

Brack Pack

NEWSLETTER

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

April 2021

DONATE

Your gift supports the BPC mission to protect, restore, and preserve Brackenridge Park.

Save the Date: 2022 Gala

BPC is pleased to announce that

Nelson W. Wolff, Bexar County Judge, and Tracy Wolff, founder and president of the Hildalgo Foundation of Bexar County,



have accepted our invitation to be the honorees at the BPC annual fundraising event next year. So mark your calendars:

Wednesday, March, 23, 2022

2021 Event Chairs Robin Howard and Liecie Hollis have jumped on board again to pilot this event.

The pandemic inspired the successful "Promenade Through the Park" last month. Watch the [Video](#)!

What will they plan for us next? Stay tuned!

Tracy &
Nelson
Wolff begin
their
Promenade



Ron Nirenberg & Robin Howard
head up Alpine Drive



Park Pavilions Open for Reservations



The City of San Antonio has opened reservations for the pavilions in Brackenridge Park. [Click here](#) to start your reservation with the Parks & Recreation Reservations Office.

To view availability and for details about each Park pavilion, [click here](#).

The Joske Pavilion (pictured left) has a capacity for 75 people. Fee: \$15/hour Monday through Thursday; \$30/hour Friday through Saturday and holidays; four hour minimum reservation.

The Koehler Pavilion (right) has a capacity for 200 people. Fee: \$25/hour Monday through Thursday; \$35/hour Friday through Saturday and holidays; four hour minimum reservation.

The Cypress Pavilion (below) has a capacity for 60 people. Fee: \$55/hour Monday through Thursday; \$30/hour Friday through Saturday and holidays; four hour minimum reservation.



Earth Day in the Park



Valero employees volunteered recently to clean up Brackenridge Park for Earth Day.

City Parks & Rec and the BPC thank you!

Miraflores Update

The work on the walkway from Brackenridge Park to Miraflores is underway.

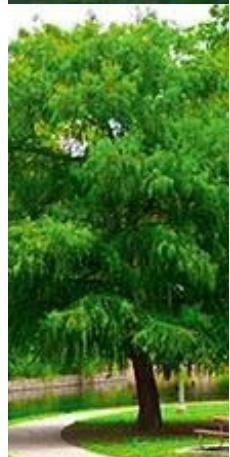
Additional improvements will include landscaping and irrigation.

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy will begin offering guided tours when construction is complete.





History Tales: Japanese Tea Garden



A Japanese tea garden was first seen in the United States at the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition



in Chicago, where it was “among the finest in the whole exposition.” After the Exposition, the first permanent Japanese tea garden to appear in the U.S. opened in San Francisco.

Over 20 years later the Japanese Tea Garden became one of Brackenridge Park's most distinctive attractions.

Brick kilns and a smokestack with iron fittings are all that remain of quarry operation that produced lime and Portland cement at this site between 1880 and 1908. In 1917, Parks Commissioner Ray Lambert worked with prison labor to build the iconic irregularly shaped garden. Rock from the

quarry was used to build an island, two pools, bridges, and paths. A Japanese-style pagoda, roofed with palm trees from city parks, was built overlooking the polo field.

The tea house itself was managed by a Japanese family, the Jingu family, (pictured below), but the American climate toward the Japanese changed drastically after the beginning of World War II and the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Shortly after, the Jingu family was asked to leave.

The space was renamed the Chinese Tea Garden. The more widely used entrance features a gate designed and constructed by Dionicio Rodriguez in 1942 (pictured above). The archway reads “Entrance to Chinese Tea Garden”. The gateway’s supporting posts are lettered with calligraphy translated to mean “China Garden.” Faux bois railings flank the gate.

In 1984, the original name, "Japanese Tea Garden", was restored in a rededication ceremony.

The garden underwent a renovation beginning in May 2007. The ponds and waterfall were repaired, along with adding a recirculation system to provide a safe habitat for new Koi and aquatic plants. This phase as a public-private partnership with the City of San Antonio, the San Antonio Parks Foundation, and the Friends of the Parks.

A grand reopening ceremony was held on March 8, 2008, which was attended by the Lambert family, descendants of Park Commissioner Ray Lambert, as well as numerous members of the Jingu family, including Mabel Jingu Enkoji, who was born in the Jingu House and lived at the garden as a child.

The Jingu House Cafe is now open daily, operated by Fresh Horizons Catering for the Parks Foundation.





Sources: Maria Pfeiffer, Japanese Tea Garden Master Plan



2021 Easter



No overnight camping was allowed this year in Brackenridge Park but that didn't stop the fun. Dr. Ricardo Romo, BPC Board Member, took photos and spoke with several families about their Easter tradition in the Park.

*San Antonians doing what San Antonians do.
Having a Good Time!*



The Egrets Have Landed



San Antonio is located in the Central Migration Flyway Zone, and the egrets have landed.

These birds naturally roost in larger rookeries over water. But park visitors are encouraged to not feed the birds to reduce bacteria in the San Antonio River.

Thanks to the fantastic crew from the City Parks and Recreation Department, who work hard to keep out sidewalks clean!

OUR MISSION

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy is a steward of and an advocate for the park and an instrument for preserving and enhancing the park's natural, historic, educational, and recreational resources for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

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