

# Brack Pack

## NEWSLETTER

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

July 2022

**DONATE**

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

### H-E-B Gift

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy is the recipient of a \$1 million gift from H-E-B to create the H-E-B Cultural Trail, a new ADA-accessible pathway that will tell the story of Brackenridge Park's historic treasures.

The H-E-B Cultural Trail will be a self-guided experience that will encourage visitors to explore the 12,000 years of the rich history found in the Park. Educational signage featuring historic photos and bilingual text will tell the story from indigenous peoples to present day cultural groups.

"Brackenridge Park is essential to the fabric of San Antonio and holds special memories for generations of families and South Texans," said Julie Bedingfield, H-E-B public affairs manager. "H-E-B is passionate about investing in



public spaces where our community can gather, play, and learn.

"We're thrilled to partner with the Brackenridge Park Conservancy to provide a new way for future generations to experience this historical mainstay," she said.

"I express our deep gratitude to H-E-B for its meaningful impact on the renaissance of the 123-year old Park," said Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr., BPC vice president. "The partnership with an established and beloved company like H-E-B elevates the importance of the work of the Brackenridge Park Conservancy."

Parktoberfest Update



Plans for the 2022 Parktoberfest are in full swing. The event is scheduled for Sept. 25 from 2-5 p.m. Admission is free.

Look for returning brewers and welcoming new ones. Food vendors will be located throughout the event, selling a variety of goodies.

We are excited to announce the following confirmed participants:

- Alamo Beer
  - Freetail Brewing
  - Texas Beer Company
  - Tuff Dog Brewery
  - Viva Beer
  - Bexar Brewers
  - Schilo's
  - Southside Craft Soda
  - Paleteria San Antonio
- Huftgold Food Truck
  - Charm City SnoBalls
  - Teka Molina Food Truck
  - Beethoven Maennerchor
  - Dirty River Jazz Band
  - Artists from Hausmann Millworks
  - Charlie Staats and his Pearl Brewing Company Memorabilia

Parktoberfest honors the memory of Emma Koehler of the Pearl Brewing family, who donated 11 acres to the City where alcohol could be served in this part of the Park.

Parktoberfest is co-sponsored by San Antonio Parks & Recreation, KRTU-FM, and Schilo's.

For vendor inquiries, contact Luci Bell, (210) 363-1644, [lwpipes@yahoo.com](mailto:lwpipes@yahoo.com).

For media inquiries, contact Laura Aplin, (210) 323-6356, [laura@lhapr.com](mailto:laura@lhapr.com).



PARKS & RECREATION  
SAN ANTONIO





## BPC Sponsors Butterfly Fest



The Brackenridge Park Conservancy will host the seventh annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival in the Pecan Grove at Brackenridge Park. The signature event will take place Saturday, Oct. 8, from 10 a.m. to 2

p.m.

“The Brackenridge Park Conservancy could not be happier about hosting the 2022 Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival,” said Tim Swan, BPC treasurer. “And what a more appropriate setting to do it in than San Antonio’s *grande dame* of public parks.”

BPC Executive Director Joe Turner said the Festival’s mission is a “natural fit” with our mission of providing free nature programming to the community.

“We look forward to a successful 2022 Festival and many future Festivals,” Turner said.

## Volunteer to Remove Brush

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

More than 120 invasive species have been removed so far.



The next volunteer opportunity will be Saturday, Aug. 6.

If you would like to volunteer please contact Nicole McLeod, City of San Antonio volunteer coordinator, at [Nicole.McLeod@sanantonio.gov](mailto:Nicole.McLeod@sanantonio.gov).

## Our Mascot



Cibolo models his new “Official Mascot” cape, with his dad, Board Vice President Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr.

Cibolo will be on hand during our events.

Looking good, Cibolo!

## Pavilion Reservations

**RESERVATION FEE EXEMPTED FOR VETERANS' GROUPS**  
The pavilions at all City parks are available to military veterans' groups at no rental cost. [Click here](#) to go to the reservation fee exemption form.

**Joske Pavilion**

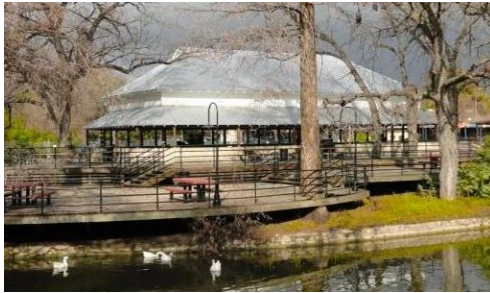


The Joske Pavilion is located on the northern part of the Park, next to the Iron Bridge.

Fee: \$15 an hour with a four hour minimum Monday through Thursday. \$30 an hour with a four-hour minimum Friday through



Sunday and holidays. No alcohol is allowed at this pavilion.



The Koehler Pavilion is located near the low water crossing.

### Koehler Pavilion

Fee: \$25 an hour with a four hour minimum Monday through Thursday. \$35 an hour with a four hour minimum Friday through Sunday and holidays. Alcohol is allowed at this pavilion.

### Cypress Pavilion

The Cypress Pavilion is located next to the Koehler Pavilion.

Fee: \$15 an hour with a four hour minimum Monday through Thursday. \$30 an hour with a four-hour minimum Friday through



Sunday and holidays. Alcoholic is allowed at this pavilion.

Moonwalks are allowed at each pavilion in Brackenridge Park.

Click [here](#) to go the San Antonio Parks & Recreation facilities information page.

For FAQs, click [here](#).

## Why Things Are

Pump House No. 1 & No. 2



**Pump House No. 1 in the 1940s**  
**One of oldest existing commercial buildings in San Antonio**

As San Antonio grew in the mid-19th century, the increased population meant increased water contamination and bouts of cholera.

To address this public health crisis, City leaders awarded a contract to J.B. Lacoste's San Antonio Water Works Company in 1877 "to construct a water works to supply the city of San Antonio with water for fire protection, sanitary, public and domestic purposes." LaCoste's contract also required construction of a reservoir to provide a backup water supply of five million gallons.

A raceway was excavated, and the one-story stone Pump House No. 1 was built, "with an eye to beauty as well as use". The 40-foot-wide raceway began on the San Antonio River's west bank near the dam of the Upper Labor acequia, crossed the old tannery property, and re-entered the river at the pump house about 650 feet to the south. The raceway's nine-foot fall provided power to drive turbines and pumps.

The pump house operated on gravity and velocity to activate the pumping operations and to force water to the reservoir that was located near where the San Antonio Botanical Garden stands today. Gravity flow delivered the water through an extensive network of pipes that branched out into the City.



### Pump House No. 2

Sculptor Gutzon Borglum designed Mount Rushmore while living here in the 1930s

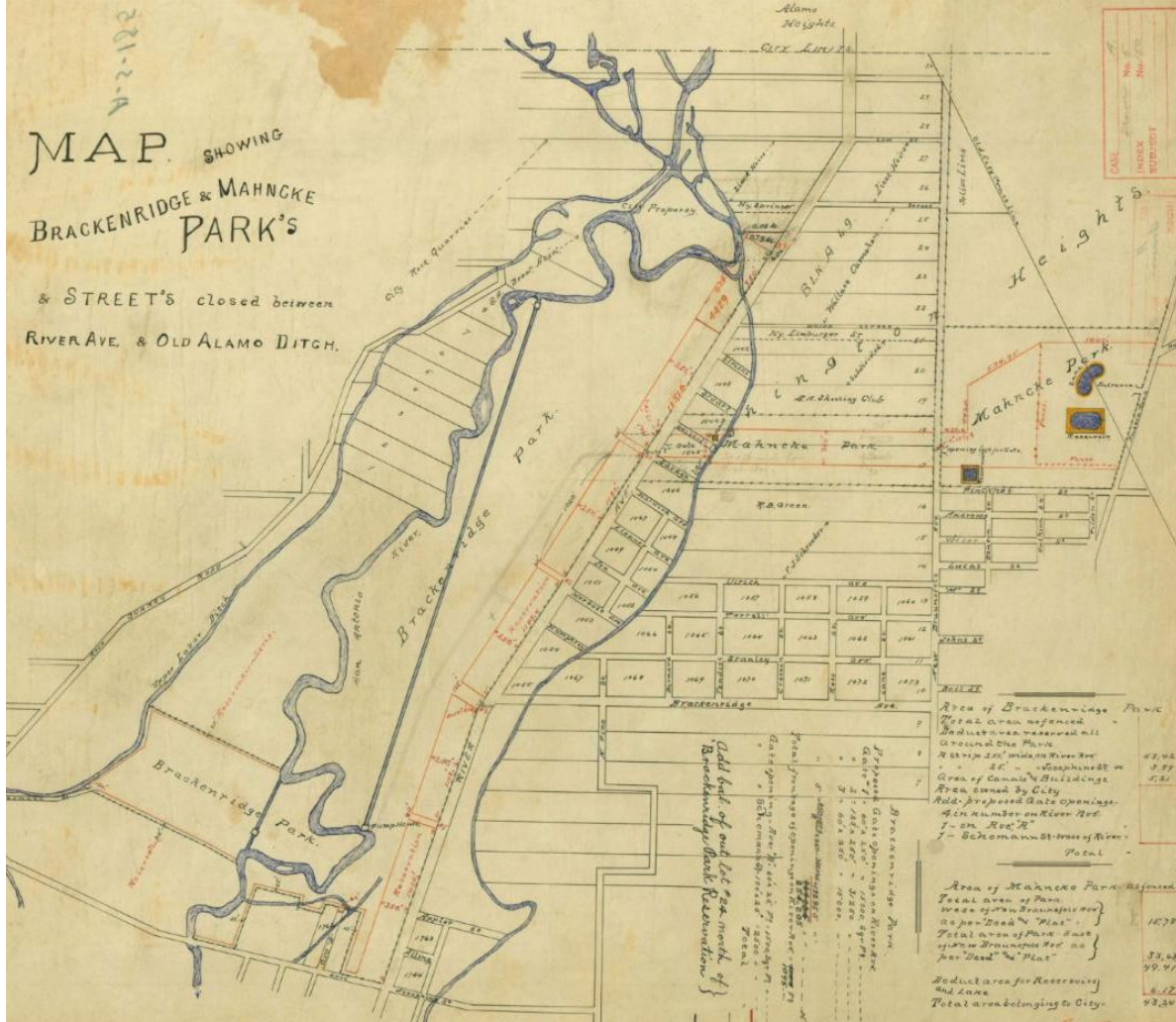
By 1885, George Brackenridge gained controlling interest in the Water Works company. Through company reorganization and financial investments, Brackenridge expanded the Water Works Company. Ownership of a large block of riverfront land allowed him to expand the water works.

Beginning at the original pump house, he constructed an earthen canal in the south part of the Park and a second pump house, located today on the Brackenridge Park Golf Course.

Water entered the canal from the river near Tuleta Drive. The channel was partially filled many years ago, but the right-of-way is still discernable in the wooded area.

The City of San Antonio bought the water system in 1925.





A map from 1908 shows the locations of both pumphouses, the long raceway from the river to Pump House No. 2, and the two reservoirs.

Sources: Cultural Landscape Report and National Register of Historic Places Nomination



Choose Brackenridge Park Conservancy as your charitable organization, and make your Amazon purchases through [smile.amazon.com](https://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.

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