

Brack Pack

NEWSLETTER

Brackenridge Park Conservancy

May 2022

DONATE

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

Go for Goats



BPC in collaboration with
San Antonio Parks &

Removing the underbrush
will improve trail access and

Recreation and Animal Care Services will welcome 150 goats through Rent-A-Ruminant® Texas to assist with naturally cutting or “mowing” overgrown vegetation, cleaning almost seven acres of Park land.

Goats, which graze on many varieties of grasses and plants, are an effective, eco-friendly, and sustainable solution to vegetation management.

The Park’s unique approach will clear invasive plant species and remove extra brush, negating the need for commercial mowing and the use of herbicides.

This goat “mowing” project will focus on seven acres of land around the Park’s Wilderness Area along Brackenridge Way. Here, they will remove invasive plants that have overtaken natural areas and hiking paths.

safety.

The public is invited to view the goats “at work” May 18 through the end of May.

Goats will be contained in designated areas via portable electric fencing and managed by a goat wrangler and guard dogs.

Guests are asked to not touch, engage with, or feed the animals for their safety and yours.

Goats are natural climbers and adept at scaling hills and mountains with ease, making them an ideal choice for clearing around the Park. They can go places where it is unsafe or unsuitable for humans and heavy machinery.

This project is funded through the generous donations of the Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills Garden Club and our Big Give 2021 donors.



Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills Garden Club Donates to Goat Project

Susan Altgelt (left), president, and Ceci Goldstone (right) of the AHTHC present BPC representative Laura Aplin a check for \$10,000 to support the Goat Project. Thank you, ladies!



San Antonio artist Toro Martinez was in Brackenridge Park with Dr. Ricardo Romo, BPC Board Member, to pick up trash. Toro creates pigments from trash—smashes it and mixes the trash with paint to create a different paint connected to the environment.

Among the permanent public art collections where his art is now include the University of Texas at San Antonio, the Border Regional MHMR Center in Laredo, and the National Academy of Art in Helsinki, Finland. His work is currently on exhibit at the Carlsbad Museum in New Mexico.

Say hello if you see Toro "painting the Park".

Save the Dates

Sept. 25, 2022
Parktoberfest



Oct. 22, 2022
Catfish Stock & Fishing Event
In Partnership with the
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department



Nov. 6, 2022
"Brackenridge: San
Antonio's Acclaimed
Urban Park" by San
Antonio Author Lewis
Fisher Book Signing

March 29, 2023
Party In the Park



Why Things Are



The Mexican Village

In 1920, City Parks Commissioner Ray Lambert approved the building of the Mexican Village where the Aguilar, Rangel, and Pozo families lived. The stone buildings with thatched roofs were constructed near the base of the Alamo Cement Company stone kiln and east of the Japanese Tea Garden. According to Aguilar family oral history, Lambert published an advertisement looking for artisans to occupy the village and produce handcrafted goods for tourists.

Anita (1897-1959) and Bacilio (1889-1962) and their children emigrated from Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Mexico, in 1919. The Aguilars were the first to move into the village in 1920. They frequently interacted with Kimi Eizo (1881-1938) and Miyoshi Jingu (1893-1969), Japanese immigrants who lived and worked at the Japanese Tea Garden. (Japanese Tea Garden history was highlighted in the April 2021 newsletter.)

The families who resided in the village produced a variety of different crafts inspired by their Mexican heritage, including plaster and clay items, cane work, and crocheted clothing. The families also served Mexican food to visitors in a straw-roofed pavilion.

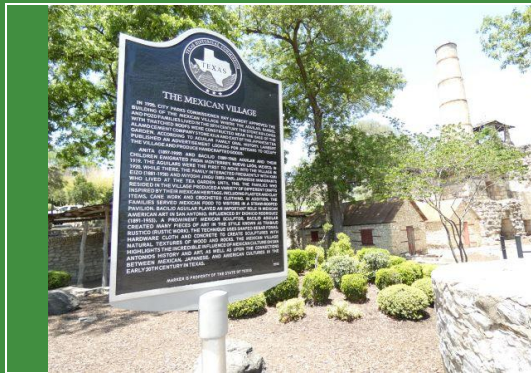
A prominent Mexican sculptor, Bacilio Aguilar created many pieces of art in the style known as *trabajo rustico*.

The Mexican Village highlights the influence of Mexican culture on

San Antonio's history and art as well as the connections between Mexican, Japanese, and American cultures in early 20th-century Texas.



A vintage photograph of the Mexican Village.



A historical marker for the Mexican Village was dedicated Sept. 24, 2021, sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission and Bexar County.

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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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