



# Brackenridge Park Nature Playscape Master Plan

*Community Engagement Meeting #3*

Hoerr Schaudt  
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Abundant Playscapes

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# Agenda

- 01 Welcome & Introduction**
- 02 Brackenridge Park Project Process**
  - Guiding Principles
  - Project Criteria Overview
- 03 Project Overview**
  - Nature Playscape Description
  - Schedule and Next Steps
- 04 Community Workshops (1 & 2) Recap**
  - Feedback
  - Refining to Updated Concept Plan
- 05 Conceptual Nature Playscape Plan**
  - Overview of Concept
  - Breakout Stations

# BPC + Stakeholder Advisory Committee

## Brackenridge Park Conservancy

Terry Brechtel  
Chris Maitre  
Joe Turner

## BPC Stakeholder Committee

Bill Aylor (River Road Neighborhood)  
Kathy Amen (Tuesday Musical Club)  
Dr. Vanessa Beasley (Trinity University)  
Sara Beesley (Audubon Society)  
Joe Bravo (Wesfort Neighborhood)  
Toni Van Buren (Monte Vista Neighborhood)  
Allison Cohen (Parks & Rec Advisory Board)  
Parker Dixon (Tobin Hill Neighborhood)  
Dr. Thomas Evans (University of Incarnate Word)  
Alex Gonzales (Visit San Antonio)  
Irby Hightower (Alamo Architects)  
Carrie Kimbell (First Tee)  
Daniel Menelly (DoSeum)  
Vince Michael (San Antonio Conservation Society)  
Andrew Peterson (Alamo City Golf Trail)  
Randall Preissig (Linear Creekways Advisory)  
Frates Seeligson (San Antonio River Foundation)  
Katherine Trumble (San Antonio Botanical Garden)  
Ramon Vasquez (American Indians in Texas)  
Mary Jane Verette (San Antonio Parks Foundation)  
Taylor Watson (Mahncke Park)

## BPC Technical Committee

Derek Boese  
Tony Canez  
Dirk Elmendorf  
Brian Mast  
Marise McDermott  
Tim Morrow

## City Staff

Lori Houston  
Assistant City Manager

Homer Garcia  
Parks Director

Shanon Miller  
Office of Historic Preservation

Rudy Nino  
Planning Dept.

Cory Edwards  
Office of Historic Preservation

# Design Team & Collaborators

## Design Team

**Hoerr Schaudt**  
**Landscape Architects**  
Rob Gray  
Michael Killeen

**talkStrategy**  
Anamaria Suescun-Fast  
Monica Trevino

**Pape-Dawson**  
Will Kroll

**Kanics Inclusive Design**  
Ingrid Kanics

## Collaborators

**UTSA Center for**  
**Archaeological Research**  
Clint McKenzie



# Brackenridge Park Reconciliation Process

# Guiding Principles



## Respect for People & Nature

- Promote inclusivity*
- Promote free use of park*
- Protect/enhance natural resources & habitat*
- Long-term sustainability*



## Respect for History & Culture

- Honor & interpret comprehensive cultural history*
- Preserve physical history where possible*
- Interpret physical history where preservation not possible*
- Educate public about entire history of area (Indigenous, Spanish colonial, establishment of park, and park history)*



## Respect for Compromise

- If project has internal conflicts between principles, divergent principles should be respected through a balanced approach*
- No principle may be ignored*

# Project Criteria



## River-Related Issues

*Issues include ecology, hydrology, the riparian corridor, and the river*



## Land-Related Issues

*Issues include vegetations, soils, and ecology*



## Archaeology & Architecture

*Issues include archaeology, architecture, historic preservation, art, and other issues related to standing structures*



## Circulation & Connections

*Issues include entry and arrival areas, edges between cultural institutions, definition at park edges, and circulation within the park*



# Nature Playscape Project



# Introduction

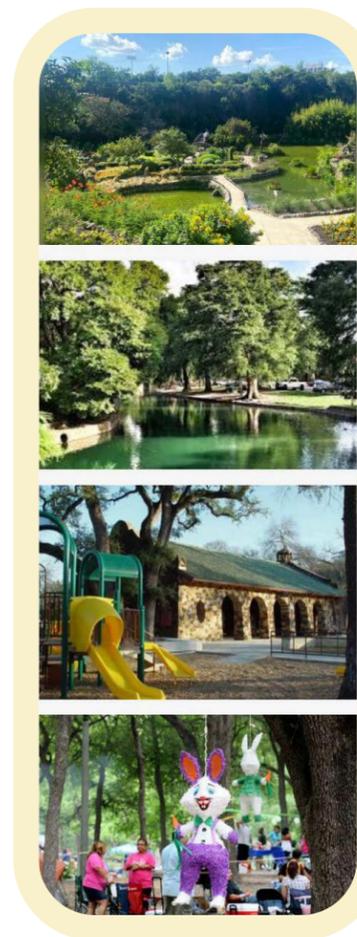
## Brackenridge Park Nature Playscape

The proposed project (Nature Playscape) will introduce a new playground to the overall park. The new Nature Playscape will be designed with interactive nature-based, durable, and safety-compliant equipment. Interactive equipment will serve as an engaging platform for interpreting the entire history of the park by incorporating thematic design elements, educational signage, hands-on activities, and so on.

# Why a Nature Playscape?

"The Nature Playscape is a powerful response to the strategic outcome of the BPC Vision sessions and is in direct alignment with the **key themes articulated by the community** as being most important: connecting with and honoring the river / park ecology and community recreation."

*Reconciliation Plan Process*



**More Natural Experiences**

**Connecting with the River**

**Community Recreation**

**Celebrating Culture**

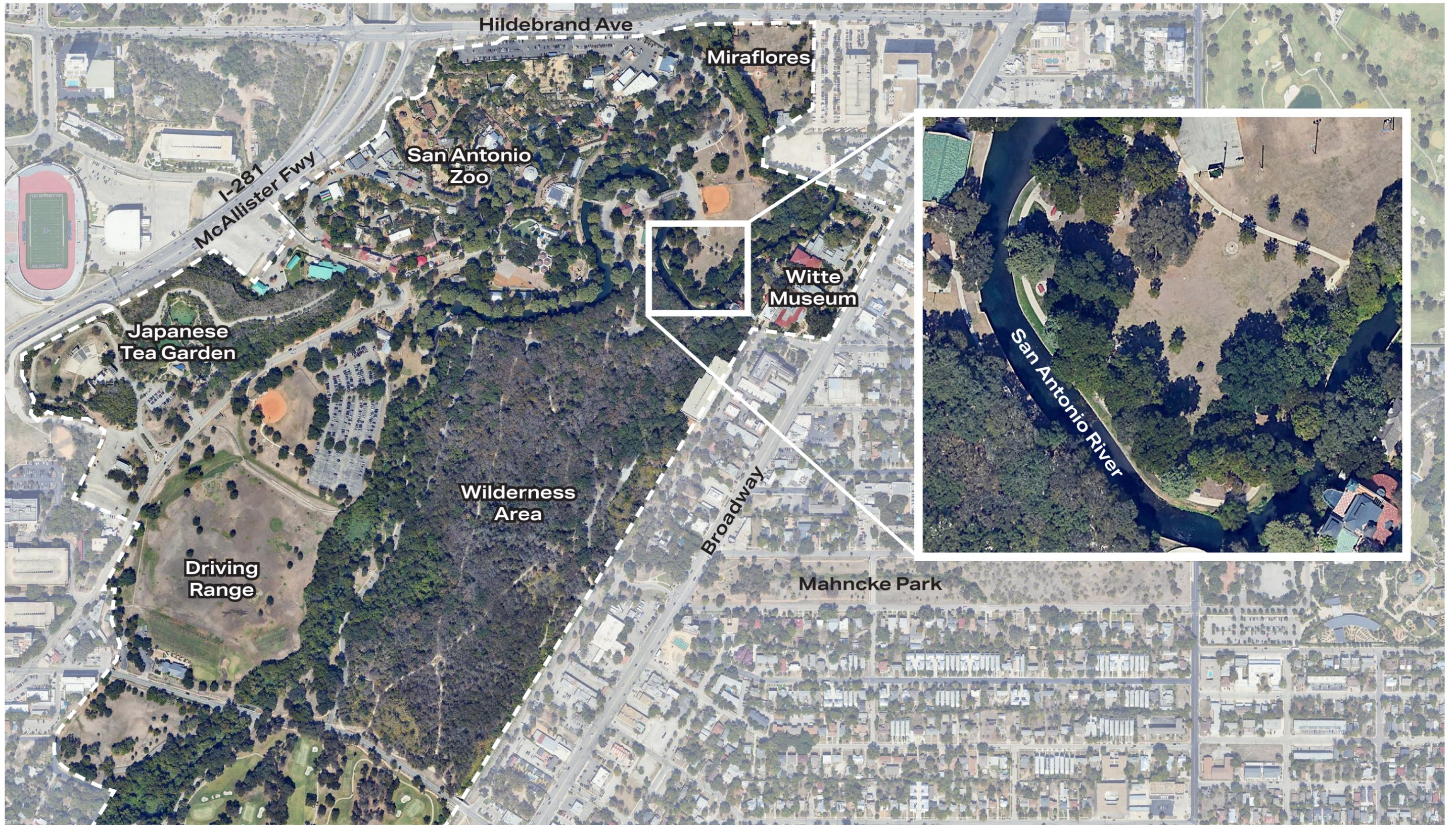
**Nature  
Playscape**

River Theme

Interactive

Natural Materials

# Nature Playscape Site



# Nature Playscape Goals

## Nature Play

Create interactive nature-based play experiences inspired by Brackenridge Park and surrounding natural environment.

## Interpreting History

Interpret the history of Brackenridge Park through thematic design elements, educational signage, hands-on activities, and more.

## Utilize Natural Elements

Integrate natural elements such as local trees, plants, and water features to help children develop a deeper connection with the park's natural environment

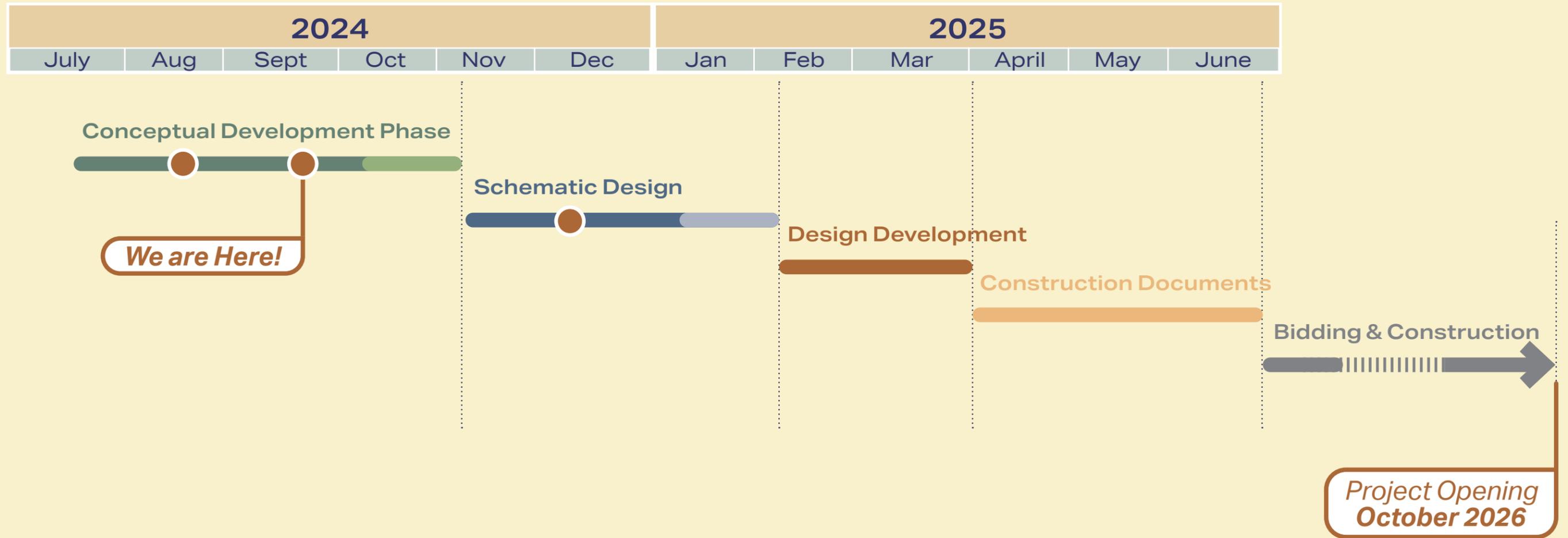
## Inclusive & Accessible

Feature inclusive and accessible playground design elements that cater to children of all abilities by incorporating universally designed play features.

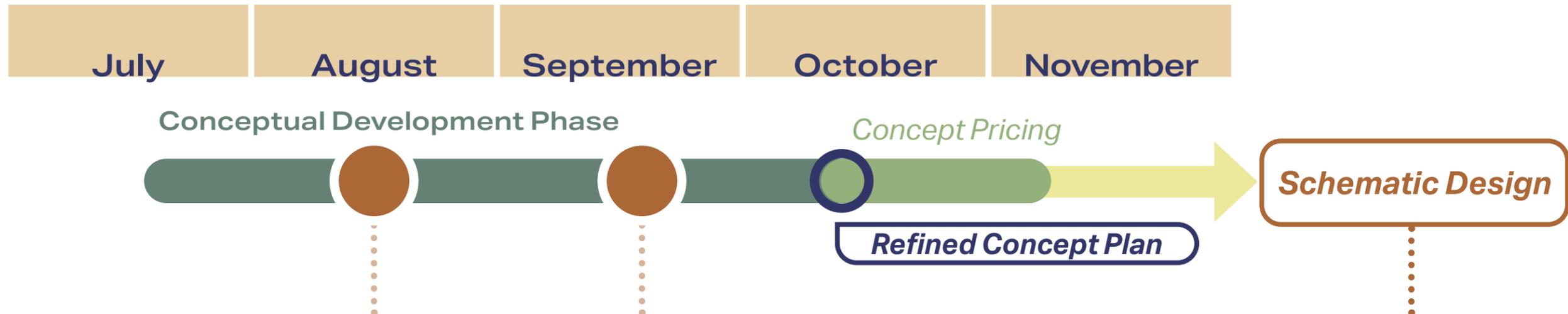
## A Communal Gathering Space

Ultimately, the proposed Nature Playscape will serve as a communal gathering space that brings together families and communities.

# Project Schedule



# Project Schedule



### Community Workshop #1

*Goal:*

*Define Project Goals and Preliminary Programming*

*Gather community feedback on preferred playscape programming and areas of inspiration for design concepts*

### Community Workshop #2

*Goal:*

*Review findings of Workshop #1 feedback and preferences*

*Showcase multiple design concept options for community feedback and direction toward a final concept*

### Community Workshop #3

*During Schematic Design Phase*

*Goal:*

*Review refined final concept plan based on Community Workshop #2 feedback.*

*Gather feedback on final concept to move forward with design and construction documents*

**We are Here!**



# Community Workshop #1 Feedback

# Nature Play Programming

[211 votes]

Habitat Maze (Sensory)



Balance



Habitat/Nests (Interpretive)



Climbing



Water Play



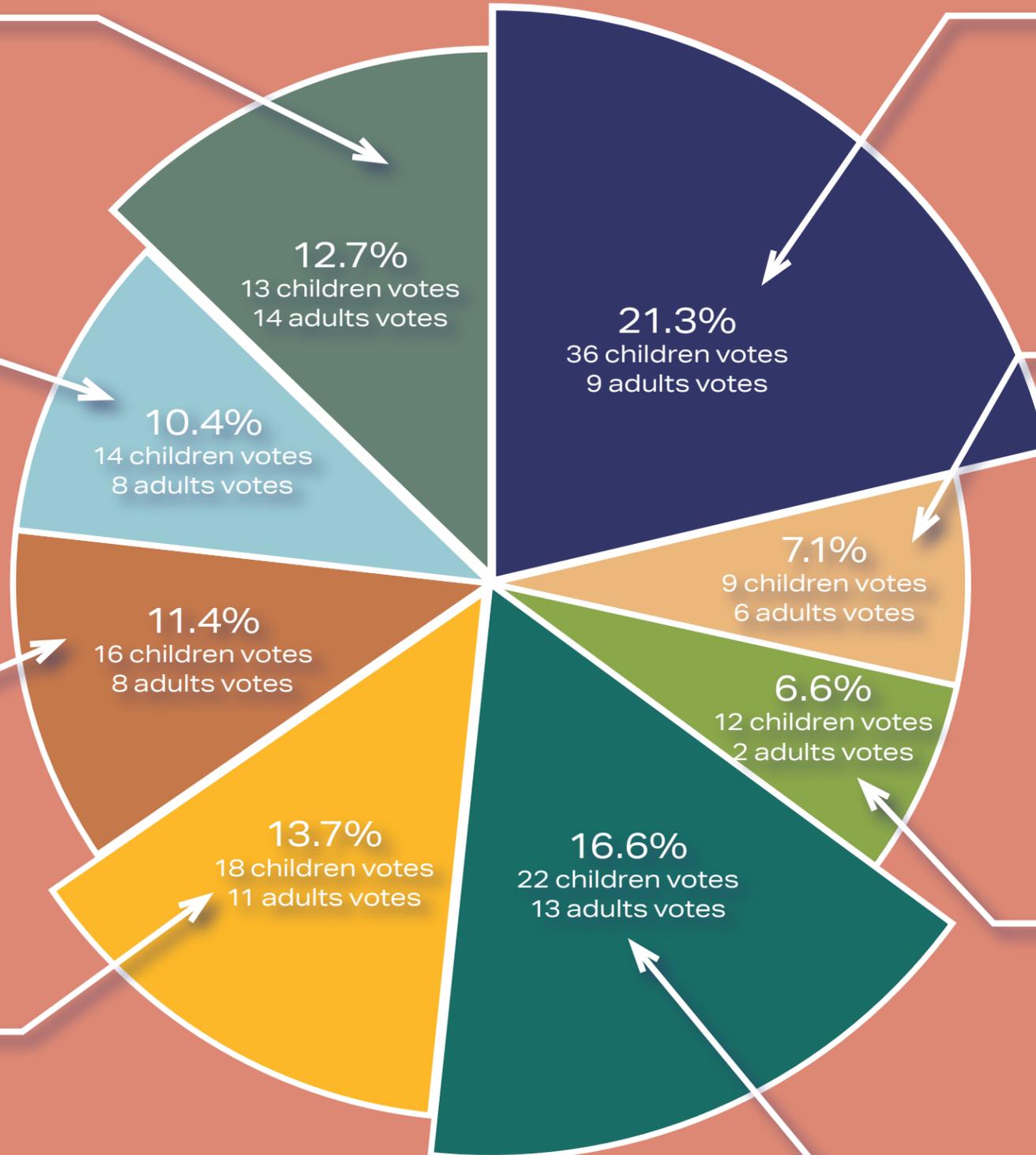
Loose Materials



Swings / Swinging



Rope / Net Play





# Community Feedback Summary

*River's connection to history & culture*

*Inspiration from park topography, vegetation and animals*

*Existing trees/ tree canopy*

*Natural aspects of the River*

*River as artery / life-way of the City*

*Stormwater infiltration*

*Seasonal Variation*

*Bridge connection across the River*

*Acequias Infrastructure*

*Park Entry Congestion*

*Wayfinding*

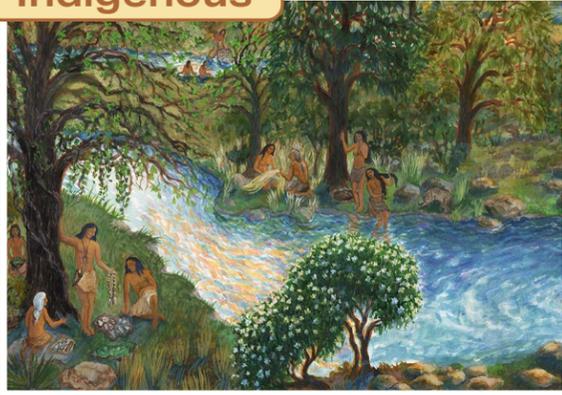
*Tannery Complex: Corral, Animals/Stable, Wagon Trains*

*Indigenous History*

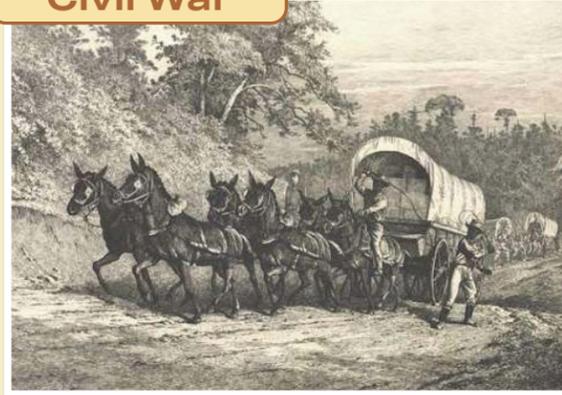
# Stories as Inspiration

## Cultural Stories

Indigenous

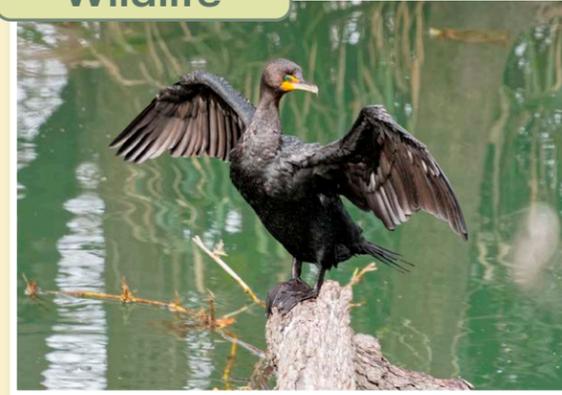


Civil War

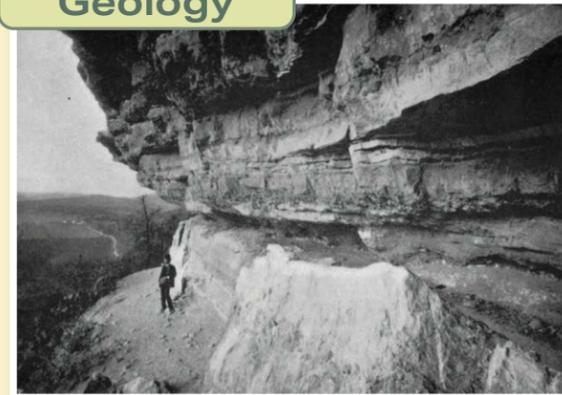


## Ecological Stories

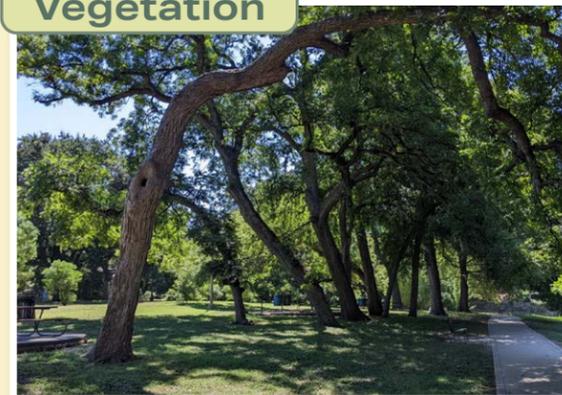
Wildlife



Geology



Vegetation



## River Stories

Natural System



Man-made Infrastructure



# Stories as Inspiration

## Cultural Stories

### Indigenous

#### Animals

Snake, Turtle & Cormorant



#### Pecan Trees

Food



#### Oral History

Story Telling



### Spanish

#### Acequias

Dams + Channels



### Civil War

#### Freight Drivers

Wagon Trains



#### Tannery Corral

Fence + Building



#### Stables

Horses + Mules



### Modern Era

#### Archaeology

Digging & Discovery



#### Tree Climbing

Pecan Harvest



## Ecological Stories

### Wildlife

#### Nesting



#### Migration



### Geology

#### Limestone Quarries



#### Natural Springs



### Vegetation

#### Pecan Trees



#### Habitat



#### Seasonal Change Colors



## River Stories

### Natural System

#### Seeps & Springs



#### Natural

#### Water Channel



### Man-made Infrastructure

#### Raceways



#### Pumphouse



#### Acequias

#### Dams + Channels





# Community Workshop #2 Feedback

# Concept Options & Play Programs

## Concept Options Summary

What concept option do you like best?



### Option A - 'The Ridge'

What aspects of 'The Ridge' are most exciting?  
What features of 'The Ridge' are concerning?



### Option B - 'The Plateau'

What aspects of 'The Plateau' are most exciting?  
What features of 'The Plateau' are concerning?



### Option C - 'The Canyon'

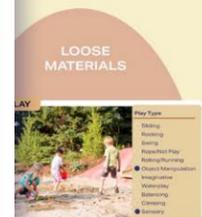
What aspects of 'The Canyon' are most exciting?  
What features of 'The Canyon' are concerning?

"Use the marbles to vote on your favorite play elements"

### Play Elements



### Play Elements



### INTERPRETIVE PLAY





# Concept Update

# Concept Design Update





# Breakout Stations