

Brack Pack

NEWSLETTER

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

February 2023

Save the Dates



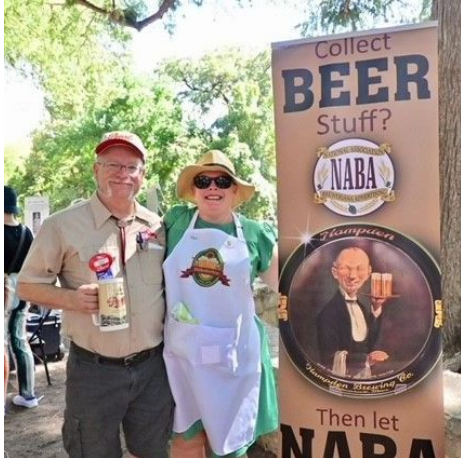
May 1 Go For Goats

For an eco-green and sustainable method for clearing invasive underbrush in Brackenridge Park, the herd from Rent-A-Ruminant® Texas will return for a second year. Open to the public.



Sept. 20 Big Give 2023

24 hours of online giving through thebiggivesa.org. Big Give donors have given nearly \$10,000 for the Go For Goats project the past two years.



Sept. 24 12th Annual Parktoberfest

Celebrating San Antonio's German heritage with beer tasting from area brewers live, music, and food trucks along the banks of the San Antonio River. A free event.



Oct. 7 Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival

This free event celebrates the migrating monarch butterflies who are traveling through Texas.



Nov. 4 Family Fishing Experience

Channel catfish are released in the San Antonio River for junior anglers and their parents to enjoy a fun, family-friendly, and free event.

Bird Migration

Balancing the needs of people & wildlife in our urban areas.

For several years, San Antonio Parks and Recreation has maintained ongoing efforts to help minimize impacts caused by the large colonies of migratory birds at parks in the city. The City of San Antonio has contracted with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and coordinated with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to facilitate necessary habitat modification and deterrent techniques.

These techniques come from years of experience, research, and extensive field work and follows regulations placed on wildlife from local, state, and federal agencies. Bird dispersal is expected to improve wildlife biodiversity, natural habitat, water quality, and park amenity access by minimizing the impacts of large rookeries.

Amenities where rookeries exist become unusable for 10 months of the year due to bird density. Bird feces cause damage to park amenities including picnic tables and playground equipment, and sidewalks become inaccessible to the public.

High concentrations of bird fecal bacteria decrease water quality, and the bird rookeries are significant contributors to this pollution. Bird feces may also carry diseases that cause respiratory problems in humans, such as:

- E.coli in the river
- Histoplasma capsulatum fungus
- Breathing problems due the uric acid

In accordance with U.S. Fish & Wildlife guidelines as well as Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, habitat modification may include removing old nests, clearing the underbrush, and dead wood removal as well as deterrent techniques such as pyrotechnics, clappers, spotlights, lasers, distress calls, effigies, balloons, and drones.

Based on prior egret rookery and roost relocation projects, it is anticipated that many of these birds will move as a group.

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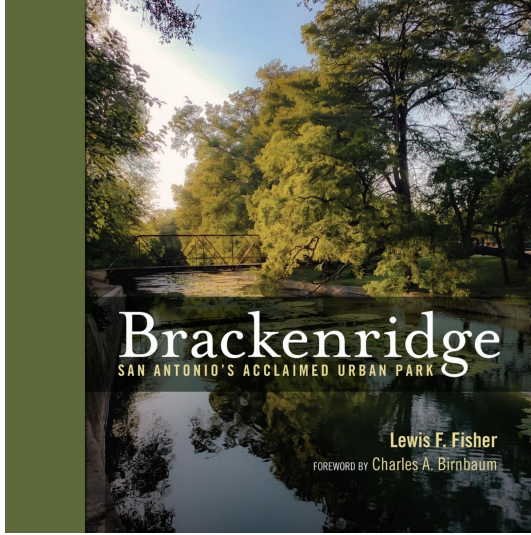
For more information about bird mitigation, click [here](#) for a video from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.

Brack Book

*Copies of
"Brackenridge: San Antonio's
Acclaimed Urban Park"
are going fast.*

To purchase, click [here](#).

*Underwritten by the
Semmes Foundation.
Commissioned by the Brackenridge*



Why Things Are

Beginning in 1915, recreational areas were introduced into Brackenridge Park, adding pavilions, playgrounds, bathhouses, and picnic areas.

In 1925, Parks Commissioner Ray Lambert replaced an old rambling frame bathhouse with a corrugated iron bathhouse that had seven changing compartments for women and children.

Designed by Emmett Jackson, arched openings on both the north and south sides of the building accessed the changing rooms. Stairways leading down to the San Antonio River and adjoining walkways at the river level allowed swimmers to access the swimming area in the river itself.



The roof of the bathhouse was removed in 1992 when the structure was converted to an open-air "playscape."

OUR MISSION

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy is a steward of Brackenridge Park's natural, historic, educational, and recreational resources and an advocate for their preservation and enhancement for the benefit of current and future generations.

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