

Brack Pack

NEWSLETTER

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

June 2022

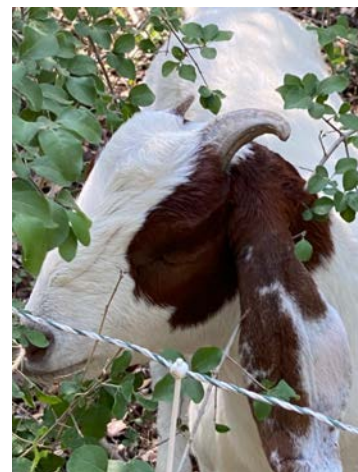
DONATE

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

Go for Goats

Our pilot Go for Goats project was a success! The goat herd of 160 worked their way through seven acres of undergrowth along the walking trails in the Wilderness Area in record time.

Thank you, Rent-a-Ruminants, for a bringing your herd to Brackenridge Park! We enjoyed having you here. Thank you to our donors for supporting this project.





Ligustrum Clearing



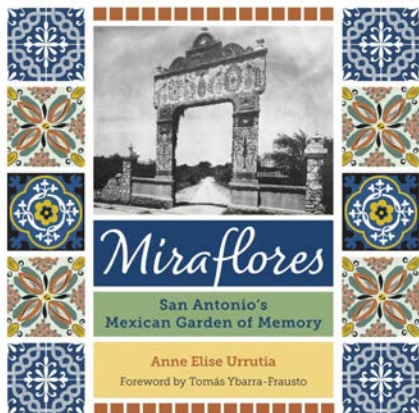
Volunteers and Parks & Recreation crew members cleared ligustrum in the Wilderness Area off Tuleta Drive on Saturday, June 18.

The invasive clearing will be an ongoing effort with San Antonio Parks & Recreation and volunteers to effectively manage the undergrowth in the Wilderness Area.

Thank you to the Parks & Rec crew; Mark Lawson, Parks & Rec



assistant park operations manager; Nicole McLeod, City program engagement manager; Chris Graham, who is a BPC Founders Circle member with his wife Gwen; and River Aid San Antonio volunteers Charles Blank, John Hamilton, and Hunter Warren.



"Miraflores: San Antonio's Mexican Garden of Memory" by Anne Elise Urrutia reveals the story of an internationally significant cultural landscape in San Antonio.

Aureliano Urrutia, a prominent physician in Mexico City, built Miraflores garden after immigrating to Texas during the Mexican Revolution.

As a teenager, Anne Elise Urrutia ventured into Miraflores, the disappearing family garden of her great-grandfather, Dr. Urrutia. Over the years she has continued to explore the garden and its history. Her research on Miraflores has allowed her to rebuild, through words and pictures, the doctor's lost landscape and receive his message of cultural heritage communicated through this once beautiful and expressive place.

Available at Barnes & Noble and on Amazon.

Save the Dates



Sept. 22-23, 2022

Big Give

On Sept. 22-23, visit theBigGivesa.org and make a donation to the Brackenridge Park Conservancy.

Sept. 25, 2022
Parktoberfest

Celebrate San Antonio's German heritage with free beer tasting from area brewers and live entertainment along the San Antonio River in the Koehler and Cypress Pavilions and the Pecan Grove.



Oct. 8, 2022

Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival in Brackenridge Park

Learn about the monarch butterfly migration, the importance of the wildlife pollinators that make one out of every three bites of our food possible, and our special



Oct. 21-22, 2022
Catfish Stock & Fishing Event
In Partnership with the
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department,
San Antonio River Authority, and San
Antonio Parks & Recreation
To be held along the San Antonio
River near the Joske Pavilion



Nov. 6, 2022
Book Signing
"Brackenridge: San Antonio's
Acclaimed Urban Park" by San
Antonio Author Lewis F. Fisher
To be held at the Witte Museum

March 29, 2023
Party In the Park
Returning to the north bend of the
San Antonio River in Brackenridge
Park. With a theme of "Birdsong",
brought to us by Board Member
Suzanne Mathews and Lucifer
Lighting.



Why Things Are

Trabajo Rústico

Excerpted from "Capturing Nature: The Cement Sculpture of Dionicio Rodríguez" by Patsy Pittman Light (available on Amazon).

Mexican artisan Dionicio Rodríguez was a skilled practitioner of the technique variously described as rustic, trabajo rústico (rustic work), or faux bois (imitation wood).

Over a period of more than 20 years, from 1924 to the early 1950s, Rodríguez traveled through eight states creating reinforced concrete sculptural works that imitated the natural forms



and textures of rock and wood.

Five of his pieces are located in Brackenridge Park.

Entrance To Japanese Tea Garden

In 1942, Rodríguez was hired by the City to build what is considered one of his most exuberant works: the entrance portal.

Four sturdy vertical trunk posts with branches as brackets support lintels and a thatched roof, with four upturned corners. A smaller palapa roof, also with the curved detail, is built on top of the main roof, and a third smaller roof caps it.

Two front lintels bear the inscription, "Entrance Chinese Tea Garden". The vertical supporting logs and attached curved horizontal handrails have worm holes, crevices, patches of lichen, and exaggerated knotholes.



The entrance is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

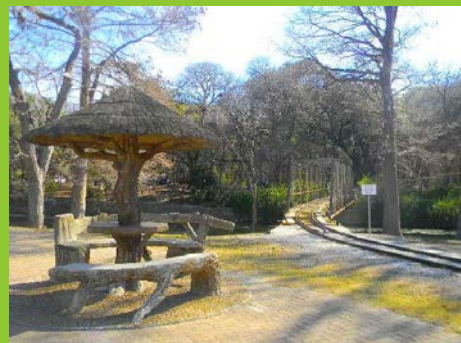
Historic Footbridge



Built about 1925, the footbridge in the northside of the Park is a curved structure resembling an elongated arbor; it parallels a bend in the road.

It features 33 pairs of vertical tree trunks that support

Mushroom-Shaped Palapa



A palapa with its thatched roof resembling a large mushroom shelters a table sited near the San Antonio River.

The huge tree trunk supports the hipped roof, made of three concentric layers of thatch

horizontal branches. Handrail branches are infilled with intertwined cross branches. This design is unique among his known works.

The footbridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Hollow Tree House



Photographs of Alamo Plaza from about 1959 reveal a large hollow tree structure and a small bench similar to those in Brackenridge Park and at Miraflores, both attributed to Rodríguez.

The tree house was removed from Alamo Plaza and is now in Brackenridge Park on the walking trail immediately south of Tuleta Drive.

bundles. The round table surface that surrounds the trunk is made of mortised boards and has incised graffiti.

One seat is a textured bark log that appears to have grown at a right angle and has two branch legs. The other is a smooth curved slab with a back support.

Palapa-Roofed Bench



A palapa-roofed bench stands in the Park at the terminus of St. Mary's Street across from the Zoo.

The roof corners curve upward, similar to the roof of the Japanese Tea Garden entrance. On the lower edge of the inside of the roof is a small applied concrete plaque that reads "D. Rodríguez".



Choose Brackenridge Park Conservancy as your charitable organization, and make your Amazon purchases through smile.amazon.com. Amazon will then donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to the BPC.

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.

Brackenridge Park Conservancy
PO Box 6311 San Antonio, TX 78209
(210) 826-1412
info@brackenridgepark.org
brackenridgepark.org

