

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Brackenridge Park is the kind of landscape with which historians, designers, and scientists are eager to engage. To do so as part of a multidisciplinary team has been this group's privilege. Preserving and planning for cultural landscapes deserves and benefits from the perspective that outsiders offer. But a landscape so abundant with culture, history, and ecology, as Brackenridge Park is, also tends to be a landscape that is not easily or quickly understood.

Our team is grateful to our client and its partners, The Brackenridge Park Conservancy (BPC), led by the astute and dedicated Lynn Osborne Bobbit, the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department, headed by Xavier Urrutia when the project began, and managed by the knowledgeable and always willing to assist Bill Pennell, and the San Antonio River Authority, led by the exacting Suzanne Scott. To invest in a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is to take the long view of public land protection and stewardship. Not all people at the helm of cultural and historic landscapes possess the wisdom, patience, or insight to make this investment at the municipal level. These fine leaders not only grasped the value of a CLR, but they pressed to ensure that it would be tailored to the City of San Antonio and the park itself by the inclusion of an Ecological Site Assessment (ESA). They also trusted our team to comprehend, document, and provide comprehensive and visionary recommendations for Brackenridge Park's future.

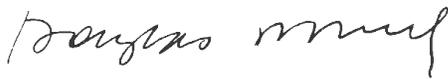
We are equally indebted to the community of passionate local experts who Lynn gathered to support this work. Numerous people graciously lent their time and knowledge to translate to us the complex factors that contribute to the Brackenridge Park landscape. Their expertise enabled us to stitch together our perspectives as landscape architectural historians, landscape architects, and ecologists and environmental designers with the inherent and distinctive truths of the place. They include historian and BPC Advisory Board member Maria Pfeiffer; author and BPC Board member Lewis F. Fisher; Landscape Architect, FASLA/Architect, NCARB Certified and BPC Advisory Board member Everett L. Fly; archaeologist Clinton McKenzie, UTSA Center for Archaeological Research; Kay Hindes, City of San Antonio Office of Historic Preservation; environmental scientist/water analyst, San Antonio Water System and BPC Advisory Board member Gregg Eckhardt; architect and former President of BPC Jay Loudon. San Antonio is lucky to have this wealth of institutional knowledge, and we were lucky to cull their expertise.

Collectively, our team has worked on numerous CLRs over the years, many for the National Park Service, and some for municipalities. Indisputably, Brackenridge Park has been the most exciting and complicated site for which we have had the opportunity to create a CLR. To create this historical document and technical tool, a CLR requires constant collaboration,

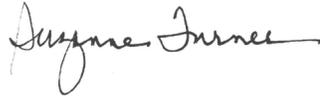
patience, and attention to detail by many individuals. John Grove and Christina Sohn, of Reed Hilderbrand; John Welch, Herpreet Singh, and Ashley Braquet of Suzanne Turner Associates; Michelle Bertelsen and Adam Barbe of the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center; and copy editor, Alison Rainey, each played instrumental roles in forming and finalizing the Brackenridge Park CLR and its accompanying ESA.

As with every CLR we have completed, but perhaps with heightened awareness for this one, we are deeply aware that more can be done—more historic details captured, more graphics rendered to illustrate information, more recommendations made. Due to the volume of information and real-world time constraints, in the eighteen months we’ve worked on this CLR, at certain points, we’ve had to observe a simple mantra: pencils down.

Now that pencils are down, our hope is that this CLR is a thorough, inspiring, and useful management tool. We aim for it to serve as the catalyst for putting in place necessary funding and systems-based projects for forward-thinking preservation and future development of Brackenridge Park and the City of San Antonio’s extensive network of cultural, historic, and ecological resources along the San Antonio River.



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