

2022

Annual

Report



BRACKENRIDGE PARK  
CONSERVANCY  
Established 2008

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*Additional Photography Courtesy of Keri Atkins*

## 2022—A Year of Firsts

Our first-ever Capital Campaign was a resounding success. Led by Honorary Chair Corinna Holt Richter and Executive Co-Chairs Leticia Van de Putte and Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr., the Capital Campaign committee secured \$4,700,000, thanks to the generosity of our Board and so many private donors. Special thanks go to H-E-B, whose \$1,000,000 donation took us over our initial fundraising goal. These gifts supplement the financial commitments from the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the Conservation Society of San Antonio for the 2017 Bond Program restoration in the historic upper reach of Brackenridge Park.

In addition, I would like to welcome new Founders Circle members, Carlos and Malú Alvarez and Mary Pat Stumberg. Their gifts provide operational support as the Conservancy continues to grow.

Our Party In the Park honoring Tracy and Nelson Wolff was a big friendraising and fundraising success, netting more than \$200,000, our largest result to date. I want to thank Kathy Mays Johnson and the Mays Family Foundation for being our first presenting sponsor. As a special treat, the Urban-15 debuted an original tribute to the Wolffs with the theme, "Upstream/Downstream," honoring their commitment to preserving San Antonio's natural wonders, particularly the San Antonio River.

New programming was launched, too. In partnership with the City of San Antonio's Parks and Recreation and Animal Care Services departments, we engaged "Rent a Ruminant" to bring 160 goats into the Park for a pilot project. Using this eco-friendly method, to the delight of local children and adults alike, the goats devoured thousands of invasive plants that had overtaken natural areas and hiking paths, making them safer for Park users and restoring the original sightlines of the "Drive through Nature".

The Conservancy also presented several events in the Park that were free and open to the public. In October, the BPC sponsored the Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival in the Park for the first time, and it was attended by hundreds of delighted Park visitors.

Later in October, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department released 600 channel catfish into the San Antonio River, bringing back a popular program that was eliminated years ago. Attended by junior anglers and parents alike, it was an outstanding success. I want to thank our partners for this great event: TPWD, Fin Addict Angler Foundation, the San Antonio River Authority, and San Antonio Parks and Recreation.

And our 11th annual Parktoberfest, honoring Emma Koehler's gift of 11 acres to the Park, exceeded all previous records, contributing to another rollicking and fun event for Park visitors.

It is the generous donations of time and treasure that make all these events possible. I offer my personal thanks to every one of our benefactors in elevating the Park to new levels of awareness and use.



Leticia and Nick Hollis

Speaking of awareness, our public relations efforts through Giant Noise generated 722 articles and hits, creating more than 1.3 billion total media impressions in 2022! We are taking San Antonio's hidden jewel and placing it on the front burner in our Community.

Another new and incredibly important development in 2022 was the redirection of the Mid City TIRZ revenue stream to the Park and surrounding institutions along the cultural corridor. As the City continues to grow, this funding source will reach into the hundreds of millions of dollars that will be available to restore Brackenridge Park. Thank you to City Manager Erik Walsh and Assistant City Manager Lori Houston for their inspired leadership here.

Through all the successes and the challenges in 2022, we were guided by our executive director, Joe Turner. His contribution to BPC and the Park has been immeasurable. He brought us knowledge earned over years of success as Houston's parks director, that helped shape both our and the City's thinking. His dedication to the team was unflinching, providing a growing organization with a level of knowledge, skills, and services we could never have afforded. I personally want to thank him for his support and guidance. JT will continue to work with us as a consultant as we move forward with Park projects.

I would like to welcome Terry Brechtel as our new interim chief executive officer. Terry is someone who needs no introduction, being a former San Antonio city manager as well as a municipal leader across the State. She brings more expertise and relationships as an interim manager than we could have ever hoped for. Thank you, Terry, for agreeing to do this for our Community.

In closing, I must thank our Executive Committee, Board, and Staff for the countless hours they have invested in our mission as responsible stewards and advocates for our beloved Brackenridge Park. I am blessed to work for such an inspired and dedicated team.



# Capital Campaign

Overall Campaign Goal:	\$13,650,000
Total Committed:	\$14,844,120
Total Fundraising Goal:	\$3,500,000
Total Committed:	\$4,694,000

In June 2021, the Brackenridge Park Conservancy launched its first-ever capital campaign to supplement the financial commitment from the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, and the Conservation Society of San Antonio for the completion of projects outlined in Phase 2 of the 2017 Bond program.

BPC had an initial goal of \$3,500,000 but secured \$4,700,000 that will go toward Park improvements. These private funds will be combined with the 2017 Capital Bond Funds for improvements in the six-acre north reach of Brackenridge Park, which is the most historically sensitive area of the Park.

“We are thrilled to have concluded such a successful capital campaign, our first ever,” said Lukin T. Gilliland, Jr., co-chair of the Capital Campaign and BPC board vice president.

“The overwhelming support from local companies, foundations, and individuals,” he continued, “shows just how important Brackenridge Park is to the San Antonio community.”

## Campaign Committee

### Honorary Chair

Corinna Holt Richter

### Co-Chairs

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Joe Calvert	Debra Guerrero	Jane Macon
Mary Alice Cisneros	Nick Hollis	Rick Shaw
Don Frost	Joe Earl Linson	Tim Swan
Heriberto Guerra, Jr.		

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Bexar County

The Cultural Trail presented by H-E-B

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CB & Anita Branch Trust / James L. Drought  
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# Party In the Park

Honoring  
Tracy & Nelson Wolff  
March 23, 2022  
along the  
North River Bend

A special thank you for  
our presenting sponsor,  
Kathy Mays Johnson  
&  
the Mays Family Foundation



Nelson & Tracy Wolff



Susan Naylor Sellers & Nelson Wolff



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Judge Wolff & County Commissioner Marialyn Barnard



Coach McNeil, Leticia McNeil & students from City Kid Adventures



Rachel & Andrew Barnett & Robert Brown



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Mays Family FOUNDATION

Special Thanks



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# Parktoberfest

Sept. 25, 2022  
Along the  
San Antonio River

Music by  
Beethoven Maennerchor  
Dirty River Jazz Band  
Johnny P & the Wiseguys

Artists from  
Hausmann Millworks

Pearl Memorabilia from  
Charlie Staats

Tree Giveaway  
Courtesy of San Antonio Parks & Rec

Thank You,  
Freetail for Gift Basket  
&  
Julene Franki for Artwork  
For Our Raffle!

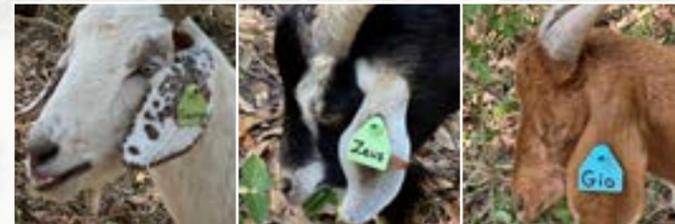
Sponsored By



More than 1,200 attended this free event!

# Go For Goats

May 14-25, 2022  
Wilderness Area



"These sweet creatures are doing an outstanding job. Not only did this area need a good trimming back, but it will also make the area a lot safer and more visible."

## The Herd

Rent-A-Ruminant travels with 150 to 180 goats. The goats have their own "cliques" they hang out with, but they also function as a group. There are usually eight different breeds in a herd, and each goat has a name. The goats are raised on a no-slaughter ranch, and many are adoptees and rescues. Once a goat reaches a certain age, the goat retires on the ranch to help raise the next generation.



About 150 goats from Rent-A-Ruminant® Texas were brought into the Park to remove invasive plants that have overtaken natural areas and hiking paths.

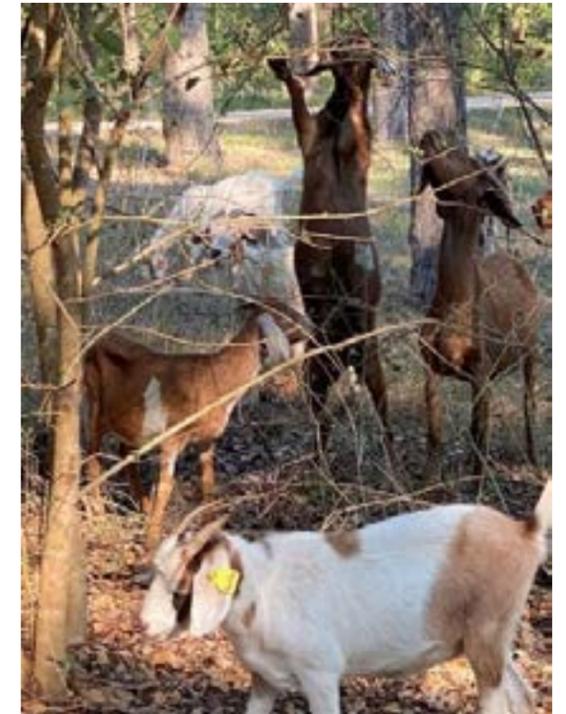
Goat grazing is an eco-friendly way that provides a workable alternative to traditional land clearing, chemicals, or commercial mowing.

## Prescribed Grazing

Using a technique called prescribed or targeted grazing, this method of high density grazing puts a lot of animals in a small area and then moves them quickly to make as much impact as possible. Goats are adapted well for this type of work because they basically can go anywhere.



"I'm in love."



"Great project! They are doing a great job so far."

## Digestive System

Goats have an efficient digestive system, which is a four-chambered stomach (one is called rumen, where the word ruminant comes from). Goats can intake bulk amounts of food, regurgitate it, chew it up, and swallow it again. This process sterilizes the majority of the seeds they ingest, so unlike other species, they do not repopulate seeds in their droppings. Their manure is readily usable and doesn't have to be composted, so desirable plants that are consumed are stimulated to grow and get a little extra fertilizer as well.

"Not a b-a-a-a-d idea. OK, someone had to say it!"



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

# CLR Open Houses

The Brackenridge Park Conservancy, San Antonio Parks & Recreation, and the San Antonio River Authority hosted public events in the Park to introduce the community to the Cultural Landscape Report.

The CLR establishes the importance and significance of Brackenridge Park and paves the way to begin healing the Park's ecological systems, to protect and celebrate the Park's historical and archaeological sites, to tell the stories that are part of the City's diverse fabric, and to elevate the Park's status on local, state, and national levels.

During a moderated online information session hosted by SARA on Oct. 6, author Lewis F. Fisher talked about significant developments of the Brackenridge Park landscape. Architect/landscape architect Everett Fly spoke about the challenges and opportunities presented by the Cultural Landscape Report.

Two in-person open houses, one on Oct. 16 and another on Nov. 6, were held at different locations throughout the Park where Board members, volunteers, and staff discussed the CLR with our visitors.

*The CLR is available for download at [www.brackenridgepark.org/conservancy-projects/cultural-landscape-report](http://www.brackenridgepark.org/conservancy-projects/cultural-landscape-report).*



Board Member Ricardo Romo introduces famed accordionist Santiago Jimenez, Jr. who entertained with conjunto and polka tunes.



Board Chair Nick Hollis reviews details of the CLR with a visitor.



Clint McKenzie and Mikaela Razo from the UTSA Center for Archaeological Research exhibit artifacts that have been found in the Park.



# News



## Bond Election

Thanks to the citizens of San Antonio, Brackenridge Park facilities will get \$7.5 million for projects, including \$5 million for renovating the Sunken Garden Theater as part of the 2022-2027 Bond Program.

The San Antonio City Council approved \$5 million in the Parks Bond for the Sunken Garden Theater, which will contribute the first building block to realize the restoration of the historic amphitheater for the citizens of San Antonio.

The BPC Board of Directors and staff wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to those who have guided us through this process: Mayor Ron Nirenberg, City Manager Erik Walsh, Assistant City Manager Lori Houston, Assistant City Manager David McCary, Parks Director Homer Garcia III, and the San Antonio City Council.



## Community Cats

Through an agreement with the City of San Antonio, the Brackenridge Park Conservancy Community Cat Program manages the colonies of feral cats in the Park.

Vigilant volunteers, directed by Volunteer Coordinator Monica Caballero, and their aggressive use of Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) have consistently reduced the feral cat population in the Park. Today, there are about 56 cats—34 in the Japanese Tea Garden, 20 in the main Park, and two on Avenue A behind the golf course.

Nine volunteers maintain five colonies located in and around the Japanese Tea Garden. Eight volunteers maintain the five colonies within the main body of Brackenridge Park. Five volunteers maintain the one colony on Avenue A.

All friendly, non-ear tipped, newly abandoned cats continue to be accepted through an intake procedure at the Animal Defense League and placed into their adoption program.

About 13 adult cats found at the main Park and the tea garden were transferred to the Animal Defense League. One litter of three kittens born at the tea garden were transferred for adoption. Two kittens that were abandoned in the main Park with their mother were also transferred for adoption.

No kittens have been born at Avenue A or at the main Park for the past 10 years through a combination of adoption intake and TNR. All cats in the program are sterilized, with the exception of two males who have proven difficult to trap and one new young male who needs to be assessed for possible adoption intake.

*By Monica Caballero*



# News



A historical marker for the Mexican Village was dedicated in the Park, sponsored by the Texas Historical Commission and Bexar County. 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.



Impact San Antonio awarded the Brackenridge Park Conservancy a \$100,000 grant to replace the roof of Pump House #1. A renovated pump house will serve as a powerful teaching tool for visitors to better understand the significance of this historic feature in Brackenridge Park, one of the country's earliest modern water systems.



The San Antonio Parks Foundation announced that local restaurateur Cappy Lawton will take over the Jingu House at the historic Japanese Tea Garden. The Lawton family owns and operates Mama's Cafe, Cappy's Restaurant, Cappuccino's, and La Fonda on Main.

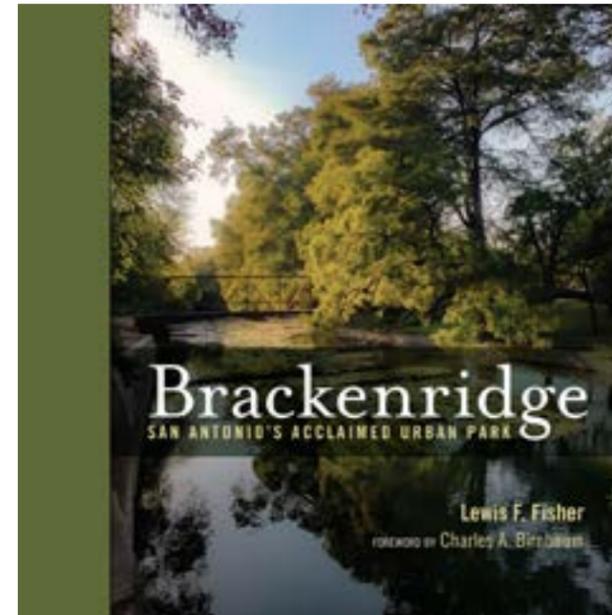


Susan Altgelt (left), president, and Ceci Goldstone (right) of the Alamo Heights-Terrell Hills Garden Club present BPC representative Laura Aplin a check for \$10,000 to support the Go for Goats pilot project.

Volunteers and Parks & Recreation crews cleared ligustrum in the Wilderness Area throughout the summer. The invasive clearing is an ongoing effort to effectively manage undergrowth in the popular running and walking paths.



# Brackenridge Park & the Story of San Antonio



"Brackenridge: San Antonio's Acclaimed Urban Park" by San Antonio author Lewis F. Fisher is the first comprehensive look at the fascinating story of Brackenridge Park, one of the most culturally significant urban public parks in the U.S., and how its diverse layers evolved to create one of the City's foremost gathering places.

The land that Brackenridge Park occupies, near the San Antonio River headwaters, has been reinvented many times over. People have gathered here since prehistoric times. Following the City's founding in 1718, the land was used to channel river water into town via a system of acequias; its limestone cliffs were quarried for building materials; and it was the site of a Civil War tannery, headquarters for two military camps, a plant nursery, and a racetrack. The more than 400 acres that constitute San Antonio's flagship urban park are made up of half a dozen parcels stitched together over time to create an uncommon varied landscape.

*"Brackenridge: San Antonio's Acclaimed Urban Park" was underwritten through the generous gift from the Semmes Foundation.*

*Commissioned by the Brackenridge Park Conservancy and published by Trinity University Press.*

In connection with the release of "Brackenridge: San Antonio's Acclaimed Urban Park", the Witte Museum is hosting an exhibition that explores the story of the remarkable area now known as Brackenridge Park and how it has changed over time and become the Park we know today.

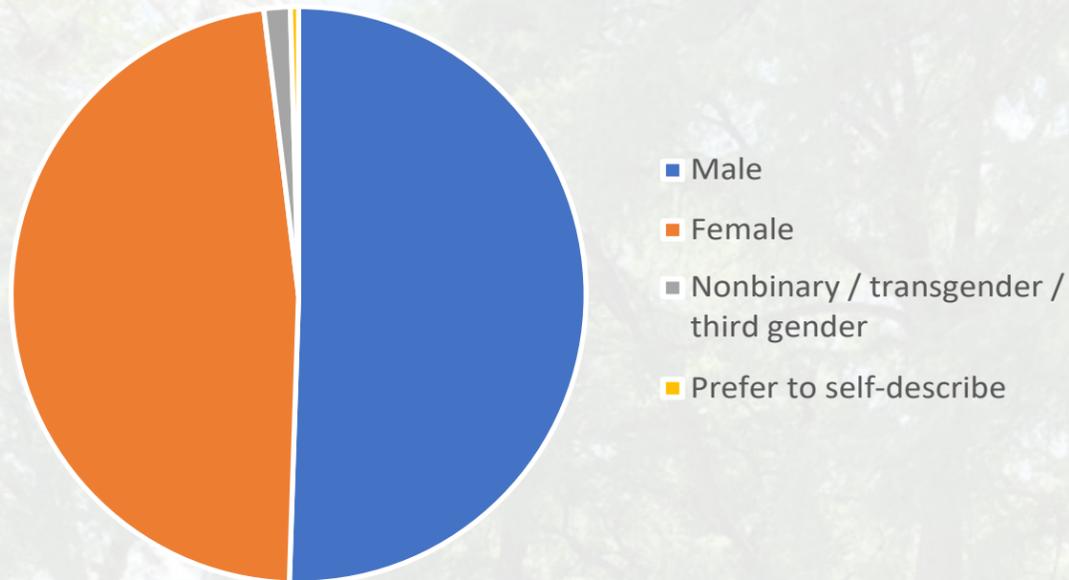
The exhibit will run until March 20, 2023, and is included in museum admission.



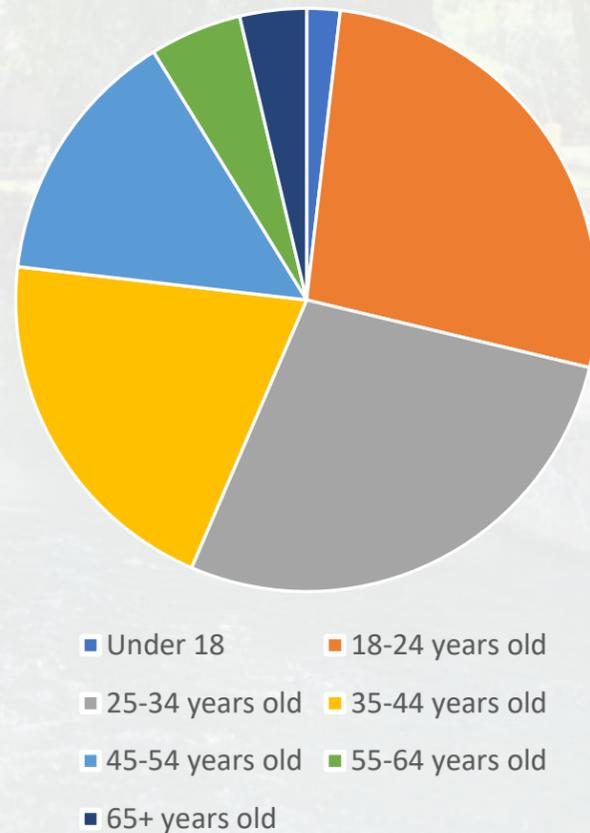
# Trinity University Partnership



### Gender



### Age

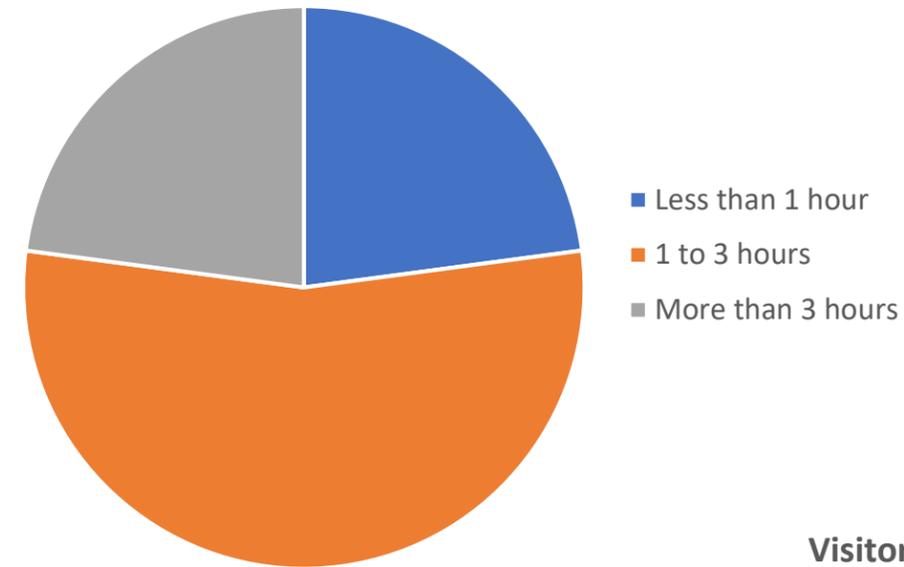


The Brackenridge Park Conservancy partnered with the marketing research course at the Michael Neidorff School of Business at Trinity University to survey Park visitors between March-April 2022.

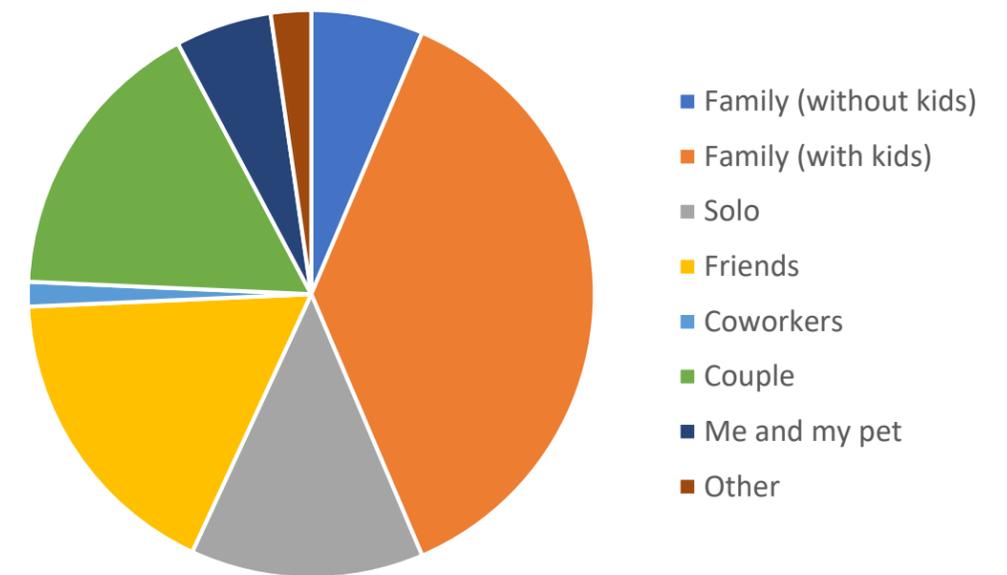
Students collected data from Park visitors over several days. They were provided with a QR code link to a survey that Park visitors were invited to scan so that they could fill out the survey on their own devices.

**Brackenridge Park welcomes more than 1.5 million visitors every year.**

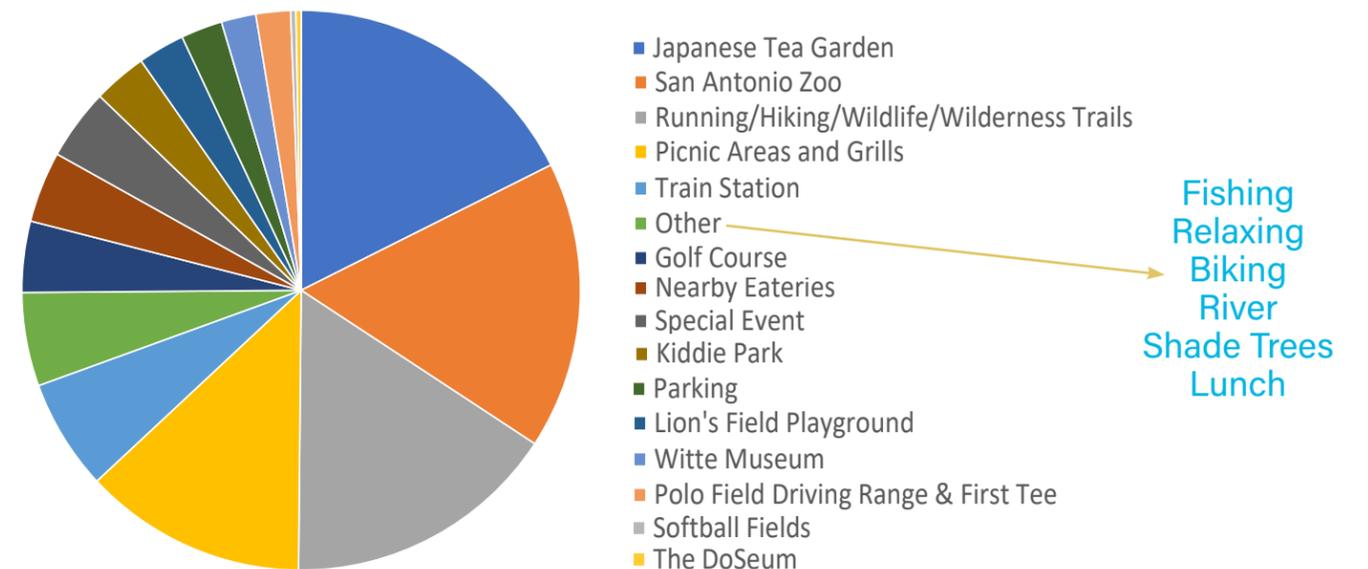
### Time Spent in Park



### Visitor Party



### Activity



**Fishing  
Relaxing  
Biking  
River  
Shade Trees  
Lunch**



# With Gratitude

To Our Donors

Oct. 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2022

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# With Gratitude

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Unrestricted Gifts to Support  
BPC Operations  
(\$100,000 or more)

Walter F. Brown Family

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F.B. Doane Foundation

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Suzanne & Gilbert Mathews

Laura & Lew Moorman

Ann & Chico Newman

Semmes Foundation

Pat & Tom Semmes

Paula & Herb Stumberg

Annie & Tim Swan

Graham Weston

# With Gratitude

To Our Donors

Oct. 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2022

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Gold  
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2022

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# Financials

Brackenridge Park Conservancy  
San Antonio, Texas  
Statement of Financial Position  
September 30, 2022 and 2021

	9/30/2022	9/30/2021
<b>Assets</b>		
Current Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 381,587	\$ 112,770
Prepaid Expenses	4,083	2,590
Accounts Receivable	3,500	-
Total Current Assets	389,170	115,360
Fixed Assets		
Office Equipment	12,033	11,635
Leasehold Improvements	214,923	214,923
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(127,445)	(104,893)
Net Fixed Assets	99,511	121,664
Other Assets		
Designated Cash and Cash Equiv	173,758	350,000
Restricted Cash and Cash Equival	2,022,880	447,487
Pledges Receivable	346,456	412,500
Capital Campaign Pledges	2,615,833	1,456,917
Total Other Assets	5,158,928	2,666,903
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,647,609</b>	<b>\$ 2,903,928</b>
<b>Liabilities and Net Assets</b>		
Current Liabilities	26,110	17,645
Other Liabilities	2,967,290	1,900,017
Net Assets		
Unrestricted	358,060	67,115
Designated	173,758	350,000
Temporarily Restricted	2,022,881	447,487
Fixed and Other Assets	99,511	121,664
Total Net Assets	2,654,209	986,266
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 5,647,609</b>	<b>\$ 2,903,928</b>

# Financials

Brackenridge Park Conservancy  
San Antonio, Texas  
Statement of Activities  
Fiscal Years ended September 30, 2022 and 2021

	FY 2022	FY 2021
Donation and Grants	\$ 463,854	\$ 332,903
Fundraising, Net	207,676	77,091
Other	22,267	143
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>693,797</b>	<b>410,137</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salary and Benefits	247,723	184,887
Programming	143,128	51,932
Professional and Consultants	130,624	138,599
Office Operations	75,225	52,533
Depreciation	22,552	22,552
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>619,251</b>	<b>450,503</b>
<b>Capital Expenses</b>	161,021	112,172
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>780,273</b>	<b>562,675</b>
<b>Less: Allocated Expenses</b>	(180,318)	(52,661)
<b>Revenues in Excess of Expenses</b>	<b>93,843</b>	<b>(99,877)</b>
<b>Capital Campaign, Net</b>	1,560,434	360,048
<b>Butterfly Festival, Net</b>	13,667	-
Net Assets-Beginning	986,266	726,095
<b>Net Assets-Ending</b>	<b>\$ 2,654,209</b>	<b>\$ 986,266</b>





Brackenridge Park Conservancy  
PO Box 6311  
San Antonio, TX 78209

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## 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.



BRACKENRIDGE PARK  
CONSERVANCY



Brackenridge Park is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a Texas State Antiquities Landmark.

