were sold to Helen Madarasz.” Brackenridge reserved “all water power and right of riparian proprietor.” (NRHP, 44)
1883	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“George Brackenridge did not become a supporter of the water works concept until construction was underway. He observed the project as it progressed and decided to negotiate with Lacoste to lay waterlines to Fernridge for household and irrigation use. Lacoste was given permission to use Brackenridge’s telegraph poles to extend a line from the pump house to the water works’ office in the city. Brackenridge also accepted stock in the San Antonio Water Works in exchange for loans to Lacoste. He soon held controlling interest, and by 1883, he had acquired full ownership of the water works.” (NRHP, 42)
1883	Historic Preservation	“In 1883, the Alamo had become the first landmark west of the Mississippi River purchased by a public body and saved in the nation’s growing historic preservation movement.” (Fisher, 2016, 1)

1885	City + Business Development	“The Brackenridge family’s acquisition of the Mavericks’ property gave them control of approximately one-and-one-half mile of frontage on the river’s east bank. When John Brackenridge conveyed his interest in this land and 1,400 acres north of Fernridge to his brother in 1885, George Brackenridge became the sole owner of over 1,600 acres of land along the San Antonio River and its tributary, Olmos Creek.” (NRHP, 40)
1885	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	<p>George Brackenridge takes ownership of the San Antonio Water Works, originally capitalized at \$90,000, which proved inadequate to keep up with needed expansion. He reorganizes the firm as the Water Works Company and increases the capitalization to \$500,000. (NRHP, 42)</p> <p>The new Water Works Company begins a rapid expansion of the system’s infrastructure. Key to this expansion is Brackenridge’s acquisition of the remaining forty-five acres between the river and River Avenue, north of today’s Josephine Street. (NRHP, 42)</p>
1885	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Brackenridge purchases the “fifteen-acre de la Garza family tract in late 1885.” With this purchase he controls the land and water rights of 250 acres between the San Antonio River and the Alamo acequia.” (NRHP, 42)
1885	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Brackenridge constructs an earthen canal and a second pump house. “The earthen canal left the river at a bend below the original pump house and culminated at the new pump house to the south. In addition, the old river channel that once ran east of the building was rerouted to the west. The dry channel remains.” (NHRP, 42)
1886	Park Management	The City of San Antonio hires a “park keeper.” (NRHP, 47)
1886	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“Mill Race or Second Waterworks Canal, which is associated with the expansion of the city’s water system in 1886.” (NRHP, 34)
1886	City + Business Development	George W. Brackenridge constructs three-story Victorian mansion next to ‘Old Sweet Homestead,’ and renames the villa complex ‘Fernridge.’ (Bennett)
1890	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“San Antonio’s population in 1890 numbered 37,673 – an increase of 83% since 1880. While there had been extremely wet years during the 1880s, there had also been years of low rainfall. The San Antonio River springs ceased flowing in times of drought, drying up the river, creeks and shallow wells, and placing the city’s water supply in jeopardy. ...Additional water was needed to operate a much-needed sewage system. “(NRHP, 45)
1890	Park Management	San Antonio “funded the jobs of park inspector and park commission, but staffing fluctuated with the unstable economy of the 1890s.” (See 1893) (NRHP, 47)

1890	City + Business Development	Massive iron truss bridge is constructed across the San Antonio River at St. Mary Street. (NRHP, 63). This bridge is later moved to Brackenridge Park in 1925.
1891	City + Business Development	Helen Madarasz constructs a house on her acreage where she and her son run the Ilka Nursery. (NRHP, 44)
1891.03.26	Park Precedents/ Influences	Jochi Talimimis of Japan “wishes to exhibit a Japanese tea garden at the [Columbia World’s Fair in Chicago] exposition and comes backed by \$60,000 to carry out the project. His application for space is being considered.” (Austin American-Statesman)
1892.05.11	African American Imprints Juneteenth	May 11, 1892, San Antonio Daily Light (newspaper) notes that “...colored people will probably hold Emancipation celebration in Brackenridge Park”. It is not clear whether the event took place at the park, but the location was considered. (Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)
1893	Park Management	“The depression that occurred in the United States in 1893 was the worst in the nation’s history... In April 1893 the U.S. Treasury’s gold reserves fell below \$100 million, setting off a financial panic as investors, fearing that the country would be forced to abandon the gold standard scrambled to sell off assets and convert them to gold... The economy spent the next four years mired in the worst depression anyone had ever known.” (“Panic of 1893”)
1893.06.30	Park Precedents/ Influences	“The Japanese exhibits are attracting a great deal of attention and are among the finest in the whole [Columbia World’s Fair] exposition. The Japanese tea garden is a most pleasant place to rest, and the tea they give is delightful. There are three departments to the garden. ... The Japanese temple of Hooden is a wonderful structure, situated on the Wooded Island, surrounded by the Japanese rose garden...” (Argonia Clipper, Argonia, KS)
1894	Historic Preservation	National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty (Great Britain)
1897	City + Business Development	Brackenridge sells the houses and land at Head-of-the-River in 1897 to the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. It had always been a political flashpoint within the City of San Antonio. (Bennett) Brackenridge’s ownership did not create this “political flashpoint.” Rather, it was the purchase from the city by former alderman James Sweet from the city in the 1850s that, probably rightfully, riled up so many people. (Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)
1897	Park Management	The parks commissioner job is abolished, probably due to funding issues. (NRHP, 47)

1897	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Headwaters springs first go dry during drought of 1897 – 1899 (Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)
1898	Spanish – American War	

THE BRACKENRIDGE VISION: A DRIVING WOODLAND PARK (1899 CE – 1914 CE)

YEAR EVENT/USE/FEATURE ANNOTATION

1899.12.04	City + Business Development Park Development	“George Brackenridge’s Water Works Company donated 199 acres of riverfront land to the City of San Antonio for use as park; the City Council accepted the first on December 4, 1899.” (NRHP 46). Several restrictions were involved in the donation, with the most notable restriction related “the bequest was restricted by its prohibition of the sale or consumption of alcoholic beverages in the park.” (NRHP 47). Footnote 73 on page 47 states that: “The park deed contained a clause stating that violation of the provision against alcohol or use of the property for non-park purposes would result in reversion to the State of Texas for the benefit of the University of Texas.” (NRHP, 47).
1899 – 1900	Park Development Regional Vernacular	Ludwig Mahncke, as Brackenridge Park commissioner, laid out the initial park features. (NRHP, 7)
1900	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“At the end of the first full year of operation, it was reported that ‘the woods and winding walks and driveways were full of people, some afoot, some [on] horseback, and lots of them in vehicles of different kinds.’” (NRHP, 49)
1900	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The San Antonio River goes completely dry for the first time. (Eckhardt, Edwards Aquifer Website, “San Antonio Springs”) <p>Note: The headwaters went dry during the drought of 1897– 99, came back with heavy rain in January 1900, then again went dry that summer. But the river downstream received some water throughout those years by post-use runoff from artesian wells pumped by the two breweries upstream. (Fisher, American Venice, 23; from Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)</p>

1900	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“Brackenridge Park was quite modest in comparison with other rural parks in the United States at the turn of the twentieth century. Improvements were limited to winding roads, and there were no imposing entryways, grand fountains, towering sculptures, or manicured gardens. Visitors had only limited access to the park across land still owned by the Water Works Company.” (NRHP, 48)
1900	African American Imprints Cyclists	A local bicycle club, the Alamo Wheelmen, races in Brackenridge Park and hosted guest cyclists. It is believed that the club hosted the famous African American racer Major Taylor and Otto Zeizler the “California Demon.” It is not clear when the Jockey Club closed, but it was likely soon after the George Brackenridge’s company donated 199 acres of land that included the site to the city in 1899. (NRHP, 8) Note: The “Alamo Wheelmen” bicycle club held races in the park before 1900. At least once the events included the world champion, Major Taylor. Taylor was African American and received the “world champion” title by consistently defeating riders from Europe and the United States. (Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)
1901.02.25	Park Opening	“Brackenridge Park, just inside the north edge of the city limits... is also one of the most beautiful natural parks to be found anywhere. It is traversed by a winding river [a]nd numerous ditches and with nice macadam driveways under the majestic oak, stately elm or everlasting pecan, it is a recreation spot fit for the Gods. Its beauty is beyond description and the greatest effort of the writer would but feebly portray its wonders. It has just been opened to the public.” (“San Antonio’s Lovely Breathing Spots,” El Paso Herald, p. 1)
1901	Park Management	The parks commissioner job is reinstated, and Ludwig Mahncke was appointed to that position. (NRHP, 47)
1901.04.01	Park Events	“Col. E. H. Jenkins, president of the San Antonio Traction company, will not have the people hunger for recreation and entertainment this summer. He has leased Prof. Carl Beck’s military band...and will give concerts at Muth’s garden every Thursday night... Brackenridge Park will come next... Brackenridge contains ninety-nine acres on the head of the San Antonio river and is acknowledged the most beautiful natural park in the state.” (“The San Antonio Street Railway Will Provide Free Recreation For The People,” El Paso Herald, 2)

1901.04.13	Park Precedents/ Influences	“The California State Floral Society held its regular monthly meeting yesterday at the Japanese tea garden in Golden Gate Park. With one of the thatch-roofed tea houses for a meeting place, white and red azaleas and blue rhododendrons blooming about them, quaint Japanese houses nestling amid rare and beautiful shrubs and trees and ferns, and goldfish flashing in the pools to surfeit the eye...” (The San Francisco Call)
1901	Park Development City + Business Development Tourism Regional Vernacular Madarasz Park	“The old Ilka Nursery property, immediately across the river from the water works, was still owned by Helen Madarasz’s estate when the City accepted the Brackenridge bequest in 1899. George Brackenridge’s prohibition of alcohol consumption might have encouraged local brewery owner, Otto Koehler, to purchase the Madarasz property for his own private park. In 1901, Koehler’s San Antonio Brewing Company, producer of Pearl beer, acquired the property and named it Madarasz Family Park, which was open to the public for ‘picnics and jollifications.’ Park custodian L. Dethleffesen invited visitors: ‘Come, bring; your family and friends to spend a pleasant day. Everything in a first-class style. Sandwiches, ice cream, cream cheese, milk of all descriptions and the famous Triple XXX Pearl Beer and soda water and cigars always on hand.’ The stone bridge that spanned the river linking the two parks became known as the Madarasz-Brackenridge Park Bridge.” (NRHP, 50)
1901.04.01	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“THE SAN ANTONIO STREET RAILWAY WILL PROVIDE FREE RECREATION FOR THE PEOPLE. Special to The Herald. SAN ANTONIO, Tex., April 1. – Col. E. H. Jenkins, president of the San Antonio Traction company, will not have the people hunger for recreation and entertainment this summer. He has leased Prof. Carl Beck’s military band, the leading organization of the kind in the city, and will give concerts at Muth’s garden every Thursday night beginning April 11 and at one of the various parks every Sunday afternoon. The first was given yesterday in San Pedro Springs park. Brackenridge park will come next, and the Hot Sulphur wells will not be forgotten. Brackenridge park contains ninety-nine acres on the head of the San Antonio river and is acknowledged the most beautiful natural park in the state.” (El Paso Herald 01 Apr 1901, Mon, 2)
1902	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“The basic question of public or private ownership of the water system was decided in 1902; the water system would become owned and operated by the city exclusively. There would be no more threats of the city competing with the water company by building their own system or taking the system via their condemnation of rights under eminent domain.” (Porter, Jr.)

1902	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“It was decided that the park ‘should be a driving park more than a picnic place.’ To this end, Mahncke designed and opened several miles of driveways that all converged on the river at the north end of the park where he hoped to build an area for bank performances. The newspaper noted: ‘These roads have been opened through the dense forest upon a plan to give the most pleasure and variety of scenery.’ Roads were constructed with ‘care being taken not to disturb the throne of a single monarch of the forest.’” (NRHP, 48)
1902	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“Mahncke had established a fenced deer preserve in the park and was building enclosures for buffalo and elk. These animals, pastured along River Avenue near today’s Lions Field Clubhouse, were fed with hay raised in the park.” (NRHP, 49) Animal species are introduced in the park as a form of viewing recreation.
1902.10.23	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“Texas Notes. A number of buffaloes and Elks from the Goodnight ranch in the Panhandle have been received at San Antonio for the Brackenridge park.” (The Brownsville Herald (Brownsville, Texas), 23 Oct 1902, Thu, 2)
1903	Tannery African American Imprints	A 1903 newspaper article indicates that “...cut stones taken from the walls of the Confederate tannery...” were used to build the Freedmen’s colored school located at the corner of Convent and San Antonio River.” (Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019) Note: Documentation exists on this Freedmen’s school which became known as “Rincon,” and eventually “Riverside.” National Archive documentation exists indicating that black slave labor was used as labor in the tannery by military impressment (forced labor) during the Civil War. (Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)
1903.05.21	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“BLACK BASS ARE RECEIVED. Twelve Thousand Have Been Provided for San Antonio. Special to The Statesman. San Antonio, Tex., May 20. Twelve thousand young black bass were received here today from the vernment hatchery at San Marcos. Eleven thousand will be placed in the San Antonio river at Brackenridge park and 1000 will be placed in the West End lake, an immense body of water in the western suburbs of the city.” (Austin American-Stateman, 21 May 1903, Thurs, 5)

1903.05.21	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	"AN ELK BORN IN SAN ANTONIO. It Came to One of the Herd in the Park of the Alamo City. Special to The Statesman. San Antonio, Tex., May 20. – The first elk ever born in San Antonio came into the world at Brackenridge park last night among the herd of elks placed there by Park Commissioner Ludwig Mahncke, who is as proud of the newcomer as a boy is of his first pair of boots. The young elk appears to be a healthy youngster and bids fair to thrive." (Austin American-Stateman, 21 May 1903, Thurs, 5)
1905	Park Development	With the death of Kampmann and his wife, their heirs sell the Kampmann property back to the city in two transactions. "The 1905 deed included land west of the house extending to Shook Avenue, together with a 25-foot wide strip leading to the house as a 'public thoroughfare.' (NRHP 37)
1905.06.30	Park Development Regional Vernacular	A June 30, 1905 San Antonio Express article reports on a grand park and boulevard system that would "contain 800 acres and provide fifty miles of drives," as well as containing a new park: "If the plans of George W. Brackenridge and some of his associates succeed, San Antonio before many months will have one of the finest park and boulevard systems in the United States..." (San Antonio Express, 1905)
1905.08.12	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	"The River avenue line reaches a magnificent rural hotel and passes alongside Brackenridge park, which contains two hundred acres of nature and her most beautiful products trained in systematic order by the hand of man. The national parks exceed it only in extent and the monarchs of the plain and forest are preserved in a heard (sic) each of buffalo, elk and deer." (SAN ANTONIO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY AND SAN ANTONIO TRACTION COMPANY. San Antonio Gazette, 12 Aug 1905, Sat., 7). This article is very lengthy and discusses other connections throughout the city.
1905.08.12	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	"POINT OF INTEREST. [Included in the article are most of the attractions of the city]. "Maverick park, Brackenridge park, Convent of the Incarnate Word, Alamo Heights, Davy Crockett's home, head of river and palisades – Take River avenue." (San Antonio Gazette, 12 Aug 1905, Sat., 11)
1905.06	Politics/Civic Affairs	Mayor Callaghan won re-election. (NRHP, 51)

1906	National Park Precedents/ Influences	The Reform Park movement grows out of trends that developed in the late-nineteenth century in social ideas about the health of the average citizen... While early park programming involved passive and unstructured activities, the dawn of a new century brings new ideas about how parks should be used and organized. Central to this change in perspective is the idea that organized activities, planned by a recreational specialist, are the most effective means to bring exercise and fresh air to the masses... In 1906, the Playground Association of American is formed, and it becomes the leading force in programming theory for urban parks. (Cranz, 66)
1906	City + Business Development	Between 1883 and 1906, George Brackenridge serves “as president of the Water Works and [was] closely involved with its day-to-day operation until he sold the company in 1906.” (NRHP, 42)
1906.03	City + Business Development	Brackenridge sells the Water Works to George J. Kobusch, a capitalist from St. Louis, Missouri and investors for over \$500,000. The new owners rename the company the San Antonio Water Supply Company and block access to the park. “Mayor Callaghan informed the City Council that ‘it was necessary for the City to own for the benefit and pleasure of its citizens a means of ingress and egress.’” (NRHP, 50)
1906	Park Development Tourism	“By early 1906, there were six buffalo, nineteen elk, forty-three deer, four goats, one sheep, four swans, three geese, forty-nine peafowls, thirteen white turkeys, twelve bronze turkeys, two silver pheasants, two Mexican pheasants, and three guineas.” (NRHP, 49)
1906.01	Park Management	Ludwig Mahncke resigns as parks commissioner after a disagreement with the Mayor Callaghan, who took office in 1905. (NRHP, 47)
1906.03	Park Management	Two months after Mahncke resigned as parks commissioner, he died from pneumonia. (NRHP, 49)
1906.10.20	Park Development Tourism	“Halliday=Sweet Co. PARK GROVE. Everything is lovely and looking better from day to day in our beautiful addition covered with grand and stately trees, fronting magnificent Brackenridge park and only two blocks from Mahncke park on River avenue... (San Antonio Gazette, 20 Oct 1906, Sat., 11)
1906.10.22	Park Management	It appears with the death of Mahncke, that the city has a new park commissioner, Henry Steingruber. (Austin American-Statesman (Austin, Texas) – 22 Oct 1906, Mon – Page 7) 1907

1906.10.22	Tourism	“Elk and Deer Numerous. San Antonio, Oct. 21. – The report of the park commissioner, Henry Steingruber, made to Mayor Callaghan shows that this city is possessed of a very large herd of elk and deer and that they can be raised successfully in captivity. The elk number twenty-one, fourteen bulls and seven cows. The deer number thirty-eight, sixteen bucks, thirteen does and nine fawns. The park commissioner reports that both the elk and deer enclosures are too crowded and that some of the animals should be sold.” (Austin American-Statesman, 22 Oct 1906, Mon, 7)
1907 – 1913	National Park Precedents/ Influences Roads/Paths	“Mount Rainier National Park was the first to officially allow them [automobiles] in 1907. Glacier allowed automobiles in 1912, followed by Yosemite and Sequoia in 1913. Motorists to the parks still faced long lists of regulations: written authorization to enter, time restrictions on the use of their vehicles, strict attention to speed limits, and rules about pulling over for oncoming horses and honking at sharp turns.” (Braden)
1907	Tourism	“In 1907, George Wharton James of Boston, editor of the magazine Arena, wrote, “Brackenridge Park is the most magnificent piece of parking in the United States that has come under my observation. ...You have now a woodland that is unsurpassed, traversed by excellent driveways, into which it is a boon to plunge for an hour or two to relieve the fatiguing monotony of city life.” (NRHP, 49)
1907.02.09	Tourism	“The city of San Antonio has made a great success of raising deer at Brackenridge Park. In fact there is no more profitable industry.” (Brownsville Daily Herald, Vol. XV. No. 188)
1907.04.20	Park Development	San Antonio's parks are improved through city investments: “MORECITY FINANCE.... Satisfactory as was the work done under the old park commissioner, the late lamented Ludwig Mahncke, the present administration loses nothing in comparison with the work previously done, which the figures show that the cost of park maintenance has been from 15 to 25 per cent less during the present administration than for the four years preceding. Within three months of the fiscal year ended May 31, 1906 (covering the service of the present park commissioner), the roadways and paths in San Pedro park were regravelled, the lake cleaned, fences repaired, new turning gates and floating roosts constructed, ditches dug for drainage and this in addition to the routine work of park maintenance. Cleaning underbrush and maintaining the several miles of driveway in Brackenridge park has been the principal work there, in addition to the caring for the herds of animals and the flocks of fowls. A considerable portion of Travis park was resodded and in this and other parks over 200 trees and shrubs and flowering plants were planted and needed work done in the fertilization of all the flower beds in all the parks and squares. This department employs four gardeners and fifteen laborers and a team and driver...” (San Antonio Gazette, 20 Apr 1907. Sat, 9)

1907.05.15	Proximate Principle	Advertisement for property in Laurel Heights Terrace refers to its location on Brackenridge Park. “Beautiful Brackenridge park adjoins Terrace on the east.”
1908	Quarry City + Business Development	<p>“By 1908 ... the company [Alamo Cement Company] needed a larger site with rail access and moved its plant to a 300-acre site north of the city limits. The old plant was used intermittently for several years before closing permanently.</p> <p>After the cement company moved most of its operations in 1908, the city began to evaluate the quarry site. A survey revealed that as many as fifty-two ‘squatters’ were living in houses in the quarry area. Most were likely former quarry employees.” [See entries for 1920 and 1926 below related to squatters.] (NRHP, 59)</p>
1908.01.16	Unusual Events	CITY GARDENER A SUICIDE. Employee (sic) of San Antonio Kills himself in Brackenridge Park. San Antonio, Jan. 15. – The body of Fritz Gaehnel, a city gardener employed in Brackenridge park, was found today in the park. He had evidently killed himself. Pinned to his coat was the following note: “Please do me the favor to telephone to Zizzik’s and bury me there. Please excuse me from working tomorrow. I owe Mr. Wernette 40 cents. You will find it in my pocket. Please pay him. It is strange how things will change in one day.” (Austin American-Stateman, 16 Jan 1908, Thu, 1)
1908.02.04	Park Development / Park Entrances Proximate Principle	“The City Council yesterday afternoon passed finally the ordinance introduced at the last session by Alderman Dietzmann, providing for the condemnation of the land necessary to open six passageways to Brackenridge Park, five from River Avenue and one from Avenue A or Josephine Street. At the last session of the Council the ordinance was put on its first reading and passed over. Yesterday afternoon, it was called up and passed finally under a suspension of the rules. The condemnation board will be appointed by the County Judge.” (San Antonio Express)
1908.02.29	Proximate Principle	<p>“The Country Club and Brackenridge Park are located adjacent to Alamo Heights, making this the choice residence park of San Antonio.” (San Antonio Express– 29 Feb 1908, Sat., 8.)</p> <p>Note: The Country Club was there because George Brackenridge sold the club 135 acres in 1907. (Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)</p>
1908.05	City + Business Development	Condemnation proceedings are underway when the case between the City and the San Antonio Water Supply Company is settled. (NRHP, 50)

<p>1908.04.04</p>	<p>City + Business Development</p> <p>Park Development / Park Entrances</p>	<p>“CITY MAKES AN OFFER TO PURCHASE ENTRANCE TO BRACKENRIDGE PARK. A proposition has been made to the San Antonio Water Supply company for the settlement of the dispute regarding the “Chinese wall” around Brackenridge park. If the proposition is not accepted the city will begin condemnation proceedings to secure title to the entrances to the park.</p> <p>The company has been offered \$1000 an acre for the land at the entrances to the park. This is believed to be a fair price and one that should be acceptable to the company.</p> <p>At present the city owns only the interior of Brackenridge park. A strip of land extending the length of the park on River avenue and on the Josephine street boundary was reserved by the company, although the city has the use of the property. This strip on River avenue has been improved by the city and made more valuable, but the company retains the title to the land and can dispose of it at any time. The company also retains the right to the water power in the park and to certain buildings on the property.</p> <p>For nearly a year, negotiations have been in progress between the company and the city. Mayor Callaghan has taken the stand that the city should own the entrances to the park as otherwise the park is in reality private property. One of the entrances, which the city proposes to purchase comprises a strip of land about eight hundred feet long and two hundred feet wide.” (San Antonio Gazette)</p>
<p>1908.05.22</p>	<p>Horticulture + Gardening</p>	<p>Advertisement for “Landscape Gardeners. Freimuth & Whail. Old phone 2310.” (San Antonio Express, 22 May 1908, Fri., 7)</p>
<p>1908.07.27</p>	<p>Park Development / Park Entrances</p>	<p>City Council approves \$6,700 to purchase 6.683 acres of access land to the park. “Entrances were opened along the park’s eastern edge on River Avenue (Broadway) and to the south on Avenue A and Schomann Street.” (NRHP, 50)</p>
<p>1908.08.02</p>	<p>Tourism</p> <p>Regional Vernacular</p>	<p>“If one is fortunate enough to possess a carriage or motor car, a journey may be taken to the more secluded recesses of Brackenridge Park, where the scenery is still unspoiled by the mechanical touch of the landscape gardener.” (San Antonio Express)</p>
<p>1909.01.17</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Historic Preservation</p>	<p>Memorial bust of Ludwig Mahncke is installed in Brackenridge Park at a location “near the old Jockey Club headquarters ... today the site of the golf clubhouse. The monument was moved to nearby Mahncke Park in 1968.”</p>

1910	Park Development Roads/Paths	“The San Antonio City Council introduced its first ever set of written road rules in March 1910, at more or less the same time the police department acquired its first automobiles and motorbikes.” (Hemphill, Hugh, “Automobiles in San Antonio, 1899 – 1916”)
1910.10.30	City + Business Development	Major Brackenridge Gives States Institution 500 acres of Land. Special to The Times: San Antonio, Texas, Oct. 26. – George W. Brackenridge, millionaire banker and public-spirited citizen, believes the most practical philanthropy is done in the shape of donations of land for the use and enjoyment of the public and for the benefit of educational institutions. Col. Brackenridge began this work by giving the city of San Antonio over 200 acres at the headwaters of the San Antonio river, which are known now as Brackenridge Park, the most picturesque and magnificent natural park in the South. ... [It is clear that Brackenridge’s philanthropy revolved around land and cash transfers to public entities for recreation and education. This was a time in American history when many of the Gilded Age millionaires were giving away much of their fortunes for public causes] (Laredo Weekly Times, 30 Oct 1910, Sun., 9)
1910	Mexican Revolution Mexican American Imprints	The immigration to San Antonio of tens of thousands of Mexican refugees to San Antonio in the years around the Mexican Revolution of 1910. (Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)
1911	Park Development (SA)	The “small, private zoological garden in San Pedro Park closed.” (NRHP 51) [This must have been in response to the growth and expansion of the zoological garden at Brackenridge.]
1911.05.29	Park Development	“CHANGE OF PARK NAME.” In a dispute over access to the Brackenridge Park land, Mayor Callaghan changed the name of the park from Brackenridge Park to Waterworks Park. (Daily Advocate (Victoria, Texas), 1)
1912.07	Politics/Civic Affairs	Mayor Callaghan dies while serving as mayor. (NRHP, 51)

1913	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	<p>Floods on the San Antonio River. (“The People’s Waterway”)</p> <p>Two floods strike the San Antonio area. (Jennings, 38)</p> <p>Note: The two 1913 floods were in September and December. San Antonians downstream were warned of an oncoming flood in February 1903 only by a phone call when an engineer on duty at a waterworks pumphouse upstream (no doubt one of the two in the park) phoned the fire chief at 2 am to sound the alarm. (Fisher, American Venice, 23.) On the subject of floods, those in 1866, 1900, 1903, 1914 and 1946 equaled at least the smallest of those already listed. (Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)</p>
1913.07.07	Park Development	<p>Renamed as “Water Works Park” by the mayor during disagreements between the Council and Brackenridge related to access to the park, the former name was restored a year after the mayor’s death. (NRHP, 51)</p>
1914 – 1918	World War 1	
1914	Archaeology	<p>“By the time of the Neo-American period ... a number of innovations were appearing, such as the bow and arrow, pottery, and in some parts of Texas, the beginnings of agriculture. There has been little indication that the prehistoric peoples of the San Antonio and Guadalupe River basins practiced agriculture.” (Hester, 3)</p>
1914	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	<p>Major floods on the San Antonio River.</p>
1914	<p>Tannery</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Humans, Hydrology + Water Management</p>	<p>“The City Council approved setting aside twelve acres of the old tannery property for a museum of natural history and the zoological garden. The plan for the Brackenridge Park Zoological Garden was presented by the Scientific Society of San Antonio and was touted as ‘the most complete ever attempted for a small park.’ The area was described as ‘a high piece of ground near the upper entrance of the park. Water surrounds the location on all sides, making it an ideal spot for the housing of animals and birds.” (NRHP, 51)</p>
1914 – 1933	<p>African American Imprints</p> <p>Baptisms</p>	<p>San Antonio River Baptisms - River Cities/City Rivers (“Contexts”) - For at least nineteen (19) years, between 1914 - 1933, several local black churches conducted public baptism ceremonies (with city permits) in the shallow pools of the San Antonio River at the Josephine Street crossing. (Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)</p>

THE LAMBERT PERIOD: CULTURAL AND RECREATIONAL PROGRAMMING (1915 CE – 1929 CE)

YEAR	EVENT/USE/FEATURE	ANNOTATION
1915	Quarry Tourism Development	<p>Ray Lambert becomes parks commissioner. (NRHP 51)</p> <p>“Lambert saw the abandoned rock quarry west of the selected site as the opportunity to place the zoo in a unique natural setting and concluded, ‘...we can put a zoo here, which will be a world better and won’t cost too much. Nature has done most of the work.’” (NRHP, 51)</p> <p>“Lambert gained the support of zoo advocates and began transforming the old rock quarry into the city’s zoological garden. Deer, elk, and buffalo pastures were created, the old Upper Labor Ditch became the center of the bird exhibit, and quarry walls were terraced for animal displays.” (NRHP, 51)</p>
1915	Park Development Tourism	<p>“Texas’ first true municipal course didn’t appear until the mid-1910s, when San Antonio civic leader and banker George W. Brackenridge donated some of his personal land to furnish the acreage for Texas’ first city-owned golf course. Brackenridge had earlier sold some of his land to help give San Antonio Country Club the space it needed for their new club near Fort Sam Houston, but this was different. Brackenridge was donating part of the land he used for a hunting lodge because he felt his city, now at a population of 200,000, needed a place for recreation.</p> <p>The one restriction he put on the deed for the land was that no alcoholic beverages could ever be sold on his land. Former Brackenridge pro John Erwin, who did extensive research of the Brackenridge Park facility, says Brackenridge was a reformed alcoholic and didn’t want anyone to drink on his property and suffer the same problems he had experienced. Despite many legal challenges, his wishes still stand at Brackenridge, known as “Old Brack” to most San Antonio regulars.</p> <p>Construction began in 1915 at Brackenridge with one of the most famous of golf architects, A. W. Tillinghast, doing the routing and building of the course in one of his many golf building trips from his headquarters on the East Coast. Tilley, as he was known, did a masterful job working around the San Antonio River and the native Texas hardwoods.</p>
1915	Park Development Tourism	<p>The first Lambert Beach is constructed. (NRHP, 62)</p>

1916	National Park Precedents/ Influences Roads/Paths	“But the real turning point came with the creation of the National Park Service on August 25, 1916, and the vision of its first director, Stephen Mather. Mather wanted all Americans to experience the kind of healing power he himself had found in the national parks. So he aligned himself with the machine that was dramatically transforming people’s lives across the country—the automobile... Furthermore, he innately understood that the point-to-point travel of horse-drawn carriage tours would not work for motorists, who wanted to travel on their own schedule and stop where they wanted.” (Braden)
1916	Historic Preservation	National Park Service formed providing philosophical foundation for uniting preservation and conservation movements by targeting the preservation of non-renewable resources.
1916	Park Development Tourism	The first nine holes of the Brackenridge golf course opened in spring of 1916, “with the full 18 holes officially open for play on September 23, 1916.” (Stricklin, 18) “Brackenridge would later serve as the home of the Texas Open, the Texas State Junior Championship, and the home base for Bredemus, but just by opening on that fall morning in 1916, it provided true power to Texas golfers as a prime public facility. ‘This is the most historic course in the state,’ Erwin said. ‘Anybody who is anybody has played here.’” (Strickland, 19)
1916	Park Development City + Business Development	The remaining Kampmann property is sold by his heirs to the city in 1916. “The 1.33-acre tract containing the house was acquired by the city on September 14, 1916, to be used for ‘park purposes.’ The property was subsequently used for the municipal rifle range until about 1927.” (NRHP, 37)
1916	Park Development Tourism	“The trail, was introduced in 1916 when the San Antonio Rotary Club presented twelve burros to the children of San Antonio.” (NRHP, 57-58)
1916	Park Development	“Another 1.3 acres were acquired opposite Mahncke Park for another park entrance.” (NRHP 50).
1916	African American Imprints Juneteenth Park Development	In 1916 then Park Commissioner Ray Lambert proposed to prepare a plan for a Negro park at the south end of Brackenridge Park, “...beginning at Josephine Street, on the east side of the river, and extending several hundred feet north. He proposed, he said, to have this fixed up in time for the celebration of June 19 (1916). (From San Antonio City Commission/Council minutes; from Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)

1916.02.28	Park Development Tourism	“Items of Interest Transpiring At the Alamo City. ... A multitude of golf players thronged the municipal course in Brackenridge Park from 8 a.m. until night. Some went swimming in the river at Lambert’s Beach. The Municipal Zoo in Brackenridge Park was an attraction to thousands who were amused at the efforts of the monkey mother to hide her baby from the curious crowds.” (Corsicana Daily Sun (Corsicana, Texas), 6)
1916.05.07	Park Development Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	A new dam, with dam crossing, is installed in Brackenridge Park. (San Antonio Express)
1916.05.22	Civil Rights	The following petitions are read and referred to the Commissioner of Sanitation Parks and Public Property: Colored Citizens, for use of Brackenridge Park. (Council Meeting Minutes, p. 574 from Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)
1916.06.19	African American Imprints Juneteenth	Ray Lambert cooperates with local African Americans to create a space in Brackenridge Park for the celebration of Juneteenth.
1916.07	Park Development City + Business Development	“The parcels comprising today’s Lions Field were acquired,” [from the San Antonio Water Supply Company.] (NRHP, 56)
1916.12.06	Park Development	<p>“City Invites Visitors to Play Golf at Park. Ray Lambert, Commissioner of Sanitation, Parks and Public Property, has had printed and will frame and hang in hotels and other public places an invitation to visitors and citizens to play golf on the Brackenridge Park Golf Links, constructed by the city. ...</p> <p>‘We extend to you a most hearty invitation to play golf on the Brackenridge Parks links, a wooded river course of eighteen holes [sic]... It is a sporty links with seven water hazards, and the bunkers, greens and fairways are in good condition.</p> <p>...There are no charges for playing on this course, except, if you care to do so, you can get a locker for \$1 a month, \$4 for six months, or \$6 for one year.’” (San Antonio Express)</p>

<p>1916.12.13</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>City + Business Development</p>	<p>DAVIS PARK. “The second Brackenridge bequest was bounded on the north by Koehler Park and on the south by a ten-acre tract owned by Bexar County that had been part of the old county poor farm tract. The poor farm closed in the early 1900s. When Ray Lambert approached county commissioners to donate right-of-way for Memorial Drive, they chose instead to contribute the entire ten acres. On December 13,1916, commissioners voted to donate the land between the Upper Labor Ditch and San Antonio River for ‘park purposes only.’” (NRHP, 59)</p> <p>Note: Park named for County Judge James R. Davis.” (NRHP, 59)</p>
<p>1916 – 1926</p>	<p>Park Management</p>	<p>Ray Lambert served as park commissioner, and “used local laborers and prisoners to construct roads and building. (NRHP, 7)</p>
<p>1917.01.08</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>City + Business Development</p>	<p>[See 1916.12.13 above]. “The City Council accepted the County’s gift on January 8, 1917, and named the park in honor of County Judge James R. Davis.” (NRHP, 59)</p>
<p>1917.01.21</p>	<p>Tourism</p> <p>City + Business Development</p> <p>Roads/Paths</p>	<p>“Ask the Flaglers, Huntingtons, Big Fellows of America to Spend Winters in San Antonio. ...We have done much to capitalize our heritage; we have spread abroad the message that here are the most interesting missions, the best climate, the purest water, the warmest, most constant sunshine in all America... And, lately, when we began to lay the floor of the city, by well paved streets, inviting the Norther visitor to bring here his automobile we, realizing that good roads in the country offering long and enjoyable rides were not in themselves sufficient to pass entirely the time of these visitors, looked to our parks, laid out a magnificent municipal golf course, began making a thing of beauty of the old quarry by Brackenridge Park, started a zoological collection in this wonderful natural setting; laid out a Japanese garden, and offered another playground where when the blizzards blow and the sleet cuts and the cold numbs in the frozen North, summer days with green foliage, smiling red roses, and the musical tinkle of waterfalls, make as a bad dream to the sojourner from the North the cold weather of December and its succeeding months.” (San Antonio Express, Real Estate & Classified Section. 1917.01.21)</p> <p>The article goes on to discuss targeted investments in California and Florida to attract travelers from the North to make the case that San Antonio should “Go After the Wealthy Traveler” in order to generate further investments in the city from these travelers. It ends, “True, many will come and not invest, but of the thousands of the wealthy class we are now equipped and are equipping ourselves to amuse, to entertain and benefit, there will be here and there one who will invest, will see his opportunity.</p> <p>There are still Flaglers and Huntingtons and Spreckels in the United States.”</p>

1917.01.28	Park Development City + Business Development	“MUNICIPAL POLO FIELD. [Austin American San Antonio Bureau] ... A municipal polo field is now among the possibilities at Brackenridge park. This will give San Antonio a municipal baseball park, a municipal golf course, a municipal target range, a municipal bathing beach and a municipal tennis court.” (The Austin American, 3).
1917.05.22	Brackenridge Park Influence on other Parks	“There are other attractions about Barton Springs that should not be overlooked. These is a great gravel bed on the tract that may have a value in excess of the price fixed by the school board for the property. It would be possible, also, to construct a nine-hole public golf course similar to the municipal golf course in Brackenridge Park at San Antonio, which has drawn thousands of winter tourists to that city.” (The Austin American, 2).
1917	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“In 1917, the voters of Texas, recognizing the necessity of developing and conserving the State’s water resources and inspired by devastating floods of 1913 and 1914, passed a Constitutional amendment allowing the Legislature to create special purpose political subdivisions of the State to serve regional areas, generally coincidental with river basins and to be generally known as river authorities.” (San Antonio River Authority, “General Fact Sheet 2019-2020,” sara-tx.org)
1917	G. Brackenridge Tannery	“In late 1916, Brackenridge purchased the only parcels of the tannery property he had never owned – Lots 1 through 5 totaling 27.36 acres. He also reacquired Lots 6 and 7 totaling eight acres that he had sold in 1878 to Frank Gutzeit. The following month, Brackenridge donated the 35-acre tract to the city ‘in recognition of the work done by the City of San Antonio under the supervision of the Honorable Ray Lambert, its commissioner, in developing the scenic beauty and usefulness to the public of the tract of land formerly conveyed to the city and known as Brackenridge Park. Brackenridge made his second bequest subject to the same key provisions as the first gift. The city was to use the property as a park and not ‘convey, alienate or encumber’ it, and the sale of intoxicating beverages was prohibited.” (NRHP, 58)
1917	Tourism Quarry	“Ray Lambert viewed the abandoned quarry as an opportunity to construct an attraction he called the ‘lily pond.’ The pond, which later became known as the Japanese Tea Garden or Sunken Gardens, was the masterpiece of Lambert’s creativity. Beginning in early 1917, Lambert worked with prison labor to build an irregularly shaped garden that measured approximately four hundred by three hundred feet. Rock from the quarry was used to build an island, two pools, bridge, and paths. The city nursery provided tropical plants and the Public Service Company donated the lighting system for the driveway and pond. A Japanese-style pagoda, roofed with palm leaves from city parks, was built overlooking the polo field.” (NRHP, 59)

<p>c. 1917</p>	<p>Quarry</p>	<p>“After the Japanese Tea Garden was completed, the adjoining part of the quarry to the south remained undeveloped. In order to beautify this area, Ray Lambert had his workers construct an enormous designed landscape with patterns formed by rocks and flowers. The landscape feature became known as the Texas Star Garden, sometimes referred to as the ‘sunken garden.’ The Texas Star Garden was the location of outdoor choral and theatrical performances during the 1920s.” (NRHP, 60)</p>
<p>1917.11.05</p>	<p>Park Features</p>	<p>“Fully 100 people, including a number of women and small children were precipitated into the San Antonio river in the Brackenridge park at 6 o’clock Sunday afternoon when the historic foot bridge connection, some 30 feet in length, leading to the park bathing beach collapsed. ...</p> <p>The bridge is said to have been one of the oldest and most historic structures of its kind in the city of San Antonio, being one of the first improvements made in Brackenridge Park.” (The Houston Post. “100 People Ducked When Bridge Broke, 7.”)</p>
<p>1918</p>	<p>Proximate Principle</p>	<p>“Most of the land below Koehler Park and west of the river was not owned by the city. Ray Lambert ... took steps to acquire a 250-foot wide strip between Koehler Park and Josephine Avenue, the park’s southern boundary. Picturesque low water crossings would connect the east and west sides of the river. Lambert reasoned correctly that private property owners would enjoy the advantage of park frontage and therefore cooperate with his plan.” (NRHP, 57)</p>
<p>1918.10.23</p>	<p>Tourism</p>	<p>“Texas Municipalities” Interesting Magazine. The current number of Texas Municipalities, of which Albert A. Long, secretary of the bureau of municipal research of the University of Texas, is editor, contains a number of articles that are of special interest to the authorities of the cities and towns in this</p> <p>State. The bi-monthly magazine is published by the League of Texas Municipalities. Among the contents of the last number is</p> <p>an article on “A Municipal Lily Pond,” by W. L. Delery, park engineer of San Antonio, dealing specially with a description of the lily pond and Japanese garden in Brackenridge Park. Municipal notes on the different cities and towns in the State are also given.” (Austin American-Statesmen, 191)</p> <p>Tourist Camp. See NRHP nomination related to establishment, location move, and final closure of the camp in 1934. (NRHP, 60)</p>

1918.11.22	Proximate Principle	“Live in the Heart of the City. Our River Avenue and Brackenridge Park lots come about as near being in the heart of the civic activities as it is possible for private property to get to the public property. Besides the comforts which come to every one privileged to live adjoining the golf course, and in the neighborhood of the bathing beach, tennis courts, Japanese garden and lily pond, comes the richness and luxuriance afforded by a one hundred-foot boulevard, the finest park in the city and unusual natural surroundings. Today it is the show-place of the city—tomorrow the highest type of residential property values.” (Newspaper advertisement, Original publication, unknown)
1919.02.01	Park Development Tourism	“...but it means also the enlargement of existing bathing facilities in the community, as in San Antonio, where the park commission enlarged the public bathing beach in Brackenridge park, by dredging one half mile of the San Antonio river for the accommodation of thousands of soldiers.” (El Pas Held, 4)
1919.03	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	W.S. Delery, park engineer, drew up a plan for a botanical garden originally envisioned by Ray Lambert for the 35-acre 1917 bequest from George Brackenridge that would become the polo field. (NRHP, 61-62)
1919.04.12	Tourism	<p>“The History Club instituted what proved to be a delightful innovation yesterday when their weekly meeting was held in the Japanese Tea Garden at Brackenridge Park.</p> <p>The members and their invited guests motored out to the park about 12:30 o’clock and soon luncheon was spread consisting of salads, sandwiches, cake of several varieties, olives and tea.</p> <p>After the repast the regular program was carried out with Japan as the subject. All were seated out under the Japanese pagoda, and served by the Japanese family which is in charge.</p> <p>Mrs. G. P. Roberson opened the program...” (San Antonio Evening News, 5)</p>
1919.05.01	Tourism	“ANNOUNCE FALL FLOWER SHOW. SUCCESS OF SPRING EVENT JUST CLOSED LEADS TO FURTHER UNDERTAKING. ... One of our staunchest supporters in this work was Ray Lambert and Henry Steingruber, head gardener for the city, who fairly loaded us down with the magnificent red roses of uniform length stem, pansies by the bushel basket and phlox.” This event was hosted by the Woman’s Club. The chairman was Mrs. F. F. Stauffer and vice chairman Mrs. W. B. McMillan. (San Antonio Evening News, 7).

<p>1919.05.06</p>	<p>African American Imprints</p> <p>Civil Rights</p> <p>Segregated Playgrounds</p>	<p>“‘We have six playgrounds,’ retorted Mr. Lambert, saying something about the juvenile crime wave being ‘politics.’ ‘We have the negro, the Mexican, Buena Vista, San Pedro, Brackenridge and Koehler. Our supervisor received her training in Chicago and has been in our employ a year and a half.’”</p>
<p>1920s</p>	<p>National</p> <p>Park Precedents/ Influences</p>	<p>Baseball, football, art classes, gardening, and nighttime activities became the norm for urban parks. During the 1920s, “golf for everybody” became the goal of recreation departments, and parks with enough open space installed courses throughout the country...</p> <p>The design of reform park fell increasingly to park employees, and reflected the current ideas of planned recreation, with less emphasis on the healing power of picturesque aesthetics, and more emphasis on planned active uses planned for the park. As part of the reform park movement, “...water was not used for psychic effects but for practical ones,” such as swimming. (Cranz, 96)</p>
<p>1920</p>	<p>National</p> <p>Park Precedents/ Influences</p> <p>Roads/Paths</p>	<p>“In 1920, for the first time, the number of people visiting the national parks exceeded one million during a single year. Mather could happily declare that the American people ‘have turned to the national parks for health, happiness, and a saner view of life.’ And the automobile, he concluded, ‘has been the open sesame.’” (Braden)</p>
<p>1920</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Regional Vernacular</p>	<p>“Ray Lambert advertised for proposals to construct a barn in Brackenridge Park near donkey corral in 1920. This structure, now modified, is thought to be the one still commonly referred to as the ‘donkey barn.’” (NRHP, 58)</p>

1920.01.30	Humans + Hydrology	<p>“Nowhere else in Texas, the South, or the United States can there be found within the heart of the city nearing 200,000 inhabitants a stream approaching the charm and beauty of the San Antonio River.</p> <p>Other cities and towns are built at the side of streams, perhaps, or two towns spring up, one on either side. In San Antonio, the river is an integral part of the business district and in its windings come within the view of thousands daily, giving a glimpse of rare attractiveness to anyone who will stop long enough to see it. At one time the river was lined with cypresses. Most of them are gone now, but willows, hackberries, cottonwoods, flowering retamas and pecan trees take their place. The river is at its best in winter when the foliage is gone from all except the Ligustrum trees, permitting a clear view of its course. The river itself is clearer also, the flow increasing in the winter months although last year, owing to heavy rainfall, it ran even with its stone curbing through the business district all year.” (Beauty Grows Beside San Antonio’s Own River.” San Antonio Evening News, 39)</p>
1920	Politics/Civic Affairs	<p>“Beginning in 1920, the city attorney filed suits against the ‘squatters.’ [At the Alamo Cement Company site.] (NRHP, 59)</p>
1920	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Regional Vernacular</p>	<p>“Ray Lambert’s vision for Brackenridge Park continued to evolve in 1920 when he constructed the Mexican Village just below the Japanese Tea garden along St. Mary’s Street. ‘Just a stone’s throw below the palm-covered pergola, clustered close to the base of the old cement kiln, has grown up with the last few weeks a tiny Mexican village as the result of another dream of the artist of the Lily Pool, Ray Lambert, Commissioner of parks.’” (NRHP, 61).</p>
1920.03.24	Park Development (Polo)	<p>“New Field Is Being Made At Brackenridge To Attract Visiting Players. San Antonio will be the mecca for the polo players of the United States if the plans of the recently organized San Antonio Polo Club materialize and the promised co-operation of the city and various club officials become a reality. Gus Mendows, one of the best known poloists in the Southwest, has agreed to furnish the polo ponies for the new club, which will have a field at Brackenridge Park, as a result of the co-operation of Commissioner Ray Lambert.” (Polo Club is Formed with 30 Members.” San Antonio Evening News, 9)</p>
1920.07.01	<p>African American Imprints</p> <p>Civil Rights</p>	<p>NAACP petitions San Antonio City Commission “...relating to the enjoyment of the pleasures of Brackenridge Park.” (San Antonio City Commission/Council minutes and Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)</p>

<p>1920.08</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Regional Vernacular</p>	<p>“By August 1920, the compound of stone cottages on the north side of the old cement works chimney had ‘already begun to fulfill its destiny, in that it has begun the cooking and serving of the highly seasoned enchiladas, chile con carne, tamales and other dishes.’ Tables set under a palm-roofed dining area were constructed using mill stones from the old cement works. A goldfish pond was built near the outer edge of the arbor. Three houses on the other side of the chimney were to be used for the production and sale of Mexican handiwork including blankets, baskets, pottery and drawn works. Artisans would be located to live in these houses and produce their work for sale to visitors.”</p> <p>(NRHP, 61)</p>
<p>1921</p>	<p>Historic Preservation</p>	<p>Daughters of Republic of TX Alamo Chapter formed by Adina De Zavala.</p>
<p>1921</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Regional Vernacular</p>	<p>“George Brackenridge’s 1917 bequest of thirty-five acres was the largest open space in the park. ...the Polo Club’s proposal prevailed. The club improved the field at no cost to the city, and over the next fifty years hosted some of the world’s best players.”</p> <p>(NRHP, 61-62)</p>
<p>1921</p>	<p>Humans, Hydrology + Water Management</p>	<p>Devastating flood struck downtown San Antonio. (NRHP, 63)</p>
<p>1921</p>	<p>Humans, Hydrology + Water Management</p>	<p>Floods on the San Antonio River. (“The People’s Waterway”)</p> <p>A onetime hurricane coming north from landfall at Tampico, Mexico began dumping water on San Antonio the night of September 8. By 9 pm the following night Olmos Creek was overflowing, and water through Brackenridge Park was rising one foot every five minutes. Five hours later, three-quarters of a square mile of downtown was submerged under two to twelve feet of water, and more than fifty San Antonians drowned. Up to fourteen inches fell over the Olmos Creek drainage area, half that much over the city farther south. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers put damage at \$32.7 million, today’s equivalent of \$48 million. (Fisher, American Venice, 55–58.)</p> <p>“The 1921 flood, loosed by a cloudburst in the Olmos basin north of the city, took forty-nine lives, left fourteen missing, and caused more than \$8 million in property damage. In the two catastrophic days, rainfall in the Olmos Creek watershed ranged from seventeen inches in the upper area to about eleven inches near San Pedro Avenue. It inundated parts of downtown San Antonio with eight to nine feet of water, even reaching the mezzanine of the Gunter Hotel on Houston Street at St. Mary’s.”</p> <p>(Jenning, 38-39)</p>

1921	Mexican American Imprints Park Development	The year one of the refugees from the Mexican Revolution, Dr. Aureliano Urrutia (who came in 1914), began his Miraflores gardens, part of which are now within Brackenridge Park. (Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)
1921 – 1922	Park Development	The “City Commission granted A.D. Politis the concession rights to Brackenridge and Koehler Parks. Politis was to operate the Japanese tea garden and Mexican Village, a ‘Swiss inn,’ two bathhouses and campground in Brackenridge Park, as well as to rent golf lockers at the Brackenridge golf course... In May 1922, the San Antonio Express published an illustration of an ‘attractive cold drink and band stand’ just completed by A.D. Politis in Brackenridge Park. This building, designed by local architect Will N. Noonan, was located near the old Water Works pump house; its overall design was similar to four restroom buildings that remain standing in the park, and it is likely that all were designed by Noonan.” (NRHP, 62)
1922.08.03	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“Mayor O.B. Black ... devoted considerable time to a meeting in his office this morning with members of the Golf Association and John Bredemus, golf architect, on plans for the erection of a new clubhouse at Brackenridge Park and making definite arrangements for the improvement of the Municipal course.” (San Antonio Evening News). [Bredemus was the original designer of the golf course at Memorial Park in Houston and was famous in the region for his golf course designs].
1923	City + Business Development	“The publicly-owned land on River Avenue, renamed Broadway in 1917, remained undeveloped; until 1923 when the Lions Club of San Antonio approached the city for property to establish a supervised playground for children. (NRHP, 56)
1924	Historic Preservation	Two artists, Emily Edwards and Rena Maverick Green responded to the planned demolition of the Market House by founding the San Antonio Conservation Society. (Fisher2016 2) “The three-month-old society took City Commissioner for Parks Ray Lambert with them on a bus tour to inspect the city’s parks and landmarks and made him Honorary President.” (Fisher 2016 2) Conservation Society of San Antonio, one of the first community preservation groups in United States, founded by thirteen women to save 1859 Market House (razed for street widening year later) and city’s cultural heritage. Sought to preserve historic built and natural environment, “to keep the history of Texas legible and intact to educate the public....”

1924	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	Gutzon Borglum moved to San Antonio in preparation for the design of a “monumental memorial statue commemorating the Texas trails drivers. He needed a studio and was given permission by the City to use the pump house.” (NRHP, 42) Borglum is famous for his design of Mount Rushmore. The lower pump house was built in 1885. (NRHP, 20)
1925	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	The City of San Antonio purchased the water system. (NRHP, 42)
1925	City + Business Development	“Ray Lambert officially accepted the Lions Club’s gift to the City on October 31, 1925.” (NRHP, 57)
1925	Park Development	Dr. Aureliano Urrutia’s home, Quinta Urrutia, was built about 1925 not in Brackenridge Park but about 1925 on Broadway on adjoining land that has never been within Brackenridge Park. (Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019 and Lynn Osborne Bobbitt, Executive Director, Brackenridge Park Conservancy, 2019)
1925	Park Development Regional Vernacular	“...the massive iron truss bridge that had spanned the river at St. Mary’s Street since 1890” was relocated at the bathing beach. (NRHP, 63)
1925.09.24	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	Alfred G. Witte died. He left \$75,000 “to construct a museum of art, science and natural history to be built in Brackenridge Park and named for his parents.” (NRHP, 64)
1925 – 1927	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The deadly floods of 1921 “resulted in the construction of Olmos Dam.” (“The People’s Waterway” and San Antonio River Authority)
1926 – 1927	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	Lambert Beach: “Lambert “initiated three projects that still define the north end of the park – renovation of the bathing beach, addition of two bridges, and the construction of Joske Pavilion. ... Work was completed in March 1925 to transform the swimming beach into a more formal swimming pool. Concrete stair landings provided swimmers with easy access to the river, and rustic dressing rooms were replaced by a multi-roomed stone bathhouse designed by Emmett Jackson.

1926	Historic Preservation	Witte Museum opens with backing of Conservation Society which is one of three organizations to occupy exhibit in new museum.
1926	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	With the death of Alfred G. Witte and his bequest, the city found a site for the Witte Museum in Brackenridge Park. "The new museum site was located between the river and Broadway at the 'third entrance' to the park – today's Tuleta Drive. The vacant property, located just below where the Alamo acequia left the river, had been part of the 200-acre tract sold by Mary maverick to George Brackenridge in 1876. It was acquired by the city from the Water Works Company in 1908 as part of the settlement for access to Brackenridge Park. (NRHP 64). Atlee B. Ayres and his son Robert M. Ayres were the architect. (NRHP, 64)
1926	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	"Ray Lambert's final project at the bathing beach was construction of Joske Memorial Pavilion, built with a \$10,000 bequest to the city from deceased retailer, Alexander Joske. The site Lambert selected for the pavilion adjoined the Eleanor Brackenridge playground where the truss bridge crossed the river. Emmett Jackson, whose bathhouses stood just across the river, was hired by the city to design the massive stone pavilion which was erected in 1926. This area of the park is still known as 'Lambert Beach.'" (NRPH, 63)
1926	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The SA springs have been partially protected by the Olmos dam from flooding and sedimentation. (Brune, "San Antonio Springs)
1926	Politics/Civic Affairs	SQUATTERS. "...in 1926, the city council directed the removal of those who remained." (NRHP, 59)
1926	Park Development Park Management Tourism	"In 1926, the Jingus [Kimi Elizo Jingu had been invited by Ray Lambert some time previously to oversee the Japanese garden] opened the 'Bamboo Room' in their home and sold green tea and green tea ice cream to visitors.
1926.06	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	A bridge "that spanned the river at Fourth Street on the northern edge of downtown," was relocated to the lower end of "the bathing beach to connect Koehler Park west of the river with Brackenridge Park to the east." (NRHP, 63)

1926	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular Art + Culture	“...the city hired faux bois artist, Dionicio Rodriquez to construct one of his finest works. The covered ‘wooden footbridge, located north of the large iron truss bridge, consists of thirty-three pairs of vertical tree trunks spanned by horizontal branches.” (NRHP, 63)
1926	Quarry	Choral and opera productions were held in the Tea/Texas Star Garden inside the quarry. “The curving quarry wall at the western edge of the Star Garden offered natural acoustic features.” (NRHP, 65)
1926.10.08	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“Originally designed in the Spanish Colonial style, the Witte Museum opened to the public on October 8, 1926, and immediately became a popular local destination where local residents and visitors were able to view historic, artistic and scientific exhibits. (NRHP, 64)
1927.12.07	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	“DID YOU EVER STOP TO THINK. By Edson R. Waite, Shawnee, Okla. ... Then too, San Antonio has many other features that are not seen elsewhere and appeal forcibly to the interest of everyone. Here are still old buildings of Spanish architecture representing a period that existed before the arrival here of men with different ideas and more progressive methods, and within but little over a stone’s throw away stands the modern office building or hotel, the contrast illustrating the span of two centuries in the history of the city. No one comes here without visiting Brackenridge park, a large area of erstwhile forest where tress still stand as nature placed them, its Alpine drive over the hills, thru valleys, and across the San Antonio river, and beside it nestling the wonderful ‘sunken garden’ adorned by a Japanese tea room, which is a unique setting for this beautiful spot. Also, there is in the parka (sic) splendid zoo containing not only animals generally known to students of natural history, but many that are peculiar to this section of the country and which many visitors see for the first time. The swimming pools in the park afford exercise and play for many thousands of persons during the season and this is longer here than in most other parts of the country because of the shorter period of cold weather. Then, a feature that is almost universally attractive to visitors is the San Antonio river, winding about the city in a serpentine course so that it is crossed at nearly every turn one makes. It has its origin just above the city and flows into the Gulf of Mexico. The chili stands where Mexican women serve the simple foods peculiar to their race, are a novel feature to all except those who may be acquainted with ways and customs as they exist in Mexico, and they enlist a sentiment that has produced many a song and story bey celebrated writers, some of which have immortalized the ‘chili queen.’” (Tallahassee Democrat, 2)
1927.12.23	Park Management	Ray Lambert dies of pneumonia. (NRHP, 64)

1927	Park Management	“Joseph ‘Jake’ Rubiola succeeds Ray Lambert as park commissioner in 1927.” (NRHP, 65)
1928.04.22	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	The editorial staff of The Austin American uses San Antonio and a photograph of the Japanese Tea Garden as an example of progressive thinking as they promote voter approval of a bond issue for parks and boulevards. The Sunken Gardens are also praised, in 1919, as “a remarkable example of intelligent adaptation of design to existing conditions” and as “a rare exception” to a park’s following “some preconceived scheme..thanks to Ray Lambert—a man of vision”—and his advisor, F.F. Collins. (Architectural Record, February 1919, XLV no. 2, 185–87, Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)
1928	Park Development Tourism	“The San Antonio Zoological Society was formed.” (NRHP, 51)
1928	Quarry	Choral and opera productions were held in the Japanese Tea/Texas Star quarry gardens. (NRHP, 65)
1929	Tourism	The River Walk is proposed by architect Robert Hugman. (Malda, 253)

THE WPA ERA AND A NEW DIRECTION IN FLOOD MANAGEMENT (1930 CE – 1949 CE)

YEAR EVENT/USE/FEATURE ANNOTATION

1930s	National Park Precedents/ Influences	“In the 1930s park administrators abandoned their idealistic efforts to use parks as a mechanism of social reform.” (Cranz, 101) “The term ‘recreation’... was the watchword of the era, since unlike ‘play’ it seemed to exclude no activity or age group.” (Cranz, 103) “During the Great Depression, parks nationwide provided huge opportunities to employ hundreds of workers doing basic tasks with rudimentary tools. Headed first by the Reconstruction Finance Administration and also by the Works Progress Administration, depression-era projects updated the infrastructure, installed new recreational areas and buildings, and virtually remade the landscape of some parks.” (Turner, 43)
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<p>1930</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Regional Vernacular</p> <p>Art + Culture</p>	<p>Architect Harvey P. Smith submitted a design for the Sunken Garden Theater. His plan was chosen over that of sculptor Gutzon Borglum. (NRHP, 43, 60)</p>
<p>1930</p>	<p>Art + Culture</p>	<p>Dr. Aureliano Urrutia completes Miraflores, first begun in 1921 (Urrutia)</p>
<p>1931</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Tourism</p> <p>Park Management</p>	<p>The San Antonio Zoological Society “assumed control of the zoo...The society continues to operate the zoo today under agreement with the City of San Antonio.” (NPRH, 51)</p>
<p>1933</p>	<p>Historic Preservation</p>	<p>The Historic American Building Survey (HABS), a WPA program, records nation’s culture as joint venture of NPS, Library of Congress, American Institute of Architects.</p>
<p>1933, 1937</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Tourism</p>	<p>Reptile garden built in 1933 and housed snakes and alligators, visitors paid 10 cents to view them, located near the Witte Museum before construction of Pioneer Hall. (NPRH,67)</p>
<p>1935 – 1938</p>	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Tourism</p>	<p>“Brackenridge Park ... benefited from Depression era programs carried out by the National Youth Administration (NYA) and Works Projects Administration (WPA). San Antonio’s representative from the twentieth congressional district, Maury Maverick, assured substantial local funding for projects during his tenure from 1935 to 1938. Approximately \$90,000 was earmarked for projects to improve the infrastructure of Brackenridge and Koehler Parks and the zoo.</p> <p>Rock retaining walls were constructed along the river to control erosion that threatened trees along the riverbank. Park Commissioner Henry Hein and city forester Stewart King both sought to preserve the park’s natural beauty. King, who became</p> <p>a noted local landscape architect, designed screening for the rock walls that included rose bushes and flowering shrubs. Rock-curbed parking areas were constructed to protect tree roots and unsightly ball moss was removed. King also supervised a \$10,000 NYA project to build a drive from Broadway to the recreation area and beautify the Witte Museum grounds. This is the street known today as Tuleta Drive.” (NRHP, 65)</p>

1936	Historic Preservation	Conservation Society purchases Espada Mission acequia aqueduct, only Spanish structure of its type still in use in United States. Restored San Jose Mission compound dedicated.
1937	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The San Antonio River Authority is created.
1937	Park Management Art + Culture	Gutzon Borglum left San Antonio for California. (NRHP, 43)
1937	City + Business Development	\$100,000 is awarded to the City of San Antonio by the federal government as part of the Texas Centennial Celebration for the construction of Pioneer Hall. “The local firms of Phelps and Dewees and Ayres and Ayres were hired to design the memorial building. Ground was broken in February 1937, and the building was dedicated on January 1, 1938.” (NRHP, 67)
1937	Archaeology	“The Sunken Garden Theater was expanded and improved in 1937 as part of the Texas Centennial celebration and dedicated as a memorial to the heroes of the Texas Revolution. Architects for the Centennial project, completed by WPA, were Harvey P. Smith, George Willis and Charles T. Boelhauwe. Dressing rooms and stage support buildings, restrooms, and seating were constructed and a concrete floor was added to the theater seating area. A concession area was built by the NYA in 1937-38. It is designated a State Archaeological landmark.” (NRHP, 66)
1938.01.01	Archaeology Tourism Park Management	Official opening date. “Still owned by the city, the building is now leased to the Witte Museum and will be used as the South Texas Heritage Center. It is designated a State Archaeological Landmark.” (NRHP, 67)
1938	Tourism Park Management	Kimi Elizo Jingu dies in 1938, and his family continues to operate the garden and concessions in the Japanese garden. (NRHP, 60)
1938	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“Downtown landowners passed a tax referendum to improve the river. Later, voters passed a bond issue and approved City funding to secure a grant award. Thus began a strong tradition of citizen involvement in development of the San Antonio River.” (“The People’s Waterway”)
1939 – 1945	World War II	

1939	Tourism	The River Walk, first proposed in 1929 by architect Robert Hugman, was constructed beginning in 1939 as a Works Progress Administration project. ²
1941	Park Management	Henry Hein becomes park commissioner after Jake Rubiola. (NRHP, 65)
1941	National Park Development	Three entities—the Catholic Church, Bexar County and the San Antonio Conservation Society—surrender their titles to land at San Jose Mission to unify the property to become a state park, making possible the 1978 designation. (Fisher, Saving San Antonio, 168–69.)
1941	Civil Rights	A 1941 law is passed that “revoked the license of any place of public accommodation refusing service ‘to anyone because of his citizenship in any Latin American Republic of the Western Hemisphere or merely because of his racial origin from one of these Republics.’” (Goldberg 1983 370, quoting article from San Antonio Express)
1942	Park Management Tourism	The Jingu family is evicted due to wartime and anti-Japanese sentiment and the garden is renamed the “Chinese Sunken Garden.” “The Jingu are replaced by a Chinese-American couple who operates a snack bar there until the early 1960s.” (NRHP, 60)
1945	Historic Preservation	United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) chartered.
1946	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	A major flood strikes “San Antonio’s downtown district.” (“The People’s Waterway”)
1946	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“As a result of the flood of 1946. Bexar County and the San Antonio River Authority (SARA) entered into a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to improve flood control along 31 miles of the river and its tributaries. The San Antonio River Channel Improvements Project involved realignment and channelization of the river system and continues to provide an efficient, albeit unattractive, river channel that moves flood waters quickly away from urbanized areas.” (“The People’s Waterway”)
1946	African American Imprints Golf	Blacks are working as caddies at Brackenridge Golf Course, but not allowed to play on the course. (Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)
1949	African American Imprints Golf	Black Golfers have been petitioning San Antonio City Council for right to play on municipal golf courses for five years (SINCE 1944), and only received promises to consider the issue. (San Antonio City Commission/Council minutes and Everett L. Fly, Landscape Architect, 2019)
1949	Historic Preservation	National Trust for Historic Preservation (United States) chartered to address “preservation of sites, buildings, and objects of national significance or interest.”

² Malda, “Landscape Narratives and the San Antonio River,” 253.

EARLY PRESERVATION EFFORTS AND THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA (1950 CE – 1967 CE)

YEAR EVENT/USE/FEATURE ANNOTATION

1950	Art + Culture	“By the early 1950s, the colony had given rise to two important organizations, the River Art Group and the Texas Watercolor Society. Together with their counterparts at the Mill Race Studio (see Second Pump House), these artists represented the core of San Antonio’s artistic community in the 1940s and 1950s.” (NRHP, 61)
1950	Park Development Tourism Regional Vernacular	A San Antonio Light article estimated between “75,000 San Antonians and out-of-town visitors” to the park for “picnics spread from Hilderbrand ave. to Joseophine st.” on Easter Sunday. According to the article, families “pitched tents at their picnic site” indicating that the tradition was an established annual event, and the day’s “First scheduled affair was at 6:30 a. m. It was a sunrise service at the Sunken garden theater. Around 2000 persons attended.” The event also drew visitors to the Witte Museum and the reptile garden. (“Park and Zoo Draw Huge Crowd”)
1950	Art + Culture	The Tuesday Musical Club is located west of the polo field/driving range across North St. Mary’s Street. “A small performance hall designed by Atlee B. and Robert M. Ayres was erected on the property, and the club has held events there since its completion.” (NRHP, 69)
1950	Civil Rights	“It [San Antonio] captured national attention only briefly as the first southern city to integrate its lunch counters in 1960.” (Goldberg 1983 350)
1950s	Civil Rights	“The city had never passed a segregation ordinance, but custom and the Police Department enforced a racial separation that proved binding.” (Goldberg, 351).
1950s	Civil Rights	“The five military bases located in and around San Antonio also lessened the noxiousness of segregation. During the 1950s the military integrated its units, on-base schools, stores, and recreational facilities, and provided working models of an interracial society.” (Goldberg 1983 352)
1950s	Civil Rights	“The Catholic church under the leadership of Archbishop Robert Emmet Lucey condemned color prejudice and acted to remove barriers between parishioners of the different races.” (Goldberg 1983 352).

1950s	African American Imprints Civil Rights	“Especially important in explaining the absence of racial tension and rigidity were the actions of the city government. In the 1950s and 1960s the Good Government League (GGL), a bipartisan coalition of business and financial leaders, dominated municipal political and governmental decision-making.” The GGL included Mexican Americans on its tickets and consulted churches, the media, and black leaders in the community about candidates and policy. (Goldberg 1983 353)
1951	Unusual Events	Stables of the Sheriff’s Mounted Posse burned and were rebuilt. “A rectangular clay structure is all that remains of this facility.” (NRHP Section, 68)
1952	Tourism	The polo organization and the golf course negotiated a joint use agreement “that enabled the area to also be used as a golf driving range. This continued until the late 1980s when polo was no longer played and the city assumed management of the driving range.” (NRHP, 62) The year the city took over was 1988. (NRHP, 69)
1953	Park Management	San Antonio “adopted a council/manager form of government in 1953.” (NRHP, 65)
1953-1957	Historic Preservation	Proposed city plans for underground garages beneath Travis Park, Main Plaza, Alamo Plaza and part of La Villita are finally killed when Texas Supreme Court rules it illegal, ending threat of garages beneath city parks.
1954	African American Imprints Civil Rights	“...prodded by a lawsuit by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the City Council passed an ordinance desegregating municipal parks, golf courses, and tennis courts, but maintaining the racial barrier in swimming pools.” (Goldberg 1983 353)
1956	African American Imprints Civil Rights	“...again with NAACP promoting, the city desegregated its swimming pools, buses, railroad stations, and all activities in municipal building.” (Goldberg 1983 353-354)
1957	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The “Texas Water Development Board” is charged with “preparing a comprehensive and flexible long-term plan for the development, conservation, and management of the state’s water resources.” (SARA, 25)
1957	Historic Preservation	Conservation Society purchases 25 acres near Espada dam for Acequia Park.
1960	Civil Rights	“It [San Antonio] captured national attention only briefly as the first southern city to integrate its lunch counters in 1960.” (Goldberg, 1983, 350)

1960	Historic Preservation	City highway bond issue including North Expressway through Olmos Basin floodplain is defeated; passes next year. Lawsuit filed by Conservation Society and Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word.
1962	Park Development Tourism	The Witte Museum has been “remodeled and expanded several times, including a major remodeling in 1962.” (NRHP, 64) Note: The 1962 renovations to the Witte pale in comparison to those in 2012–2016. (Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)
1963	Civil Rights	“By the middle of 1963 San Antonio had virtually eliminated discrimination in public accommodations. Racial distinctions in theaters, restaurants, and hotels had ended. San Antonio had advanced far beyond communities in the Deep South and had anticipated by two years the Civil Rights Act of 1965.” (Goldberg 1983 373)
1965	Historic Preservation	International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) established.
1965	Civil Rights	“...the City Council passed an ordinance integrating all public accommodations.” (Goldberg, 365) (Goldbert 1983 350)
1966	Preservation	Passage of the National Historic Preservation Act, including National Register of Historic Places.
1967	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	A ten-year battle over the North Expressway, now McAllister Freeway, (Hwy 281) galvanized the historic preservation movement in San Antonio. The proposed route delineated that the highway would pass through Olmos Creek Flood Basin, the City of Olmos Park, between the Sunken Garden Theater, and the Alamo Stadium. Members of the San Antonio Conservation Society (SACS) led opposition efforts and filed a series of lawsuits challenging the proposed expressway route. Along with the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, SACS filed suit in 1967 to block the project. Note: The statement that the expressway battle “galvanized the historic preservation movement in San Antonio” is misleading. Several dates could be said to have galvanized the movement, starting with the Alamo in 1879. It’s closer to say the expressway “split the historic preservation movement in San Antonio,” since the movement was already strong and many preservationists opposed this particular foray, while conservationists were energized as there were a substantial number of environmentally oriented opponents little concerned with preservation. (Lewis Fisher, Historian, 2019)

1967	Historic Preservation	<p>City of San Antonio adopts first historic zoning ordinance and creates a preservation commission. Following year, King William, the first local historic district, was established and members of the Historic and Design Review Commission were appointed.</p> <p>San Antonio Missions National Historical Park legislation introduced in Congress.</p>
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AND NEW GENERATION OF FLOOD MANAGEMENT (1968 CE – PRESENT)

1968	<p>Park Development</p> <p>Historic Preservation</p>	<p>A portion of Brackenridge Park was conveyed to the State of Texas...for construction of US Highway 281. (Pfeiffer and Tomka, 4)</p>
1969	Historic Preservation	<p>Passage of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requiring 106 review for projects using federal funds, thereby conflating the concern for natural and cultural resources into a single program</p>
1970	Park Development	<p>The George W. Brackenridge statue was installed at the Parfun Way entrance to the park. (Pfeiffer and Tomka, 15)</p>
1971	Historic Preservation	<p>Conservation Society holds first preservation seminar.</p>
1974	Historic Preservation	<p>City hires first Historic Preservation Officer, revises historic districts and landmarks ordinances.</p>
1975	Park Development	<p>The reptile garden was permanently closed. (Pfeiffer and Tomka, 68)</p>
1976	Historic Preservation	<p>“The stacks of the old kiln remain today and one acre of the property was listed on the National Register as Alamo Portland and Roman and Cement Works. (NRHP, 44)</p>
1976	Historic Preservation	<p>“The 1976 National Register nomination of the Alamo Portland and Roman Cement Works included a one-acre site and five structures, with a period of significance that ended in 1899.” (NRHP, 60)</p>

1977	Historic Preservation	National Trust for Historic Preservation presents Crowninshield Award to San Antonio Conservation Society for national impact on historic preservation activities. North Expressway project opens as McAllister Freeway; litigation dropped in 1970.
1978	National Park Development Tourism	“In 1978 extended negotiations between the Catholic Church, the State of Texas and the National Park Service had culminated in an agreement to turn the hard-won San José Mission State Park into a centerpiece of a San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.” “By spring 1978 a \$1.4 billion parks bill included \$10.5 million for development, renovations and new property for a 450-acre San Antonio Missions National Historical Park... Nearly a year after the long-sought legislation passed, implementation began.” (Fisher, 541-545)
1978	City + Business Development	A portion of Brackenridge Park is carved out to complete the Expressway. The suit is ultimately decided by the United States Supreme Court. Even after the ruling by SCOTUS, Senators Lloyd Bentsen and John Tower strip federal funding in an attempt to force the city and State to foot the bill for the project. Finally, a compromise route that reduces the amount of damage to the park from the original route is adopted, and the freeway opens in 1978. (Pfeiffer and Tomka 70)
1978	Historic Preservation	San Antonio Missions National Historical Park passed by Congress; opens in 1983.
1979	Archaeology	Katz and Fox conduct the “Archaeological and Historical Assessment of Brackenridge Park.” (Katz and Fox)
1979	Park Development	The first master plan for the park is completed. (Pfeiffer and Tomka 7)
1979	Archaeology	Anne A. Fox authors: “A Survey of Archaeological, Architectural and Historical Sites on the San Antonio River from Olmos Dam to South Alamo Street and on San Pedro Creek from San Pedro Park to Guadalupe Street. Archaeological Survey Report, No. 80.” San Antonio, TX: Center for Archaeological Research/The University of Texas at San Antonio.
1979	Historic Preservation	First draft of Brackenridge Park Master Plan presented to community.
1980s	Park Development	Polo as an event ends at Brackenridge. (Pfeiffer and Tomka 19)
1981	Historic Preservation	The Lower Pump House, originally constructed in 1885, is added to the National Register. (Pfeiffer and Tomka 20)

1984	Historic Preservation	“In 1984, the Chinese Sunken Garden is “rededicated as the Japanese Tea Garden at a ceremony attended by the Jingu’s children and representatives of the Japanese government.” (NRHP, 60)
1984	Park Development	The Sunken Garden Theater is extensively renovated at a cost of \$320,000. (Pfeiffer and Tomka 17)
1989	Archaeology	Stothert completes an archaeology and history report of the head of the San Antonio River. (Stothert).
1991	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“The San Pedro Creek Tunnel became operation.” “The tunnels [San Pedro and SA River] carry 100-year floodwaters 150 feet beneath downtown San Antonio and release it downstream.” (The People’s Waterway)
1993	Historic Preservation	City master plan includes historic preservation requirements.
1995	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“The Upper Labor dam was partially excavated, documented and refilled in 1995 during park renovation. The acequia channel is still visible within the park and zoological garden.” (NRHP, 36)
1997	Archaeology	“SWCA conducted archaeological investigations of the Second Waterworks Canal in order to record the structure and assess its preservation.” (NRHP, 34)
1997	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Texas Legislature passes Senate Bill 1. The purpose is to: Provide for the orderly development, management, and conservation of water resources and preparation for and response to drought conditions in order that sufficient water will be available at a reasonable cost to ensure public health, safety, and welfare; further economic development; and protect the agricultural and natural resources of that particular region. (SARA, 25)
1997	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The San Antonio River Tunnel is completed. (“The People’s Waterway”)
1998	Humans + Hydrology	There are major floods on the San Antonio River. (“The People’s Waterway”)
1998	Historic Preservation	Brackenridge Park Master Plan is updated.
1999	Historic Preservation	Restoration of San Juan Acequia to maintain rights to the water that historically irrigated Mission San Juan Capistrano and adjacent farmlands.

1999	Archaeology Humans + Hydrology	Report on “Excavations for the Upper Labor Dam Site, Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.” (Cox, Johnson, and Bousman).
2001	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	SWA receives an “Honor Award” for their San Antonio River Improvements Project – Concept Design San Antonio, TX. (www.asla.org/meetings/awards/awds01/sanantonio.html)
2002	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	South Central Texas Regional Water Plan integrated into the “Water for Texas” program. (SARA, 26)
2002	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Major floods on the San Antonio River. (“The People’s Waterway”)
2002	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“A new generation of flood management emerged in this community in 2002 with creation of the Bexar Regional Watershed Management (BRWM) partnership. This partnership among Bexar County, the City of San Antonio, SARA and 20 suburban cities takes a holistic, regional approach to managing flood control, storm water and water quality. The program established uniform design, operation and maintenance standards; coordinates local, state and federal funding; and provides an opportunity to measure and evaluate the quality of services delivered to citizens of Bexar County.” (“The People’s Waterway”)
2003 – 2006	Park Development	“The infrastructure of the park east of the river is totally renovated between 2003 and 2006 using city bond funds totaling \$6.5 million. The first phase includes renovation of picnic units, the Joske Pavilion and adjacent playground, river walls and the Dionicio Rodriguez footbridge as well as trail construction, landscape and recycled water irrigation. The second phase includes conversion of interior roadways to pedestrian trails, installation of public art pieces, renovation of the Lions Field playground and reconfiguration of the park entrance at Funston Place.” (NRHP, 70)
2005	Historic Preservation	City makes successful legal claim to Miraflores Gardens with help from land survey paid for by Conservation Society.
2006	Historic Preservation	Initiation of World Heritage nomination process for the Missions National Historical Park.
2006		The George Brackenridge statue is reoriented as part of the redesign of the Parfun Way entrance to the park.
2006	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The SCTRWPG (South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group) updates the South-Central Texas Regional Water Plan. (SARA 26)

2007	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The South-Central Texas Regional Water Plan is integrated into the “Water for Texas” program. (SARA, 26)
2007	Historic Preservation	“Bond-funded rehabilitation of the Japanese Tea Gardens was completed in 2007 and further renovation is planned. The city nursery, located in the wooded area south of the Witte Museum, was relocated.” (NRHP, 7, 70)
2007	Archaeology	Archaeological testing is conducted at 41BX323. (Figueroa and Dowling).
2008	Historic Preservation Park Conservation	The Brackenridge Park Conservancy is formed to preserve and enhance the park’s natural, historic and recreational resources.
2008		The animal care facility south of the zoo is closed and demolished in 2008. (NRHP, 70)
2008	Archaeology	“Archaeological Investigation of the City of San Antonio Nursery and San Antonio Zoo Eagle Railroad Tract Realignment Project, Bexar County, Texas.” (Figueroa, 2008).
2008	Park Development	A masonry clubhouse is constructed at the south end of the driving range near Mulberry Avenue. It serves as the headquarters of the First Tee program. (Pfeiffer and Tomka 19)
2008	Archaeology	Kristi Ulrich completes ‘Archaeological Services Associated with Improvements to Miraflores at Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.’ (Ulrich, 2008)
2009	Park Development	A three-story parking garage for park was is completed.” (NRHP, 70)
2010	Park Development	The park maintenance facility and Donkey Barn north of the zoo are vacated in 2010. (NRHP, 70).
2010	Historic Preservation	Conservation Society, San Antonio Zoo, Parks Foundation, Brackenridge Park Conservancy and Friends of Parks halt proposed lease of land at northern edge of park. Would have not been in compliance with adopted 1979 Brackenridge Master Plan.

2011	Archaeology Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Kristi Ulrich (with Maria Pfeiffer) completes the “Intensive Survey and Testing Associated with the Rediscovery of the Acequia Madre and Alamo Dam, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. Archaeological Report, No. 417.” San Antonio, TX: Center for Archaeological Research/The University of Texas at San Antonio. (Ulrich, 2011A)
2011	Archaeology	Krisi Ulrich completes “Archaeological Investigations at the Lily Pond in Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.” (Ulrich, 2011B)
2011	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	SCTRWPG (South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group) updates the South Central Texas Regional Water Plan. (SARA, 26)
2011/12		The Jingu House at the Japanese Tea Garden is renovated. (Pfeiffer and Tomka 7)
2012	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The South Central Texas Regional Water Plan is integrated into the “Water for Texas” program. (SARA, 26)
2012	Park Development	Ulrich completes the “Pedestrian Survey of the Planned Brackenridge Pavilion Project, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.” (Ulrich, 2012).
2012	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management Archaeology Preservation	Ultra-Violet Water Filtration System constructed at the San Antonio Zoo. During construction, a “20-foot-long covered stone sluiceway unearthed” and is discovered to be part of the original 1700s acequia system: “Buried under 5 feet of fill with its ends hidden by a decorative wall, heavy brush and mud, the culvert looks like it was built for carrying excess water to the San Antonio River.” (McDonald, “Piece of history is found near zoo,” mysanantonio.com)
2012	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“Water for Texas,” is produced by the Texas Water Development Board. (SARA, 25)
2013	Historic Preservation	Brackenridge Park is named as a Texas State Antiquities Landmark. (Pace, 2013)
2013	Archaeology Prehistory	Research concludes there is a probable connection between Mammoths and humans on sites along the San Antonio River. This elevates these locations from paleontological to also include anthropological and archaeological relevance. (Carpenter, et al. i)
2014	Historic Preservation	San Antonio’s five Spanish Colonial Missions nomination for World Heritage Site submitted to UNESCO. Culmination of eight years of work by NPS, Conservation Society, Los Compadres, Archdiocese, and others.

2014.07.02	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	“On July 2, 2014, SAWS [San Antonio Water System] breaks ground on the brackish water desalination plant. The plant is slated to begin providing an initial 12 million gallons of drinkable water by October 2016, creating water for an additional 40,000 families. The plant will remove 97 percent of salt minerals.” “San Antonio/Bexar County, Texas, Urban Waters Project, 2017 Work Plan.”
2015	International Park Development Tourism	“After twenty-three minutes of presentations and comments, San Antonio’s missions were named a UNESCO World Heritage Site... The UNESCO designation had been nine years in the making. It had been thirty-two years since Congress approved San Antonio Missions National Historical Park; forty-eight years since national park legislation was first introduced; seventy-four years since the Catholic Church, Bexar county and the San Antonio Conservation Society created San José Mission State Park...” (Fisher, 555) “Ultimately they [San Antonio Conservation Society] successfully launched pursuit of the highest level of international recognition—United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designation as a World Heritage Site, bestowed in 2015.” (Fisher, 541)
2015	Historic Preservation	ICOMOS endorses the missions’ World Heritage nomination and the World Heritage Committee awards World Heritage Status, after nine years of work.
2016	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	San Antonio River Authority completes a comprehensive study of the SA River watershed and submits 2-volume report.
2016	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Smith completes “Cultural Resources Monitoring for Brackenridge Park River Wall Replacement Project, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.” (Smith)
2016	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The South Central Texas Regional Water Planning Group, under the administration of the San Antonio River Authority prepares the “2016 South Central Texas Regional Water Plan: Volumes I and II.” These documents provide the San Antonio region with a comprehensive management plan for improved water quality, more stable hydrological flows, and future actions to provide for growth.
2016	Historic Preservation	Preservation advocates block the University of the Incarnate Word’s attempt to lease land to build a dormitory/parking garage near Alamo Stadium in Brackenridge Park. San Antonio landscape architect and 2014 National Humanities Medal recipient, Everett Fly commissioned to produce National Register nomination for historic African American communities in Bexar County.

2017	Archaeology Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	Clinton McKenzie with contributions by C. Stephen Smith completes "Archaeological Investigations of the Alamo Dam and Upper Labor Dam, Brackenridge Park, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas." (McKenzie)
2017	Historic Preservation Park Development	"The Brackenridge Park Master Plan was commissioned by the City of San Antonio to create a comprehensive plan to shape the future development of rehabilitation of Brackenridge Park..." The master planning process began in 2015, and the plan was completed and approved in 2017. (Brackenridge Park Master Plan, February 21, 2017)
2017	Humans, Hydrology + Water Management	The Regional Water Plan report is integrated into the State Water Plan. (SARA 26) These plans are updated on a five-year cycle as required by state law.
2018.01.22	Historic Preservation	The San Antonio Conservation Society pledges \$300,000 for the restoration of the original 1877 Pump House No. 1. (Huddleston)
2018.11	Historic Preservation	The Brackenridge Park Conservancy, in partnership with SARA and San Antonio Parks and Recreation, commission a Cultural Landscape Report for the park.