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**Zilker Park Cultural Landscape Report**

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**Zilker Park Cultural Landcape Report**

by

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**Report**

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of

The University of Texas at Austin

In Partial Fullfillment

of the Requirements

for the Degree of

**Master of Science in Historic Preservation**

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## **Dedication**

This report is dedicated to my father, Hollis McGilvray, who taught me about landscapes.



## **Abstract**

Zilker Park is a large municipal park in Austin, Texas, and while currently an active recreational zone for the city, the parkland is full of historic and natural resources with a period of significance dating back at least 9,000 years. The park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under two nominations from 1985 and 1997. These nominations document much of the early history of the park, including archaeological sites, historic buildings, objects, and structures. While these reports provide a descriptive history of the parkland, a further study was conducted to understand the park through its cultural and natural systems. This study, known as a cultural landscape report (CLR), examined the park through a defined set of landscape characteristics such as: topography and hydrology, circulation, land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, viewsheds, habitat, archaeological sites, and small scale features. This data was organized to match and compliment the already existing research found within the NRHP nominations, including periods and areas of significance, integrity evaluations, and property types. The CLR was also based on new archival and field research and the report culminated in a set of guiding principles and methodologies for future park management. Thus, the Zilker Park CLR is a site specific planning guide, designed to function as both a descriptive and prescriptive tool for best practices for historic landscape management and stewardship.







# ZILKER PARK CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

## Site History, Existing Conditions, Analysis, and Management Guidance

Zilker Park National Register District (1997) and  
the Barton Springs Archaeological and Historical National Register District (1985)

Austin, Texas

Prepared by Julie D. McGilvray, MLA

Title Page Image: jordon company of austin hand colored card - barton springs bath house and pool, 1931.

<http://www.edwardsaquifer.net/barton.html>

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## Forward

The lands of Zilker Park have a long history, with evidence stretching back at least 9,000 years. Yet, over the last century, the park area has quickly evolved from agricultural fields and a local swimming hole, to a large municipal park functioning as the main recreational hub for the City of Austin. Currently, Zilker Park offers hiking and picnicking spots, a swimming area with cold, spring fed water, sports zones, and is a venue for theatre and world class music. While many of these land uses are in line with Zilker's history as an early-twentieth century recreational park, Zilker's historic resources and their associated systems require care and attention if the park is to retain and carry forward the expressive qualities of place that have been constructed over time and comprise the cultural landscape.

In spring of 2011, the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) recognized the need to document and assess the historic resources and systems of Zilker Park with the hopes that this documentation could later be used to guide future planning efforts. This cultural landscape report (CLR) is a product of those efforts and will serve PARD as a reference document, planning tool, and guide to historic resources stewardship.

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Dr. Michael Holleran and James W. Steely served on my thesis committee. Both were chosen due to their knowledge and approach to landscape issues. I have to say that it has been lovely working with two preservation professionals who not only refuse to shy away from complex landscape issues, but also welcome the opportunity to find connections and depth in those issues. I would also like to thank my committee for allowing me to work as a fairly autonomous landscape professional and to explore the Zilker site over the course of a year without the usual limitations found in typical school projects. This was a key issue in tackling a large landscape as a single-woman job.

I would like to thank SWCA Environmental Consultants, my place of employment. James W. Steely and Anna Mod have both acted as great mentors and supporters of my graduate studies in historic preservation. Kevin Miller and Steve Carpenter have indulged my love of landscapes and allowed a flexible work schedule enabling me to keep learning on the job while studying at the University of Texas.

Last, I would like to thank my friends and family for their unwavering support through this process.





## INTRODUCTION

Study Area  
Historical Overview  
Scope of Work and Methodologies  
Summary of Findings

Previous Page: Historic aerial photograph of the Barton Creek, the soccer field area, Barton Springs Road, and the Colorado River, 1951.  
Image courtesy of the City of Austin, 2012.

## The Purpose of This Report

Zilker Park has been the subject of numerous studies, archaeological testing, and two National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations. The parkland now contains numerous interpretive areas, three habitat zones for an endangered species, and continues to function as a recreational destination for the people of Austin and visitors each year. The following cultural landscape report (CLR) was suggested by Kim McKnight of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) to promote and continue the process of understanding and documenting Zilker Park a historic place of importance.

This report includes an illustrated historical context of Zilker Park and Barton Springs, revealing how the parkland was initially developed and how it changed over the years. An existing conditions chapter follows, which examines the present systems within the park. These extant systems studies include: topography and hydrology, vegetation, land use, circulation, buildings and structures, archaeological sites, small scale features, viewsheds, and habitat. An analysis and evaluation chapter follows existing conditions and focuses on understanding the park through its historical significance and integrity based on NRHP criteria. While the last chapter in a typical CLR provides specific treatment information, this report contains general management guidance since specific treatment issues were not targeted during the report production period by PARD. The management guidance chapter then acts as a theoretical and practical introduction to treatment methodologies for cultural landscapes. It also includes specific information and guidance on the application of the Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) to a historic cultural landscape such as Zilker Park. Attention was also given to archaeological site protection and management guidance for en-

dangered species habitat within NRHP listed resources. Ultimately, this CLR was created to examine the complex histories and systems that make up the current parkland. This information can be used to guide future planning and construction projects, with a sensitive look to the historic elements that convey the rich history of Zilker Park.

This CLR also provides a starting point for the City of Austin to begin to look at its wealth of historic parks as places of complex social, cultural, and natural interaction. Zilker Park and Barton Springs are rich with archaeology, endangered species habitat, native plant communities, historic sites, buildings, and structures, majestic heritage trees, and a social and cultural platform equal to that of New York's Central Park, albeit at Austin's scale. As an integrated experience, these assets are powerful, and can be used to further connect to the community and to young people.

## Study Area

Zilker Park is a 351-acre municipal park in central Austin, just south of the Lower Colorado River (Lady Bird Lake), and just west of downtown. The parkland contains portions of Barton Creek and several natural spring sites. Part of the creek, two dams, and the one spring, known as Main spring, make up the Barton Springs swimming area. The park and creek are well integrated into the urban fabric of Austin, connected through an extensive trail system that lines Lady Bird Lake, the Barton Creek Greenbelt, a highway (Mopac or Loop 1), and Barton Springs Road, which functions as the main thoroughfare through the park. The park is also bound to the northwest by the Rollingwood neighborhood and to the southwest by the Zilker neighborhood. The general landscape of the park is characterized by low, richly soiled floodplains supporting pecan groves and grasses, contrasted with higher

rocky uplands, which support ashe juniper and oak woodlands. This landscape is typical of the central Texas at the cusp of the Texas Hill Country.

Zilker Park contains several large sections, which developed over time. These include the Barton Springs area, the main parkland, the Zilker Botanical Garden, and the Austin Nature Center. The Austin Nature Center and the Botanical Garden are not included in this report.

### Historical Context Overview

Occupation of the Zilker Park lands date back at least 9,000 years. The area contains uplands, a rich riparian zone, and natural springs, making it a prime settlement spot supported by hunting, gathering, and fishing activities. The banks of Barton Creek were occupied by the Spanish during early mission efforts in the eighteenth century, followed by Anglo-American settlement beginning in the early-nineteenth century. As the small capital of Austin grew following Texas independence from Mexico, local citizens used the cold spring waters for bathing, relaxation, and as a source of drinking water. Local Indian groups also competed for access to the springs throughout the early years of the Republic of Texas. William Barton staked his claim on the primary spring lands and built a small cabin on the southern bank of the creek by 1838. By the time Texas was annexed by the United States in 1845, others had settled near the springs and mills began to pop up along the bank of Barton Creek.

Over the next several decades, the Zilker Park lands continued to support industrial, agricultural, and recreation use. Mills continued to operate along the creek and clay was mined from the banks of the river for brick production. Bathers continued to use the springs as a favorite relaxation spot. By the late 1800s,

several small stone dams were constructed to create swimming holes and a small open air bath house followed due to the increased visitors to the area, who came not only to swim, but to also view the pristine scene of flowing creek, mills, and lovely shade trees.

Andrew J. Zilker purchased the Zilker Park lands in the early years of the twentieth century. This purchase included much of the current footprint of the park today, including Barton Springs. In 1917, he sold the land around the springs to the City of Austin, with the requirement that the proceeds from the sale go not to him, but to the Austin School System. With this initial land acquisition, the City of Austin developed the Barton Springs area into a small park with a dammed pool fed primarily by a single main spring. In the 1930s, A.J. Zilker made two more land sales to the city, under the same stipulations, with proceeds going to the Austin School System. These transactions included most of the lands of the park, giving the City of Austin enough acreage to build a large municipal park. The transactions came at an opportune time, and the city worked with Texas Relief Commission to secure New Deal funding for much of the park development. This included landscape and road improvements and the construction of numerous buildings and structures. By the end of the 1930s, Zilker Park was a multifaceted municipal recreation park, complete with a spring fed swimming area, miles of walking trails, and acres of natural spaces dotted with picnic areas and other features.

By the 1940s, the park continued to grow and a new Moderne-styled bathhouse was constructed on the north bank of Barton Creek at for the Barton Springs swimming area. It was able to support a large number of visitors, and its open-air, easy-to-clean design won the attention of *Architectural Digest Magazine*. Over the mid-twentieth century, the park continued to

grow, with the addition of the Austin Botanical Garden, the Taniguchi Japanese Garden, and the Moonlight Tower Christmas tree in the 1960s.

Today, Zilker Park can be considered the most important recreational hub in Austin. Thousands of visitors flock to the park for a dip in Barton Springs, a hike, a game of frisbee golf, picnicking, or to view musical and theatrical performance. The *Barton Springs Archaeological and Historical District* was listed on the NRHP in 1985 and *Zilker Park Historic District* was listed on the NRHP in 1997.

### Scope of Work

This CLR was undertaken as a thesis project for the fulfillment of a Master of Science in Historic Preservation degree at the University of Texas at Austin. Therefore, the standard team used to create a CLR was reduced to one person working under the guidance of two thesis readers from the University of Texas School of Architecture and Planning. Due to time and manpower constraints associated with a thesis project, the scope of the work was truncated, excluding some newer areas of the park such as the Austin Nature Center and the Zilker Botanical Garden. Further, since this CLR was created as a stand-alone project and was not integrated into the larger park planning agenda, it lacks clear definition on specific issues in the park and a resulting treatment plan. Rather, the report culminates in a management guidance and best practices chapter for the park, which can be applied to issues and treatment needs as needed.

### Methodology

This CLR was undertaken with the intent to create a synthesized picture of the extant historic systems within Zilker Park and to trace their historic trajectory over time. This

includes not only a list of the contributing historic resource as defined by NRHP property types, but to also understand how systems overlap through the usage, demand, and needs of specific agents at differing scales. Thus, the historic resources within the park were categorized and analyzed through standard cultural landscape characteristics including: hydrology and topography; circulation; land use; vegetation; buildings and structures; small scale features; habitat, archaeological sites; and viewsheds.

### Summary of Findings and Outstanding Issues

Today, Zilker Park stands as a NRHP listed historic park with a long period of significance dating from roughly 9,000 years ago to present. The most visible elements of the current park configuration date from the early-twentieth century to present, with many of the older elements removed, demolished, or located sub-grade as archaeological sites. Almost all of the contributing elements to park significance have been covered by the *Barton Springs Archaeological and Historical District* and the *Zilker Park Historic District* NRHP nominations, excluding some resources that were not yet 50 years of age when the nominations were completed. Many of these resources were included in this CLR and the NRHP nominations should be amended to include these resources at a later date.

Through the completion of this CLR, the SITES program was examined in detail. Based on the inclusion of cultural landscape considerations into the evolving SITES program, Zilker Park would make an excellent candidate as many of the needed requirements are already in place. This includes an inventory of resources, a site history, a native plants preference, recreational land use, educational land



use, and the integrity of much of the extant hard and softscapes within the park.

Outstanding issues also include the creation of a current preservation management plan with appropriate treatment planning in place for the historic buildings, structures, and sites located throughout the park. Typically, a CLR is created as a guidance document used throughout this process and it is recommended that this CLR be amended to aid in this planning process as it is developed.

Last, because Zilker Park contains both natural and cultural resources, it should be treated as a set of systems rather than as a set of parts. An integrated approach to site management, preservation, and conservation is needed to protect precious habitat and historic features. Thus, this CLR encourages an interdisciplinary approach for tackling issues in the future and to insure the best outcome for Austin's prized parkland.







## SITE HISTORY

Prehistoric Context

Historic Context

Indians, Spanish, and Written Documentation (1500s – 1700s)

Settlers, Austin, and Land (1800s)

A.J. Zilker (early 1900s)

A Park Begins (1917)

Swimming, Recreation, and the Public (late 1800s and early 1900s)

Austin's Nascent Park System (1920s)

The Depression, Park Expansion, and the New Deal (1930s)

A New Bathhouse for Barton Springs (1940s)

Mid-Twentieth Century and Beyond

Previous Page: Mirror Ponds, 2012.  
Photograph by Julie D. McGilvray.

Zilker Park and Barton Springs (Zilker Park) are considered by many to be the heart and soul of Austin, Texas. Located along the south bank of the Colorado River and just west of the original grid of city streets laid out in 1839, the parkland and springs have functioned as a major nexus of human activity for at least 9,000 years. Activity ranges over time include light land use such as hunting and gathering, to more intensive actions such as settlement, farming, ranching, and finally, as a municipal recreational park. This long history is primarily due to the geological structure of the land, the springs, and the confluence of Barton Creek and the Lower Colorado River. The setting created through the rich riparian zone and larger surrounding terrain is hospitable to humans and, over thousands of years, provided a landscape capable of responding to a highly complex and ever-evolving set of cultural demands.

## PREHISTORIC CONTEXT

The current topography of Zilker Park has been in the making for millions of years. Geological evidence reveals that during the Paleozoic Era, a wide band of mountains was created in the central Texas area. Known as the Ouachita, the range stretched in an arc from present-day Arkansas, through north Texas, across the Hill Country, and into northern Mexico. As these mountains slowly eroded, fault lines formed, creating the Cenozoic Era Balcones Fault Zone. Over time, mountain building subsided and erosion dominated the aging range, flattening the landscape into a shallow sea. Deposits and sediments from this sea would later become the honeycombed limestone and wide array of fossils found within Zilker Park today.<sup>1</sup> The stone of Zilker Park is part of the larger Fredericksburg group of limestone, dolomite, and chert.<sup>2</sup> Pleistocene deposits are also found throughout the area and currently line

the banks of the Colorado River. These deposits are likely associated with a world wide deglaciation episode that took place roughly 19,000 year ago, causing sea levels to rise, depositing clays and gravels from farther west.<sup>3</sup> A. J. Zilker and Michael Butler would later take advantage of the clay, sand, and gravel deposits to create iconic Austin Buff Brick, a primary building material of the city during the nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.<sup>4</sup>

Currently, there are four main springs that flow in Zilker Park. The main spring at Barton Springs began roughly 9,000 years ago and was a previously functioning spring that was cut off from flow and then re-exposed through streambed downcutting<sup>5</sup>. The water in this spring comes from a deep fault located near the south side of the current pool. The other three springs (Upper, Eliza, and Walsh, Old Mill, or Zenobia) are part of a partially connected series of springs that also includes Deep Eddy and Cold Springs (located within the waters of the Colorado River or Lady Bird Lake).<sup>6</sup>

The confluence of Barton Creek, the system of springs, and the Colorado River attracted the first inhabitants to the area over 9,000 years ago. The climate was cooler in the summer than present conditions. Winter temperatures were likely mild, with colder air held in check by a line of northern glaciers. This time period was at the end of the last glacial era, with glacial retreat occurring roughly 10,000 years ago.<sup>7</sup> Temperature fluctuation during the years before the Holocene (roughly 10,000 BP) marked changes in the environment including faunal and floral species. This created an overall environmental response that alternated between woodland (wetter conditions) and open grasslands (drier conditions). As grassland environments took hold, the landscape became increasingly xeric and more prone to erosional forces. While fluctuations in these wet/dry patterns occur throughout the Holocene period, the overall

trend has been towards a dryer, hotter climate. People of the early and middle Holocene survived through hunting and gathering practices along the banks of the river and creek. Diets consisted of large game along with avian, aquatic, reptilian, and plant sources. Climate and dietary response can be found through pollen data and the evolution found in stone tool technologies represented in the Zilker Park area archaeological record.

J. E. Pearce, of the University of Texas at Austin, conducted the earliest archaeological excavations in Zilker Park in 1929. Evidence of human occupation covered a wide array of site types including stone quarry areas, camps, and rock shelters.<sup>8</sup> Recent investigations uncovered deep archaeological deposits in the same zone as the initial work conducted in the 1920s, showing an extended period of human occupancy and reliance on the creek, springs, and river confluence.

By the Late-Prehistoric phase (roughly characterized as 700-1530 AD), a more representative archaeological record shows cultural traditions in the area that included pottery, pigment, pendants, beads, needle, and fishhook making. Stone tool technologies pointed to a more sedentary lifestyle, determined through core reduction. Despite this evidence, confirmation of developed agricultural practices arrives only with the Spanish in the sixteenth century.<sup>9</sup>

## HISTORIC CONTEXT

### Indians, Spanish, and Written Documentation (1500s – 1700s)

The first written record in the territory that would later become Texas can be found in the accounts of Cabeza de Vaca. De Vaca was part of a Spanish crew ship-wrecked near Galveston in 1528. He not only survived this initial ordeal, but also went on to live through capture by Indians and an expedition on foot

through the southwest and into Mexico. His writings have been researched thoroughly to attempt to piece together his arduous journey. De Vaca likely passed through the Austin area in 1534, following well-worn Indian and game trails. One such path ran north through present-day San Antonio, New Braunfels, and then across the Colorado River into the Austin area. It was located just downstream from the mouth of Barton Creek and was so well-worn that it was known and noted when Waterloo (later called Austin), was settled.<sup>10</sup> De Vaca's written record of the Austin area points to a population of Indians tied to a riparian environment, supplementing their diet with venison, prickly pear pads, and other plants.<sup>11</sup>

Other Spanish explorers and missionaries followed Cabeza de Vaca. Spanish Ranches were established in northern Mexico by the mid-1550s. Further expeditions into present-day New Mexico in the late-1500s led to the creation of the Capital of Santa Fe by 1608. As the Spanish pushed north into Texas and New Mexico, they forced more southern-based indigenous groups into the Central Texas region. At the same time, Athapaskan groups such as the Apache arrived from the north. This increased migration and movement caused disruption to populations in Southwest.

By the late-1600s and early-1700s, missions were on the rise. Local Indian groups, forced together through increased warfare and loss of territory to competing groups, took up refuge in these walled compounds. In 1730, a mission was established on the banks of Barton Creek. Records indicate that the single location was used for the worship of several saints (San Jose de los Nazonis; San Francisco de los Neches, and Nuestra Senora de la Purisma Concepcion d'Hanis).<sup>12</sup> Led by Isidro Felix de Espinosa of Queretaro, it was in use for only one year.<sup>13</sup> The mission was Franciscan and originally located in east Texas in 1716, abandoned in 1719, and then restored

in 1721 before being moved to Austin.<sup>14</sup> The exact location of the buildings along Barton Creek have never been discovered, however, it is thought that they may have been located within the park boundaries. Currently, a 1936 marker, located on the south bathing lawn of Barton Springs, is the only known physical evidence of the mission in the area.

### Settlers, Austin, and Land (1800s)

Mexico won her independence from Spain after a series of revolts in 1821. Until then, Europeans in the Austin area rarely stayed an extended period of time. This group was comprised primarily of explorers, soldiers, and priests, staking their claim in the northern territory of New Spain or holding the line against the encroaching French and English interests to the east. However, under Mexican rule, the movement of Anglo-American settlers to the area would increase under the guidance of the *empresario* or land agent. The *empresario* system began under Spanish rule but transferred with some changes into the new Mexican system. These laws encouraged Catholic immigrants to settle in communities of 200 or more families. The Mexican system also created a land division system consisting of labors (177 acres), leagues (4,428 acres), and haciendas (5 leagues). Specific land grant sizes depended on family occupation with one labor going to farmers, one league going to ranchers, and one hacienda to a family who planned to ranch and farm. *Empresarios* such as Steven F. Austin were kept busy with the search for new settlers and the creation business (Figure 1).<sup>15</sup>

Benjamin Milam was another well known *empresario* and entrepreneur during the early years of the Mexican government in Texas.<sup>16</sup> Through Milam, a league of land (now portions of Zilker Park) went to a settler named Henry Hill in 1835.<sup>17</sup> The land was granted by the Governor of Coahuila y Texas and surveyed by a Bartlett Simms.<sup>18</sup> A few

years later, William Barton settled his family near Mina (now Bastrop, Texas) on land received through Stephen F. Austin. Barton was part of Austin's second colony and received a headright (or land grant with special requirements) of one league near the Colorado River in 1827.<sup>19</sup> Originally from South Carolina, Barton was one of the first settlers in the area and was known as a loner, a serious Indian fighter, and has been referred to as the "Daniel Boone of Texas."<sup>20</sup> The exact reason he moved his family forty miles up the Colorado River, leaving his own land grant, is unknown. However, it is clear that in the late 1830s, Barton moved onto approximately 177 acres or one labor of the Henry Hill league near the small settlement and hunting camp of Waterloo.<sup>21</sup> While ownership to the land was contested and Barton never had a deed, the Barton Labor appears in county records in 1849.<sup>22</sup>

The tiny of Hamlet of Waterloo was founded in 1835 and would be renamed Austin just four years later. Waterloo was located near the present site of the Congress Avenue Bridge and functioned as a camp for early settlers led by Jacob Harrell.<sup>23</sup> The small settlement survived intact for two years and was lauded as a healthy environment, with high banks and a flowing river. As Texans looked for a capital to support their new Republic, Herrell invited Mirabeau Lamar to view the area in 1837. Lamar, then vice president to Sam Houston, declared that the village was indeed a fine place for a new capital city with clean water, good land, and plenty of natural stone for building construction. Lamar also noted a "Spring Creek" near the small settlement from which the "greatest and most convenient flow of water" could "be found in the Republic".<sup>24</sup> Action was swift and the area was surveyed by Edward Burleson in 1838. Streets were created and lots were sold by 1839, the founding year of Austin (Figure 2 and 3).<sup>25</sup>

William Barton continued to raise cattle and practice ranching on his adopted land



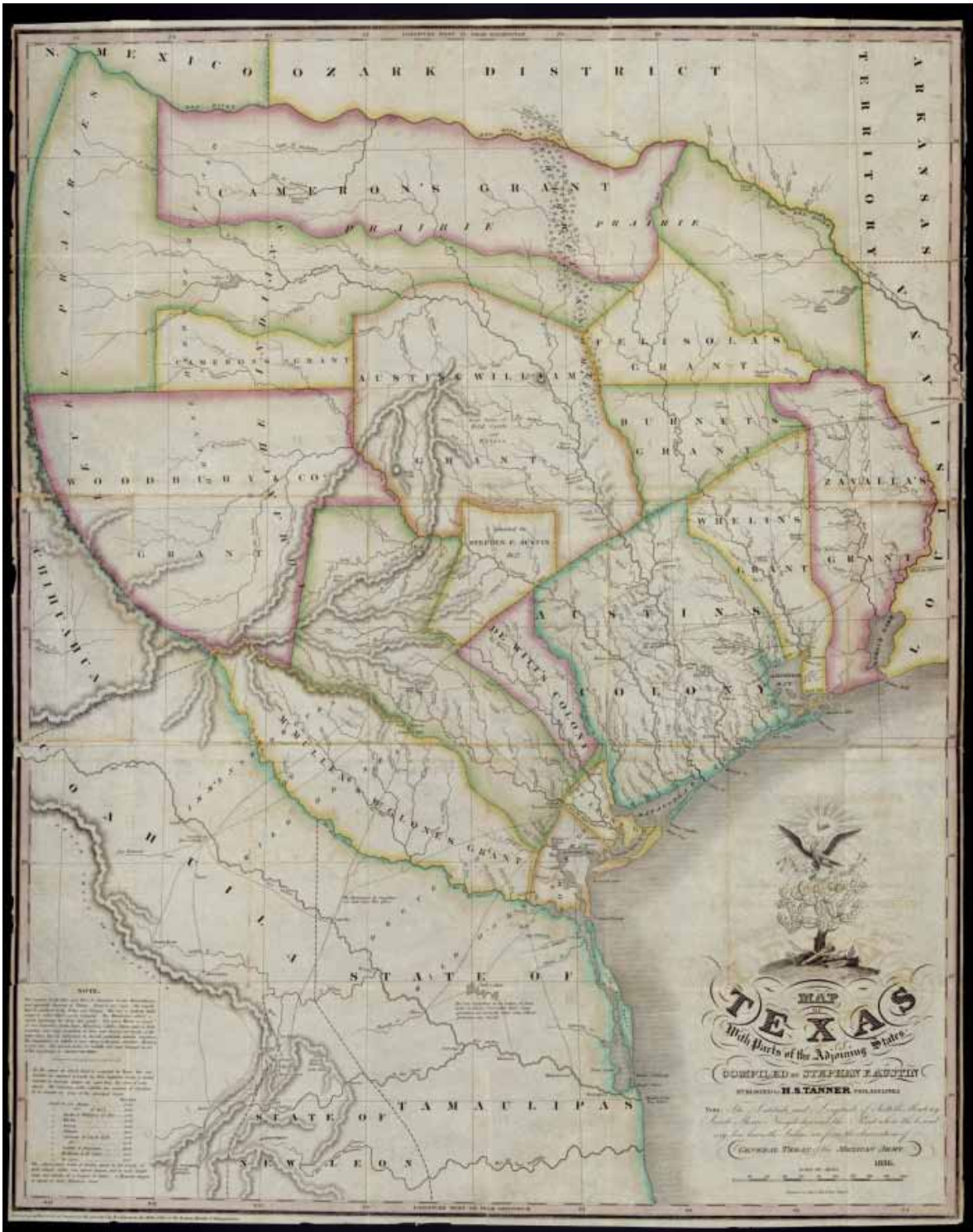


Figure 1. Map of Texas with parts of the Adjoining States. Compiled by Stephen F. Austin, 1836.  
Digital Image: (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph31277/> : accessed July, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Star of the Republic Museum, Washington, Texas.

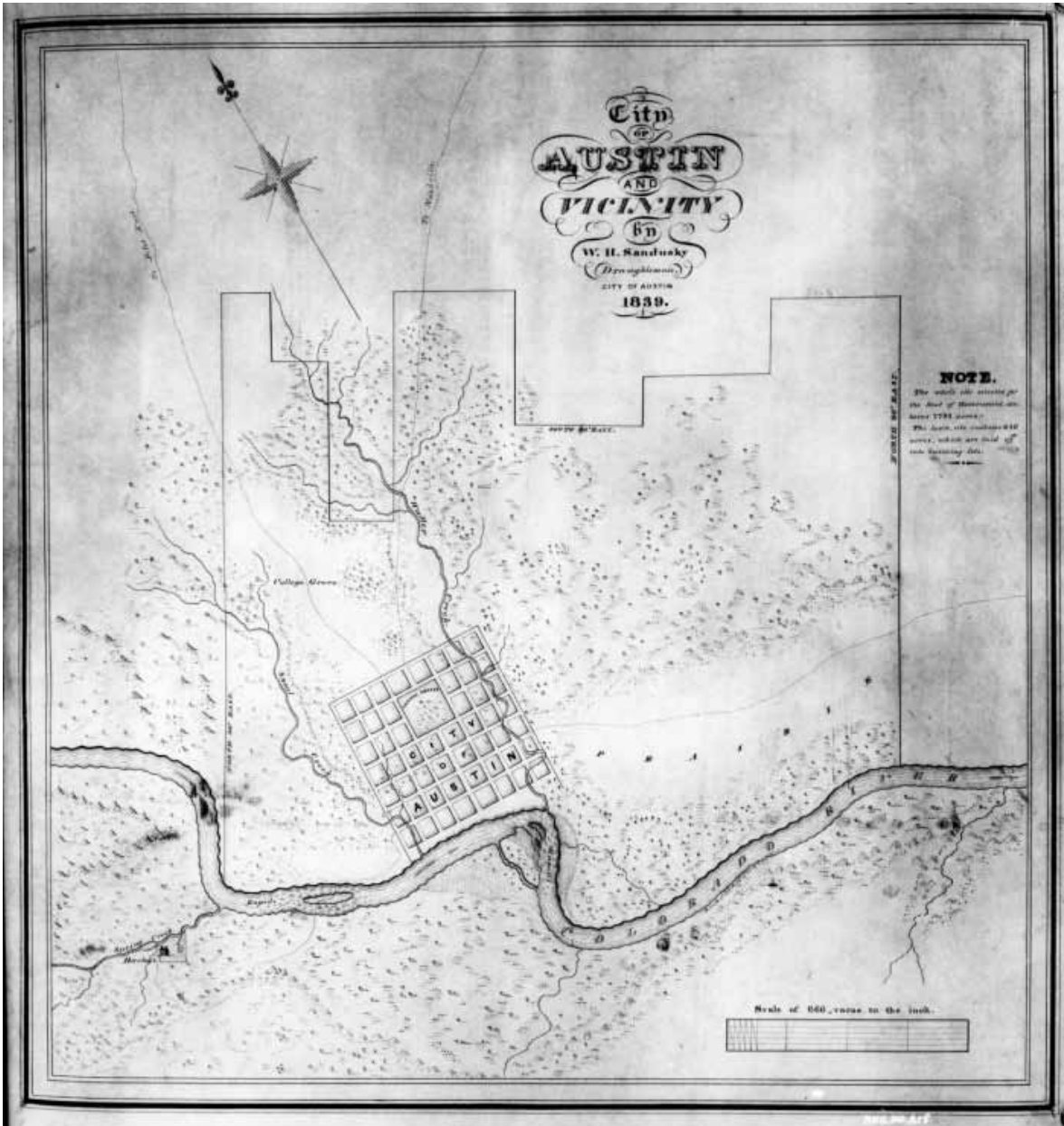


Figure 2. Austin and Vicinity, 1839. Created by W. H. Sandusky.

Digital Image: (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125109/> : accessed July, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas. PICA C00038.

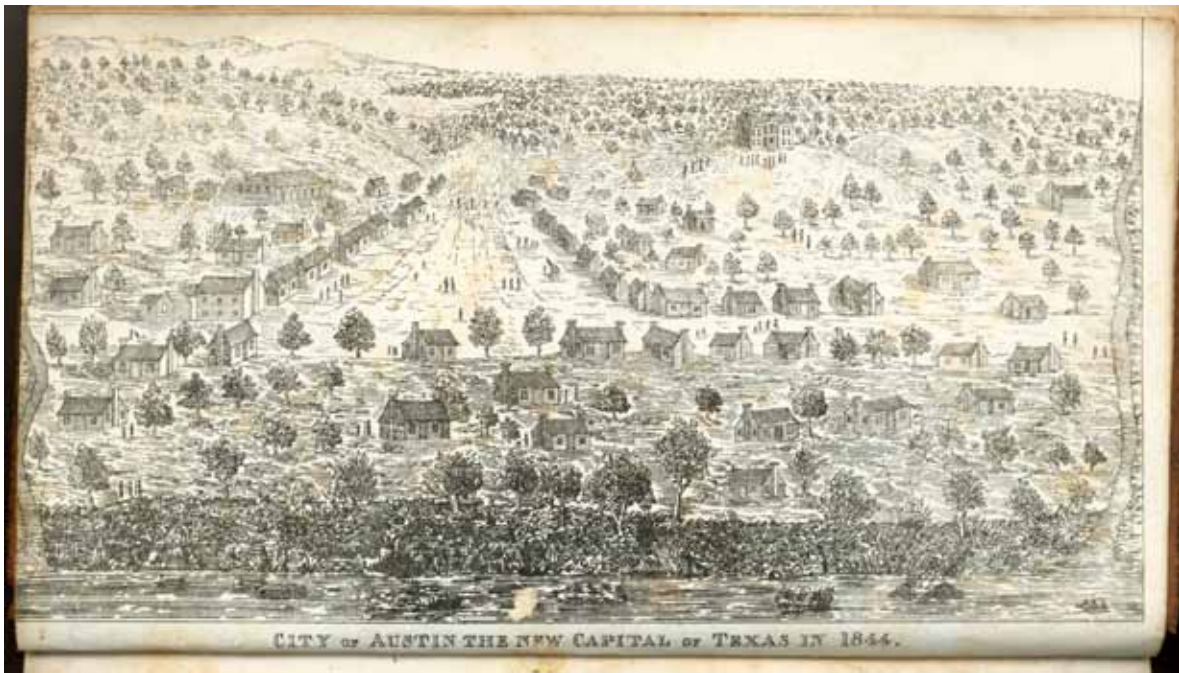


Figure 3. An Artist's depiction of early Austin, 1844.

Lawrence, A. B., *A History of Texas, or the Emigrant's Guide to the New Republic*. New York: Nafis & Cornish, 1844, First edition, third issue. Courtesy Dorothy Sloan-Rare Books.

during this time. He constructed a cabin overlooking the main spring along Spring Creek (later to be called Barton Creek) (Figure 4). He also found two other springs nearby and named all three after his daughters: Parthenia (main spring), Eliza (currently Eliza Spring), and Zenobia (Currently the Sunken Gardens).<sup>26</sup> Barton sold water rights to several men. It is likely that they constructed mills along the creek and just before his death in 1840, it appears that Barton may have been planning to do the same.<sup>27</sup>

During the short period of Barton's ownership, the lands surrounding the springs were dangerous with raiding bands of Comanche and Barton found himself threatened on numerous occasions. This so worried nearby Austin citizens that soldiers were sent to protect the Barton Family from raids in 1839. William Barton soon shooed them away.<sup>28</sup> Despite this, trouble continued around Barton's land, with several scalplings occurring near the springs as late as 1842.

Despite Comanche threats, other Anglo-American settlers followed Barton's lead and moved to the land surrounding the springs. Ashford B. McGill, a Texas Army veteran and Travis County Clerk from 1846-57, ran cattle on a large expanse of land on the south banks of the Colorado River under the brand IOU. McGill's crossing was located near the Deep Eddy area and records indicated that he shared his land with other ranchers in the area. McGill sold his land holdings to Phineas de Cordova in 1860. De Cordova ran two early Austin newspapers with his brother, Jacob, and also created a land company, working as a land agent until the 1890s.<sup>29</sup> Another antebellum settler to the land surrounding the springs was Dr. Barclay Townsend, who was a medical doctor in the Austin area.<sup>30</sup>

The Rabb family moved to the springs area in 1860 purchasing much of the old Barton place. John Rabb moved to Texas as part of Stephen F. Austin's first colony, also known as the "Old Three Hundred." The original

Spanish land grant was acquired by Moses Austin, Stephen's father. Moses Austin died before fulfilling the plan, so Stephen stepped in and found enough colonists to meet the requirements of the grant by 1824. They settled on the fertile lands along the Colorado, Brazos, and San Bernard Rivers. The colonists were all primarily British descent and came from the southern United States.<sup>31</sup>

John Rabb died in 1861. His lands passed to his son, Gail Texas Rabb, who constructed a two-story stone house on the south banks on Barton Creek in 1867. The Rabb family ran flour and ice mills along the creek banks during the late 1800s (Figures 5 and 6). Other men such as William Walsh, Jacob Stern, and Michel Paggi also had mill operations along the creek. Walsh was originally from Ohio but had moved to Austin as a

child in 1840. He moved back east to attend Georgetown University and then returned to Austin to become a clerk in the General Land Office in 1857. Walsh quit his job to enlist in the Civil War and returned to Austin after being seriously wounded. He purchased his land from Phineas de Cordova along Barton Creek in 1866-67 and ran a farm and rock quarry in the area.<sup>32</sup> Despite his job as farm and quarry owner, Walsh also acted as the Texas land commissioner in the late 1870s, chose the land for the University of Texas campus, and led the survey of the one million acres granted to the University. Walsh also assisted in the planning and construction of the State Capitol Building, advising in the choice of local granite over other materials.<sup>33</sup> The exact location of Walsh's mills are not known but he owned his Barton Creek lands until 1905.<sup>34</sup>

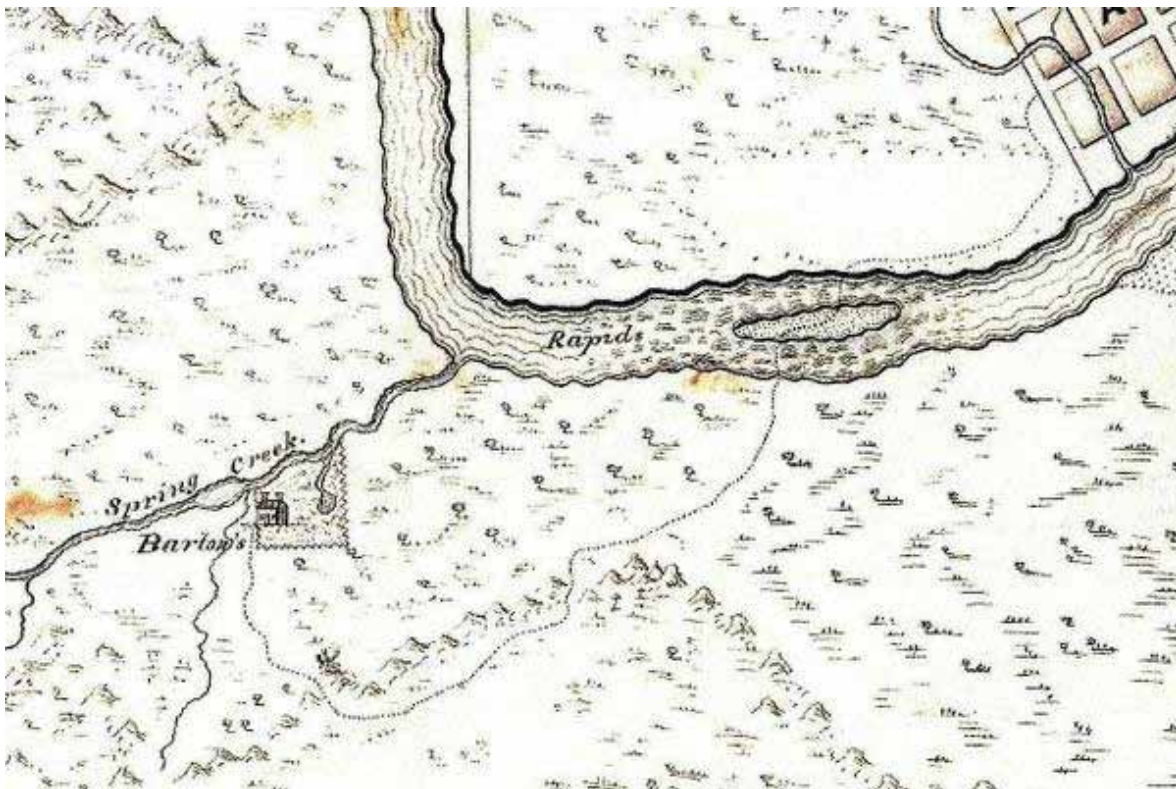


Figure 4. Spring Creek (Barton Springs) and William Barton's Home, taken from Austin and Vicinity, 1839. Created by W. H. Sandusky (Figure 2).

Digital Image: (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125109/>; accessed July, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.



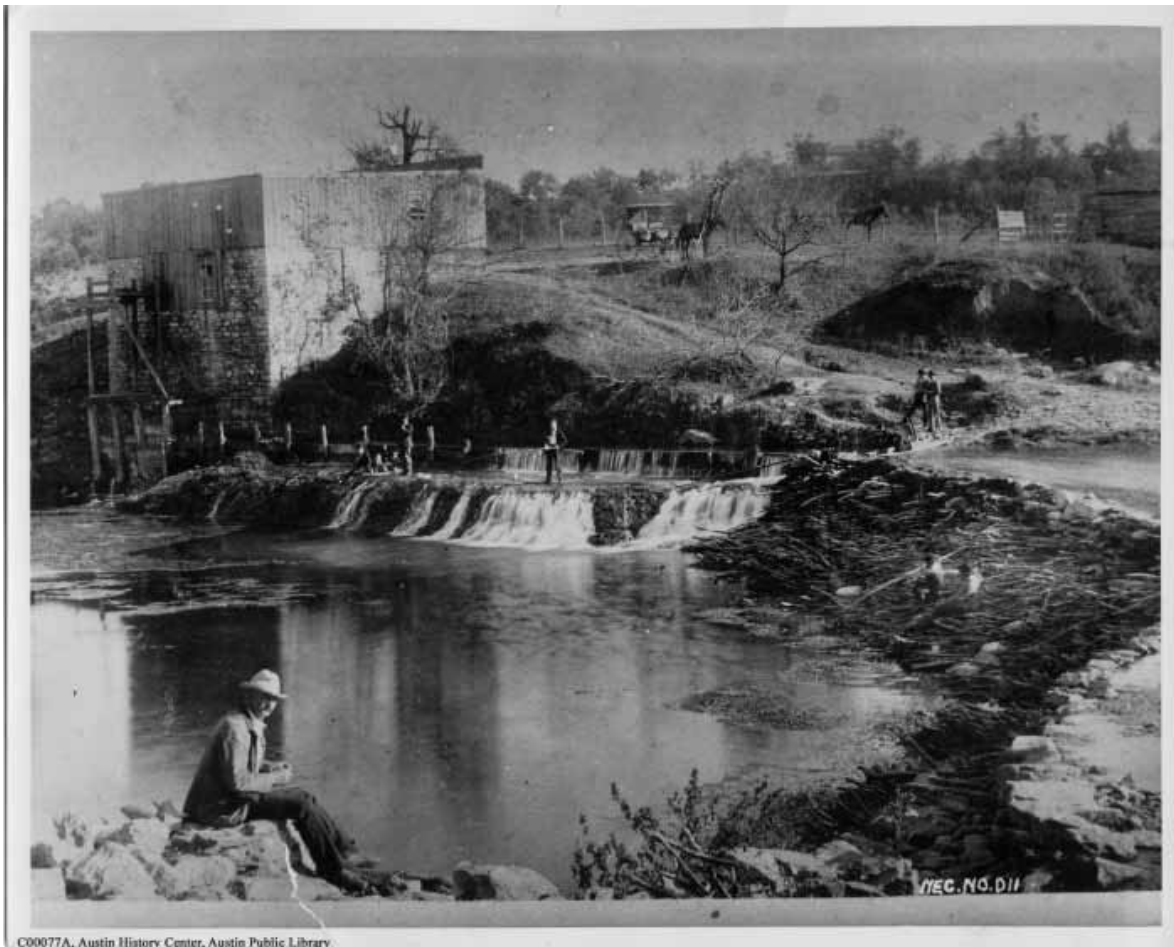
Figure 5. Barton Springs Mill, owned by the Rabb family, ca. 1880.

Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125117/> : accessed July, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

Michel Paggi owned an early icehouse in south Austin, along with mills along the creek. Paggi also took advantage of the beauty of the area, constructing a small dam to create a recreational swimming hole in the flowing spring waters in the 1870s. To accommodate visitors, he built a small bathhouse and charged a fee to rent swim suits.<sup>35</sup> This is one of the first documented multi-uses of Barton Creek and the springs, providing both industrial and recreational activities, both with economic benefits to the owner. However, use of the springs as a pleasure and recreational spot dates back to at least the 1840s.<sup>36</sup>

Barton Creek of the late 1880s was described as having clear, cold water, differing greatly from the unpredictable Colorado River found downstream. It was also called a “charming bathing place” and differed from the other creeks in the area that simply acted to drain surface water from “cow country”. Accounts of the creek paint a relaxing view, with banks lined with clean rock and stone surrounded by cooling shade.<sup>37</sup> The grounds around the springs were also used for picnics, drawing people to the water’s edge to view the trees, cool waters, and newly developed mills.<sup>38</sup>

As the area continued to develop, a



C00077A, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library

Figure 6. Grist Mill on Barton Springs, Photograph, 1860.

Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125116/> : accessed July, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

road and creek crossing were proposed and passed by the city in 1889. The water crossing consisted of a stone bridge, 108 feet across, and 28 feet high.<sup>39</sup> The completed bridge was constructed with a graceful arch and was in line with a road that crossed the creek just above the present day pool boundaries (Figure 8). Paggi's dam and swimming hole may have been just below the bridge. Historic photographs and written documentation indicate that a cedar log dam with springboards were located there and remained until the bridge washed away during heaving flooding in 1900.<sup>40</sup>

### A.J. Zilker (early 1900s)

Andrew Jackson Zilker made his first land purchase in the area in 1901. By 1913, he would acquire over 350 acres surrounding the springs. This acreage was roughly the footprint of the present Zilker Park site. Under Zilker's ownership, the land was protected and its rural and topographic integrity was left intact, making it prime for later park development.<sup>41</sup>

Zilker was born in Indiana in 1858. He worked throughout his childhood years on riverboats on the Ohio River waterfront, near his home. Legend tells a story of a hardworking



Figure 7. Bathers at Barton Springs, 1870.

Digital Image, (<http://www.edwardsaquifer.net/barton.html>: Accessed June, 2012), crediting the Austin History Center.



Figure 8. Barton Springs 1889 Constructed Stone Bridge, 1894. Facing east, looking down Barton Creek with mill in the distance.

Digital Image, (<http://www.edwardsaquifer.net/barton.html>: Accessed June, 2012), crediting the Austin History Center.

boy and avid history buff that fell in love with the idea of the Texas frontier after reading a book called *The History of Texas*. True or not, A.J. Zilker made his way to Austin via New Orleans and then San Antonio in 1876.<sup>42</sup> He was broke and in need of a job. Rapidly working his way from cook to construction worker to ice plant engineer in a few months, the industrious young man seemed unflappable and unstoppable. Zilker's brother, Charles, arrived in Texas in 1880. The two men partnered together for a client in south Texas, testing new refrigeration techniques. After returning from this work in 1884, Zilker constructed his own ice plant and continued to create and experiment with new designs for his refrigeration machinery. Building on his growing expertise, Zilker expanded his business, selling his compressor technology to other cities and interested parties, ranging from Texas to Atlanta to Pittsburgh.<sup>43</sup>

Zilker also partnered with local Austin businessmen like Michael Butler of Butler Brick Works. Butler's land was located on the south side of Barton Creek, at the mouth of the Colorado River. Brick manufacturing was serious business in Austin in the later half of the nineteenth century as pale clays were pulled from the Pleistocene-Era deposits along the river. Brick kilns were located on the north bank of the river, southeast of Deep Eddy. Clays and sand were mined from the south bank in an area that included portions of the current Zilker soccer fields and west to Mopac or Loop 1. The clay was then sent in buckets across the river via an elaborate rigging system, anchored by four large metal towers that spanned the width of the river. One of these metal towers can still be found on the north bank.<sup>44</sup>

Through multiple enterprises, Zilker quickly became a prominent businessman in Austin. Perhaps due to his working class roots and experiences, he gave back to the Austin community as he helped build it. In the years

before Zilker owned the land around Barton Springs, the area had been a popular recreation spot for swimming, fishing, relaxing, and picnicking. Zilker continued this tradition, allowing swimming and other recreation to flourish under his ownership. Active with the local Elks Lodge, he constructed the Elks Pit around Eliza Springs in 1903 (Figures 9-10). This sunken spring-fed pool was constructed as a naturally air conditioned meeting place for the Elks.<sup>45</sup>

The springs also provided Austinites with much needed drinking water. This need increased during severe droughts in 1910 and then again in 1917. Further, the city had plans to increase personnel to its local military camp, which would require a reliable supply of water. Since A. J. Zilker owned the most accessible springs in the city, he felt compelled to assist in Austin's water issues. In 1917, Zilker proposed a land deal to the City of Austin. His proposal would not only give the city access to abundant fresh water, but would also strengthen the school system. Zilker's deal consisted of a gift of the Barton Springs tract with the condition that the City purchased the land for the inflated price of \$100,000. The money would not go to Zilker, but rather to a trust for the manual training and home economic programs at Austin High School.<sup>46</sup> The deal went through for 50 acres of land, including the springs, and was approved in October of 1917. The City of Austin would pay for the land in 10 annual installments of \$10,000 with six percent annual interest.<sup>47</sup>

### **A Park Begins (1917)**

Improvement on the recently acquired Barton Springs land started almost immediately. Women's groups in the area set about beautifying the banks of the creek. Ideas of recreation and resort circulated amongst the Austin well-heeled set. By the mid-May, 1918, Mrs. Annie Myrick, a local schoolteacher, was





Figure 9. The Elks Pit at Eliza Springs, ca. 1915.

Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph123866/> : accessed April, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas. PICA 00971.

in place as grounds supervisor, living with her children in a bungalow near the springs.<sup>48</sup> In July, Mayor Woolridge inspected the improvements to the springs, which included a new grandstand forty feet square for dancing, plays, and sports events along with new seating and benches under the numerous shade trees. The City also shifted the focus away from the industrial uses of the springs and land. Under Zilker's ownership, several of the old mills along the banks of the creek were removed. By 1918, the city worked to further remove any old infrastructure that impeded swimming and bathing. This included cleaning moss and other debris from the banks and the deconstruction of the old dam. This period is also

the first time that the city refers the springs as a "Park."<sup>49</sup>

Delmar Groos, architect of the Deep Eddy bathhouse and the Sunken Gardens, visited Barton Springs with his family as early as 1917-18. He describes the banks of Barton Springs as being lined with rocks, slick mud in spots, and many elephant-ears (Genus: *Colocasia*. An invasive plant to Texas and native to southeast Asia). Groos compared the scene to the Comal River in New Braunfels, commenting that there was "lots of water" with just a stone embankment making a lower dam (Figures 11 and 12). The upper dam found at Barton Springs today did not yet exist.<sup>50</sup>

Improvements continued on the

springs' area into and throughout the 1920s. This not only reflected Austin's love of Barton Springs but also the larger national recreation movement of the early twentieth century, where public parks, spaces, and swimming pools came to act as a forum of American community life, public discourse, and civic engagement.<sup>51</sup>

### Swimming, Recreation, and the Public (late 1800s and early 1900s)

Public bathing and swimming saw a dramatic conceptual shift in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The swimming bath of the late-nineteenth century,

created through a series of early municipal pools in large urban environments, was the haunt of the urban working class and visited primarily by men and boys. The spirit of such places was wild, boisterous, and even dangerous at times. These pools functioned as the primary bathing spot for people who had no running water in their homes. Civic control of this often rambunctious group began to merge the working class with middle class values and expectations. The working class concept of the public bath developed alongside a slightly more elevated concept of the swimming place. The middle classes created vacation and relaxation spots near natural and often flowing bodies of water and these locales were known



Figure 10. The Elks Pit at Eliza Springs, ca. 1915.

Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metapth123869/> : accessed June, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas. PICA 00973.



C01787 Austin History Center Austin Public Library

Figure 11. Barton Springs and Rabb Home (left), 1925. Photograph by the Jordan Company. Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125204/> : accessed May, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas. PICA C01787.



1925 PHOTOGRAPH BY THE JORDAN COMPANY

Figure 12. Barton Springs Pool and Dam, 1925. Photography by the Jordan Company. Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125209/> : accessed July, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

simply as “watering places.” Such bathing or swimming areas, either for the middle or working classes, were usually gender segregated, often providing separate swimming tanks and changing areas for women and girls.<sup>52</sup>

By the early twentieth century, the idea of using a water tank or small pool for bathing was eschewed in favor of an athletic or recreational spot. Bathhouses and changing areas responded accordingly by constructing showers within the changing areas. This was a signal to swimmers that they were to use the waters for other purposes than cleansing themselves.<sup>53</sup>

Barton Springs followed the national trends of bathing and swimming in some aspects, but also remained as an original and unusual bathing spot. The cold, clear spring waters were used for bathing during the early years of Austin and later came to reflect the middle class concept of the “watering place.” Until the City of Austin acquired the land in 1917, the area was open, mostly natural, and lacked a bathhouse or changing area. Visitors to the springs would change behind large trees or in their buggies. The large rocks along the creek were inhabited by the “rocksitters,” or visitors who used the banks for sunning.<sup>54</sup> As with early pools and swimming places of the late-nineteenth century, Barton Springs was a male dominated spot, as was swimming along the banks of the Colorado River, where bathhouses were actually constructed.<sup>55</sup> However, women were allowed to swim in the springs if they dared.

With municipal control, developments to the Springs came quickly. Athletic groups were formed and swim classes were taught on the banks and shallows of the creek. The city hired young men to work as lifeguards. A small building was constructed in 1919 to collect a ten-cent entrance fee.<sup>56</sup> The springs had functioned as a civilized picnic area and swimming hole of the middle classes for some time, but the introduction of an entrance fee

set Barton Springs as a true domain for the middle classes.

By 1923, a new bathhouse was constructed on the banks of the creek (Figure 13 and 14). The building was two-story and wooden framed with a low-pitched hipped roof and a dance hall on the upper floor. This space was rented out to different groups and clubs over the year. The City of Austin also allowed religious groups to use the clean spring water for baptisms (Figure 15).

By the mid-1920s, Barton Springs belonged solely to the middle classes. According to Ed Barlow, who acted as the third lifeguard at the springs and later taught physical education at the University of Texas, there were several groups that came together to create a new social geography of the place. There was the university group, the government folks, and the business people. The springs acted as a hub for social and business interaction.<sup>57</sup> This exclusive group used the springs during a swimming season that lasted from March to after Labor Day, with a few dedicated souls swimming throughout the winter months.<sup>58</sup> The days were set with an informal swimming schedule comprised primarily of children in the afternoon and older adults in the mornings and evenings. This usage was constant and predictable, with regular visitors knowing exactly who they could expect to see at the pool and when.<sup>59</sup>

While this tight-knit community enjoyed the springs during the 1920s, their cultural and spatial dominance placed growing restrictions in the area. The admission price kept out the poor, and picnicking by African American families was discouraged along the banks of the creek. While exploring children had picked up pecans from the many trees along the creek in the 1910s, this activity was also discouraged by the mid-1920s. Thus, the relaxed and open bathing spot of the nineteenth century evolved into the municipal swimming pool of the twentieth.



Figure 13. Barton Springs and Bathhouse, 1926.

Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125212/> : accessed July, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas. PICA C01825.



Figure 14. Barton Springs Bathhouse and Parking Area, June 17, 1925. Photography by the Jordan Company.

Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125205/> : accessed May, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.



Figure 15. A Baptism at Barton Springs, 1924.

Pipkin and Marshall Frech, Eds. *Barton Springs Eternal*. Turk Softshoe Publishing, The Hill Country Foundation, Austin. 1993. 33. crediting Congress Avenue Baptist Church.

### Austin's Nascent Park System (1920s)

In 1926, the City of Austin allocated almost \$15,000 for new parks and appointed a new Park Board. Later bond elections followed, allocated a total of \$200,000 for park development during this period.<sup>60</sup> In May, 1928, Austin City Council passed an ordinance that created the new Austin Recreation Division.<sup>61</sup> During that same year, the city hired the Dallas-based architectural firm of Koch and Fowler to create a plan for the growing city. The first planning effort for the city responded to several needs including a proposed airport location; response to legislative action that allowed municipalities to create subdivisions and zoned areas; and, the newly identified need and desire for parks.

The concept of parks was not exactly new in 1928. Rather, it was in the process of being retooled for a high level of programmatic design. American Parks and green spaces of the eighteenth and nineteenth century were often quite different from the evolved twentieth century municipal park and fell roughly into three types: formal estate gardens and lawns; public squares as green space holders in municipal master plans; and large, English-influenced picturesque parks. As a small village, Austin's original plan laid out by Waller in 1839 included a series of squares, three of which still exist (Woolridge Park, Republic Square, and Brush Square). These block-sized mini-parks acted as public gathering places along with creating spatial and visual anchors for the village. The banks of the Colorado River and Barton Springs, along with the surrounding countryside provided additional picnicking and swimming places in early Austin, along with 23 acres land granted to the city by Governor E. M. Pease along Shoal Creek in 1875.<sup>62</sup>

By the 1920s, common thinking about green space had shifted. Olmsted's large ur-

ban parks, such as Central Park in Manhattan and Prospect Park in Brooklyn were designed to provide bucolic refuge from encroaching industrial blight. The spaces were designed with an eye to England's pastoral estate design of the eighteenth century, where lawns, woods, and water features met to create a tamed but naturalistic or wilderness-inspired setting. Newly designed parks mimicking such places were meant to calm the working classes and provide a site for salubrious retreat, ameliorating not only the body but also the mind.

In the years of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century, ideas of health and exercise had greatly shifted. Parks with views and restful, forested spots, gave way to a need for recreational areas encompassing organized sports such as soccer, football, and tennis. Playgrounds for small children also became popular and areas for exploring by path or horseback were in demand. These places were connected to the larger city fabric through scenic drives constructed to accommodate the automobile. Swimming pools, too, evolved, with the construction of more elaborate bathhouses, entrance gates, and structured swim classes.

Koch and Fowler's 1928 plan reflected the national interest in recreation, parks, and parkways. Pulling from resources such as the Parks and Recreation Association of America and the National Conference on Outdoor Recreation, the plan called for a series of well-spaced parks to be constructed within the city and placed within walking distance of each neighborhood. Koch and Fowler recognized that the idea of recreation meant to have a good time, yet they defined the concept further, stating, "We are using the word more in the sense of re-creation or renewing, or recreating the health, energy, and morale of the citizen and consider the enjoyment and pleasure more as a by-product."<sup>63</sup> While the moral impetus was consistent with Olmsted's nineteenth century ideals, the concept of "recre-

ation” or a landscape built for play was new.

The Koch and Fowler plan recommended more specific actions in the development of Austin Parks and roadways. This included the use of Barton Springs Road as one of the main arteries to route traffic in south Austin. The plan recommended that the road should be no wider than 80 feet and all sharp curves should be eliminated. Through this recommendation, Koch and Fowler call attention to the idea that roadways can also be developed for recreation purposes, going beyond simple transportation needs. The planning team also suggested that the City of Austin pay attention to the natural beauty (topography, vegetation, views, and vistas) of an area slated for development. They recommended that natural aspects should not be “sacrificed” if no current need or program proposed takes them into account, but rather, they should be noted and tied into a larger multi-use, forward thinking land use plan.<sup>64</sup>

Running parallel to Koch and Fowler’s Austin Plan was a rather extensive parks planning publication created through a national study of city and county parks by the Playground and Recreation Association of America and the American Institute of Park Executives. The work was titled, *Parks, a Manual of Municipal and County Parks* and Volume One set a clear standard for park design throughout the nation. Claiming “man is essentially an outdoor animal”, the first chapter of the work stated why parkland was great importance.<sup>65</sup> The set of volumes went further, explaining that the role of parks was to provide a place to maintain physical condition and development; to provide places of unlimited activities to promote creative activities and play; to foster the arts and learning; to increase “neighborliness”; and, provide for better overall happiness.<sup>66</sup> The text also mentions that parks increase nearby property values and help abate crime and delinquency (Figure 16).<sup>67</sup> This list was designed to counter the current automo-

bile-based, office working culture of the early-twentieth century.

Thus, early park planners made their case across divisions of age, land-use, and society, attempting to create a solid argument for the expenditures needed to create such recreations places (Figure 17). To accomplish this goal, the Parks Manual recommended that municipalities develop different sizes and types of parks depending on town layout, available space, and need. Koch and Fowler also included these groupings into their recommendations for Austin. These early divisions of recreational areas included: protected play areas; supervised school playgrounds; playfields; neighborhood parks; community centers; pleasure drives; large parks; and special facilities including pools, skating places, theatres, tennis courts, and coasting hills (Figure 18).<sup>68</sup> In their planning efforts, Koch and Fowler drew attention to Barton Springs Park, stating that improvements were already planned for the 37-acre park. Further, the plan recommended that the park area should be expanded to the east and that the city should also consider development along the banks of the Colorado River.<sup>69</sup>

During the mid-1920s, as Koch and Fowler prepared their study for Austin, the city planned to spend \$30,000 improving Barton Springs to create a larger recreation center under City Manager Adam R. Johnson with plans approved by City Park Engineer H.L. Dunham. The improvements called for the expansion of the Barton Springs swimming area by extending it west to the city property line, near the former location of the old stone bridge, which washed away in 1900. The pool area would also be deepened, evening out the stony creek bed (Figure 19). Further work included the addition of a decorative low-walled walkway around the swimming area, with a 50-foot wide beach on the north side of the pool. The proposed beach would extend the length of the pool and provide a shallow place for swim-



CLASSIFICATION OF POPULATION	FACILITIES WHICH SHOULD BE AVAILABLE
 <p data-bbox="397 619 600 646">SMALL CHILDREN</p>	<p data-bbox="820 441 1226 588">HOME GROUNDS INTERIOR BLOCK PLAYGROUNDS NEARBY CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUNDS &amp; KINDERGARTENS DRIVES PROMENADES } IN PARKS</p>
 <p data-bbox="389 907 609 934">SCHOOL CHILDREN</p>	<p data-bbox="820 745 1209 1018">HOME GROUNDS INTERIOR BLOCK PLAYGROUNDS PLAY AREAS IN PARKS SWIMMING POOLS SKATING PONDS COASTING HILLS BOY &amp; GIRL SCOUT CAMPS SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS PLAYFIELDS FOR ATHLETICS COMMUNITY CENTERS OUTLYING NATURALISTIC PARKS</p>
 <p data-bbox="430 1190 576 1218">YOUTH</p>	<p data-bbox="820 1207 1112 1396">PLAYFIELDS SWIMMING POOLS SKATING PONDS COASTING HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS LARGE PARKS COMMUNITY CENTERS PLEASURE DRIVES</p>
 <p data-bbox="430 1478 576 1505">ADULTS</p>	<p data-bbox="820 1207 1112 1396">PLAYFIELDS SWIMMING POOLS SKATING PONDS COASTING HILLS NEIGHBORHOOD PARKS LARGE PARKS COMMUNITY CENTERS PLEASURE DRIVES</p>

PLATE No. 12

CHART SHOWING A CLASSIFICATION OF POPULATION AND RECREATION FACILITIES THAT SHOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR EACH CLASSIFICATION

(Bartholomew and Associates, City Plan and Landscape Engineers, St. Louis, Missouri.)

Figure 16. Plate taken from *Parks: A Manual of Municipal and County Parks*, Chapter II – General Planning of a Park System, 1928.

Weir, L.H., ed. *Parks: A Manual of Municipal and County Parks*. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. 1928. Page 56.

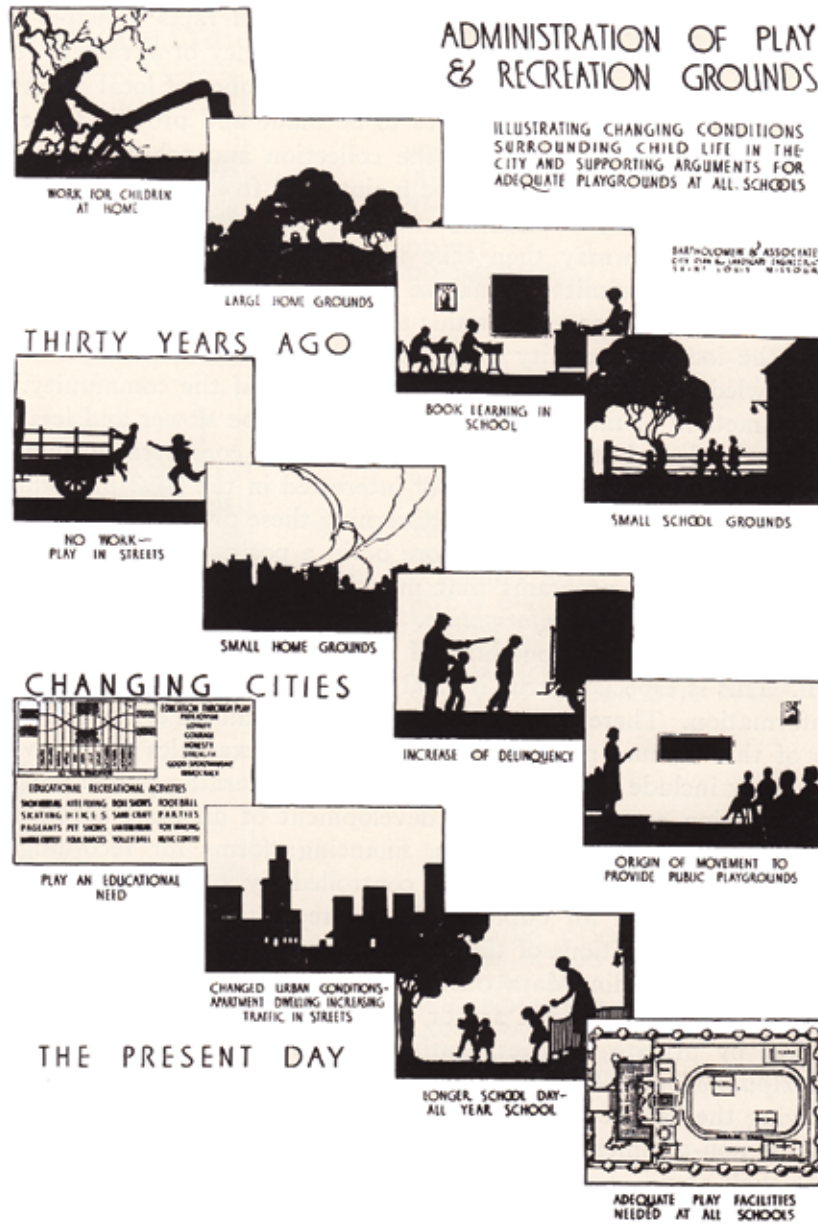


PLATE No. 13  
 AN INTERESTING DIAGRAMMATIC CHART ILLUSTRATING CHANGING CONDITIONS SURROUNDING CHILD LIFE IN THE CITY AND SUPPORTING ARGUMENTS FOR ADEQUATE PLAYGROUNDS AT ALL SCHOOLS  
 (Bartholomew and Associates, City Plan and Landscape Engineers, St. Louis, Missouri.)

Figure 17. Plate taken from *Parks: A Manual of Municipal and County Parks*, Chapter II – General Planning of a Park System, 1928.

Weir, L.H., ed. *Parks: A Manual of Municipal and County Parks*. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. 1928. Page 58.

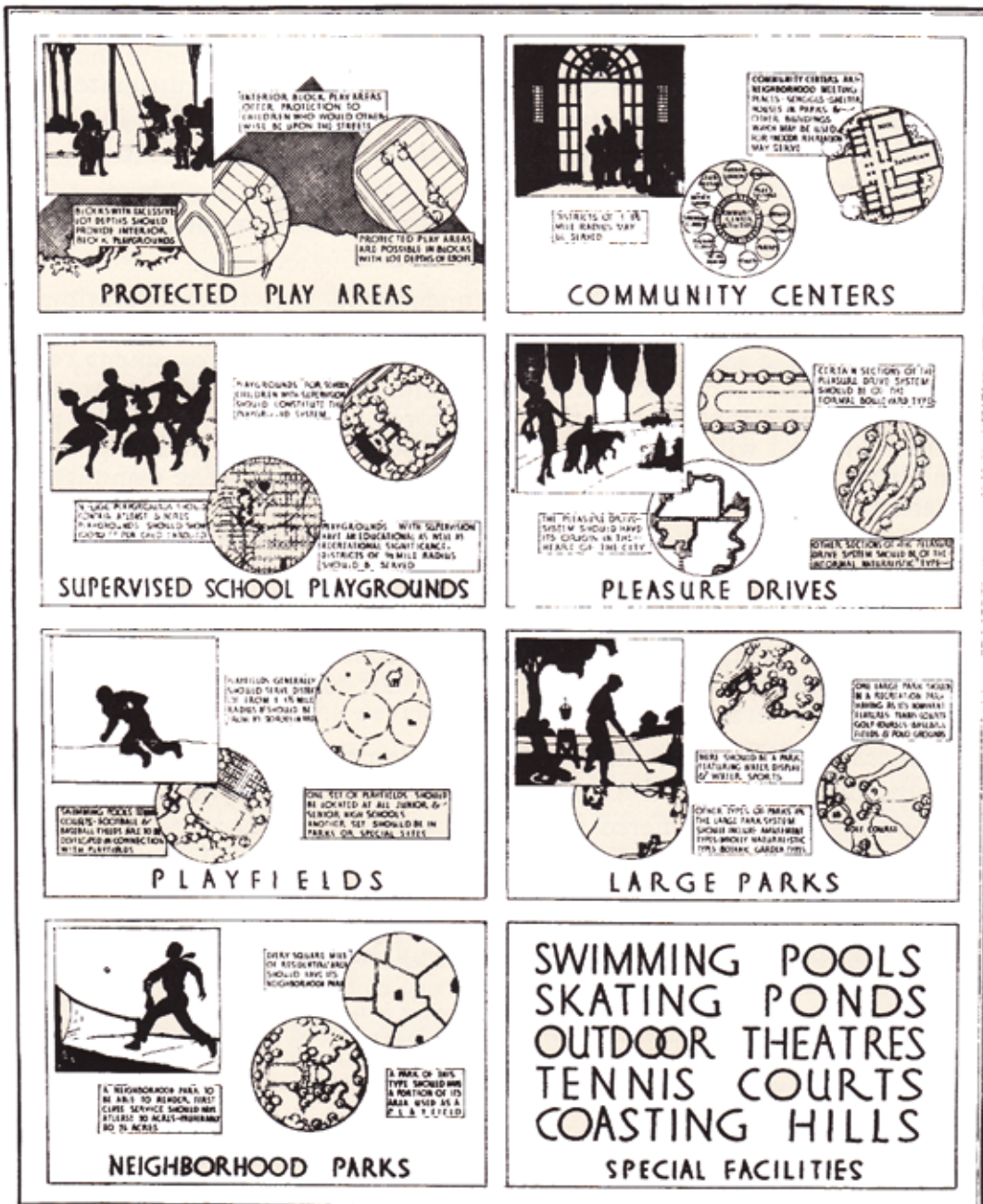


PLATE NO. 14

A GRAPHIC METHOD OF REPRESENTING THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF RECREATION FACILITIES NEEDED IN A MODERN PARK AND RECREATION SYSTEM

(Bartholomew and Associates, City Plan and Landscape Engineers, St. Louis, V)

Figure 18. Plate taken from *Parks: A Manual of Municipal and County Parks*, Chapter II – General Planning of a Park System, 1928.

Weir, L.H., ed. *Parks: A Manual of Municipal and County Parks*. A. S. Barnes and Company, New York. 1928. Page 62.



Figure 19. Improvements at Barton Springs, March 26, 1926.

Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph125210/> : accessed July, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas. PICA C01818.

mers in contrast to the south side, which included deeper water and a three diving boards (one low and two high). The land to the south of the pool, referred to as the “tourist” area, would contain a playground with recreational equipment such as swings, slides, and ball courts. Granite gravel was used to softly pave the space between the swimming area and the connecting roadway.<sup>70</sup> The Barton Springs, with a new concrete dam and an expanded circumference of 2,500 feet, reopened for business on May 4, 1929. It was referred to as the “Central Texas Playground”, enunciating the newly found importance of recreation (Figure 20).<sup>71</sup>

### **The Depression, Park Expansion, and the New Deal (1930s)**

In May, 1931, Andrew Jackson Zilker proposed a new land sale to the City of Austin. The terms followed the 1917 land sale agreement and built upon the city’s nascent park system development. Zilker’s land deal consisted of 250-300 acres of land adjoining Barton Springs. The tract spanned from Deep Eddy to Barton Springs creek, along the south bank of the Colorado River. The asking price was \$200,000 to be paid into the school treasury in twenty annual installments at six per-



Figure 20. Barton Springs Post Card, ca. 1930. Published by the Abe Frank Cigar Company of Austin, Texas. Digital Image, (<http://www.edwardsaquifer.net/images/card329.jpg>; Accessed April, 2012).

cent annual interest. Again, the funds were to be earmarked to support manual training and industrial education programs. Zilker also required that the city use the lands to create a “magnificent park, adequate for all future years” (Figure 21).<sup>72</sup>

In order to pay the asking price, the City of Austin used the proceeds from the Park and Playgrounds bonds from the late 1920s to cover \$50,000. The remaining \$150,000 was then paid out in \$10,000 installments. Zilker’s land also included 25 acres north of the river, which was then leased to the Butler Brick Company. The \$50.00 per month rental income from Butler was also turned over to the city treasury until the lease reached term.<sup>73</sup> The transaction was voted on in December of 1931 and approved in 1932.<sup>74</sup>

Zilker’s land sale came at an opportune time for park building in the City of Austin,

the state, and the nation. As the depression progressed, so did the federal response to put people back to work. Park building was a prime recipient of federal funds because it was not only labor intensive but could also be accomplished with a relatively unskilled labor force. Newly constructed or improved parkland was of value to all Americans, thus providing an excellent platform for socially beneficial work.<sup>75</sup>

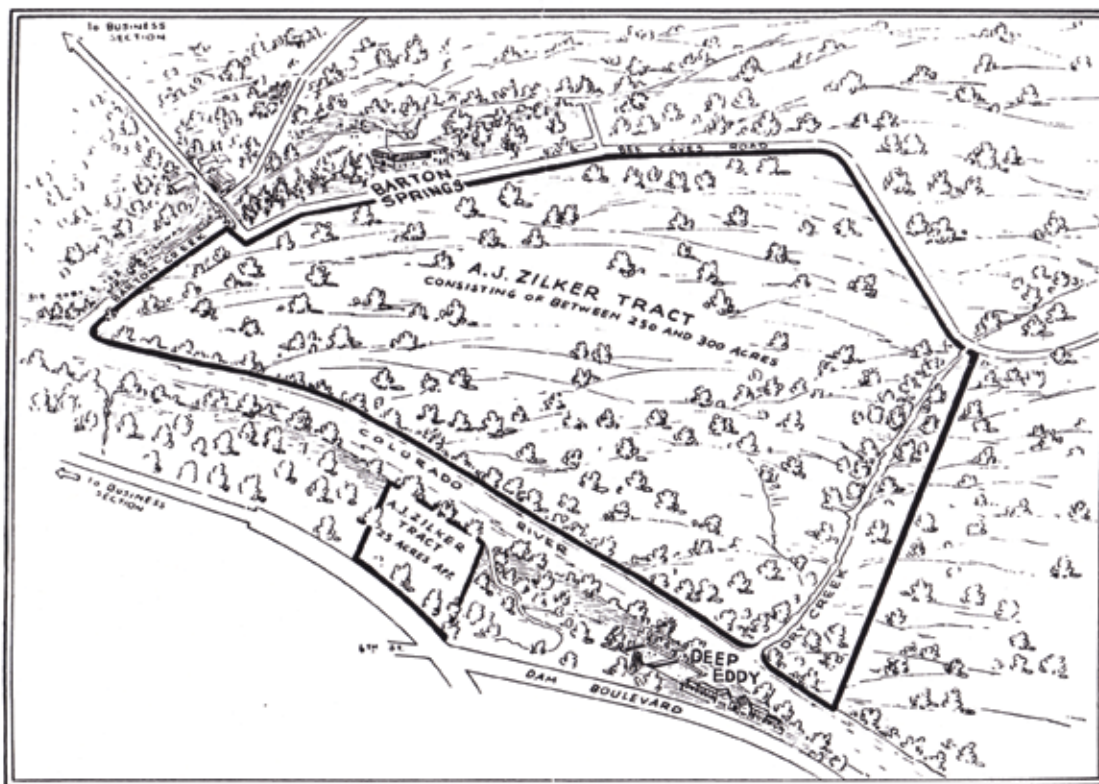
Zilker Park development was led by two men: Frederick A. Dale, a New York trained, Austin engineer with the Texas Civil Works Administration (CWA), and Charles H. Page, an Austin architect.<sup>76</sup> Dale had previous experience as an engineer building Texas parks and Page was recently appointed to the City of Austin Parks board in 1933. Throughout the process of building Zilker Park, these men would call on funding and/or assistance

from an amalgam of agencies including the Texas Relief Commission, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the National Park Service (NPS), and possibly the Works Progress Administration (WPA) as successor of the CWA).<sup>77</sup>

The RFC was established in January of 1932 (Hoover Administration) to provide emergency funding through loans to financial institutions and state governments. The agency also played an important role in setting up the relief organizations of the New Deal in 1933 under Roosevelt.<sup>78</sup> Another vital New

Deal agency, known as FERA (1933 – 1935 and then as the WPA, 1935-1939), provided jobs to unemployed workers (CWA 1933-1934) and youth (NYA, as part of the WPA and established through the authority of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935) through public projects at the national, state, and local levels.<sup>79</sup> As federal funds trickled into the hands of the state, they were received and allocated by the Texas Relief Commission led by Governor Ma Ferguson.

Texas had power with the Roosevelt Administration with Texas-native John Nance “Cactus Jack” Garner sitting as vice president, Dallas-raised Jesse H. Jones as chairman of the RFC, and various other Texans on House Committees.<sup>80</sup> Funding for Texas



A picture of Austin's future, magnificent park.

Figure 21. Map of A.J. Zilker's Second Land Gift to the City of Austin, 1931.

Image taken from "A Statement by the Board of Trustees Concerning the Zilker Tract". December 10, 1931. Crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

projects poured into the state, despite convoluted leadership at the state level.<sup>81</sup> The Texas Relief Commission soon set up the Texas Civil Works Administration offices in Austin, led by Fred Dale. Funding through the CWA for Zilker totaled \$94,000, the highest for any CWA park in Texas.<sup>82</sup> A. R. Johnson, formerly the City of Austin Manager, replaced the Ferguson Administration-appointed Lawrence Westbrook as head of the Texas Relief Commission in 1934. The change occurred after a 1933 Senate investigation took place where Westbrook admitted that federal relief funds were misused. With Johnson in place, things ran more smoothly for the federal funding expenditures in the state.<sup>83</sup>

Federally funded work on Zilker Park started in 1933 as Charles Page received monies from the RFC to construct small park amenities such as stone picnic tables and outdoor cooking facilities. Eight to nine miles of circulation routes such as roadways, walking trails, and bridle paths followed that same year.<sup>84</sup> Page and Bubi Jessen (another local designer), created plans for park light fixtures, with materials (tin and iron work) donated by Gage Brothers and the Weigel Iron works, respectively. The Austin Police Department helped build and fund a shooting range. Further, Page and Dale drew up a master plan for the work to be accomplished in the park and set about finding the funding and agency for each project. This was approved in its entirety by April of 1934. Dale also joined the City of Austin Park Board in 1934.<sup>85</sup>

1934 was a busy year for Page and Dale along with construction activities in Zilker Park. CWA funded projects ran from January to March, while the CCC built a camp to house at least 200 men in mid-spring to early fall, arranged by the NPS and D.E. Colp of the State Parks Board.<sup>86</sup>

By early Spring, Page addressed the local Kiwanis club, describing the park plans and goals. He stated that Zilker Park was the

“answer to Austin’s demand for a large Park” where the entire family may find recreation. Further, he declared that as one drove into the park, their family would have the choice of a number of activities including: “one of the finest pools in the south,” horseback riding, camping, tennis, skating, nature study, shooting, athletics, hiking, fishing, boating, and dancing.”<sup>87</sup> Page also claimed that more visitors were arriving to the park despite ongoing construction and he called out the additional project plans with CWA funds. These included: seven and one half miles of water lines; roadways and an ornamental entrance; the boy and girl scout houses; and a camp for underprivileged children.<sup>88</sup>

The new plans for the park changed the extant landscape of Zilker’s land but also placed great importance on retaining the natural state of the area. Page attempted to erase all “hand prints on the development of the park” and mixed planted and built zones within the framework of the wild parkland.<sup>89</sup> These zones ranged from minimal touches such as the sprinkling of wild flower seeds throughout the acreage to well-engineered water features and NPS influenced rustic-styled buildings, all of which, following Page’s vision for the park, played a supporting role to topography and native vegetation.

Dale took on the daunting task of creating new planting zones in the developing park. With help from Professor B. C. Tharp, a botanist with the University of Texas at Austin, he planned an arboretum to showcase native trees and shrubs. He planned the arboretum in an area located to the right of the new entrance to Barton Springs. The land was formerly used as a small vegetable garden. Further, Dale planned a stunning tiered stone garden approximately 180 feet long and located at the rock ridge above the Barton Springs parking area (Figure 22). Working with landscape designer Mark A. Murray, Dale planned for 1200 shrubs to be planted around the stone-lined



Figure 22. Rock Garden at Zilker Park, January 30, 1936.

Digital Image, (<http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph123871/> : accessed July, 2012), University of North Texas Libraries, The Portal to Texas History, <http://texashistory.unt.edu>; crediting Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas. PICA 01003.

pools.<sup>90</sup> Murray's plan for the rock garden site was to create a space that would be in bloom all year long. To do this, he planned various plants for all seasons, including chrysanthemums for the fall, soliciting cuttings from local growers. Murray also added water lilies to the shallow ponds. Most of these plants were provided by Dr. T. S. Painter's home garden on West 33<sup>rd</sup> Street. Page assisted with the construction of the ponds, creating the shallow stone-lined pools.<sup>91</sup>

As the construction of landscape and planting features pulled from the local community, so did the construction of other amenities in the park. Page acted to put a group of recent University of Texas School of Architec-

ture graduates back to work during the height of the depression, giving them jobs when there were none in the private sector. Such work included the main entry gateway to the park was designed by Bubi Jessen, a young architect working with Page, and built with CCC labor. Delmar Groos, architect and designer of the Deep Eddy Bathhouse (built with WPA funds in 1935-36), remembered Jessen's talents from architecture school and he described the asymmetrical Zilker Park entry perfectly sited, with the higher side on the same side as the topographical rise, and the lower side (Colorado River side) not blocking the sweeping view of the landscape. This design responded to the essence of the park – that of informal



balance.<sup>92</sup> Not all were in agreement though. Jessen's mother, when first viewing her son's well-designed gateway, reportedly said, "Honey, didn't they have enough money to build the other side the same height?"<sup>93</sup>

Page also put young designers on the tasks of creating the designs for the CWA funded Boy and Girl Scout cabins and the two rustic-styled, limestone buildings were completed in 1934. The Girl Scout Hut was designed by a group of young architects, including Page's son, and was located on an old lookout point then known as "exedra."<sup>94</sup> The Boy Scout home was constructed with a 60-foot long assembly hall, flanked by a kitchen and other storage rooms. The building was also constructed on an overlook – the highest in the park.

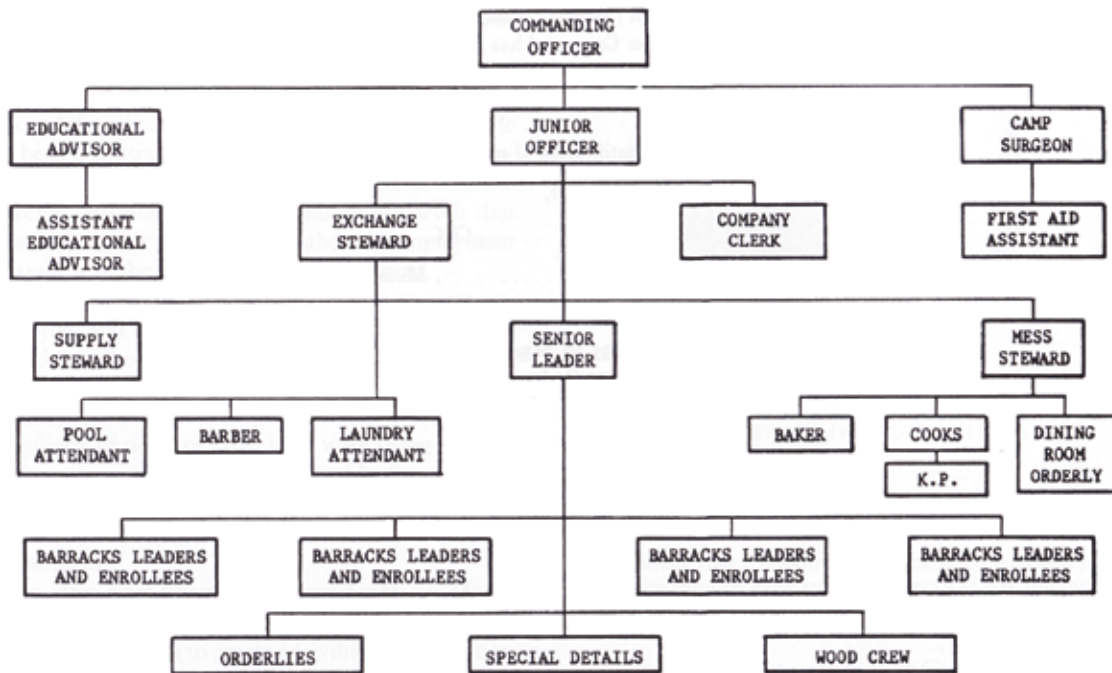
As CWA funds covered part of the work needed to build out the park through March, the CCC camp 1814 covered the other set of tasks, thus splitting the work during most of 1934.<sup>95</sup> The CCC was another Roosevelt created agency, started in early 1933 under the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) program.<sup>96</sup> The program was designed to put unemployed young men to work and was created through the cooperation of the Labor, War, Agriculture, and Interior departments. When the CCC's time was up in 1942, the camps, which dotted the country from coast to coast, succeeded in planting millions of trees; constructing hundreds of buildings and structures; restored forests and agricultural lands; and created miles of trails.<sup>97</sup> Through this massive work effort, the CCC boys were also known as Roosevelt's Tree Army.

The CCC camp in Zilker Park was constructed to last six months, during which an impressive amount of work was accomplished by the 200 young men living there.<sup>98</sup> The camp was led by group of men from the Texas State Parks Board and the National Park Service Oklahoma City district office.<sup>99</sup> Run like a military camp with a morning roll call,

the initial leader was Captain Fred B. Widmoyer and was succeeded by Lieutenant G. H. Helweg (Figure 23). Other camp officers included John M. Cassidy, who functioned as camp surgeon, and Lieutenant R. M. Blair. The designers in charge of landscape architecture, architecture, and engineering efforts, were lead by Nottie H. Lee, who had just arrived from working as superintendent of Blanco State Park. Lee worked closely with Page and Dale. He was supported by N. G. Bone, a landscape architect with the National Park Service, along with assistance from W. E. Jobe and Paul Rosele, both architects.

The CCC boys arrived in April of 1934 and the camp closed at the end of September, giving them almost six full months of work time. The men arrived to the camp by train and then truck and were quickly moved into their new tent homes and met with a barbecue dinner hosted by Austin Chamber of Commerce Manger, Walter E. Long.<sup>100</sup> There were generally six men to a tent, divided by race. The men were usually housed in these temporary dwellings under bunk houses could be constructed. Along with the men's lodging, the camp consisted of six newly constructed buildings housing the mess hall, kitchen, and headquarters (Figure 24 and 25). The camp also had its own latrine system.<sup>101</sup>

The CCC boys spent their days at Zilker on various tasks including clearing the land of thick vegetation and seining the creek for game fish to be placed in the Colorado River. Other work included paving much of the newly laid out loop system of roads within the park and widening the concrete low water bridge by the skeet club. The men also finished construction of many picnic tables and outdoor cook stations located throughout the main lawn of the park. They cut stone for the Boy and Girl Scout cabins, and updated the police pistol range building into rest rooms. The CCC men also constructed the lookout near the Boy Scout cabin, consisting of a mas-



CCC company organization chart.

Figure 23. Typical Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Company Organization Chart.

Cohen, Stan. *The Tree Army: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1943*. Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana. 1980. 8.

sive half-circle of limestone and mortar wall, complete with 12 stone pillars to frame a view of the City of Austin and Zilker Park below.<sup>102</sup>

Life at CCC Camp 1814 was not all work. The boys were allowed to venture across the river into Austin for fun and were permitted to swim in Barton Springs twice a week. Fred Mieth lived at Camp 1814 during the summer of 1934 said he enjoyed working in the park and clearing the landscape of thick vegetation. He also commented that when he arrived he wasn't sure where he was - state or municipal park - due to the wildly overgrown landscape surrounding them.<sup>103</sup>

A.J. Zilker gave his final gift of land during the vigorous 1934 work year. The plot consisted of 25 acres adjacent to the parkland and west of Barton Springs. Page approached Zilker for a 100-foot wide strip of land along

the banks of the creek to keep tourist camps and stands off the adjacent land. Zilker responded by giving the entire 25-acre area to the city. However, Zilker requested that the new land be known as Page Park to honor the work of the architect.<sup>104</sup> This was never granted and the entirety of land around Barton Springs was later simply given the name of Zilker Park, after its generous previous owner.

Work in the park continued along after the 1934 construction push. Improvement included the NYA constructed Sunken Gardens on the south bank of Barton Creek from 1937 until its completion in 1939 (Figure 26).<sup>105</sup> The terraced pool was constructed around a flowing spring, known earlier as Zenobia Spring after William Barton's daughter. The site was also previously used as one of several mills, which dotted the creek during the nineteenth

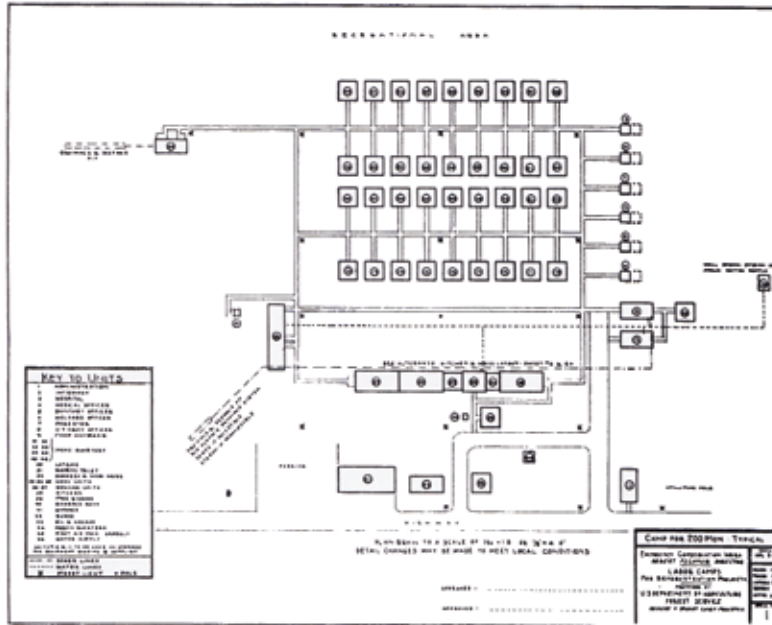


Figure 24. Typical Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Camp Layout for 200 Men, 1933. The Zilker Park CCC Camp may have been similar in design. Cohen, Stan. *The Tree Army: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1943*. Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana. 1980. 21.

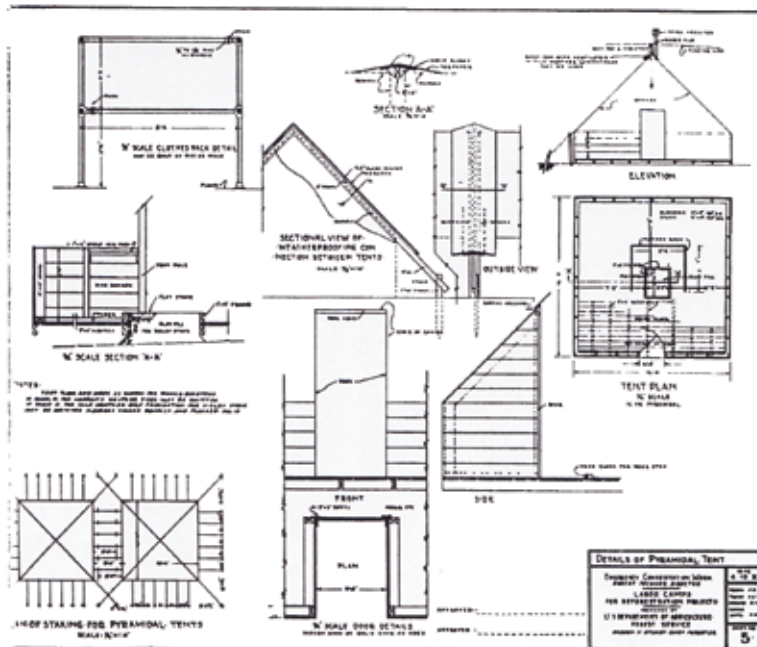


Figure 25. Typical Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) Tent, 1933. Tents in the Zilker Park CCC Camp may have been similar in design. Cohen, Stan. *The Tree Army: A Pictorial History of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1943*. Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, Missoula, Montana. 1980. 21.



Figure 26. Sunken Gardens in Zilker Park, 1935.

Pipkin and Marshall Frech, Eds. *Barton Springs Eternal*. Turk Softshoe Publishing, The Hill Country Foundation, Austin. 1993. 47. crediting Joe Riddell.

century. To build a recreational area out of the site, NYA men and women cleaned the spring site, creating an 8-foot deep pool, and constructed a “flagstone stage” in front of the pool with terraces built to support picnickers.<sup>106</sup>

The NYA was a New Deal agency designed to provide work training to youth and part-time work for students. NYA projects generally consisted of roadside parks, playgrounds, recreational parks, roads, and public buildings.<sup>107</sup> It fell under the purview of the WPA until 1939.<sup>108</sup> The Texas division was under the leadership of Lyndon Baines Johnson until 1937 and was then led by Jesse Kellam.<sup>109</sup>

When Zilker Park was completed in the late 1930s, it was comprised of Barton Springs and bathhouse; numerous small water feature pools (sunken gardens, Eliza Spring, and the rock garden area); several stone buildings (the Boy and Girl Scout houses, and the skeet field restrooms); several lookouts, miles of roads, trails, and walking paths; open fields and well-planted arboretums (Figure 27). Thus over the course of approximately 50 years, the landscape of the area changed from agricultural fields planted with corn, densely vegetated hills, and a spring fed creek known to locals as a good swimming and bathing spot, to a constructed recreational playground, reflecting the values of early-twentieth century town planning and later New-Deal Era standards. This included the acknowledged need for parkland within a growing urban environment. Further, Zilker Park of the 1930s reflected the rise and evolution of designed landscape as the profession of landscape architecture shifted gears from genteel picturesque parks and highly structure Italianate Villa Gardens to the “leisure-rich” twentieth century and the fad of the recreational movement.<sup>110</sup> This is evident in the great diversity of features within Zilker, as a working hybrid of formal garden space,

a broad picturesque landscape, recreational place, and rustic wooded camp.

### **A New Bathhouse for Barton Springs (1940s)**

During the 1940s, Zilker Park’s popularity and use continued to grow, reflecting an expanding population and increased access through reliance on the automobile. Several Park improvement ideas were suggested during this period to increase overall functionality of the park. These included a new bathhouse, the purchase of the Rabb property adjacent to the parkland, and the rechannelization of Barton Creek so creek water would not run into the spring fed waters of the pool but rather under and around to the creek below.<sup>111</sup> All of these new plans would come to fruition through the 1940s and into the 1950s.

A new bathhouse was needed to meet the crowded conditions and changing needs at the pool. The City of Austin Recreation Department set special requirements that the designers were required to meet. These constraints guided the architects’ work and included creating a space that was useful and functional for both patrons and staff; maximizing views of all entrances and pool to staff; high performance, low absorption materials; minimal space for maximum number of people to reduce operational costs; and toilet facilities for park and springs users along with ample storage.<sup>112</sup>

Dan Driscoll, along with guidance provided by Harvard-trained architect Chester E. Nagel and a team of local designers that included Delmar Groos and Temple B. Mayhall, created a building to meet and exceed the city’s requests. The new Barton Springs building was not Driscoll’s first run at bathhouse design. In the 1930s, Groos was tasked with the design of Deep Eddy Bathhouse. Hired by James A. Garrison, the City of Austin Direc-



Figure 27. Aerial Photograph of Zilker Park, 1935.  
Pica 17207 Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

tor of Recreation, Groos was asked if he could design a bathhouse. Though inexperienced, he confidently responded with a “you bet I can.”<sup>113</sup> Groos remembered back to his childhood, swimming at Barton Springs in the late teens and early twenties. He remembered the simple bathhouse with “no roof, just walls.”<sup>114</sup> Carrying this concept as inspiration, Groos called his professor, Dan Driscoll, for help. The two partnered on the successful design of Deep Eddy bathhouse, which featured an open, roofless dressing area. The earlier work likely influenced the 1940s Barton Springs bathhouse design.<sup>115</sup>

Driscoll’s final design for Barton Springs was open and inviting, maximizing space and views of the park, the springs, and the sky above. The open dressing areas featured patios for sunlight and fresh air circulation (Figure 28 and 29). Driscoll also sited the building away from the main park road, nestling it on the north bank of the creek amongst pecan trees and surrounded by parking. To accommodate large numbers of pool users, Driscoll and his design team created basket rooms to store clothing while visitors enjoyed the springs (Figure 30). Materials and surfaces were given top priority in the design, in order

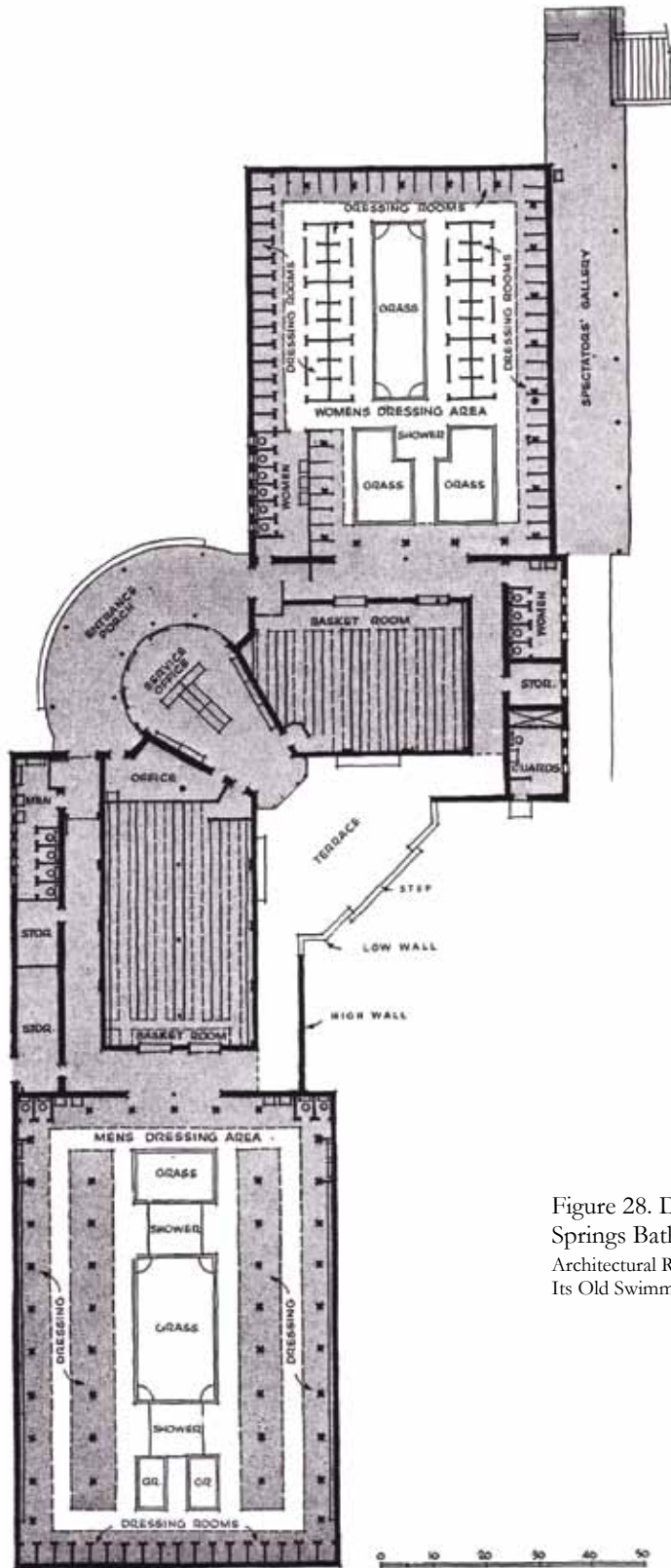


Figure 28. Dan Driscoll's 1947 Barton Springs Bathhouse. Plan View. Architectural Record, "A City Glorifies Its Old Swimming Hole". December 1948.

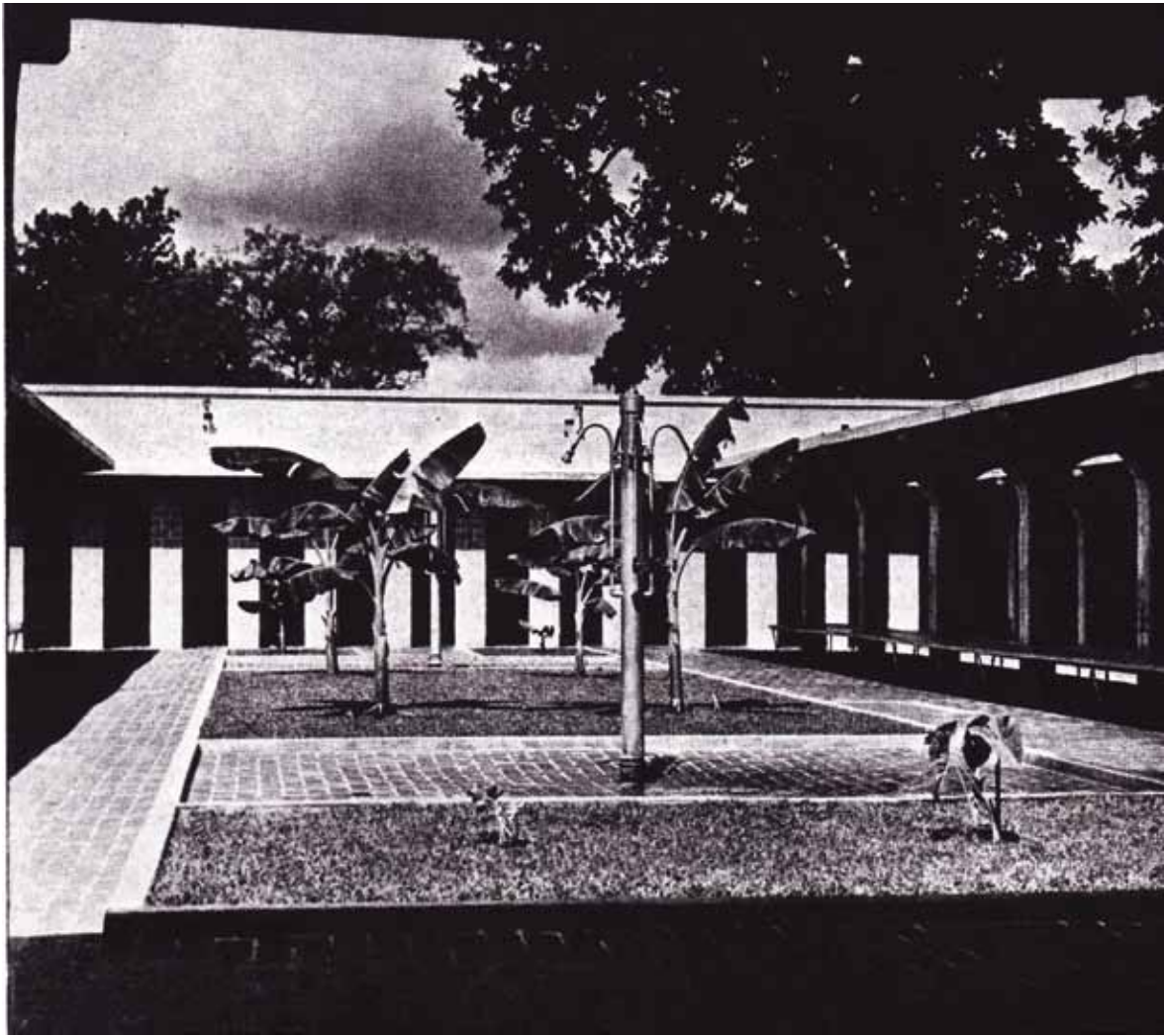


Figure 29. Open Air Dressing Area in the 1947 Barton Springs Bathhouse. 1948.  
 Architectural Record, "A City Glorifies Its Old Swimming Hole". December 1948.

to provide traction for bare feet. Floor drains and gutter drains were also placed throughout so attendants could simply spray surfaces down with a hose rather than using a mop for cleaning each day.

The exterior features of the building supported the site and were designed around existing large trees. This was most evident along the side of the building facing the swimming area. An S-shaped stairway was created as the main walkway between the bathhouse and pool. Its lines flow around and enhance

a large oak tree, around which a new retaining wall was placed (Figure 31). The lines of the springs' side of the bathhouse also hugged the top of the slope, providing a clean, low line of limestone, reflecting the limestone terraces found throughout the park. The parking lot or north side of the building was also low, anchored with a two-story, semi-circular glass entrance (Figure 32). The overall effect was modern, clean, and sympathetic to the parkland encompassing it. Interestingly, the bathhouse was a stylistic jump from the New Deal



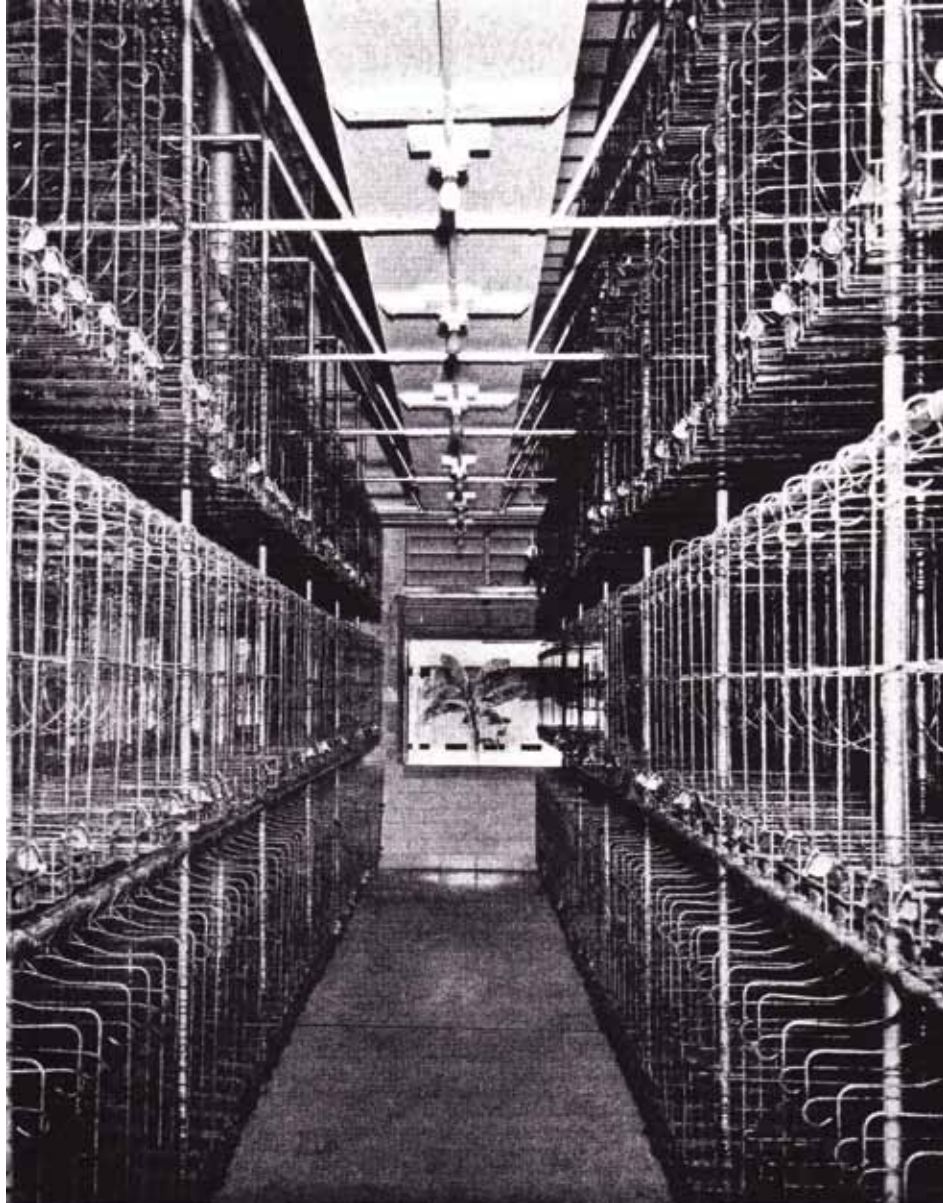


Figure 30. Basket Room in Barton Springs Bathhouse. 1948.  
Architectural Record, "A City Glorifies Its Old Swimming Hole". December 1948.



Figure 31. Postcard of Barton Springs New Bathhouse and Lawn. 1947.  
 Architectural Record, "A City Glorifies Its Old Swimming Hole". December 1948.

construction projects of the previous decade. The 1930s buildings and structures in the park were built in the Rustic style, the definitive favorite of the NPS during the 1930s. The Rustic movement was developed to compliment the surrounding natural environment by distinctive material and massing choices. Mirroring the limestone outcroppings and thick woodlands of Zilker Park, the New Deal-Era buildings and structures were designed of native stone and sited advantageously in the environment with low, grounded massing. Instead of following the earlier stylistic influences of the park, the designers of the new bathhouse moved on to the then widely popular Moderne style. Moderne (also known as Streamline Moderne) developed in the 1930s, flowing from the Deco styles of the 1920s. Moderne, as opposed to earlier Deco styles, sported curved lines that seemed to be built for speed,

perhaps mirroring a national growing love affair with fast automobiles, planes, and trains, with Moderne influences found in everything from household appliances to architecture. Thus, while the Rustic style attempted to compliment nature, the Moderne movement reflected the age of the machine. While these two concepts seem greatly opposed, the Barton Springs bathhouse brought them together. Due to expert siting, a low profile, and the choice of native stone, matching that of the earlier Rustic buildings and structures, the new bathhouse complimented the existing park landscape, while still adhering to distinctive Moderne curves and massing.

The bathhouse was completed in 1947 at a total cost of \$170,000. It was dedicated in early spring. Invitees included the Zilker family, city council, the Austin Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor, and the Reverend Kenneth



Figure 32. Overview of North Elevation and Main Entrance of Barton Springs Bathhouse. 1948. Architectural Record, "A City Glorifies Its Old Swimming Hole". December 1948.

Pope of the First Methodist Church of Austin delivered an invocation. A bronze plaque dedicated to the memory to A.J. Zilker was also unveiled at the ceremony. It is located on the north side of the building by the old entrance hall.<sup>116</sup>

### Mid-Twentieth Century and Beyond

The 1950s and 60s continued to be a time of growth for Zilker Park. The City of Austin acquired the Rabb homestead in 1953 for \$59,000, negotiated down from an original asking price of \$85,000.<sup>117</sup> The land purchase gave the city control of approximately 4,000 more feet of creek and a bluff overlooking Barton Springs and the park. The asking price for the land was originally more than the city wanted to spend, however, in the end they decided that they must make the purchase to protect Austin's "biggest investment in recreation."<sup>118</sup>

By the early 1950s, Austin municipal growth warranted a new study to guide future park planning efforts. Led by Beverly Sheffield, Director of Recreation, the study was set to cover the years of 1950-60. The goal was to insure that parks were included in long range planning efforts for future city development.<sup>119</sup>

The mid-1950s also saw new construction at the western edge of the park. The Knights of Columbus constructed a modernist brick building as their regional headquarters. This land finally became part of the park in the late 1990s.

The 1950s were also the golden years for the famed Barton Springs' "rocksitters." Such practices were started in the twenties as the city's elite (professors, politicians, and society members) gathered to hold an informal "town hall" in the shallows.<sup>120</sup> The most famous rocksitters, however, were naturalist Roy Bedichek, folklorist Frank Dobie, and western historian Walter Prescott Webb (Figure 33). These three men were fixtures at the springs.



Figure 33. Frank Dobie and Roy Bedichek seated on Bedichek's Rock, Barton Springs. 1955.

Pipkin and Marshall Frech, Eds. *Barton Springs Eternal*. Turk Softshoe Publishing, The Hill Country Foundation, Austin. 1993. 47. crediting Bill Brammer for the Texas Observer.

Bedichek was most often there and his favorite sitting spot is still known as "Bedichek's Rock." The spot is located on the south side of the springs just west of the concrete diving area by the spring fissure. Bedichek's ritual ran through the summer until the first norther hit in the late fall. He would wade out from his rock along the rocky overhang, which he called the "bathtub." From there he would fall backwards into the water. After this daily introduction to the cold clear water of the spring, he would pour water onto the top of his head from cupped hands, yelling "Woof! Woof!" each time.<sup>121</sup> If friends were around, he would sit at his rock and talk in the late afternoon, taking swim breaks to cool off. These gatherings were often comprised of 10 or more people, equaling Austin's version of a "literary salon."<sup>122</sup>

As with the 1950s, the 1960s showed fewer improvements and building projects in the park than the decades before. However, three popular additions were made to the park during the 60s: the Botanical gardens, the Zilker Christmas tree, and the Zilker Eagle (now Zephyr) train (Figure 34).

Land for the Botanical Gardens was approved in November, 1962. The city retained ownership of the land and agreed to con-



Figure 34. Zilker Eagle Train, 1960s.  
Pica 23420. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

struct a garden center as a hub for local clubs. The work was planned and led by Beverly Sheffield, Director of Recreation. The new garden center opened in 1964. By the late 1960s, Japanese garden designer Isamu Taniguchi spent a total of 18 months constructing a Japanese-inspired stroll garden along three acres within the garden lands (Figure 35). It was opened to the public in 1969.<sup>123</sup>

The Zilker Christmas Tree was constructed in 1967. Towering above the park, its base consisted of a relocated moonlight tower (Figure 36). The towers were originally erected in 1894-95 to deter crime along city streets. Known for their exceptionally bright light, the 165-foot tall iron towers were manufactured

by the Fort Wayne Electric Company and were designed to provide light to several city blocks at one time (Figure 37). There were originally 31 throughout Austin and the remaining towers are the last functioning set in the country. Several were lost to accidents and rust damage. Zilker's tower was placed in the park with the specific intent of creating a tree for Austin. The giant tree is designed as a cone created out of a string of electric lights. These are draped over the normal moon light tower guy wires along with supplemental ones used to create the shape.<sup>124</sup>

Zilker Park remained inundated with visitors throughout the 1960s. One local magazine even described Barton Springs as

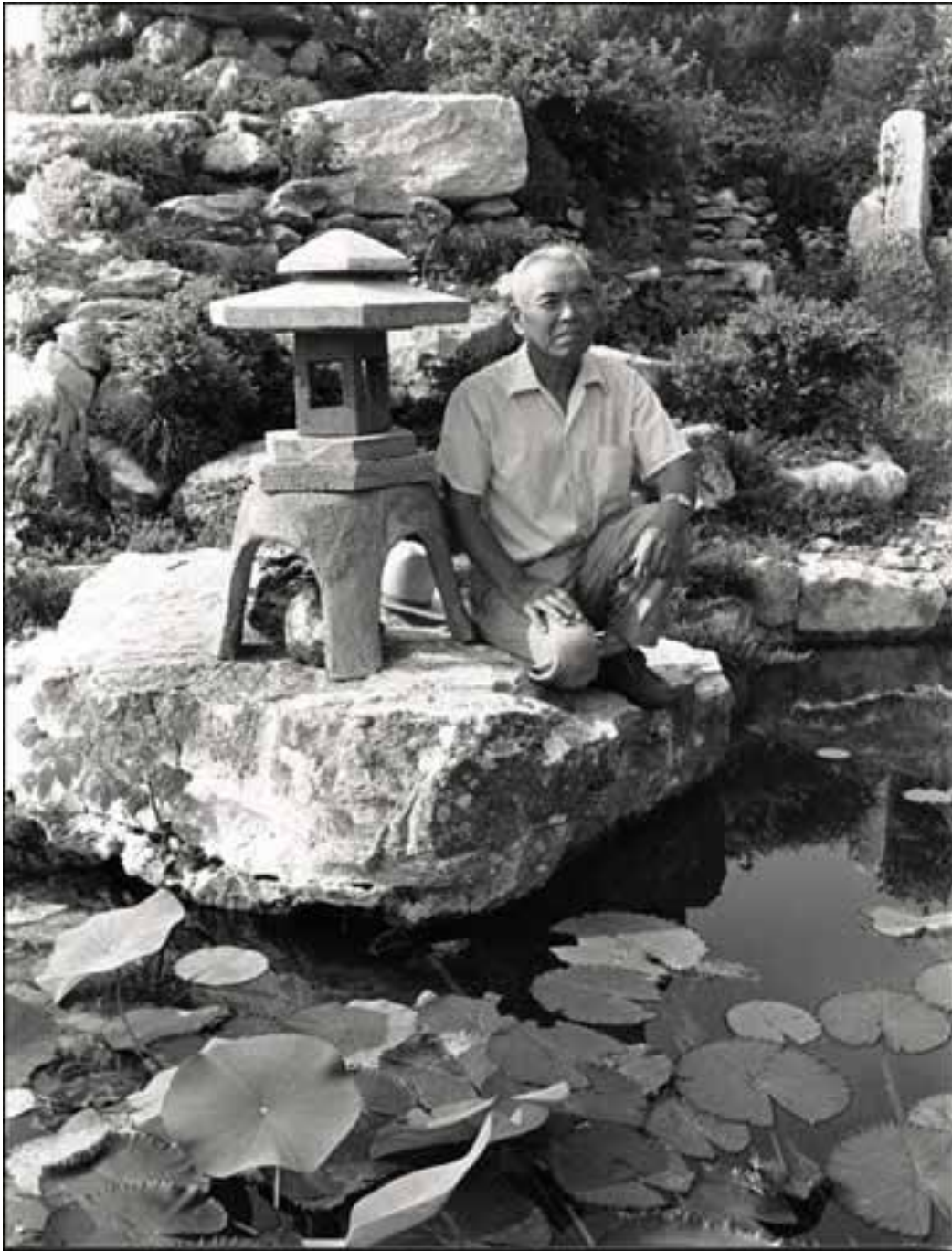


Figure 35. Isamu Taniguchi in his Garden. ca. 1970.  
Pica 75208B. Austin History Center, Austin Public Library, Austin, Texas.

Figure 36. Zilker Park Christmas Tree. 1967.

Figure 37. Moonlight Tower, Typical. (right)  
 Moore, Mark P.E. and Karl Strand. "Preservation Study of  
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 XXIII-1-91, pp. 29-38.

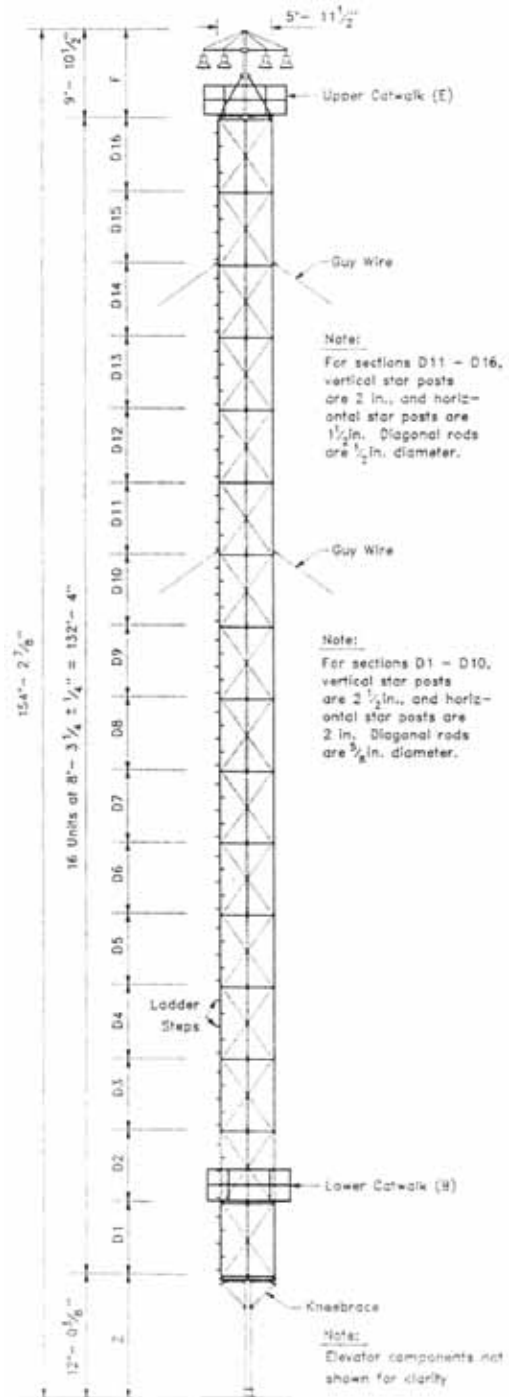
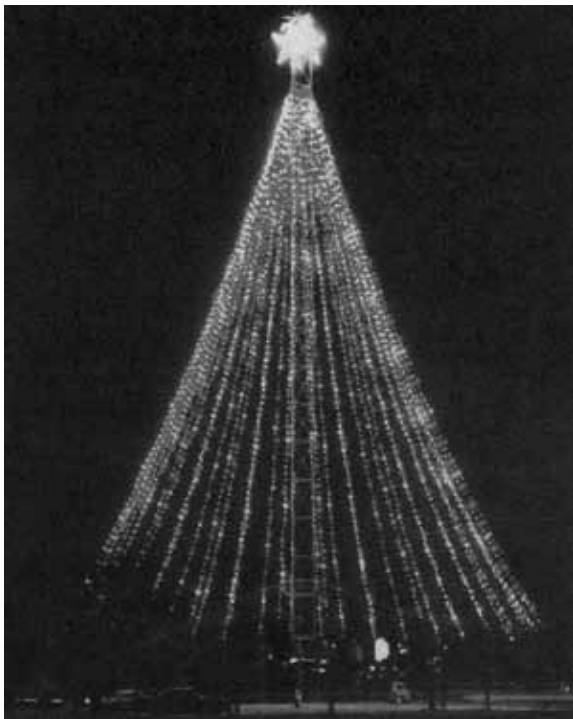




Figure 38. Zilker Park, 2011.

City of Austin. <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/zilker-metropolitan-park>. Accessed 2012.

“Austin’s answer to the Cote d’Azur.”<sup>125</sup> Yet Barton Springs’ water quality began to come to the forefront of local concerns. It quickly became clear that urban growth and construction could threaten the gem of Austin’s parks. This concern was carried into the late-twentieth century and is still of major concern to swimmers at the springs (Figure 37).

Beyond water quality issues, steps to expand connectivity to and throughout the park occurred in the early 1970s. With Lady Bird Johnson as honorary chairperson, the Town Lake Beautification Project cleared overgrown land around the edge of the Colorado River and added several miles of walking trails along the banks of the then recently created Town Lake (now known as Lady Bird Lake).<sup>126</sup> Further park connectivity continued through the construction of the Austin green-

belt throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

Today Zilker Park and Barton Springs still survive as the soul of Austin. The springs are still a favorite hangout and the diversity of the city is reflected in its swimmers and visitors. The main Zilker Park soccer fields, a wide expanse of green grass located between Barton Springs Road and the Colorado River, hosts the Austin City Limits festival each year (Figure 38). Such new, evolving, and perhaps adverse uses and effects test the strength of the park’s historical integrity and its ability to handle change. This will be the challenge for future park caretakers of Zilker Park – not to find a singular design or management strategy but to find a way to reveal that the park system is an evolving set of constantly revised conditions. Just as Zilker Park was created over time to house a heterogeneous mix of activi-



ties, its own history yields information about increased complexity over time and sheds light on current conditions and future trajectories.

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## EXISTING CONDITIONS

General Description  
Landscape Characteristics

Previous Page: Lookout Point, 2012.  
Photograph by Julie D. McGilvray.

The previous section of this report documents the dynamic history of Zilker Park. This history sets the stage for the existing conditions and systems found within the park boundaries and also reveals the temporal and spatial trajectory of the cultural landscape. This chapter documents the current cultural landscape of Zilker Park including the characteristics and systems that represent the interaction between culture and nature.

## **General Description**

Zilker Park is a metropolitan municipal park that lies in central Austin. The park is comprised of 351 acres and is located on the south bank of the Lower Colorado River, also known as Lady Bird Lake. The park is bisected by Barton Springs road, which also provides the main entry and circulation route through the park. Mopac or Loop 1, also intersects the northwest side of the park as an elevated highway. Barton Creek cuts west to east through the southern portion of the park, with parkland stretching from north and south from both banks.

The landscape of Zilker Park is typical of the Balcones Escarpment found in western Austin. Topography consists of rolling, thinly soiled hills and limestone bluffs cut by lower riparian zones with thick soil and clay deposits. Most of the park's acreage is open, well-grassed parkland surrounded by oak, elm, and pecan groves. This is flanked by lower river and creek floodplains characterized by old-growth pecan trees. Spring fed Barton Creek cuts through the southwest edge of the park and consists of exposed limestone, clays, gravels, and other finer sediments. These features and natural systems guided settlement in the area and heavily influenced the evolution of the park. As the park developed, first as a swimming area at Barton Springs, then later

as a growing recreational park, features were added, which reflected common park-building trends of the time.

While these events occurred over a span of at least a century, the resulting park currently functions as a cohesive whole, comprised of fixed forms, open processes, and cultural meaning. These relationships function at different temporal and spatial scales within the park, creating Zilker's expressive qualities and performative nature.

## **Landscape Characteristics**

The following characteristics function together to create the current physical form of Zilker Park. These features and processes create Zilker's systems and shed light on the evolution of the landscape and its significance in Austin's history. While many of these features are singular and may appear as one building, structure, or object, it is important to understand that each contributing element within the park has both a temporal and spatial relationship within its larger field. This may be thought of as an object/field/system approach and consists of understanding each feature or characteristic in terms of its own individual nature, how this nature fits into surrounding fields, and then how these objects and fields function together to create systems. Larger parks, such as Zilker, are comprised of numerous systems. These can be natural, architectural, cultural, political, or even economic. This chapter therefore, does not attempt to create a hierarchy of importance for various landscape characteristics. Rather, the goal is to present a comprehensive look at the various key elements that exist within the park today.

Zilker Park's characteristics will be examined through the areas of study below (Figure 1).<sup>1</sup>

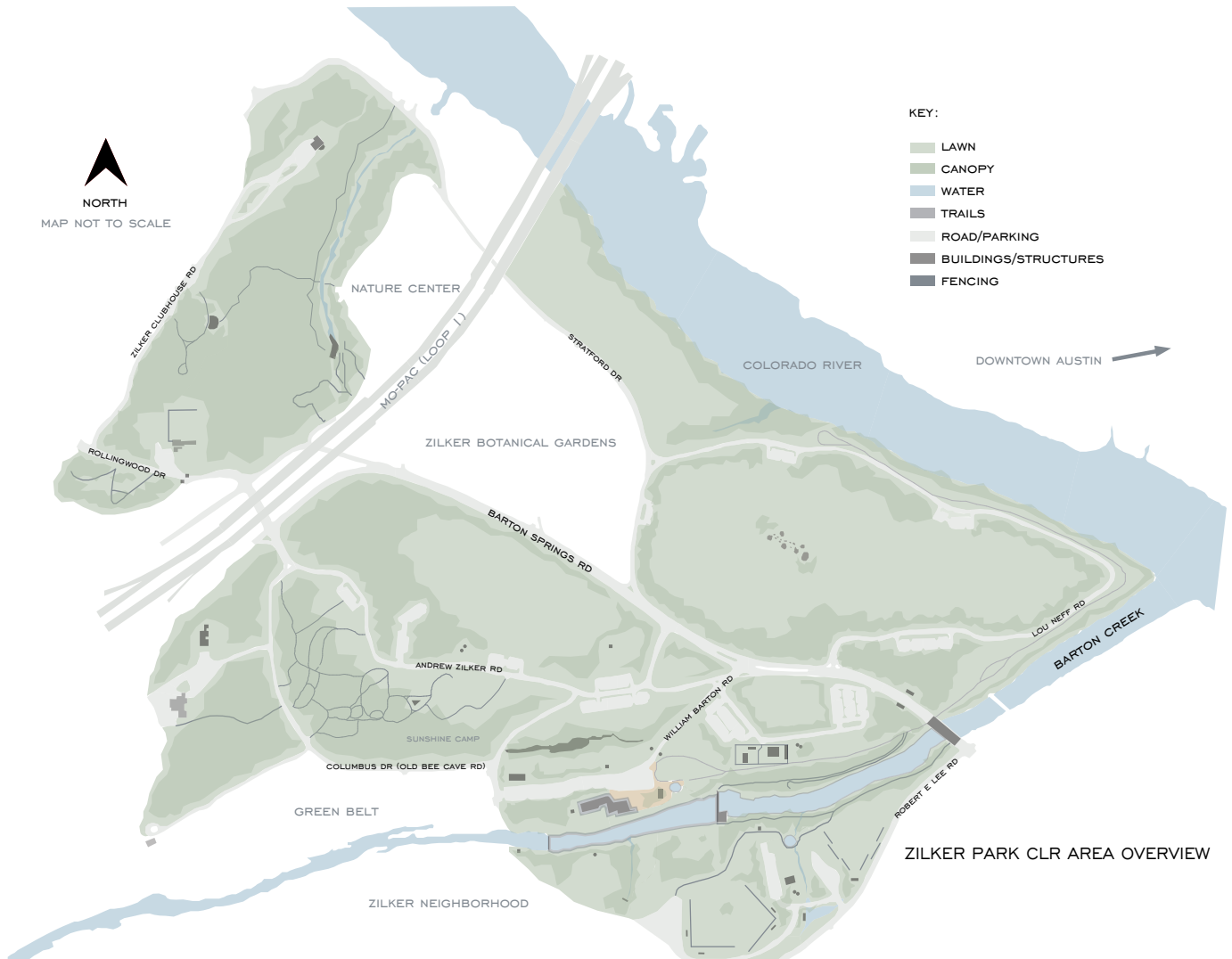


Figure 1. Overview Map of Zilker Park CLR area.  
Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

**Topography, Hydrogeology, and Hydrology:** Geologic and surface water features, patterns, and formations that influence the development of the landscape.

**Spatial Organization:** Clusters or zones of grouped features that function together though programmatic use and/or spatial proximity.

**Land Use:** Current use and program of landforms and areas.

**Vegetation:** Trees, vines, shrubs, grasses, and flowering plants that have either been introduced to the landscape or are native species.

**Circulation:** Structures and features that create planes of movement throughout the landscape. This includes human and animal movement along with natural elements such as water.

**Buildings and Structures:** Buildings are three-dimensional constructs created to house human activity, while structures are constructs usually created for purposes other than human shelter.<sup>2</sup>

**Views and Vistas:** Natural or constructed features that create a range of vision that is an important aspect of the landscape.

**Small Scale Features:** Elements within the park that can provide contextual meaning and/or can be used for practical purposes.

**Archaeological Sites:** Surface and sub-surface artifacts and sites related to historic or prehistoric land use.

**Habitat:** Areas containing ecosystems used by documented endangered and native species.

## Topography, Hydrogeology, and Hydrology

Zilker Park contains rolling, thinly soiled hills, limestone bluffs, and thickly deposited riparian zones. The average elevation of the park

is roughly 475 feet but has a low elevation of approximately 430 feet (Barton Springs/Barton Creek flood plain) and a high point of approximately 545 feet (Old Boy Scout Home/Zilker Clubhouse). The higher elevations in the park are located on the northwest side, while the lower elevations can be found along Barton Creek to the south-southeast and the Colorado River to the north-northeast.

Topography has long guided settlement and habitation within the area of the Zilker Park, with early archaeological deposits found along rich riparian zones with deep soil deposits. Stonier upland regions were later used for agricultural fields or left as woodland zones. The present topographical characteristics in the park are part of the Balcones Escarpment. The Balcones, like all escarpments, is the result of differential erosion, meaning that erosion has occurred at different rates based on parent rock material throughout the area. This rate of erosion is exacerbated by wind and water exposure, thus creating a landscape of varied topographical features.<sup>3</sup>

The Balcones Escarpment is the topographic expression of the Balcones Fault Zone, which includes the Edwards Aquifer. The Balcones Fault zone is several miles wide, running from Del Rio, north in an arc to the Red River. It is comprised of several normal fault lines and separates the higher Edwards Plateau to the west from the lowest coastal plains to the east (Figure 2). Total displacement of the Balcones Fault Zone is approximately 1,200 feet with around 300 feet displacement within the Austin area. The Balcones Escarpment was formed during the Miocene epoch of the Neocene Period of the Cenozoic Era (23.03-5.3 million years ago) and resulted from down-warping in the coastal area with inland uplift.<sup>4</sup>

Several soil types and conditions can be found through Zilker Park's 351 acres. The Barton



Figure 2. Landscape Characteristic Map and contributing elements - Area A:  
Topography/Hydrology.  
Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

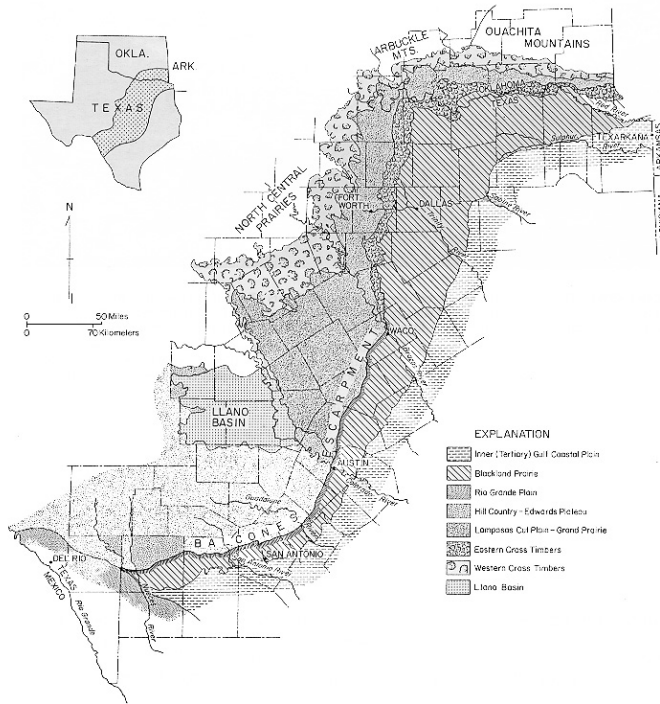
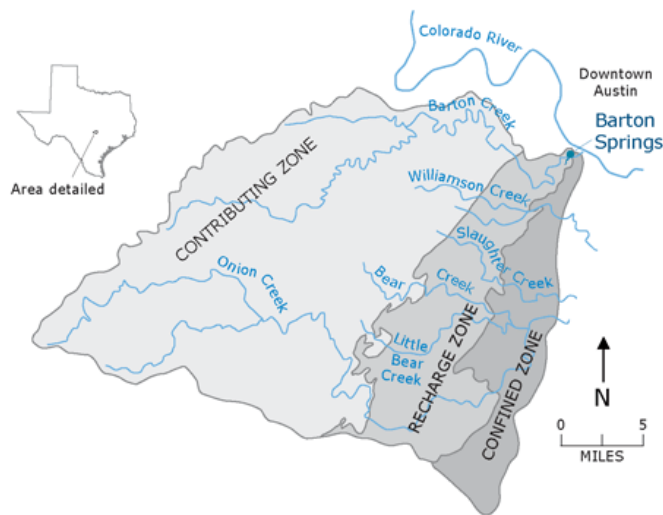


Figure 3. Physiographic Provinces along the Balcones Escarpment. Crediting Bureau of Economic Geology, The University of Texas at Austin.



adapted from USGS fact sheet 2011-3035, May 2011

Figure 4. Contributing and Recharge Zones of Barton Springs, Austin, Texas. Eckhardt, Greg. "Hydrogeology of the Edwards Aquifer". [www.edwardsaquifer.net](http://www.edwardsaquifer.net). Accessed May, 2012. Crediting USGS.



Creek floodplain steps are primarily comprised of Holocene-age loamy alluvium from mixed sources and are comprised of silty clay loam and clay loam up to 80 inches deep. The stream terraces of the Lower Colorado River and Barton Creek consists of mixed loamy alluvium and/or loamy eolian soils of quaternary age consisting of fine sandy loam or silt loam up to 60 inches deep. As elevation increases within the park, moving away from the riparian plane to the northwest, soils shift to alluvium derived from limestone and to residuum weathered from limestone. The alluvium consists of clay loam and silty clay in deposits of up to 54 inches, while the residuum consists of stony clay (up to eight inches) or bedrock. The highest points in the park consist of residuum from limestone and are comprised of very stony clays up to 6 inches over bedrock.<sup>5</sup>

The Edwards Aquifer is part of the larger geologic formation of the Balcones Fault system. The aquifer consists of a group of faulted heterogenetic limestones called the Edwards formation. Ground water can be found deep within the honeycombed limestone and is pushed to the surface by hydraulic pressure, forming the many springs in the area. The contributing zones of the aquifer are found throughout the western hill country, while recharge zones are found west of San Antonio, running north to Austin along the fault zone line.<sup>6</sup>

The four springs found at Barton Springs within Barton Creek are part of the Edwards Aquifer system. The major contributing zone to Barton Springs is found just southwest of Austin, while 85 percent of Barton Springs water comes from six surface creeks south-southwest of Zilker Park. These creeks are Barton Creek, Onion Creek, Slaughter Creek, Bear Creek, Little Bear Creek, and Williamson Creek (Figure 3).<sup>7</sup>

Surface hydrology of Zilker Park consists primarily of Barton Creek, a tributary of the Lower Colorado River. Barton Creek is approximately 40 miles long, starting six miles northeast of Dripping Springs, Texas, and ending at the Lower Colorado River or Lady Bird Lake in Austin. As mentioned above, it is in the recharge zone of the Edwards Aquifer, and feeds into Barton Springs. Barton Springs water resurfaces back into the creek at four points within or near the Barton Creek bed. The bed, like the surrounding landscape is of limestone. Much of the creek is ephemeral, however, the springs area is always flowing.<sup>8</sup> While daily flow of Barton Springs fluctuates, the average discharge for 2012 is approximately 78 cubic feet per second.<sup>9</sup>

### **Spatial Organization**

Zilker Park's spatial organization is defined by both landscape features such as topography, hydrology, and vegetation, along with cultural systems that have been added to the park over time. Spatial organization includes boundaries and particular zones within the park.

Zilker Park is defined by both hard and soft boundary edges. Hard boundary edges include the Lower Colorado River to the north and northeast along with portions of Barton Creek, from the river to the Barton Springs Road Bridge. From there the south-southeastern boundary of the park follows Robert E. Lee Road, turning northwest along Barton Hills Drive. This intersection between Robert E. Lee Road and Barton Hills Drive creates the southern tip of the parkland. Other edges within the park are softer, and blend easily into the surrounding neighborhoods or natural spaces. This includes most of the western and northern edges of the park, which either terminate into the Barton Creek Greenbelt or private land (Figure 4).



Figure 5. Landscape Characteristic Map and contributing elements - Area B:  
Spatial Organization.

Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

Specific zones or clusters within the park are generally dedicated to specific activities and include: Barton Springs, the ball fields south of Barton Springs, the soccer fields, the rock garden area, the polo fields, the Zilker Clubhouse area, and the Columbus Drive area. Other clusters include the Zilker Nature center, the Botanical Gardens, and the Sunshine Camp and are not included in this report (Figure 5).

#### *Barton Springs Zone*

The Barton Springs zone is defined by areas with direct access to Barton Creek, Barton Springs, or activities associated with these features. The zone is comprised of the swimming areas, bathing lawns, play areas, parking, and the Zilker Zephyr area. It also includes a concession stand, seating, and the former Zilker Caretaker's house (now a workshop/storage area for the park). The concession area overlooks the swimming area and creek below. Access and circulation throughout this zone is limited to foot, bicycle, or boat (along the creek), except in the parking areas located on the north side of the Barton Springs Bathhouse.

#### *Ball Field Zone*

This zone is located south of Barton Springs and Barton Creek. It is bounded by Robert E. Lee Road to the south, Barton Springs Road to the east-northeast, and private land and Barton Hills Road to the west. The zone contains open fields, primarily dedicated to baseball, along with parking areas, and public restrooms. This zone also includes the old mill site/Sunken Gardens area along with numerous prehistoric and historic archaeological sites (including the Rabb home site, remnants of the old Bee Caves Road alignment, and the Barton Springs Bridge Abutment). The area has also been planted with large pecan trees, providing shade and recreational areas

throughout the zone. While this zone contains areas for multiple use, its primary function is that of recreation and play. It can be accessed by foot, automobile, or bicycle.

#### *The Soccer Fields Zone*

The soccer fields are comprised of large lawns used for sports practice and play. The lawns are surrounded by lines of trees and picnic tables, parking lots, and access drives. The zone is divided by Barton Springs road and the main entrance to the park. The large fields within this zone are often used for large events such as the Austin Kite Festival or the Austin City Limits (ACL) music festival.

#### *Rock Garden Zone*

This area is located on a small limestone ridge just north of the Barton Springs parking area. The zone is named after the rock gardens built into the hillside by New Deal funding in 1934. While the remnants of the garden can still be found along the ridge, the zone is now used for picnicking, both on top of the ridge and on the lower lawn area, or as an outdoor theatre (Zilker Hillside Theatre). Access throughout this zone is by foot only, however it is surrounded by parking areas for easy access.

#### *Polo Field Zone*

The polo field zone is located on the southwest side of Barton Springs Road and is bisected by Andrew Zilker Road and parking areas. The zone consists of a large field surrounded by woodland areas dotted with picnic tables and a large disc golf course. The remnants of an old stone amphitheatre can be found within the wooded areas of the zone, along with the Sunshine Camp. This zone is used for light recreation and picnicking.

### *Zilker Clubhouse Zone*

This zone is located on the northwest side of the park and is anchored by the Zilker Clubhouse (formerly the Boys Scout Lodge). The area is heavily forested and consists of two lookouts (Lookout Point and the Zilker Clubhouse lawn and decking). The clubhouse can be reached from Zilker Clubhouse Road, which runs northeast from Rollingwood Drive. The zone is used primarily for special events or visited by hikers from the Nature Center. Other features in this zone include a picnic area located on the south side of Rollingwood Drive, the old pistol range, and Mirror Pond. Hiking trails are found throughout this zone and the area is accessible by foot, automobile (to the Zilker Clubhouse), or bicycle.

### *Columbus Drive Zone*

This zone is located on the western side of the park along Columbus drive. It consists of heavily wooded land and two main building clusters. The southern cluster is the Girl Scout Cabin and camp area, which is located at the southwest edge of the park. It is still in use and occupied throughout the summer by scouts. The other building cluster is the former Knights of Columbus Regional Headquarters (now the McBeth Recreation Center and Annex). Both building clusters can be reached by paved drives heading west-southwest from Columbus Drive. Both areas are for special use and not open for general park recreation.

### *Infrastructural Features*

Park infrastructure is found throughout these zones, but is heavily concentrated in the Barton Springs zone. This not only includes park maintenance, concessions, and the heavily used Barton Springs bathhouse, which includes an interpretive exhibit and visitor's area, but also includes and underground water routing sys-

tem, known as the Barton Springs bypass culvert. The historic-age system was developed to allow creek water to bypass the dammed swimming area. While this system is hidden from view, it is still part of the contributing resources of the park. Other, not yet surveyed or inventoried systems, may also be included in this category and may be added at a future date.

### **Land Use**

Zilker Park is currently used as a recreational, educational, performance, and ceremonial space (Figure 6). Recreational areas include Barton Springs, Barton Creek, the ball fields, the soccer fields, the polo fields, the Zilker Clubhouse area, and the building clusters located along Columbus road. Activities in these areas include but are not limited to: swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, people watching, sports (soccer, football, tennis, disc golf, etc.), kite flying, and hiking.

Educational areas can be found throughout the park and include the exhibits at Barton Springs, Barton Springs Salamander habitat sites, and interpretive information about local plantings found throughout the park. The Nature Center and the Botanical Gardens are also educational spaces but are not included in this report.

Performance land use areas primarily include the soccer fields and the Zilker Hillside theatre located just below the Rock Garden site. These areas are used for concerts, plays, and other performances throughout the year.

Ceremonial land use includes spaces that are used for weddings and other special events. The Zilker Clubhouse is a favorite for special events, with ample parking and a clear view of downtown Austin.



Figure 6. Landscape Characteristic Map and contributing elements - Area C:  
Land Use.

Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

Small sections of Zilker Park are also used for offices, security, vehicles, and storage. These areas are primarily located at the Barton Springs bathhouse and the Caretakers lodge close to the springs. The Austin Police Department also has a station at the McBeth Recreation Center along Columbus Road.

## Vegetation

The landscape of Zilker Park is represents characteristics found within the Blackland Prairie and Edwards Plateau Ecoregions of Texas. The land consists of rolling hills to flat open areas cut with creeks and drainages. The typical elevation range for the Blackland Prairie ecoregion is roughly 300-800 feet above sea level with approximately 30-40 inches of rainfall each year, with May as the wettest month. Typical elevation of the Edwards Plateau is higher, with a range of 600-3,000 feet with less rainfall at 23-35 inches per year.<sup>10</sup>

Historically, the Blackland Prairie region was covered in tall grasses such as little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), big bluestem (*Andropogon gerardii*), Indiangrass (*Sorghastrum nutans*), switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*), hairy grama (*Bouteloua hirsute*), tall dropseed (*Sporobolus asper*), and Texas wintergrass (*Nassella leucotricha*). During decades of heavy grazing, dominant grasses included Texas wintergrass (*Nassella leucotricha*), buffalo grass (*Bouteloua dactyloides*), and Texas grama (*Bouteloua rigidisetia*). The most common tree is the live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), but other oaks, American elm (*Ulmus americana*), honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) are also common.<sup>11</sup>

The Edward's Plateau ecoregion shares some similarities with the Blackland Prairie ecoregion. The Edward's Plateau is covered in a variety of grasses intermixed with woodlands

comprised of live oak (*Quercus virginiana*), honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), and ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*). Over the rocky uplands and canyonlands to the west, hardy trees such as the Texas mountain laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*) and lacey oak (*Quercus laceyi*) also thrive. Creek and springs areas within the Edward's Plateau contain Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*), sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*), and black willow (*Salix nigra*).<sup>12</sup>

Due to its predominantly urban environment, the vegetation of Zilker Park has changed over the years as Austin has grown. While the special plantings placed within the park during the 1930s have largely disappeared, a managed native planting scheme can be found throughout the parklands today. Currently, the vegetation found throughout the park can be placed roughly into four planting groups: Native trees, shrubs, and grasses as woodland; Native trees as prospect-refuge; grassed lawns; and small planting zones. These planting groups respond directly to the City of Austin's efforts to use native, drought tolerant vegetation throughout city parks, while respecting the historic layout of the park. While this management plan may not match the more exotic plants once used during for the 1930s-era designs in the park, it does reflect the more native ecosystem of Zilker's pre-park and early-park days.

### *Native Trees, Shrubs, and Grasses as Woodland*

There are several areas within Zilker Park that appear as wilder woodland zones. These are located between Andrew Jackson Road and Columbus Drive; the area west of Columbus Drive; and the land nestled between the Zilker Clubhouse and the Nature Center. These zones are thickly vegetated with oak, mesquite, elm, and cedar and are in upland areas of the park.



Figure 7. Landscape Characteristic Map and contributing elements - Area D: Vegetation.  
Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

### *Native Trees and Lawns as Prospect-Refuge*

This planting type consists of native trees planted around the edges of large lawns such as the polo fields and soccer fields. The tree cover (primarily live oak and pecan) provides much needed shade and areas for observation and picnicking. This planting type is based on the well-known prospect-refuge theory put forth by Jay Appleton in 1975. The theory states that humans respond best to the interstitial areas created between prospect (open, visually unimpeded landscapes) and refuge (closed, visually impeded landscapes) areas. Such places can be created through the use of trees planted near open spaces, creating a zone with a clear view while providing concealment and privacy at the same time. Zilker's large fields are surrounded by these zones, some thickly planted and some consisting of a single row of shade trees. The effect creates a visually pleasing landscape and multi-use areas within the same zone.

### *Grassed Lawns*

While grassed lawns are a component to the prospect-refuge type above, they also perform on their own providing a place for sports practice, play, sunbathing, and observation (during plays, performances, and general people watching). These lawns are planted with short grasses and require extensive subgrade irrigation systems.

### *Small Planting Zones*

These are typically located around buildings, objects, and structures, and consist of flowers, vines, and shrubs. Barton Springs bathhouse has several planters located along the sides of the building as well as others located along the

walkways in front of the building. Other special planting areas can be found at the Zilker Park Clubhouse (small built-in planters along the exterior walls), the Zilker Park Gates located on Barton Springs, and at the McBeth Recreation Center off of Columbus road. Built-in wall planters were a common architectural feature of the early- to mid-twentieth century.

### **Circulation**

The circulation system within Zilker Park is comprised of paved roads, two track roads, surfaced hiking and biking trails, and narrow footpaths. Traces of historic roads are also evident in the park. Water drainage systems often intersect roadways, and consist of culverts, headwall, drains, and swales.

The main access point into to the park is via Barton Springs road. The four-lane paved street bisects the park and runs in a northwest/southeast alignment. The main entrance to the park is located on the southeast side of the park and is flanked by an asymmetrical entrance gateway constructed in 1934. Secondary paved roads include: Lou Neff Road (surrounding the soccer fields); Stratford Drive (surround the Botanical Gardens and providing access to the Nature Center); Nature Center Drive (surrounding the Nature Center); William Barton Drive (located to the southwest of Barton Springs Road and providing access to Barton Springs); Andrew Zilker Road (located to the west of Barton Springs Road and providing access to the polo fields); Columbus Drive (located west of Andrew Zilker Road and providing access to the McBeth Recreation Center and the Girl Scout cabin); Rollingwood Drive (located at the terminus of Barton Springs Road under Mopac or Loop 1); and, Zilker Clubhouse Road (running northeast from Rollingwood Drive and providing access to Lookout Point and the Zilker Clubhouse).



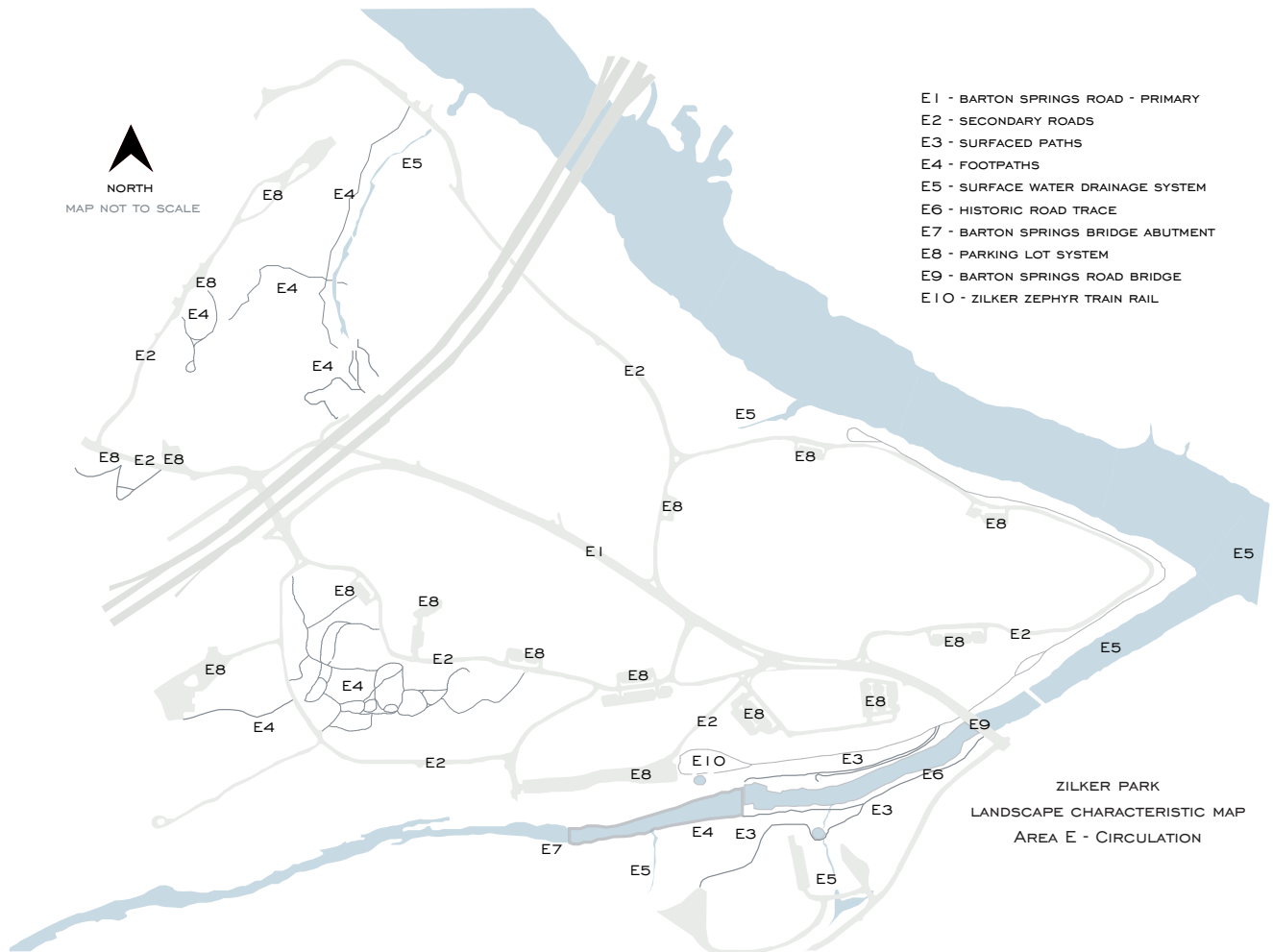


Figure 8. Landscape Characteristic Map and contributing elements - Area E: Circulation.

Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

Surfaced Trails include portions of the hike and bike trail/Barton Springs Greenbelt trails that cut through the Barton Creek area just east of Barton Springs. Numerous paths and hiking trails can be found throughout the park in almost every zone.

Historic roadways and bridge remnants are located on the south bank of Barton Creek. These consist of a road trace located just north of Robert E. Lee Road and east of the main baseball fields. This road may predate the park but may also be part of park developments during the late 1930s. The historic bridge remnant is located on the west end of Barton Springs. It is known as the Barton Springs Bridge Abutment as was constructed in 1889. Evidence of a small road and associated culvert can be found just south of the bridge abutment and the Rabb property in a heavily wooded drainage.

Numerous small drainage systems can be found near roadways in the park. These primarily consist of culverts and headwalls and are constructed of either concrete or limestone and mortar. These small structures are associated with small earthen swales draining into Barton Creek and the Lower Colorado River.

### **Buildings and Structures**

Most of the buildings and structures currently found within Zilker Park date from the early-to mid-twentieth century. However, the earliest original structure in the park is the Barton Springs Bridge Abutment. The abutment was part of an arched stone bridge constructed in 1889 and destroyed during a flood in 1900. Other early structures in the park include the Elks Pit at Eliza Springs (1910), original improvements to the Barton Springs bathing area, dating from the early 1920s, and the Bar-

ton Springs Bridge, constructed in 1926. Improvements to Barton Springs occurred again in the late 1920s and early 1930s, consisting of the creation of a “pool” with a concrete dam on either end of the designated swimming area, flanked by a concrete walkway, and low retaining walls of concrete and stone. The Zilker Caretaker’s Lodge was constructed of local stone in 1929.

During the 1930s, a major building push occurred in the park using federal relief aid through several agencies. These buildings and structures are generally built in the rustic style using native stone and wood and are heavily influenced by National Park Service designers and park inspectors overseeing Zilker improvement projects during that decade. Buildings constructed during this period include the Zilker Park Clubhouse (old Boy Scout home), the Girl Scout cabin, and the conversion of the police pistol range into restrooms. Structures constructed during the 1930s include: the asymmetrical Zilker Park entry gateway, the rock gardens, the Rollingwood low water crossing bridge abutments, a stone amphitheatre located west of Andrew Zilker Road, the Sunken Gardens, the stone overlook (Observation Point) near the Zilker Clubhouse, and the Mirror Pond.

Buildings and structures constructed in the 1940s include the Barton Springs bathhouse (1947) and improvements to the Barton Springs Bridge (1946).

1950s and 60s architectural additions include the buildings comprising the McBeth Recreational Center and Annex (formerly the Knights of Columbus Regional Headquarters), the current concession stand at Barton Springs, a fallout shelter located at the Caretaker’s Lodge, and two concrete restroom buildings (one of which is located by the Zilker

Caretaker's Lodge and the other is located near the polo fields).

As mentioned above, the Sunshine Camp (ca. 1934), the Zilker Botanical Gardens (ca. 1965), and the Nature Center (ca. 1980) are not included in this report.

The architecture and structures found within Zilker Park span several decades and stylistic influences. Noted stylistic influences include the National Park Service rustic, Deco, Moderne, and late Modernism. Materials used throughout the park are primarily of local origin. This includes limestone, brick, other native stone, and concrete.

The program of several of these buildings and structures has remained the same. This includes Barton Springs and Bathhouse, the Girl Scout Cabin, the Barton Springs Bridge, the low bridge at Rollingwood, the Zilker Hillside Theatre area (though renovated over time), the entrance gateway on Barton Springs, the stone Lookout Point, and the concession area near Barton Springs. Buildings and structures with new programs include the Zilker Clubhouse (formerly the Boy Scout Home), the McBeth Recreation Center and Annex (formerly the Knights of Columbus Regional Headquarters), the Zilker Caretakers Lodge (currently under renovation for a new proposed use), the Elks Pit at Eliza Springs (now a Salamander Habitat), the Sunken Gardens (now a Salamander Habitat), and the Barton Springs Bridge Abutment (now an archaeological feature). Abandoned or unused buildings and structures include the Mirror Pond area, the Rock Garden, the skeet concession building.

### **Views and Vistas**

The topography of Zilker Park provides multiple opportunities for clear views, vistas, and viewsheds. The Zilker Clubhouse and

the nearby overlook are constructed to face downtown Austin. Several other areas within the park also provide clear views of the city skyline. These include: the view from Barton Creek (including Barton Springs); the view of downtown from the soccer fields (often made famous in photographs of the ACL music festival and annual Austin Kite Festival); and the view of downtown from the polo fields. The area surrounding Barton Springs is also an important viewshed. This area has been protected from development for over 50 years, and survives intact, creating a tree-lined, naturalistic pool edge. The view onto the Barton Springs Greenbelt from the Girl Scout Cabin contains an important viewshed as the Girl Scout Cabin was constructed on a well-known lookout point and the building is oriented to take advantage of the naturalistic views.

Important viewsheds into the park include the Zilker Christmas tree, which is lit every December and constructed on the frame and guy lines of a relocated Moonlight tower, placed in the park in 1967. The lit tree can be seen at night during the month of December from the Zilker neighborhood, downtown Austin, Mopac (Loop 1), the Rollingwood neighborhood, and the Zilker Overlook Point and Clubhouse.

### **Small Scale Features**

Small-scale features include the concrete picnic tables located throughout the park. These are either grouped or stand as single units. They were constructed during the 1930s. Other small-scale features include water fountains located near trails or picnic table groupings and barbecue/outdoor cooking grills. The grills are constructed of limestone and mortar and are typical of rustic style grills found in both national and state parks. The grills and cook areas date from the 1930s.

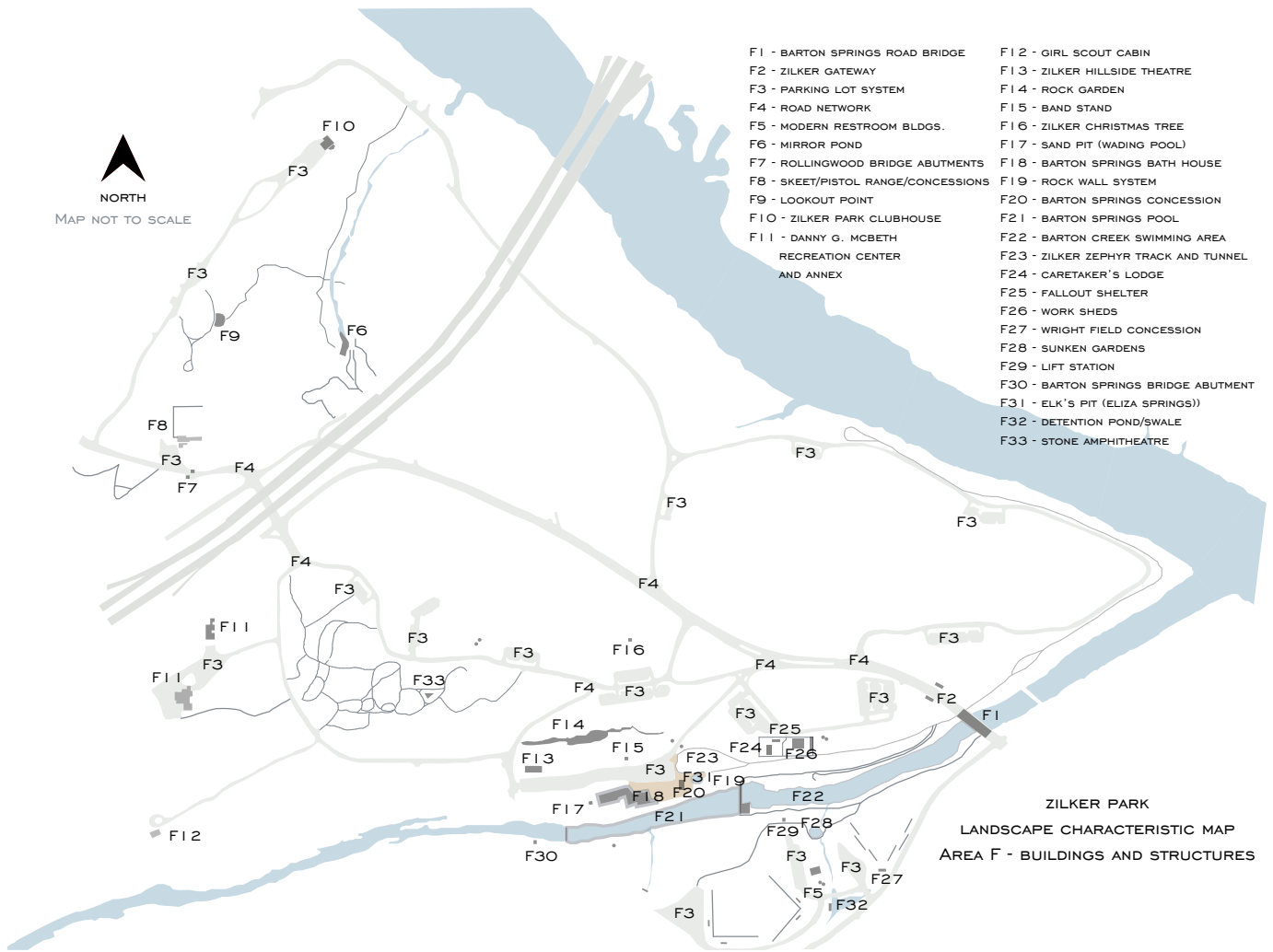


Figure 9. Landscape Characteristic Map and contributing elements - Area F: Buildings and Structures.  
Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

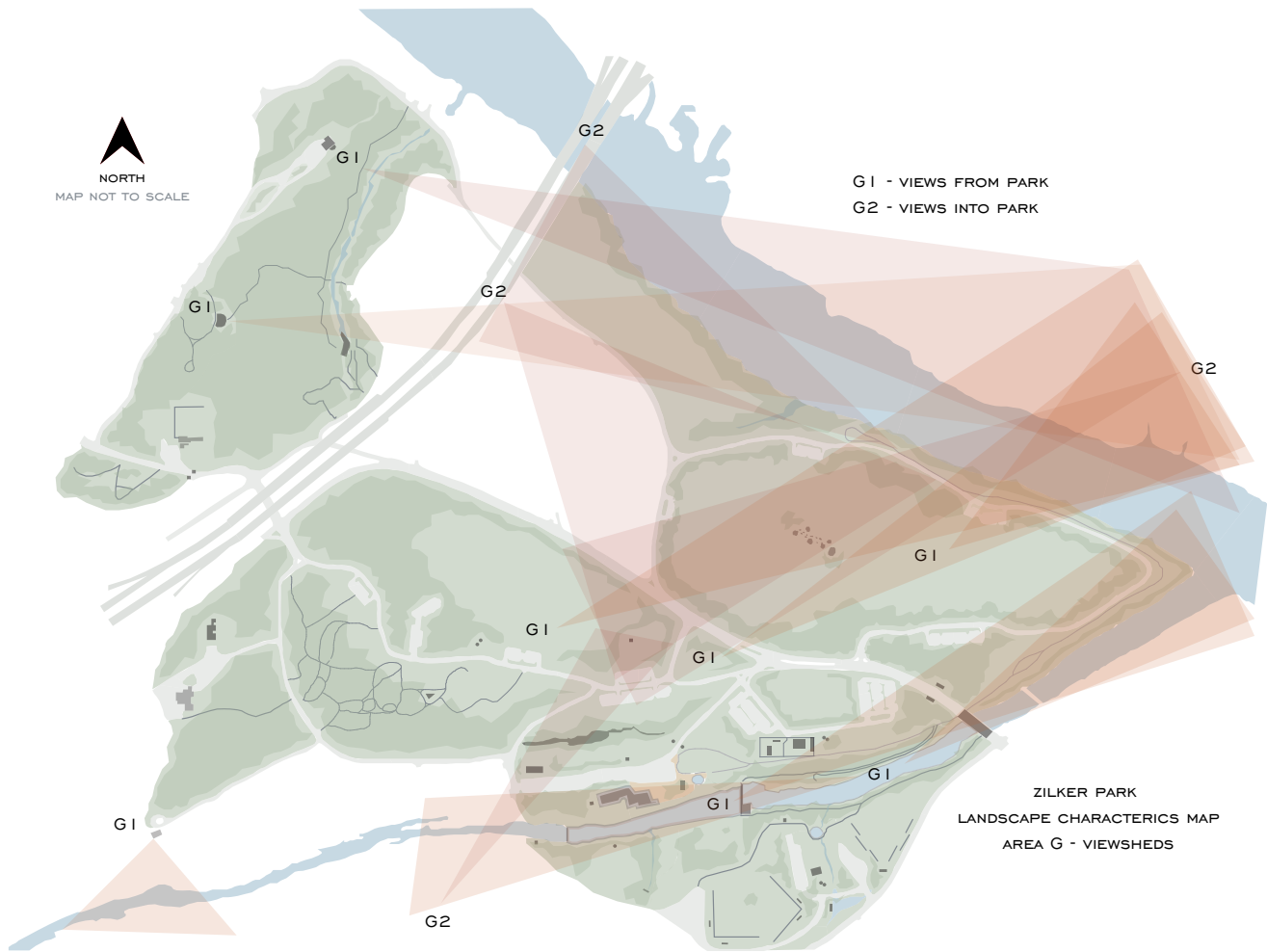


Figure 10. Landscape Characteristic Map and contributing elements - Area G: Viewsheds.

Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Figure 11. Landscape Characteristic Map and contributing elements - Area H:  
Small Scale Features.

Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

Signage within the park is newly constructed. This includes interpretive areas for Barton Springs and the Barton Springs Salamander habitats.

### Archaeological Sites

Zilker Park lands contain both historic and prehistoric sites. The Rabb home site is a historic site with remnant features dating from the 1860s (41TV689). As mentioned above, the Barton Springs Bridge Abutment, dating from 1889, is also a recorded archaeological site (41TV690). Other deep deposits are located along the floodplain of Barton Creek, its confluence with the Lower Colorado River, and along creeks and drainages within the park. Recorded prehistoric archaeological sites include: 41TV2, 41TV1364, and 41TV85, 41TV1343, and 41TV183.<sup>13</sup>

### Habitat

Barton Springs is home to the Barton Springs Salamander (*Eurycea sosorum*). It is an endangered species and was listed on April 30, 1997. The salamander is small, with a total length of approximately two and a half inches. They are typically pale in color (pink, beige, purple) with a slight mottling, giving them a “salt and pepper” look. External gills are located at the back of head and are red in color. The salamanders are entirely aquatic and live at the spring outflows in the Barton Springs pool area, at the old Elks Pit at Eliza Springs, and possibly in at the Sunken Gardens. They generally live under rocks or aquatic plants and can live in depths of up to 15 feet. They feed on amphipods and other small aquatic animals.<sup>14</sup>

It is important to note that the Barton Springs Salamander habitat sites are also contributing historic features of Zilker Park. The discovery and monitoring of the habitat areas has altered the program and use of the Elks Pit at Eliza

Springs and the Sunken Gardens. The evolving use of historic features can become a key element to park resource preservation as program evolves over time.

Zilker Park also provides key habitat to the local wildlife population including numerous avian species, deer, raccoons, opossum, squirrel, and fox, along with numerous amphibians, reptiles, and insects. Most of these animals stay hidden in the woodland zones of the park. Their presence is key to creating and maintaining a healthy ecosystem and contributes to native plant diversity.

### Endnotes

1 Each definition (excluding Habitat) was taken directly from the *Cultural Landscape Report for Booker T. Washington National Monument* created by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Prepared by Lisa Nowak, H. Eliot Foulds, and Philip D. Troutman.

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## ANALYSIS

An Overview of National Register of Historic Places

Types, Integrity, and Significance

Current National Register of Historic Places Status of Zilker Park

Evaluation of Cultural Landscape Integrity

Previous Page: Sunken Gardens, 2012.  
Photograph by Julie D. McGilvray.

## An Overview of National Register of Historic Places Types, Integrity, and Significance

The *Barton Springs Archaeological and Historical District* and *Zilker Historic District* National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nominations followed the standards set forth for and defined by the National Park Service (NPS). These nominations provide specific sets of data, which includes information about the historical significance of a property, a historical context, an inventory of all property types that contribute to eligibility, character defining features, and important dates. These categories will be defined in more detail below. Thus, an NRHP nomination can be thought of as a descriptive tool.

While a cultural landscape report (CLR) contains much of the same descriptive data found within a NRHP nomination, the property types are arranged through their overlapping systems, referred to as landscape characteristics. This arrangement of systems allows property types to interface where necessary, thus providing a more realistic image of a functioning environment. Further, a CLR contains detailed analytic data and specific treatment plans for targeted areas of a landscape. Thus, a cultural landscape report builds upon the information set forth in a NRHP nomination, creating the prescriptive framework for later preservation action and treatment.

### *NRHP Categories of Historic Property Types*

Key components in historic landscapes may include buildings, structures, objects, and sites. These may be grouped or clustered into districts with components or features that ei-

ther contribute or do not contribute to historical significance. These types are defined by the NPS as:<sup>1</sup>

**Buildings:** A building, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction, is created principally to shelter any form of human activity. “Building” may also be used to refer to a historically and functionally related unit, such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn.

**Structure:** The term “structure” is used to distinguish from buildings those functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating human shelter.

**Object:** The term “object” is used to distinguish from buildings and structures those constructions that are primarily artistic in nature or are relatively small in scale and simply constructed. Although it may be, by nature or design, movable, an object is associated with a specific setting or environment.

**Site:** A site is the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined, or vanished, where the location itself possesses historical, cultural, or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

**District:** A district possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

While these property types are generally accepted and used to describe historic resources, they do not always apply well to landscape and complex systems. Due to this, it is important to use discretion and sensitivity to the specific

resource or landscape in order to create appropriate type for historic properties. Some flexibility with creating new property types is allowed as long as the newly created category refers back to the standard NPS types listed above.

Standard NPS property types were used in this report and can be found in Table 1 of the Existing Conditions section.

### *Integrity*

Once appropriate property types are chosen for a historic property, integrity of each resource must be assessed to determine if the resource is able to relay its historical significance (defined below). Categories of integrity include:<sup>2</sup>

**Location:** The place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred.

**Design:** The combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property.

**Setting:** The physical environment of a historic property.

**Materials:** The physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property.

**Workmanship:** The physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory.

**Feeling:** A property's expression of the aesthetic or historical sense of a particular period of time.

**Association:** The direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.

A particular property or landscape does not need to express all of the above to retain sufficient levels of historic integrity. Rather, understanding integrity is a case-by-case analysis of each feature, to determine if sufficient integrity remains and which components are essential. Slow chipping away of integrity can decrease National Register eligibility of single properties along with their role in a larger landscape.

### *Significance*

Significance helps define integrity and assigns historic importance to a specific landscape, building, structure, object, site, or district and must relate to at least one of the following criteria:<sup>3</sup>

**Criterion A: Event** - Properties can be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

**Criterion B: Person** - Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

**Criterion C: Design/Construction** - Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

**Criterion D: Information Potential** - Properties may be eligible for the National Register if they have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Typically resources must be at least 50 years of age to be considered historic-age.

## Current National Register of Historic Places Status of Zilker Park

The landscape of Zilker Park and Barton Springs are currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Listings were completed in two separate nominations. The first was for the *Barton Springs Archaeological and Historical District*, listed in 1985. The second listing encompassed the rest of Zilker Park, known as the *Zilker Park Historic District* and was listed in 1997. Other relevant National Register listings include *Austin Moonlight Towers* multiple property listing, completed in 1970. This listing includes the Zilker Christmas Tree Moonlight Tower, relocated to the park in 1967.

Together, the three National Register Nominations and listings catch most of the resources within the park. Due to a cut-off date of 1997, several properties evaluated in this report are not considered contributing elements within the nominations. These resources include the McBeth Recreation Center and Annex (formerly the Knights of Columbus Regional Headquarters, constructed in 1955); the ca. 1965 public restrooms located in three areas within the park; the Barton Springs Concession area (1960s); the Zilker Caretaker's Lodge Fallout Shelter (ca. 1965); and the network of roads and parking areas throughout the park (ca. 1940). The Zilker Botanical Gardens (1965) and the Taniguchi Gardens (1969) were also excluded from the *Zilker Park Historic District* due to age. As mentioned above, these resources were not included in this report due to an out-of-scope of work agreed upon by the author and the City of Austin before this project began. Two historic-age cabins relocated to the park were also excluded from this report. It is recommended that all excluded resources be added to this report as time and funding permit.

Other resources that were not included in any of the nominations include: recorded archaeological sites 41TV1364, 41TV85, and 41TV183; a ca. 1934 stone amphitheatre located within the woodland area west of Andrew Zilker Road; multiple culverts and swales (ca. 1935); multiple limestone and mortar water fountains; and a possible road trace located in the southeast section of the park near Robert E. Lee Road.

While the *Zilker Park Historic District* and *Barton Springs Archaeological and Historical District* nominations should be updated to include resources that have been discovered or have recently turned 50 years of age and reflect an expanded period of significance, the nominations as a whole represent the long history of the park well.

### *Areas and Periods of Significance*

The *Barton Springs Archaeological and Historical District* (1985) is focused on the development of the Barton Springs area over time. The period of significance is 6500 B.C. to 1946 A.D. Areas of significance are:<sup>4</sup>

**Criterion A: Event** - Use of the Barton Springs area as an event sequence over time. The continual use of the springs as a settlement site contributed greatly to evolution of the area.

**Criterion B: Person** - The Zilker amphitheatre (referred to in this report as the Elk's Pit at Eliza Springs) is associated with Andrew J. Zilker and reflects his civic contributions to the area.

**Criterion D: Information Potential** - Numerous archaeological sites found around Barton Springs have the potential to yield further information about settlement patterns in central Texas. The nomination includes sites 41TV2, 41TV690, and 41TV689.

The *Zilker Park Historic District* (1997) is focused on the development of Zilker Park and its relationship with Barton Springs over time. The period of significance is 1917 to 1947. Areas of significance are:<sup>5</sup>

**Criterion A: Event** – In the areas of Conservation, Entertainment, and Recreation at the local level. This includes Zilker Park’s role as a popular recreation park for over 60 years and for its association with significant park design movements throughout the early years of the twentieth century (the recreation movement, the reform park movement, and New Deal program funding, design, and workmanship).

**Criterion C: Design/Construction** – In the areas of architecture and landscape architecture at the local level. This includes the significance of design elements found throughout the park, which represent a designed landscape type associated with the Reform Park Movement and Depression-era public works programs.

## Evaluation of Cultural Landscape Integrity

As discussed above, integrity is the ability of a historic property to convey its historical meaning, identity, and significance. Evaluation of that integrity consists of the existing condition of a resource when contrasted with its former condition (during its established period of significance). Integrity is assessed through location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

For the purposes of this report and to understand Zilker Park in terms of contributing element integrity and based on the findings in the *Barton Spring Archeological and Historical District* and the *Zilker Park Historic District* National Register of Historic Places nomination findings, the periods of significance and development will be combined and expanded to reflect

recent discoveries and resources which have recently turned 50 years of age or are close to this mark. Integrity with respect to each period will be discussed below and a complete list of all landscape categories and contributing elements can be found in Table 1.

### Prehistoric Period: 10,000 BP – 1530 AD

The Prehistoric Period is represented through archaeological sites found within the park boundaries. The sites have been studied since the 1920s, with the last major excavation occurring in 2010. These sites are primarily located within deep soil deposits within the park and are likely to yield further information in the future. Due to their deep soil locations, most of the sites retain a high level of integrity. Sites located near the surface or with exposed artifacts have not fared as well and have been looted.

### Early Historic Period: 1530 AD – 1836 AD

The early historic period begins with records of the Spanish in the area around Barton Springs. This data cannot be physically verified. By 1731, records also indicate that the Spanish constructed a mission on the land around Barton Creek. No ruins have been located. Due to the lack of any physical trace or artifact scatter dating to this time period, it lacks all aspects of integrity. Archival information is the only data currently covering this period.

### Republic of Texas and Early Statehood Period: 1836- 1880.

The Barton Springs area was surveyed and William Barton constructed a cabin on the south banks of Barton Creek by the late 1830s. Under Barton’s ownership, several mills were constructed along the banks of Barton Creek. While these sites no longer exist, archival data such as maps and photographs show the general location of several of these features. Fur-

ther, mill signage was discovered recently while cleaning portions of the Sunken Gardens.

The Rabb family moved into the springs' area in and constructed a two-story stone house in 1867. Their home site is recorded as archaeological site 41TV689 and still retains remnants of several structures, even though the house was removed from the site in the 1940s.

Due to the lack of physical data from this time period, integrity is lacking and can only be represented by the location of the old mill and the Rabb home site. No trace remains of William Barton's cabin, other mills along the creek, or other small dams and swimming infrastructure found within the written record.

#### **Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917.**

The Barton Springs Bridge abutment, recorded as archaeological site 41TV690 stands as a reminder of an elegant stone arched bridge constructed in 1889. The bridge was destroyed in a flood during 1990 and all that remains is one stony, broken abutment along the south bank of Barton Creek, just above the springs' area. The abutment retains integrity of location and materials, but lacks integrity of design, setting, workmanship, feeling and association. However, the remnants do shed light on the location of the old road and construction techniques in the area during the late-nineteenth century.

Also remaining from this time period is the 1903-constructed Elk's Pit at Eliza Springs. This sunken, stepped pool was built by Andrew J. Zilker for the local Elks' lodge. The pit is in fair condition and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, and workmanship.

An early bathhouse existed near the springs just after the turn of the century. The building was constructed with only walls and was open-air. No remnants of this building remain in

the landscape.

While two resources remain from this period, most of the other infrastructure and buildings built around the springs area are no longer extant. Due to this, the overall integrity of this period is lacking in all aspects of integrity. However, the two extant resources and archival data provide a rich picture of the activities that took place as the Barton Springs area began to grow.

#### **Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930**

This period is the first major development period of the area as a city owned park. Having acquired the first acreage from Zilker in 1917, the city quickly began improving the land around the springs. The swimming area was expanded, recreation ball fields were built south of the springs, a caretaker's lodge was constructed, and a second bathhouse was constructed in the 1920s. New roadways were also constructed, creating easier access to the popular swimming spot. During this time the Barton Springs Bridge was constructed, allowing a new road into the park.

Much of the work completed during this early park period still remains in Zilker Park. This includes the Barton Springs Road Bridge, portions of Barton Springs Road, Secondary Roads, improvements to Barton Springs pool (all still extant and remain as the current pool configuration), and the caretaker's lodge. Losses from this period include the two-story bathhouse. Since most of the improvements from this period remain and are in fair to good condition, this period overall retains all aspects of integrity and is well represented within the park resources.

#### **Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.**

This period represents the last major push of building within Zilker Park. Beginning with a



large land purchase from Andrew J. Zilker and park building assistance and funding from a several New Deal programs, many of the extant buildings and structures found within the park were constructed during this time. While not all currently in use, all of the New Deal-era projects retain integrity of location, design, materials, setting, and workmanship.

Other important buildings and structures were built in the 1940s-60s. These include the current Barton Springs bathhouse, the Knights of Columbus Regional Headquarters, several modern bathrooms, two concession stands, the Zilker Eagle train, and the Zilker Park Christmas tree (constructed on a relocated 1895 Moonlight Tower). All of these resources retain integrity of location, setting, design, materials, and workmanship.

Losses that took place during this period include the 1930s Barton Springs concession stand, the stables and bridle paths, a skating rink, a camping area, and a reptile/zoo building and pens.

While spanning an 80-plus year period, many of Zilker Park's well-loved and well-used resources were constructed during this period. While some uses and programs have shifted over the years, almost all of the extant resources from this period retain a great deal of integrity, perhaps making this period the most influential in the present landscape of Zilker Park.

Inventory Number	Characteristic/Feature	Status	Description	NRHP Property Type
A	<i>Topography/Hydrology</i>			<i>Sites</i>
A1	Land forms	Contributing: All Periods	Comprised of the Balcones Escarpment created uplands with river and stream floodplains	Site
A2	Barton Springs	Contributing: All Periods	Comprised of four springs (Main, Old Mill at Sunken Gardens, Upper, and Eliza at the Elks Pit)	Site
A3	Barton Creek	Contributing: All Periods	Comprised of the portions of the creek located within the Zilker Park boundaries to confluence with the Lower Colorado River.	Site
A4	Lower Colorado River, South Bank	Contributing: All Periods	Comprised of the south bank of the river running northwest from the confluence with Barton Creek to Mopac Expressway (Loop 1).	Site
A5	Rock Island	Contributing: Prehistoric	Natural Limestone outcropping located in the middle of the soccer field area.	Site
A6	Other natural drainages and small creeks	Contributing: All Periods	Ephemeral creeks and streams located within boundares of Zilker Park.	Site

B	<i>Spatial Organization</i>				<i>Sites/Structures</i>
B1		Barton Springs Zone	Contributing: All Periods	Comprised of the area around Barton Springs. This zone is characterized by use since prehistoric times. It includes the current area of the pool area, lawns, bathhouse, infrastructure, play area, concessions, caretaker's lodge and maintenance facilities, and parking and paths. This zone is the busiest in the park.	Site
B2		Ball Field Zone	Contributing: Prehistoric Period: 10,000 BP – 1530 AD; Republic of Texas and Early Statehood Period: 1836- 1880; Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917; Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	This area has been in use as a ball field and recreations zone since the 1920s. The area includes the fields, masonry dugouts, shade trees, restroom facilities, and the sunken gardens. This zone also includes the old Rabb homesite (now archeological site 41TV689) and the bridge abutment (site 41TV690). The area used to contain more fields (on the western side of the zone). This was connected via a small road and culvert crossing a low water area between the fields. Remnants of the crossing can still be seen in the landscape.	Site

B3		Soccer Fields Zone	Contributing: Prehistoric Period: 10,000 BP – 1530 AD; Republic of Texas and Early Statehood Period: 1836- 1880; Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917; Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	<p>The soccer field zone extends across the north-northeast side of the park. It contains archaeological site 41TV1364 and the natural stone feature known as the rock island. The area consists of several open fields flanked by large pecan groves. Picnic tables dot the shaded landscape. The northernmost portion of this zone (just southeast of Mopac or Loop 1) functioned as a landfill for the city during the mid-twentieth century. Clay mines for Bulter Brick works were also located in this area along the river banks.</p>	Site
B4		Rock Garden Zone	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	<p>This area is comprised of the Rock Garden remnants, the Zilker Hillside Theatre, grassed lawns, and a large picnic area. The zone is constructed on a large limestone outcropping overlooking Barton Springs.</p>	Site
B5		Polo Field Zone	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	<p>Comprised of the polo fields and a large picnic area. The landscape is open to heavily wooded and is bisected by Andrew Zilker Road.</p>	Site

B6		Zilker Club House Zone	Contributing: Prehistoric Period: 10,000 BP – 1530 AD; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Comprised of the area at the north-northwest end of the park. The area consists of two prominent overlooks, taking advantage of the natural topography.	Site
B7		Columbus Drive Zone	Contributing: Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Located at the west side of the park, along Columbus drive. The area is wooded and private.	Site
B8		Infrastructure (below and above grade associated with any historic building, structure, feature, or object.)	Contributing: Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Located throughout the park and concentrated around the Barton Springs area. This includes the underground system to route Barton Creek water around the swimming area via underground piping. Other systems include lighting, electrical lines, water lines, waste systems.	Structure
C	<i>Land Use</i>				<i>Objects/ Structures/Sites</i>
C1		Recreational Use	Contributing: Republic of Texas and Early Statehood Period: 1836- 1880; Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917; Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	swimming, sunbathing, sports, walking, hikes, picnicking, etc.	Structures/Sites

C2		Education Use	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Plant materials (during the 1920s and 30s); currently for plant	Objects/Sites
C3		Performance Use	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Plays, musicals, music	Structures/ Site
C4		Ceremonial Use	Contributing: Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Baptisms (documented in the 1920s); weddings; other uses.	Structures/ Sites
D	<i>Vegetation</i>				<i>Objects/Sites</i>
D1		Heritage Trees	Contributing: Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917; Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Any native tree over 24 inches in diameter.	Object
D2		Native Trees, Shrubs, and Grasses as Woodland	Contributing: All Periods	Located throughout park, esp. west of Andrew Zilker Road and near the Zilker Clubhouse and Lookout.	Object/Site
D3		Native Trees and Lawns as Prospect Refuge	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Soccer fields, Polo fields	Object/Site
D4		Grassed Lawns	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Soccer fields, polo fields, Barton Springs bathing lawns, and the sloped lawns by the Hillside theatre.	Site
D5		Small Planting Zones	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	located primarily around buildings and in planters	Site

E	<i>Circulation</i>				<i>Structures</i>
E1		Barton Springs Road as Primary Road	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Originally as entrance from Barton Spring Road Bridge in 1926, the road has been improved, widened and expanded over the years.	Structure
E2		Secondary Roads	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	William Barton Road, Andrew Zilker Road, Columbus Drive,	Structure
E3		Surfaced Paths	Non-Contributing	Part of the Town Lake Trail System and Barton Springs Greenbelt, introduced in the 1970s and 80s.	Structure
E4		Multiple foot-paths throughout park	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Narrow, unsurfaced walking paths.	Structure
E5		Water Drainage/Swales/Detention Pond	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Consists of concrete and masonry headwalls, dams, and culverts, drains, and shallow earthen swales.	Structure
E6		Historic Road Trace	Contributing: Unknown Date	Located near Robert E. Lee Road.	Structure
E7		Barton Springs Bridge Abutment	Contributing: Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917.	41TV690; Remnants were once connected to a road connecting south Austin to the hills of Rollingwood.	Structure
E8		Parking Lot System	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Concrete curbs and pads; asphalt pads. Located throughout park and regularly improved.	Structure

E9		Barton Springs Road Bridge	Contributing; Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Created in 1926 and improved in 1946: The bridge is an open spandrel concrete type with a concrete deck. Railings are of concrete and metal with deco-influenced detailing.	Structure
E10		Zilker Zephyr Rail	Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Rail with mini-train. Constructed in the 1960s. Designed to view the east end of the park.	Structure
F	<i>Buildings and Structures</i>				<i>Buildings/ Structures/ Sites</i>
F1		Barton Springs Road Bridge	Contributing; Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Created in 1926 and improved in 1946: The bridge is an open spandrel concrete type with a concrete deck. Railings are of concrete and metal with deco-influenced detailing.	Structure
F2		Zilker Park Entrance Gateway	Contributing; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed in 1934 by Bubi Jessen, a young architect from Austin. The asymmetrical gateway consists of two ashlar-cut limestone pillars. The taller pillar is located on the left side of Barton Springs Road, while the shorter pillar is located on the right. The taller pillar is labeled "Zilker Park" in Metal letters in a 1930s-era font. The two pillars are connected to a larger planting area consisting of low walls limestone walls.	Structure



F3		Parking Lot System	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Concrete curbs and pads; asphalt pads. Located throughout park and regularly improved.	Structure
F4		Road Network	Contributing: Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917; Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Consisting of primary and secondary roads throughout the park.	Structure
F5		Modern Restroom Buildings	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	1960s era buildings; there are three of these located throughout the park; The are constructed on concrete with metal roofs. Two building sets (they are divided into male/female section) have a circular design and are located on the north side of Barton Creek. The restroom building located within the ball fields south of Barton Creek has a rectangular plan.	Building
F6		Mirror Pond	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Limestone and mortar dams creating two pools along a small creek. Constructed with New Deal Funding, 1934-35.	Structure
F7		Rollingwood Bridge Abutments	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Limstone and mortar abutments; Constructed by the CCC in 1934. Bridge decking and railing are new.	Structure

F8		Pistol Range/ Skeet Range and Restrooms	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	The pistol range is an open field backing into a natural slope and bound by a limestone and mortar wall (currently in poor condition); the restrooms were converted by CCC workers in 1934. The building is constructed of stone masonry, one-story, with a T plan. The roof is clad in original tiles. CCC stonework marking the restrooms remains along with ironwork grilles.	Structure/ Building
F9		Look Out Point	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed in 1934 by CCC workers, the area consists of a large semicircle of limestone. It is located just at the cliffs edge, providing a commanding view of Austin. Squared stone piers rise from the stone low stone wall. The lookout used to have a wooden arbor over attached to the stone piers but this is no longer extant.	Structure

F10		Zilker Park Clubhouse	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	<p>Formerly the Boy Scout Hut or Home, the building was constructed in 1934 with CWA funding. It is a one-story structure built of limestone. It has a gabled roof, which projects out over a triangular bay on the east elevation. External Chimneys can be found on each end. The exterior is of coursed limestone with massive blocks located at each corner and exterior walls are battered. Exterior planting boxes can be found on the east elevation. The building also contains ornamental ironwork throughout (hinges, lanterns, door handles). Sympathetic additions can be found on the north elevation. The building is built in the rustic style.</p>	Building
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F11		Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center and Annex	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	<p>Constructed in the 1950s, the two brick-veneer and concrete late modernist buildings were once the Knights of Columbus Regional Headquarters. The buildings were remodeled in 1985 for ADA compliance, however, they still retain much of their 1950s original elements including a small bris soleil on the smaller of the two buildings. The smaller annex building also has planters, a small roofed patio, and an upper deck accessed via a concreted staircase. The larger building has an internal courtyard, and a concrete porte cochere. The main building was designed by Charles Page and the Annex was designed on year later by O'Connell and Probst.</p>	Building
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F12		Zilker Girl Scout Cabin	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed in 1934 at the site of a popular lookout, the building was designed by a team of young local architects including Charles Page's son. The building was built with CWA funding. It has a gabled roof and a stunning cantilevered south elevation that overlooks the Barton Creek Greenbelt.	Building
F13		Beverly S. Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theatre	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Remnants of the older theatre can be found on the grassed slope. While the original theatre structure has been replaced, the sloped lawn and stone projection booth remain as contributing elements to the site.	Structure

F14		Rock Garden	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	1934 constructed shallow pool system. It was once planted with exotic and native species with terraced ponds and paths along a natural limestone outcropping overlooking Barton Springs. "Zilker Ponds" is written on one of the concrete pond edges. The area is no longer operating and sits empty surrounded by large oak trees and overgrown grasses.	Structure
F15		Band Stand	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed in 1936, the small building is built into the large lawn and hillside just north of the Barton Springs parking area. The building has a flat concrete roof and is constructed of concrete with a stucco finish. Restrooms are located inside the building but are no longer in use.	Building
F16		Moonlight Tower (Zilker Christmas Tree)	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	The 1895 constructed moonlight tower was moved to its current location from Congress Avenue in 1967 to create a large Christmas tree from lights. It is used for this purpose every December.	Structure

F17		Sand Pit/Early Wading Pool	Contributing: Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Located on the west side of Barton Spring Bathhouse, the shallow pit was constructed in 1928-29. It was originally a shallow concrete wading pool for children. It is now filled with sand and used as a play area.	Structure
F18		Barton Springs Bath House	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Completed in 1947, the building replaced the 1920s bathhouse previously on the site. The building is in the moderne style and is constructed of limestone masonry. It is low, one story, and features open-air dressing areas for men and women. It was designed by architect Dan Driscoll.	Building
F19		Rock Wall System around the Barton Springs area	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	The low limestone masonry walls can be found around the Barton Springs area and playground. They were likely constructed during the 1940s.	Structure

F20		Barton Spring Concession Stand	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed in the 1959 and designed by Paul Rossle of the Department of Public Works, the low, one storey building replaced an older concession stand dating from the 1930s. The building is of wood and is surrounded by seating and tables. The area overlooks Barton Springs.	Building
F21		Barton Springs Pool	Contributing: Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed and improved over several phases from 1917 to its present layout, dating from 1929-31, the pool area includes the springs, the dams, the concrete walkways, concrete and stone retaining walls, grassed and sloped bathing lawns with shade trees, steps, and higher buttressed retaining walls.	Structure
F22		Barton Creek Swimming area	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Located just below Barton Springs, this area was created with the addition of the dam in the late 1920s. It currently functions as a dog and free swim area.	Structure/ Site



F23		Zilker Zephyr Tunnel and railroad	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed in the 1960s for the Zilker Eagle mini-train. The tracks loop around the eastern edge of the park.	Structure
F24		Caretaker's Lodge	Contributing: Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	The cottage was constructed in 1929, designed by Hugo Kuehne, and consists of one story and an I plan. The cross-gabled roof is steeply pitched and the building is clad in multi-colored masonry, exhibiting a "peanut brittle" pattern. The windows are double-hung sash with 6/6 and 9/9 lights. The house currently has a tall wooden privacy fence and is located west of several historic-age work buildings.	Building
F25		Caretaker's Lodge Fallout Shelter	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed in the 1960s, the concrete fallout shelter is located within the lawn of the Caretaker's lodge.	Building

F26		Caretaker's Lodge Work Buildings and sheds	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	A historic-age metal building with a barrel shaped roof and long sheds are located within the same lot/workspace as the Caretaker's lodge. Actual construction dates are not known but these buildings appear on aerial photographs from the 1940s and likely date to 1946.	Building
F27		Wright Field Concessions	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Concrete Masonry Unit, one story building. Exact construction date is not known but appears on aerial photographs from 1965.	Building
F28		Sunken Gardens	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed by the NYA in 1937, the limestone decking creates a series of circular terrances and walls rising from the springs pool. The upper areas are surrounded by pecan trees. The terraces once contained numerous picnic tables. The structure was constructed on an old mill site. The area is now used as a Barton Springs Salamander habitat site.	Structure

F29		Lift station	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Small, one story wooden building with a hipped roof. Likely constructed in the 1950s.	Building
F30		Barton Springs Bridge Abutment	Contributing: Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917.	Now comprising Texas Recorded Archaeological Site 41TV690, the remaining stone abutment of a 1889 constructed bridge sites within the wooded areas north west of Barton Springs.	Structure/ Site
F31		Elk's Pit (Eliza springs)	Contributing: Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917.	Constructed in 1903 by Elk's Lodge Member Andrew Zilker, stepped pit surrounds Eliza Spring pool. Incriptions with dates are located on the sides of the structure and bear the Elks Lodge and Andrew Zilker's name. The area is now off limits to park visitors and is a primary Barton Springs Salamander habitat.	Structure
F32		Detention Pond/ Swale	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Drainage swale connecting into Barton Creek, bypassing the Sunken Gardens area to the east. The swale is connected to a shallow detention pond located just north of Robert E. Lee Rd. and to the east of the swale. A masonry check dam controls the flow of water into the pond. Estimated construction date is ca. 1935 for the dam and swale system.	Structure

F33		Stone Amphitheatre	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Located deep in the wooded areas west of Andrew Zilker Road, the stone outdoor amphitheatre is likely associated with the Sunshine Camp campus. The camp was originally constructed for underprivileged youth in 1934.	Structure
G	<i>Viewsbeds</i>				<i>N/A</i>
G1		Views from lookout points, polo fields, and soccer fields	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	These views may predate the construction of various lookouts and buildings, however, the primary road and building system supporting these viewsbeds was constructed in the 1930s.	<i>N/A</i>
G2		Views into Park of Zilker Christmas Tree	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	1967	<i>N/A</i>
H	<i>Small Scale Features</i>				<i>Objects/ Structures/ Sites</i>
H1		Entry Lamps to Barton Springs Pool	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed in 1928-29, the two pyramidal towers flank William Barton Road leading into the Barton Springs parking area. The piers are constructed of an amalgam of local stone, exhibiting all the possible stone found in the Austin area. The piers taper to the top and are crowned with decorative iron lanterns.	Structure

H2		Entry gate columns to the McBeth Recreational Buildings	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	1955; two brick pillars (matching the brick on the buildings), capped with concrete.	Structure
H3		Sand Pit	Contributing: Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Located on the west side of Barton Spring Bathhouse, the pit was constructed in 1928-29. It was originally a shallow concrete wading pool for children. It is now filled with sand and used as a play area.	Structure
H4		Bedichek's Rock	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Used during the 1920s-1950s by a famous group of local thinkers including Roy Bedichek, Frank Dobie and Walter Prescott Webb. The rock is located to the west of the Barton Springs Diving Board.	Site
H5		Picnic Tables	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Total number of 37 (including both groupings at the polo fields and the rock garden, and single elements located through the park. Constructed during the 1930s, the tables and benches dot the landscape of the park, usually under the cover of large shade trees	Object

H6		Barbeque Pits	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Constructed in the rustic style and with a common three sided low masonry wall configuration. These pits and cook areas were built in the 1930s.	Object
H7		Masonry Dug-outs/benches/ fencing	Contributing: Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930; Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Located around the baseball fields south of Barton springs. These masonry benches were created in the 1920s.	Object
H8		Water Fountains	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Located near picnic areas, the masonry water fountains sit on an octagonal concrete plinth. Constructed in the 1930s.	Object
I	<i>Archaeological Sites</i>				<i>Sites</i>
I1		41TV690	Contributing: Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917.	Protected Data - Contact the Texas Historical Commission	Site
I2		41TV689	Contributing: Republic of Texas and Early Statehood Period: 1836- 1880; Barton Springs Bathing Area Period: 1880-1917; Barton Springs Municipal Park Period: 1917-1930;	Protected Data - Contact the Texas Historical Commission	Site

I3		41TV2	Contributing: Prehistoric Period: 10,000 BP – 1530 AD;	Protected Data - Contact the Texas Historical Commission	Site
I4		41TV1364	Contributing: Prehistoric Period: 10,000 BP – 1530 AD;	Protected Data - Contact the Texas Historical Commission	Site
I5		41TV85	Contributing: Prehistoric Period: 10,000 BP – 1530 AD;	Protected Data - Contact the Texas Historical Commission	Site
I5		41TV1343	Contributing: Prehistoric Period: 10,000 BP – 1530 AD;	Protected Data - Contact the Texas Historical Commission	Site
I7		41TV183	Contributing: Prehistoric Period: 10,000 BP – 1530 AD;	Protected Data - Contact the Texas Historical Commission	Site
J	<i>Habitat</i>				<i>Structures/ Sites</i>
J1		Barton Springs	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Barton Springs Salamander (Endangered Species, listed 1997)	Structure
J2		Elk's Pit (Eliza springs)	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Barton Springs Salamander (Endangered Species, listed 1997)	Structure
J3		Sunken Gardens	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Barton Springs Salamander (Endangered Species, listed 1997)	Structure
J4		Park Woodlands and fields	Contributing: Zilker Park Period: 1931-present.	Native species Habitat	Site

## Endnotes

1 These categories and definitions are taken directly from the language of the National Register Bulletin “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation”. National Register Publications, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. 2012.

2 These categories and definitions are taken directly from the language of the National Register Bulletin “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation”. National Register Publications, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. 2012.

3 These categories and definitions are taken directly from the language of the National Register Bulletin “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation”. National Register Publications, National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. 2012.

4 Maxon, Peter Flagg et al. National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the *Barton Springs Archeological and Historical District*. National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service. 1985.

5 Strong, Julie. National Register of Historic Places Nomination for the *Zilker Park Historic District*. National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service. 1997.







## MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

The Evolving Concept of Large Parks

Stewardship

Sustainable Sites and LEED

Theoretical Considerations for Zilker Park

Landscape Preservation and Conservation Recommendations

Next-Step Recommendations

Guidance Documents

Previous Page: Rock Garden and Picnickers, 2012.  
Photograph by Julie D. McGilvray.

## The Evolving Concept of large Parks

In an address delivered in 1870 called “The Justifying Value of a Public Park,” Frederick Law Olmsted defined such a space as “a large tract of land set apart by the public for the enjoyment of rural landscape, as distinguished from a public square, a public garden, or a promenade, fit only for more urbanized pleasure”.<sup>1</sup> The concept of a large park has evolved since 1870. Olmsted’s place of naturalistic exposure and salubrious retreat quickly gave way to the heterogeneous concept of the recreation and reform park models of the 1920s and 30s, which blurred the lines between older landscape types and programs. As the concept of park continues to evolve with more complexities and arguably more demands each year, perhaps a contemporary large park may then be defined as a geographic area containing a set of constantly evolving conditions, be they natural, social, cultural, economic, or even political. This loose, open-ended definition makes no mention of specific natural features, land, or the usual concepts of park. Rather, it acknowledges that how the built environment performs for human inhabitants is based on quickly evolving systems and relationships. How we then choose to define and justify our own parks now and in the future greatly depends on our own shifting concepts of public space, play, and the natural environment.

### *Histories, Trajectories, and Preservation*

Parks, like buildings, neighborhoods, and cities, have histories. Even newly constructed parks are often based on programs and design concepts with a rich past, producing highly recognizable and usable spaces and forms. Further, the land and topography of every park has a natural history that may speak to its very condition and massing. Parks may also

contain buildings, structures, objects, and sites that add to the natural environment, yielding information about the past, and in the process, maintain and create cultural continuity across generations. These components of history have specific trajectories, creating spatial and temporal patterns. Present or existing conditions within a park are comprised of patterns and site transformations that have retained some legibility over time. As these patterns ebb and flow, they establish expressive qualities. The ephemerality or permanence of these patterns and qualities depend on the values of each generation.

Zilker Park is a cultural landscape with evident patterns and qualities shaped by past and present systems and use. Since the park is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, certain qualities and patterns, manifested as built systems (buildings, structures, objects, sites) have been declared of cultural and historical value in the recent past (1985 and 1997). Management and stewardship of such resources is complex and challenging. Challenges also increase as resources age as they lose palpable cultural connections through time. The following sections will address responsible stewardship as required for Zilker Park as a cultural landscape, a habitat for endangered species, a National Register of Historic Places Listed property, and as a landscape facing contemporary issues regarding sustainability. This is followed by a concluding section that addresses possible theoretical concepts and key issues to guide Zilker Park into the future.

## Stewardship

### *Cultural Landscapes Defined*

The National Park Service (NPS) formally recognized cultural landscapes as a type of cultural resource in 1988.<sup>2</sup> The United Na-

tions Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) followed in 1992 as the first international organization to recognize the type.<sup>3</sup> However, the origins and concepts of cultural landscapes can be traced to Carl Sauer and the Berkeley Geographers of the 1920s. Sauer set forth the first definition of a cultural landscape stating that it “is fashioned from the natural landscape by a cultural group. Culture is the agent, the natural area is the medium, the cultural landscape the result.”<sup>4</sup> Over the years of the twentieth century, the concept of the cultural landscape expanded, moving from its original home in cultural geography into design school theory by the 1970s and 80s. This shift was led by John Brinkerhoff Jackson, who perhaps could be best defined as a landscape philosopher.<sup>5</sup> J. B. Jackson taught in the landscape architecture departments at both Berkeley and Harvard, travelling between the two coasts on his motorcycle, with a home base in New Mexico. Jackson’s writings and observations focused on common landscapes. He noted layers of history in everyday situations and places, drawing the previously unnoticed into the cultural landscape realm. Jackson’s ability to engage young designers also played a role in the success of his philosophical and practical additions to the field. While Jackson focused on common landscapes, where buildings, structures, objects, and field held layers of cultural information, social scientists such as Delores Hayden pushed cultural landscape studies into the realm of social process and space. These conceptual additions have strengthened cultural landscapes studies, allowing the multivalent layers of social and physical processes to act as markers in the definition of a sense of place.

Currently, the common definition of a cultural landscape set forth by the Cultural Landscape Foundation is as “a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associ-

ated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.<sup>6</sup> There are four recognized types of cultural landscapes: a historic designed landscape, a historic vernacular landscape, a historic site, and an ethnographic landscape (Appendix IV). Arguably, Zilker Park can be classified as all four of the above types.

A historic designed landscape is “consciously designed or laid out by a landscape architect, master gardener, architect, or horticulturist according to design principles, or an amateur gardener working in a recognized style or tradition.”<sup>7</sup> Zilker Park fits into this category through the early planning and design efforts that made the overall layout of the park complete.

A historic site is defined as “a landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity, or person.”<sup>8</sup> It can be argued that Zilker Park fits this cultural landscape type through an association with Andrew Zilker and the historic events created through his generous gifts of land in the early twentieth century. Further, the Zilker Park landscape is directly associated with the Great Depression and the numerous New Deal relief programs associated with this event.

A historic vernacular landscape is defined as “a landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped that landscape. Through social or cultural attitudes of an individual, family or a community, the landscape reflects the physical, biological, and cultural character of those everyday lives.”<sup>9</sup> Zilker Park may fit into this cultural landscape category since the development of Barton Springs, and later the larger parkland areas, evolved slowly over time. This process can still be seen as both natural and highly engineered layers are still evident and working together to create the current configuration

of the swimming area. Further, Zilker Park continues to be actively shaped by the activities and culture of the people of Austin.

An ethnographic landscape is defined as “a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources.”<sup>10</sup> Again, it may be argued that Barton Springs can be easily defined as a heritage resource by the people of Austin. To many, daily swims in the cold waters are part of a ritual and even a spiritual or cleansing experience. While to others, the waters offer a yearly summer retreat from the Texas heat. Further, Barton Springs is often referred to as the heart or soul of Austin, thus blurring the lines between symbol and identity.

### *Treatment*

As discussed in the existing conditions chapter of this report, landscape integrity or the physical condition of historic components within a park, plays a key role in how a landscape can portray historic character and significance. Integrity is assessed through seven key aspects or qualities. These are: location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Because landscapes are inherently in flux, these seven aspects are likely to point to or reveal how much change has occurred over time. This information, when coupled with archival research, significance, and existing conditions’ findings, provide key information for landscape analysis. This analysis creates the basis or initial framework for treatment and planning. Thus treatment plans take into account multivalent and dynamic aspects of a landscape. There are currently four treatment types developed for historic properties by the Secretary of the Interior including: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction (Appendix IV).<sup>11</sup> Treatment plans are usually adopted for specific areas within

a cultural landscape and are coupled with a maintenance plan.

Because cultural landscapes are often large and complex, the temporal and spatial systems within a park may not follow the same cycles or function at the same scale. Thus the historic components and layers within a large landscape do not have to be integrated and arranged tightly with new portions of the landscape. Instead, historic resources within large cultural landscapes may have some autonomy as needed from other park systems. Due to this, unified master planning does not often champion the historic resource. Large cultural landscapes can rarely survive this type of clean sweep and do better with a sensitive treatment plan chosen case-by-case for components, acknowledging that the park is composed of and able to support a heterogeneous mix of resources over time.<sup>12</sup>

### *National Register of Historic Places*

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the official list of our nation’s preservation-worthy resources. Cultural landscapes that are partially or completely listed on the NRHP must retain their historic integrity and significance over time or they can be delisted. While listing on the NRHP does not limit construction or the addition of new landscape features, buildings, objects, or structures, it does require that these additions are sympathetic to the integrity and significance of the existing historic fabric as a best practice, and to insure continued listing, historic integrity, and readability of significance. Thus, for NRHP listed historic properties, new construction must not only meet contemporary needs and requirements, but the period of significance of the property should also be taken into careful consideration. The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for appropriate treatment also recommends considering the properties “relative

importance in history”, existing conditions, proposed use, and any code requirements (Appendix IV).<sup>13</sup>

Zilker Park (including Barton Springs) is listed on the NRHP under two separate nominations. The *Barton Springs Archaeological and Historical District* (1985) includes many of the resources around the springs swimming area, including prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. The *Zilker Park Historic District* nomination (1997) is focused on the park as a whole, including the swimming area at Barton Springs. Thus, both nominations should be included in any planning and treatment of the park in order to understand the vast assortment of resources within the park boundaries. These nominations should also be updated to reflect new resources that have recently come of age (usually 50 years of age or older) and add historic significance to the park.

#### *Buildings, Objects, and Structures*

While cultural landscapes function as specific bound geographic regions unified through historic use and significance, they are made of components such as buildings, objects, and structures. These historic resources often require specific treatment plans that may include assistance from multi-disciplinary teams including but not limited to architects, landscape architects, engineers, archaeologists, and historians. Treatment plan guidance for these resources follow standards set forth by the Secretary of the Interior. This guidance is designed to provide an overview of aspects to consider to help retain significance and integrity of historic resources.

While listed on the NRHP, artifacts, buildings, structures, objects, and sites within the *Barton Springs Archaeological District* and the *Zilker Historic District* are defined under Section 191.092 of the Antiquities Code of Texas since any

NRHP listed, eligible, or landmarked municipal property falls under the jurisdiction of the State of Texas (Appendix IV). Alteration or demolition of the sites should not be undertaken without consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) (Texas Historical Commission [THC]) as defined in Section 191.093 of the Antiquities Code of Texas (Appendix IV).

#### *Archaeology*

Recorded archaeological site information is restricted and usually not available to the public. Access is made through the THC or through a registered professional archaeologist. However, archaeological data is key to understanding resource and cultural landscape significance, and should guide treatment along with new construction planning.

Archaeology is a key component of the Zilker Park cultural landscape and this data represents over 9,000 years of human occupancy in and around the districts. Further, the land within the park has not been fully tested or excavated and may yield more sites or data in the future. Since the park is municipal property, listed on the NRHP, and some of park landscape is designated as a state archaeological landmark, it is protected under Section 191.092 of the Antiquities Code of Texas (Appendix IV), and consultation with the THC may be required before treatment or new construction takes place.

Figure 1 is an archaeological sensitivity map for the Zilker Park landscape and was created with assistance from the Texas Historical Commission Archaeology Division. Rather than showing exact site locations, labels, and findings, the map acts as a guidance document for below grade impacts within the park, showing when SHPO consultation is recommended as defined by Section 191.093 the Antiquities Code of Texas (Appendix IV).

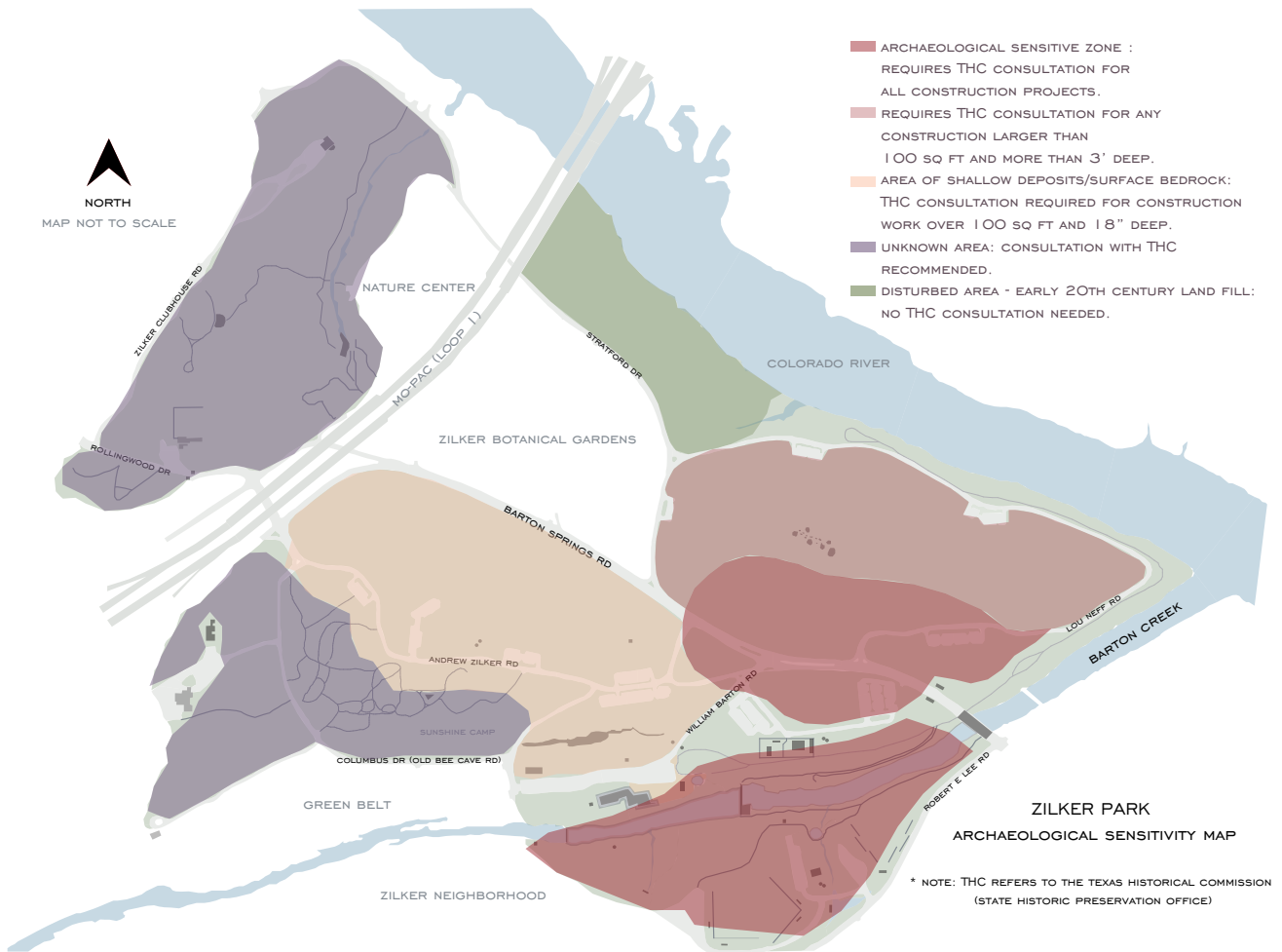


Figure 1. Archaeological Sensitivity Map for Zilker Park.  
Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



### *Habitat*

While habitat and ecosystem information is not generally included on the NRHP nominations beyond vegetation studies and inventories, this data should be incorporated into treatment and management of a historic landscape. This is especially true when historic resources and faunal/floral habitat overlap in use, such as in the Barton Springs Salamander habitat zones within Zilker Park. Barton Springs Salamanders are an endangered species (listed in 1997) and also occupy three contributing historic resources (Elks Pit at Eliza springs, Barton Springs Main, and the Sunken Gardens). Proper management of such places is key to species and historic resource survival. Therefore, consultation with both biologists and historic preservation specialists is key when developing a treatment or management plan for these areas of the park.

Figure 2 is a Habitat Sensitivity map for the Barton Springs Salamander ecosystem in Zilker Park. This map targets specific historic resources, which also perform as sensitive ecosystem sites for the salamander.

### **Sustainable Sites and LEED**

The United States Green Building Council (USGBC) established the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) rating system in 2000 to create a framework for green building design and maintenance.<sup>14</sup> LEED was initially focused on building architecture interiors and exteriors, with landscape issues falling into building-related categories such as neighborhood design, location (siting), and linkages (circulation, transportation issues). LEED quickly took off, and, much to its credit, has been a proponent of learning by doing, allowing constant adjustment to its framework through feedback over the years. Developed as a similar framework for landscapes, the Sus-

tainable Sites Initiative (SITES) began in 2009 through a partnership between the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, the United States Botanic Garden, and the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA). SITES focuses on establishing and maintaining healthy and sustainable ecosystems and includes design guidance for hydrology, soils, vegetation, materials, and human health and well-being.<sup>15</sup> SITES, like LEED, is also an evolving framework based on constant revisions and feedback.

### *How SITES Works for Landscapes*

SITES is “dedicated to fostering a transformation in land development and management practices that will bring the essential importance of ecosystem services to the forefront”.<sup>16</sup> SITES defines sustainable land practices as natural and cultural systems that work together to meet present needs without compromising the needs of future generations.<sup>17</sup> The SITES framework is designed around ecosystems services, which are designed to directly or indirectly benefit humans. Ecosystems are composed of both living and non-living materials and their interactions. The current list of ecosystems services, or areas that sustainable site design should protect, includes:<sup>18</sup>

*Global Climate Regulation*  
*Local Climate Regulation*  
*Air and Water Cleansing*  
*Water Supply and Regulation*  
*Erosion and Sediment Control*  
*Hazard Mitigation*  
*Pollination*  
*Habitat Functions*  
*Waste Decomposition and Treatment*  
*Human Health and Well-being Benefits*  
*Food and Renewable Non-food Products*  
*Cultural Benefits*

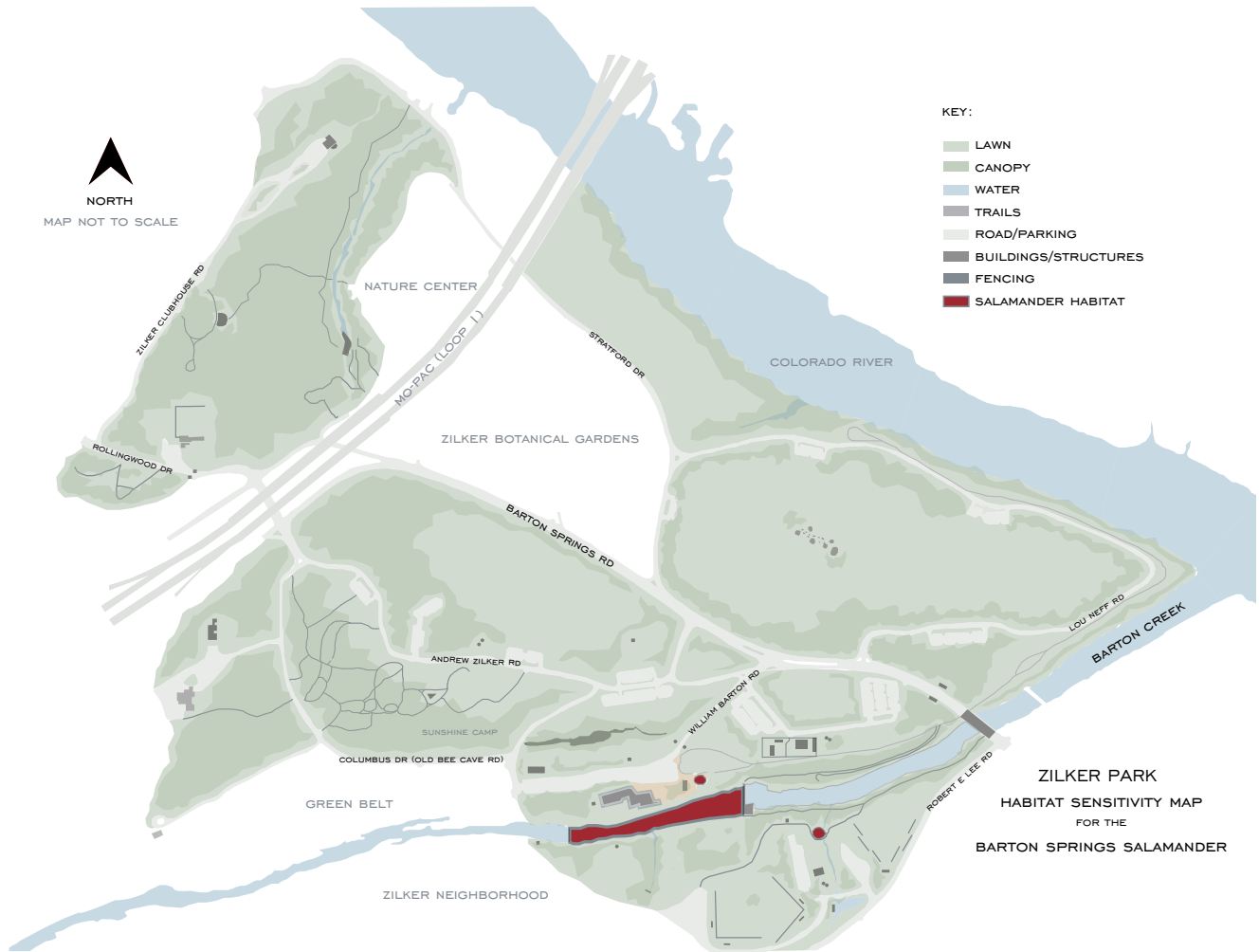


Figure 2. Habitat Sensitivity Map for the Barton Springs Salamander. Map created by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

Building from the ecosystems services, the guiding principles of SITES includes:<sup>19</sup>

*Do No Harm*  
*Precautionary Principle*  
*Design with Nature and Culture*  
*Use a Decision Making Hierarchy of*  
*Preservation, Conservation, and*  
*Regeneration*  
*Provide Regenerative Systems as*  
*Intergenerational Equity*  
*Support a Living Process*  
*Use a Systems Thinking Approach*  
*Use a Collaborative and Ethical*  
*Approach*  
*Maintain Integrity in Leadership and*  
*Research*  
*Foster Environmental Stewardship*

Guidelines and performance benchmarks are created to protect and promote the ecosystem services and principles. They encompass a list of prerequisites and credits that can be used to guide sustainable site design. Prerequisite benchmarks are required, while credits are optional, though it should be noted that a certain number of credits must be met to participate in the program.<sup>20</sup> The intended result of program participation and benchmark application to a specific site is to encourage innovation rather than adherence to strict prescriptive planning techniques.

#### *How SITES Works for Historic and Cultural Landscapes*

Under Credit 6.4 – “Protect and Maintain Unique Cultural and Historical Places,” SITES states that the intent of this credit is to “Protect and maintain cultural and historical locations, attributes and artifacts, and to enhance a site’s sense of place and meaning.”<sup>21</sup> This

credit section is set up to encourage the protection of both NRHP listed and non-listed historic landscapes and their features (Appendix IV).

More specific credit issues for cultural landscapes will be address in the future (SITES 2013) and is currently in draft form (Appendix IV). The information found in the cultural landscape draft builds upon Credit 6.4 as it expands the intent considerably to include all or portions of historically significant cultural landscapes and the areas adjacent to them in order to protect site integrity and significance. It further adds specific language about places eligible for or listed on the NRHP; Native American resources and inventories; state registers and inventories; and, local register and inventories of historic resources. The current draft also broadens the language regarding social benefits by including and explaining the concept of stewardship, including respecting sensitive places associated with specific traditions.<sup>22</sup> The requirements section is expanded to include stronger language about damage to historic resources that would result in the loss of character defining features thus reducing integrity and significance.

In order to protect historic resources the SITES Credit 6.4 draft suggests creating a Cultural Resource Protection Zone (CRPZ). This includes appropriate resources, buffer zones, and easements as needed. The CRPZ boundaries are found through documentation such as NRHP nominations, HALS documentation, CLR and CLI reports, or other historic resource inventories or reports conducted at the state or local levels. All construction activities planned in or around the CRPZ should follow the guidelines set forth by the *Secretary of Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (Appendix IV).<sup>23</sup> To create, assess, and protect a CRPZ, the SITES Credit

6.4 draft recommends conducting a pre-design site assessment (identified through SITES Prerequisite 2.1) and engage involved agents (end users, owners, stakeholders) during the process (SITES Prerequisite 2.3).<sup>24</sup>

SITES Prerequisite 8.1 recommends the development of a site maintenance plan. In the case of a historic or cultural landscape, this would include a treatment plan for the preservation, conservation, rehabilitation, or reconstruction of historic resources. Links to other SITES prerequisites or credits through the treatment of historic landscapes may include SITES Credit 5.2 – *Maintain on site structures, hardscape, and landscape amenities.*<sup>25</sup>

#### *SITES Applied in Zilker Park*

SITES and Zilker Park make a good partnership and many of the needed practices, strategies, and submittal documents may already be in place to make the park an excellent SITES accredited historic cultural landscape. The list below mentions several credits for which the park likely currently qualifies. This is not an exhaustive list but may be used as a starting point for SITES accreditation.

*Submittal Documents* – In order to receive credit from SITES for a historic landscape, historic resources must be mapped and inventoried, and a historic narrative or context must be written. This CLR achieves those goals and functions as a complete package representing Zilker Park as a cultural landscape. The NRHP nominations for Zilker Park and Barton Springs also provide some of the information required, though in two separate packages.

*Preservation of hardscapes and historic resources* – Based on the findings of this CLR, the Zilker Park Cultural Landscape retains a high level of historic significance and integrity. This may meet the requirements for SITES Credit 5.2

- Maintain on-site structures, hardscape, and landscape amenities.

*Agency Access* – Zilker Park is a hub of social and cultural interaction for the City of Austin and the park currently functions as a recreational zone for all types of residents and visitors. Due to this aspect of the park, it meets several requirements for SITES credits including: Credit 6.2 – *Promote Equitable Site Use*; Credit 6.6 – *Provide Opportunities for Outdoor Physical Education*; Credit 6.7 – *Provide views of vegetation and quiet outdoor spaces for mental restoration*; and, Credit 6.8 – *Provide Spaces for Social Interaction*.

*Learning from the Landscape* – Because Zilker Park is a large landscape with native vegetation and habitat, current interpretive areas may also receive credit through SITES. The Barton Springs Salamander habitat zones, the Splash Exhibit (located inside the Barton Springs bath house), and various tree markers provide visitors with information about park ecosystems. SITES credit 6.3 – *Promote Sustainability Awareness and Education* may apply to the planning and practice encompassed in these interpretive places and efforts.

*Vegetation* – Many of the exotic plant materials and planting plans from the earlier years of the park have been removed or replaced over time. Native or adapted plantings are now found in their place. This practice is now promoted through the City of Austin’s own preferred plant list of native or adapted drought tolerant species. Thus, several SITES credits may be applicable to the planting plans within the park. This may include: Credit 4.1 – *Control and Manage Known Invasive Plants Found Onsite*; Credit 4.2 – *Use Appropriate Non-Invasive Plants*; Credit 4.7 – *Use Native Plants*; Credit 4.8 – *Preserve Plant Communities Native to the Ecoregion*; and, Credit 4.9 – *Restore Plant Communities Native to the Ecoregion*. Plantings found near or

around buildings may qualify for Credit 4.11 – *Use Vegetation to Minimize Building Cooling Requirements*. Inventorying and planning for the conservation of all heritage trees may qualify for Credit 4.5 – *Preserve all Vegetation Designated as Special Status*.

## Theoretical Considerations for Zilker Park

### *Relationships*

Relationships within a cultural landscape come and go, while others are revealed slowly and develop over time. These threads and layers can be found within the framework of the cultural landscape but also stretch outside established spatial boundaries. These layers are important to consider when creating and planning for a park with historic significance and integrity. While Zilker Park is composed of hundreds of relationships between internal and external systems overlapping to create a unique cultural landscape, the park's relationship with the City of Austin is key. This association can be probed by examining how Zilker Park currently represents the city and how it needs the city for upkeep and longevity. Digging deeper into this, a question may be posed that asked how much of Zilker Park is actually the City itself, since it is often referred to as the heart or soul of Austin. Thus, understanding Zilker Park in relation to its owner, its key agency, and its physical boundary is key to balancing a rich cultural landscape with future demands.

At a smaller scale, relationships between extant components should be examined to aid in future planning and new design efforts. Do these buildings, structures, objects, sites, views, and connections “meet, intertwine, detract, or scar” one another?<sup>26</sup> At the smallest scale,

what is the relationship between a human and the park environment and does personal intimacy hold through all scales of park experience?

### *Tensions*

As relationships are examined and prioritized, inherent areas of tension may become apparent. These areas and moments of interface can reveal that the extant landscape is actually comprised of spatial and temporal fragments. Understanding these tensions may help with the future resilience of the park and its multivalent resources. These “hotspots” or areas of “intensification” should be sought during the planning process.<sup>27</sup>

Interface zones may include areas of:<sup>28</sup>

- **Old/New** (*such as a historic building with a changing program*).

- **Nature/Culture** (*such as the Barton Springs Salamander Habitat sites within historic structures*).

- **Artificial/Natural** (*such as the balance between more natural areas of the park versus highly programmed, high traffic areas*).

- **Pure /Impure** (*such as perceptions of Barton Springs water quality contrasted with faunal and floral habitat needs in and around the pool site*).

- **Open/Closed** (*such as the actual physical barriers within the park. Where do visitors have free, paid, limited, or no access and how does this effect the sense of place within the landscape*).

- **Constancy/Change** (*such as the balance between new construction projects and areas of preservation*).

- **Predictability/Unpredictability** (*such as natural phenomena within the park – climate fluctuations, water issues, natural growth, et cetera, contrasted with visitor needs and demands*).

#### *Resilience, Feedback, and Good Questions*

As landscapes change over time, their cultural and social meanings change, too. Thus history of a space is created slowly, through the associations and relationships that create memory. Historic resources represent the past through their technology, materials, and associations. Over time, as technologies shift, resource importance may shift away from original program, but come to mean more through social and cultural memory. As roles shift, resilience and adaptability become key to the preservation and ongoing cultural importance of historic resources. Kevin Lynch wrote that adaptability is not “eternal neutral plasticity but the current maintenance of a continuing capability to respond to change so as to achieve changing objectives.”<sup>29</sup> Thus, understanding that the past, created through physical manifestations and contextual memory, is not adversely opposed to the process of creating new spaces is key to successful historic preservation efforts.

In order to achieve a balance for adaptability and overall resilience of a historic landscape, feedback is required. This may come about by the “learn by doing” approach since landscapes are highly complex and in constant flux through multiple cycles and scales. This on-the-job learning requires the ability to be open to change, learn to ask good questions, and build feedback loops for guidance.

## **Landscape Preservation and Conservation Recommendations**

### *Softscape Conservation, Preservation, and Integrity*

The vegetation of Zilker Park, including large heritage trees and other native trees, shrubs, grasses, vines, and flowering plant zones are key to the integrity of the park design, use, and habitat. Conservation of many of these natural resources is currently threatened as more staff (arborists, horticultural experts, and maintenance workers) is needed to care for plantings. The drought of 2011 has exacerbated issues, leaving many plants throughout the park in dire need of care. While larger conservation efforts are needed within the park to manage and maintain current ecosystems, preservation of planting groupings are also key to cultural landscape integrity. Thus, there are two issues at stake: conservation for healthy ecologies; and, preservation of these ecologies as designed landscape features. Due to these nested needs, it is recommended that the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARC) view Zilker Softscape as both a natural and cultural resource.

### *Habitat*

The Barton Springs Salamander occupies three historic sites within the park. These are Eliza Springs, the Sunken Gardens, and the Main Spring within the Barton Springs swimming area. As previously mentioned, these areas are of special interest because they function not only as contributing elements to a NRHP district, but also because they are the habitat to a listed endangered species. Thus, these three sites require a special management plan to address the dual role of each resource.

The Barton Springs Salamander requires cool, oxygenated water to survive and warmer water equals lower oxygen levels. Shade plants help

keep water cool during the summer months in Austin. This is especially evident at the Elk's Pit (Eliza Springs) where low hanging vines and a tree canopy partially shield the springs from direct sunlight. This keeps the salamanders metabolic rate lower, allowing them to use lower amounts of oxygen in the water (warmer water equals lower oxygen, which then stresses the salamanders causing them to have a higher metabolic rate, which then uses more oxygen). Cool, shaded waters also deter algae growth. Further, the leaf material that falls into the water is the only food source for the macro invertebrates on which the salamanders feed. Thus, floral cover over salamander habitat areas is key to species survival.<sup>30</sup> Issues arise as these same vines and trees begin to destroy the integrity of the concrete and stonewalls found at the three sites. Therefore, these conservation and preservation issues must be studied and addressed together, rather than separately, to come up with viable solutions for both resources.

## Next-Step Recommendations

As the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department plans for the future of Zilker Park, there are several smaller steps and opportunities that should not be overlooked along the way.

### *National Register of Historic Places*

Update the National Register Nominations for both Zilker Park and Barton Springs districts to reflect newly discovered resources or resources that have recently come of age. This should be part of the larger management plan of the park and should be done as needed to keep the NRHP record up to date.

### *HABS/HAER/HALS*

Take advantage of the NPS Heritage Documentation programs such as the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS), the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), or the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) to help document portions of the park (Appendix III). These programs create measured drawings (as built construction sets at the highest level of documentation). While the NPS prefers the highest level of documentation (Level I), they will take any HABS/HAER/HALS drawings created to specified standards (Level II and III), as they attempt to document the historic resources of the United States.<sup>31</sup> The Zilker Clubhouse was documented by HABS and samples of this work can be found in Figures 3-5. HABS/HAER/HALS standards can be found in Appendix III.

### *University of Texas*

Approach graduate students and programs at the University of Texas for help with the park. The University is a great resource for the city.

### *SITES Accreditation*

Explore SITES accreditation options and take advantage of the revised credit 6.4 for historic cultural landscapes such as Zilker Park.

### *Amend this CLR*

While this document was designed to have a usable life of 5-10 years, it will need to be amended as resources come of age (usually 50 years old) or are recently discovered. Thus, an amended CLR can function as a living document, acting as a guidance tool for a growing historic inventory.

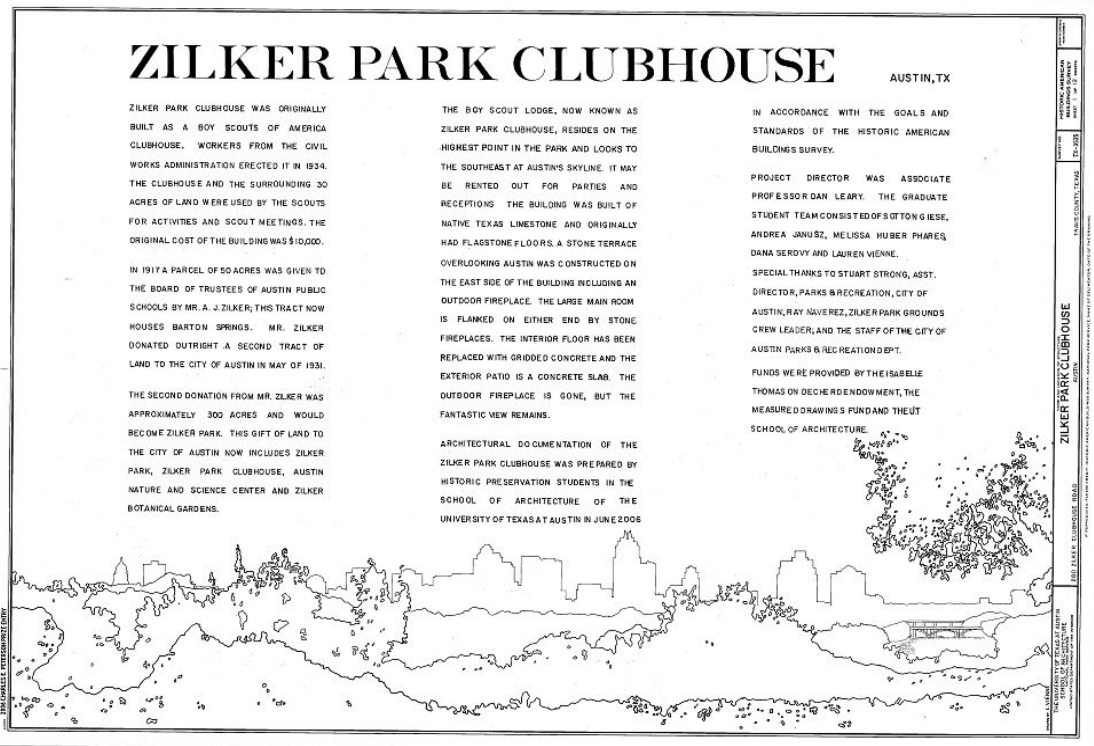


Figure 3. Historic American Buildings Survey drawing set for the Zilker Park Club House. Crediting the University of Texas at Austin, 2006. Source: Library of Congress.



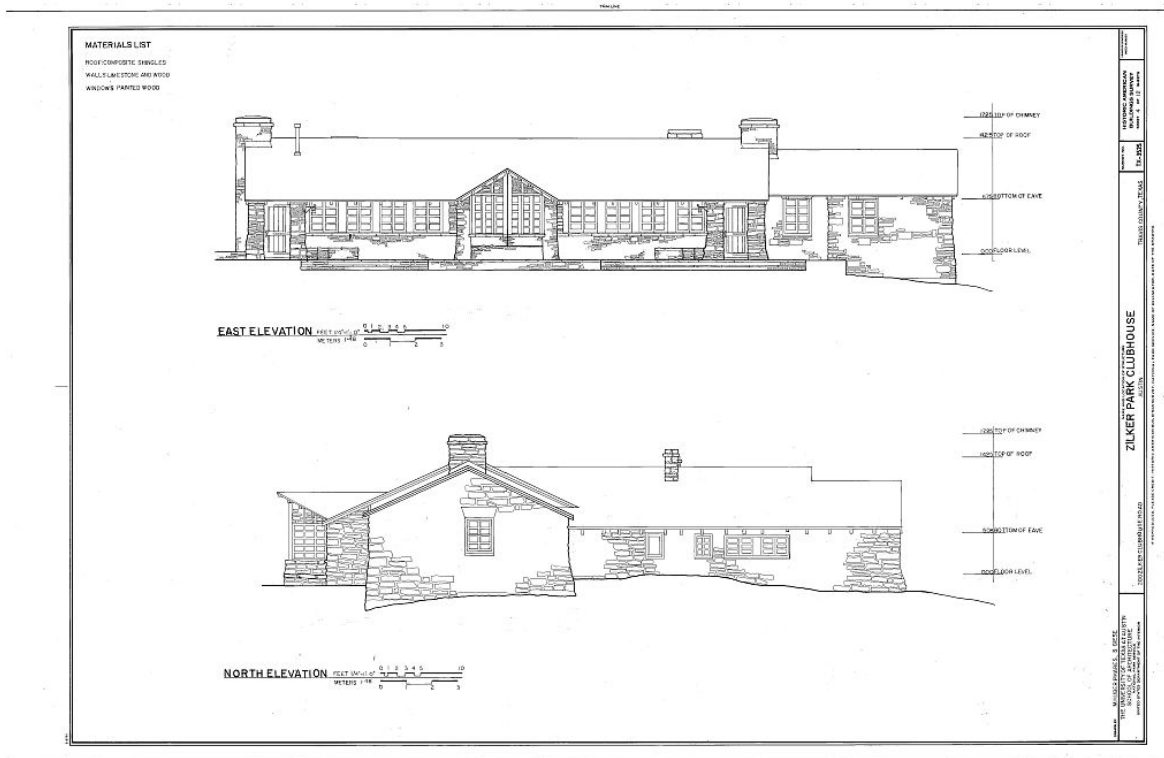


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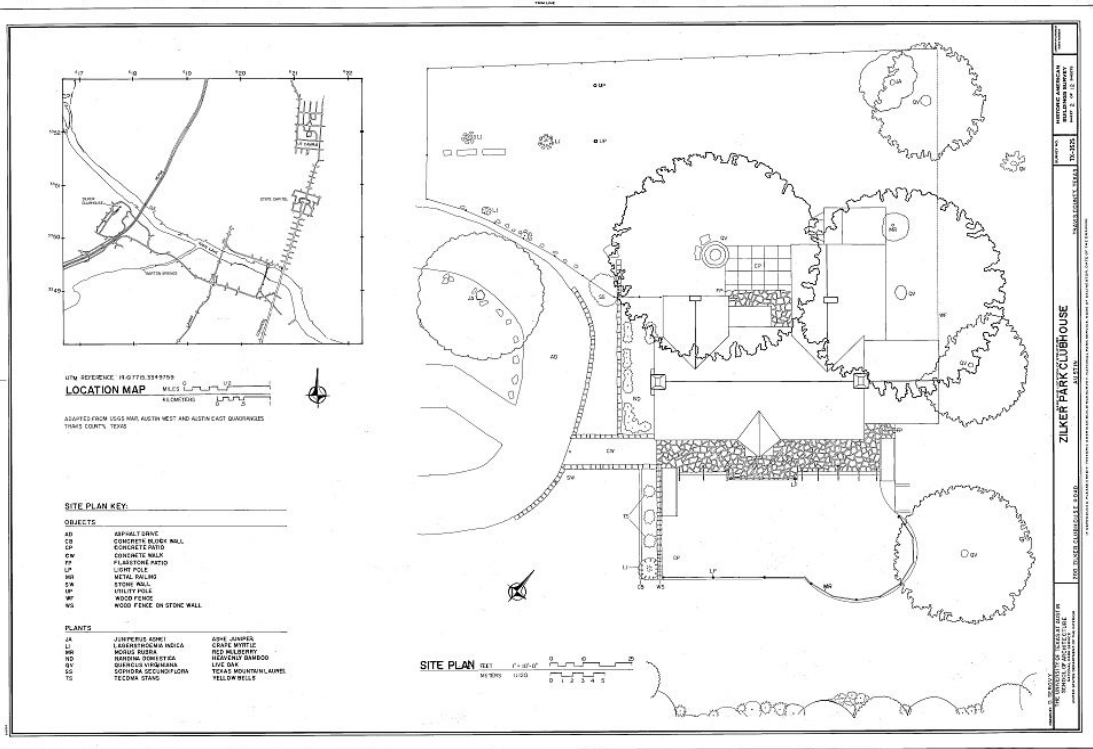


Figure 3. Historic American Buildings Survey drawing set for the Zilker Park Club House. Crediting the University of Texas at Austin, 2006. Source: Library of Congress.

## Guidance Documents

Guidance for resource types (including cultural landscapes, buildings, structures, objects, sites, and districts), the NRHP, the Antiquities Code of Texas, treatment planning, SITES, LEED, and HABS, HAER, HALS can be found in Appendix IV.

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## APPENDIX I: SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS





## Area A: Topography and Hydrology





Landscape Characteristic A1 – Landforms: Barton Springs Bathing, south bank of Barton Creek, facing east.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic A2 – Barton Springs: Barton Springs swimming area, just south of west end dam, facing east.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic A3 – Barton Creek: Barton Creek and Barton Creek Road Bridge. Facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic A6 – Rock Island: Rock Island and surrounding soccer fields’ lawn. Facing south-southeast.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012



Landscape Characteristic A7 – Other Small Creeks and Drainages: Drainage into Barton Creek in between the Rabb House site and the baseball fields. Facing north-northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





## Area B: Spatial Organization





Landscape Characteristic B1 – Barton Springs Zone: Barton Springs Swimming Area and Concession. Facing west-southwest.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic B2 – Ball Field Zone: Overview of ball fields. Facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic B3 – Soccer Field Zone: Overview of soccer field zone from lawn. Facing east.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic B4 – Rock Garden Zone: Overview of rock gardens. Facing east-southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic B5 – Polo Field Zone: Polo Field picnic table cluster. Facing southwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic B6 – Zilker Club House Zone: Overview of Club House and parking area. Facing northeast.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic B7 – Columbus Drive Zone: Overview of Columbus Drive, south of the entrance to the McBeth Recreation Center. Facing south.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



## Area C: Land Use





Landscape Characteristic C1 – Recreation Use: Children picnicking at the rock garden site. Facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic C2 – Educational Use: Visitors at Eliza Springs viewing Salamander habitat and interpretive signage. Facing west.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic C3 – Performance Use: Austin City Limits Music Festival, 2011. Aerial View, Facing southeast.

Photograph credited to the Austin Parks Foundation Blog. <http://austinparks.wordpress.com/category/acl/>. Accessed July, 2012.





## Area D: Vegetation





Landscape Characteristic D1 – Heritage Trees: Line of Pecan Trees between Barton Springs south bathing lawn and the ball fields. Facing west.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic D2 – Native Trees, Shrubs, and Grasses as Woodland: Near the Mirror Pond, downslope (east-southeast) from Lookout Point. Facing southwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic D3 – Native Trees and Lawns and Prospect Refuge: View of Soccer fields from shade trees. Facing west from eastern end of fields.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic D4 – Grassed Lawns: Northeast edge of Soccer Fields. Facing southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic D5 – Small Planting Zones: Barton Springs Bath House women's dressing room. Facing east.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





## Area E: Circulation





Landscape Characteristic E1 – Barton Springs Road as Main Road through park: View of Barton Springs Road from the Peace Grove (southwest side of soccer fields). Facing southwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic E2 – Secondary Roads: Zilker Club House Road. Facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic E3 – Surfaced Paths: Concrete steps leading to rock garden area, located west of main garden structures. Facing east.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic E4 – Footpaths/Trails: Path west of Andrew Zilker Road, partially surfaced. Facing northwest.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic E5 – Water Drainage System: Barton Springs Road culvert headwall. Located on the southwest side of Barton Springs Road, facing north.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic E6 – Historic Road Trace: Possible historic road trace along the southern bank of Barton Creek, just north of Robert E. Lee Road. Facing west-northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic E7 – Barton Springs Bridge Abutment: West side of the abutment, located on the south bank of Barton Creek, west of the swimming area. Facing southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic E8 – Parking Lot System: Parking area in front of Barton Springs Bath House, Facing east.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic E9 – Barton Springs Road Bridge: View of the Bridge from the south bank of Barton Creek. Facing northwest.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic E10 – Zilker Zephyr Rail: View into Zilker Zephyr Tunnel: Facing west.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

## Area F: Buildings and Structures





Landscape Characteristic F1 – Barton Springs Road Bridge: Overview of bridge from the south bank of Barton Creek at Barton Springs Road/Robert E. Lee Road intersection. Facing northwest. Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic F2 – Zilker Park Entry Gateway on Barton Springs Road: Overview of gateway structure located on the southwest side of Barton Springs Rd. Facing north-northwest. Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F2 – Zilker Park Entry Gateway on Barton Springs Road: Overview of gateway structure located on the northeast side of Barton Springs Rd. Facing northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F3 – Parking Lot System: Overview of Barton Springs and Zilker Hillside Theatre Parking. Facing west.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F4 – Road Network: Circulation system connecting the ball fields’ zone to Robert E. Lee Road. Facing west.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F5 – Modern Restroom Buildings: Rectangular building type found on the south side of Barton Creek. This is the only rectangular example in the park. It is located within the ball fields, just north of Robert E. Lee Road. West and south elevations, Facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F5 – Modern Restroom Buildings: Circular building type found on the north side of Barton Creek. This restroom is located on the southern edge of the polo fields. Southeast elevation, Facing northwest.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F6 – Mirror Pond: Overview of lower pond below dam. Facing northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F7 – Rollingwood Bridge Abutment: View of northwest abutment. Facing southeast. Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic F8 – Pistol/Skeet Range and Concession Building: South elevation of the concession building. Facing northwest.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F8 – Pistol/Skeet Range and Concession Building: East elevation of the range wall.  
Facing northeast.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F9 – Lookout Point: Overview of masonry columns. Photograph taken from the southern side of the resource. Facing north-northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F10 – Zilker Park Clubhouse: Overview of southwest elevation and retaining wall. Facing north-northeast.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F10 – Zilker Park Clubhouse: Overview of southeast elevation. Facing northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F10 – Zilker Park Clubhouse: Interior of main hall, facing southwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F11 – Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center and Annex: Former Knights of Columbus Hall. South elevation, facing northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F11 – Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center and Annex: Former Knights of Columbus Hall. North elevation, facing southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic F11 – Danny G. McBeth Recreation Center and Annex: Main recreation building.  
North elevation, Facing southeast.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F12 – Girl Scout Cabin: North elevation and façade. Facing southwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F12 – Girl Scout Cabin: West elevation, facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F12 – Girl Scout Cabin: South elevation, facing west-northwest.  
Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F13 – Beverly Sheffield Zilker Hillside Theatre: Overview of historic-age theatre remnants with new stage in the background. Facing south.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F14 – Zilker Rock Gardens: Overview of hillside above main pool area showing retaining walls and paths. Facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F14 – Zilker Rock Gardens: Overview of ponds. Facing west-southwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F14 – Zilker Rock Gardens: Inscription in south retaining wall of main pool area.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic F15 – Bandstand: Overview of bandstand building. North and west elevations, facing southeast.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F16 – Moonlight Tower (Zilker Christmas Tree): Overview of tree, supports, and picnic table. Facing east.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F17 – Sand Pit (Wading Pool): Overview of concrete pool edge (now filled with sand and grasses). Located on the west side of the Barton Springs Bath House, facing southwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F18 – Barton Springs Bath House: Overview of the western side of the south elevation and Barton Springs. Facing northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F18 – Barton Springs Bath House: Overview of Barton Springs side (south elevation) of bath house, bathing lawns, and Barton Springs. South and west elevations, facing east-northeast. Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F18 – Barton Springs Bath House: Overview of the eastern side of the south elevation, Barton Springs, and concession area (right side). Facing north-northeast. Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F18 – Barton Springs Bath House: South and west elevations of the main section of the building. Facing northeast.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F19 – Rock Wall System around the Barton Springs Area: Typical view of masonry low rock wall system located around the Barton Springs area. Photograph taken in the concession area. Facing northeast.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic F20 – Barton Springs Concession Stand: Overview of concession building and picnic tables. North and west elevation of building, facing southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F21 – Barton Springs Pool: Overview of pool area with lifeguard stands, bathing lawn retaining walls, and concrete walkways. Photograph taken from south bank, facing northwest.  
Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F21 – Barton Springs Pool: Overview of east end of pool. Photograph taken from the north bank, facing east.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F21 – Barton Springs Pool: Overview of west end of pool. Photograph taken from the north bank, facing west-southwest.  
Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F21 – Barton Springs Pool: Detail of retaining wall systems located at the northeast corner of the pool area, just west of lower dam. Facing north-northwest.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F21 – Barton Springs Pool: Detail of concrete retaining wall system located on north bank, east end of pool. Facing northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F21 – Barton Springs Pool: Inscription detail along south bank concrete walk.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F22 – Barton Creek Swimming Area: Eastern (lower) dam of Barton Springs, separating the pool area from the Barton Creek free swimming area, located to the east. Facing west-southwest.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic F22 – Barton Creek Swimming Area: Overview of swimming area. Facing east-southeast.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F22 – Barton Creek Swimming Area: Masonry steps leading from the Barton Springs parking area to the lower Barton Creek area. Facing north.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F23 – Zilker Zephyr Train Track and Tunnel System: Overview of tracks just east of starting point (located east of the Barton Springs concession area). Facing east.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F24 – Zilker Caretaker's Lodge: Overview of west elevation. Facing southeast. Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F24 – Zilker Caretaker's Lodge: West and south elevations. Facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F24 – Zilker Caretaker's Lodge: East elevation, facing west.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F25 – Zilker Caretaker's Lodge Fallout Shelter: View of entry. Located on the north side of the lodge, within the side yard. Facing north.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F26 – Zilker Caretaker’s Lodge Work Buildings and Sheds: Overview of office and work building. West and south elevations. Facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic F27 – Wright Field Concession: South and west elevations. Facing north-northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F28 – Sunken Gardens (Old Mill Spring): Overview of masonry wall system. Facing southeast.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F28 – Sunken Gardens (Old Mill Spring): Overview of lower section of complex with shallow pool. Facing south-southwest.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F28 – Sunken Gardens (Old Mill Spring): Detail of inscription found along top of stone wall, located on east side of complex.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F29 – Lift Station: Overview of west and south elevations. Facing northeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F30 – Barton Springs Bridge Abutment: Overview of east and north face of abutment. Facing southwest.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F31 – Elk's Pit (Eliza Spring): Overview of the northwest wall and entrance steps. Facing northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F31 – Elk's Pit (Eliza Spring): Overview of sunken pit. Photograph taken from upper guard rail, facing southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic F31 – Elk’s Pit (Eliza Spring): Elk’s Lodge 201 concrete panel. Located on northeast wall of pit. Facing northeast.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F31 – Elk's Pit (Eliza Spring): Star motif concrete panel. Located on wall panel of pit. Facing southwest.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F31 – Elk’s Pit (Eliza Spring): Concrete decorative detail. Located on pit steps, near southeast wall.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F31 – Elk's Pit (Eliza Spring): Andrew Zilker concrete panel. Located on wall panel of pit. Facing south.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F31 – Elk’s Pit (Eliza Spring): William Barton’s Spring concrete panel. Located on wall panel of pit. Facing east.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F32 – Detention Pond/Swale: View of drainage swale and detention pond masonry check dam located just north of Robert E. Lee Road. Facing south.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic F33 – Stone Amphitheatre: Overview of seating area. Facing southwest.  
Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

## Area G: Viewsheds





Landscape Characteristic G1 – View of Austin skyline from soccer fields : Facing east.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic G1 – View of Austin skyline from Lookout Point: Facing east-southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic G1 – View of Austin skyline from Zilker Clubhouse : Facing east-southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.

## Area H: Small Scale Features





Landscape Characteristic H1 – Entry Lamps to Barton Springs: Overview of the two masonry lamps on either side of William Barton Road leading into the Barton Springs parking area. Facing northwest, with east end of rock gardens in the background.

Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic H2 – Entry Gate Columns to the McBeth Recreational Buildings: Facing northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic H3 – Sand Pit (Wading Pool): Overview of concrete pool edge (now filled with sand and grasses). Located on the west side of the Barton Springs Bath House, facing southwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.





Landscape Characteristic H4 – Bedichek’s Rock: Rock ledge with swimmers. Facing west-southwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic H5 – Picnic Tables: Concrete picnic table grouping, typical (located at rock garden area). Facing southwest.

Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic H5 – Picnic Tables: Single concrete picnic table, typical.  
Photograph taken by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic H6 – Barbeque Pits: Masonry Barbeque Pit, typical. Photograph taken at picnic area southwest of Rollingwood Drive. Facing north-northwest.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



Landscape Characteristic H7 – Masonry Dugout Benches and Fences: Typical bench, located at ball fields behind fencing, south of Barton Springs. Facing south-southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



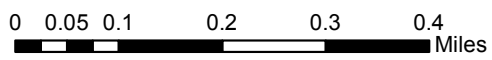
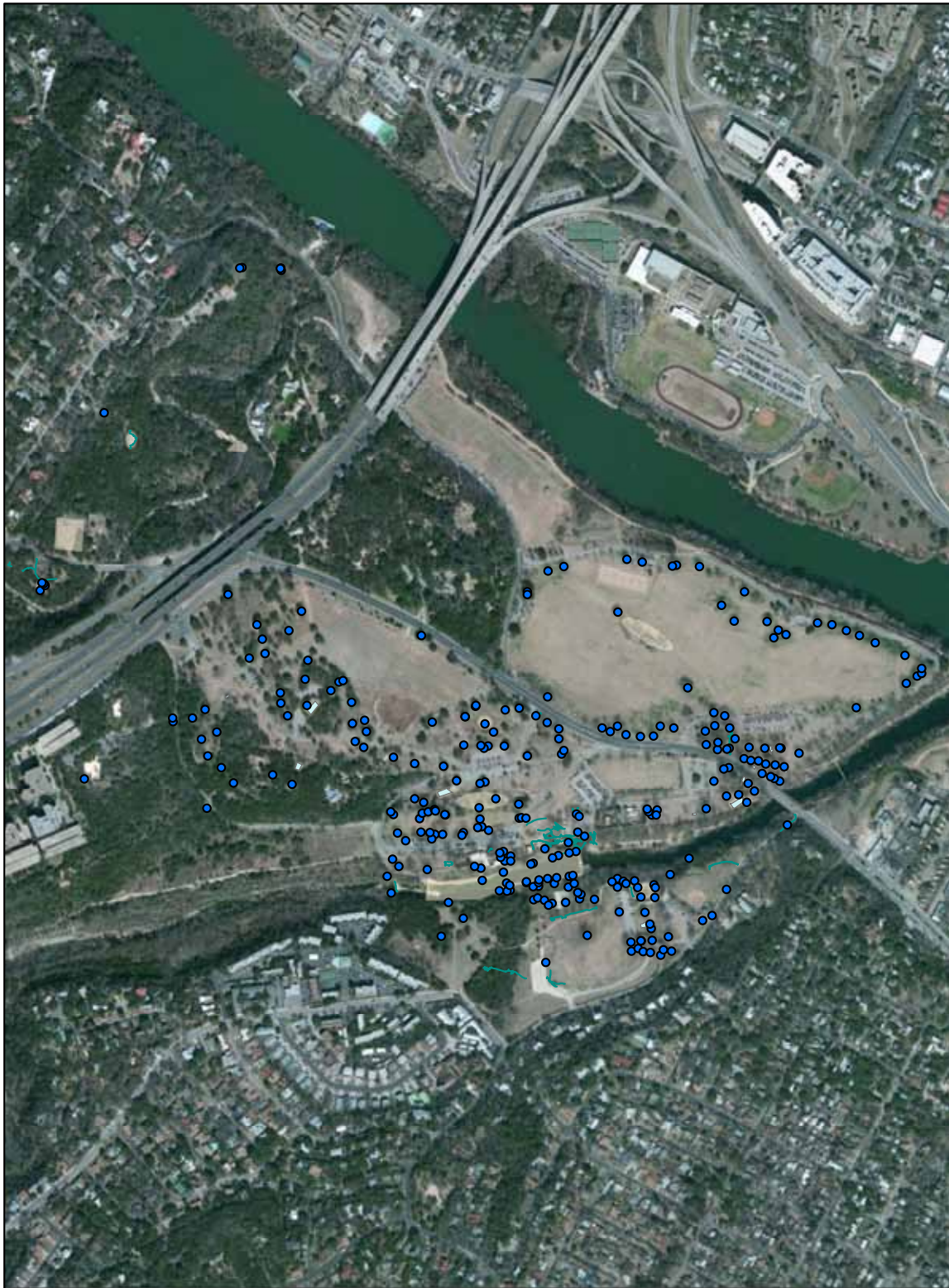
Landscape Characteristic H8 – Water Fountains: Typical masonry water fountain. Photograph taken at Polo Fields picnic area. Facing southeast.  
Photograph take by Julie McGilvray, 2012.



## APPENDIX II: GPS POINT LOCATIONS

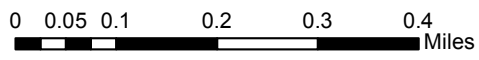
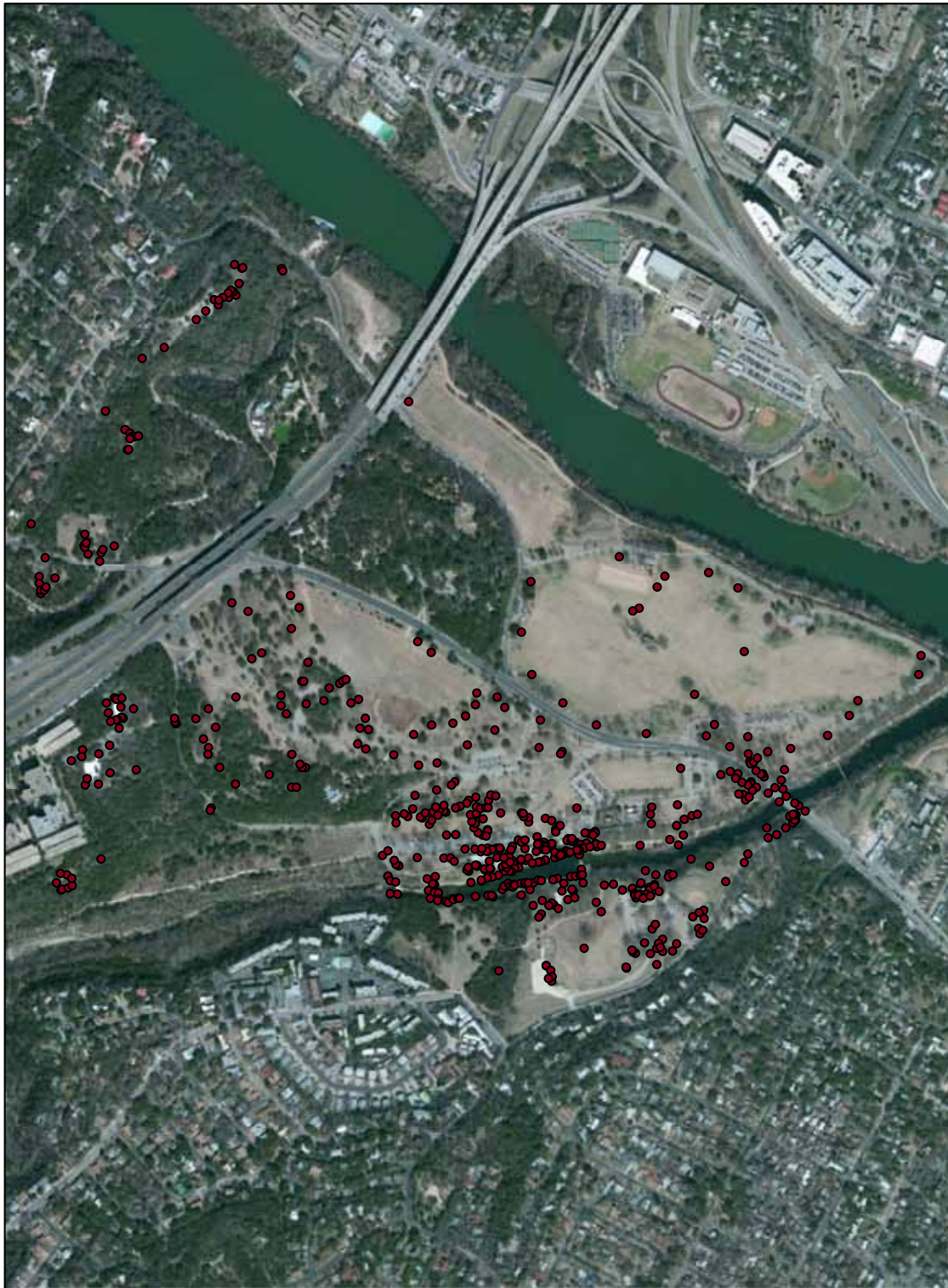






Zilker Park  
Historic Resource Survey Points





Zilker Park  
Historic Resource Photograph Points







APPENDIX III: ANNOTATED  
SURVEY PHOTO LOG



Survey Date	GPS Point Field ID Numbers	Resources Documented
05.03.12	0-12	Rock Garden Area; Zilker Hillside Theatre; and lawn
05.25.12	22-73	Zilker Gates at Barton Springs Road, the Soccer Field area, and Rock Island
05.01.12	74-102	Zilker Train; Rock Garden Area; Entry lamps/gateway to Barton Springs on William Barton Road
05.18.12	103-141	Contemporary playscape; Barton Creek free swimming area; kayak rental area
06.04.12	142-157	Zilker Moonlight Tower and Polo Fields area
06.29.12	158-245	Skeet and Gun Range area; Lookout Point, Zilker Clubhouse; McBeth Recreation Center and Anne; Girl Scout Cabin; various picnic tables and BBQ pits
06.01.12	245-292	Rock Island picnic area; Polo Fields; concrete picnic tables through Polo Fields, Stone Amphitheatre, Zilker Caretaker's Lodge and work buildings
04.24.12	293-316	Eliza Springs (Elk's Pit); Sunken Gardens; old road trace near Robert E. Lee
04.19.12	317-348	Barton Springs Swimming area; Barton Springs concessions; Eliza Springs (Elk's Pit)
03.29.12	349-402	Barton Springs swimming area and Bathhouse
03.27.12	403-445	Barton Springs swimming area
03.22.12	446-476	Wright Field; Barton Springs Road Bridge
03.20.12	477-499	Lift Station; Sunken Gardens; Detention Pond
03.08.12	500-515	Ball Fields area; Detention Pond; Rectangular Public Restrooms
03.02.12	516-519	Barton Springs Bridge Abutment; Rabb House site area
03.06.12	520-527	Ball Fields
04.05.12	528-536	Barton Springs swimming area and Bathhouse; sand pit (wading pool)
04.03.12	537-556	Barton Springs Bathhouse





## APPENDIX IV: GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS



# 36 Preservation Briefs

Technical Preservation Services

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## Protecting Cultural Landscapes Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes

**Charles A. Birnbaum, ASLA**

- » [Developing a Strategy and Seeking Assistance](#)
- » [Preservation Planning for Cultural Landscapes](#)



- » [Developing a Historic Preservation Approach and Treatment Plan](#)
- » [Developing a Preservation Maintenance Plan and Implementation Strategy](#)
- » [Recording Treatment Work and Future Research Recommendations](#)
- » [Summary](#)
- » [Selected Reading](#)

**A NOTE TO OUR USERS:** The web versions of the **Preservation Briefs** differ somewhat from the printed versions. Many illustrations are new, captions are simplified, illustrations are typically in color rather than black and white, and some complex charts have been omitted.

**Cultural landscapes can range from thousands of acres** of rural tracts of land to a small homestead with a front yard of less than one acre. Like historic buildings and districts, these special places reveal aspects of our country's origins and development through their form and features and the ways they were used. Cultural landscapes also reveal much about our evolving relationship with the natural world.



Patterns on the land have been preserved through the continuation of traditional uses, such as the grape fields at the Sterling Vineyards in Calistoga, California. Photo: NPS files.

A **cultural landscape** is defined as "a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values." There are four general types of cultural landscapes, not mutually exclusive: *historic sites*, *historic designed landscapes*, *historic vernacular landscapes*, and *ethnographic landscapes*. These are defined below.

**Historic landscapes** include residential gardens and community parks, scenic highways, rural communities, institutional grounds, cemeteries, battlefields and zoological gardens. They are composed of a number of character-defining features which, individually or collectively contribute to the landscape's physical appearance as they have evolved

over time. In addition to vegetation and topography, cultural landscapes may include water features, such as ponds, streams, and fountains; circulation features, such as roads, paths, steps, and walls; buildings; and furnishings, including fences, benches, lights and sculptural objects.

Most historic properties have a cultural landscape component that is integral to the significance of the resource. Imagine a residential district without sidewalks, lawns and trees or a plantation with

buildings but no adjacent lands. A historic property consists of all its cultural resources--landscapes, buildings, archeological sites and collections. In some cultural landscapes, there may be a total absence of buildings.

This Preservation Brief provides preservation professionals, cultural resource managers, and historic property owners a step-by-step process for preserving **historic designed** and **vernacular landscapes**, two types of cultural landscapes. While this process is ideally applied to an entire landscape, it can address a single feature, such as a perennial garden, family burial plot, or a sentinel oak in an open meadow. This Brief provides a framework and guidance for undertaking projects to ensure a successful balance between historic preservation and change.

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## DEFINITIONS

**Historic Designed Landscape**--a landscape that was consciously designed or laid out by a landscape architect, master gardener, architect, or horticulturist according to design principles, or an amateur gardener working in a recognized style or tradition. The landscape may be associated with a significant person(s), trend, or event in landscape architecture; or illustrate an important development in the theory and practice of landscape architecture. Aesthetic values play a significant role in designed landscapes. Examples include parks, campuses, and estates.

**Historic Vernacular Landscape**--a landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped that landscape. Through social or cultural attitudes of an individual, family or a community, the landscape reflects the physical, biological, and cultural character of those everyday lives. Function plays a significant role in vernacular landscapes. They can be a single property such as a farm or a collection of properties such as a district of historic farms along a river valley. Examples include rural villages, industrial complexes, and agricultural landscapes.

**Historic Site**--a landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity, or person. Examples include battlefields and president's house properties.

**Ethnographic Landscape**--a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources. Examples are contemporary settlements, religious sacred sites and massive geological structures. Small plant communities, animals, subsistence and ceremonial grounds are often components.

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## Developing a Strategy and Seeking Assistance

Nearly all designed and vernacular landscapes evolve from, or are often dependent on, natural resources. It is these interconnected systems of land, air and water, vegetation and wildlife which have dynamic qualities that differentiate cultural landscapes from other cultural resources, such as historic structures. Thus, their documentation, treatment, and ongoing management require a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary approach.

Today, those involved in preservation planning and management of cultural landscapes represent a broad array of academic backgrounds, training, and related project experience. Professionals may have expertise in landscape architecture, history, landscape archeology, forestry, agriculture, horticulture, pomology, pollen analysis, planning, architecture, engineering (civil, structural, mechanical, traffic), cultural geography, wildlife, ecology, ethnography, interpretation, material and object conservation, landscape maintenance and management. Historians and historic preservation professionals can bring expertise in the history of the landscape, architecture, art, industry, agriculture, society and other subjects.



The "Boot Fence," near D.H. Lawrence Ranch, Questa, California, is an example of a character-defining landscape feature. Photo: Courtesy, Cheryl Wagner.

Landscape preservation teams, including on-site management teams and independent consultants, are often directed by a landscape architect with specific expertise in landscape preservation. It is highly recommended that disciplines relevant to the landscapes' inherent features be represented as well.



Another example of a very different landscape feature is this tree planting detail for Jefferson Memorial Park, St. Louis, Missouri. Photo: Courtesy, Dan Kiley.

Additional guidance may be obtained from State Historic Preservation Offices, local preservation commissions, the National Park Service, local and state park agencies, national and state chapters of the American Society of Landscape Architects, the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation, the National Association of Olmsted Parks, and the Catalog of Landscape Records in the United States at Wave Hill, among others.

A range of issues may need to be addressed when considering how a particular cultural landscape should be treated. This may include the in-kind replacement of declining vegetation, reproduction of furnishings, rehabilitation of structures, accessibility provisions for people with disabilities, or the

treatment of industrial properties that are rehabilitated for new uses.

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### Preservation Planning for Cultural Landscapes

Careful planning prior to undertaking work can help prevent irrevocable damage to a cultural landscape. Professional techniques for identifying, documenting, evaluating and preserving cultural landscapes have advanced during the past 25 years and are continually being refined. Preservation planning generally involves the following steps: historical research; inventory and documentation of existing conditions; site analysis and evaluation of integrity and significance; development of a cultural landscape preservation approach and treatment plan; development of a cultural landscape management plan and management philosophy; the development of a strategy for ongoing maintenance; and preparation of a record of treatment and future research recommendations.

The steps in this process are not independent of each other, nor are they always sequential. In fact, information gathered in one step may lead to a re-examination or refinement of previous steps. For example, field inventory and historical research are likely to occur simultaneously, and may reveal unnoticed cultural resources that should be protected.

The treatment and management of cultural landscape should also be considered in concert with the management of an entire historic property. As a result, many other studies may be relevant. They include management plans, interpretive plans, exhibit design, historic structures reports, and other.

These steps can result in several products including a Cultural Landscape Report (also known as a Historic Landscape Report), statements for management, interpretive guide, maintenance guide and maintenance records.

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### CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORTS

A Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) is the primary report that documents the history, significance and treatment of a cultural landscape. A CLR evaluates the history and integrity of the landscape including any changes to its geographical context, features, materials, and use.

CLWs are often prepared when a change (e.g. a new visitor's center or parking area to a landscape) is proposed. In such instances, a CLR can be a useful tool to protect the landscape's

character-defining features from undue wear, alteration or loss. A CLR can provide managers, curators and others with information needed to make management decisions.

A CLR will often yield new information about a landscape's historic significance and integrity, even for those already listed on the National Register. Where appropriate, National Register files should be amended to reflect the new findings.

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#### **Historical Research**

Research is essential before undertaking any treatment. Findings will help identify a landscape's historic period(s) of ownership, occupancy and development, and bring greater understanding of the associations and characteristics that make the landscape or history significant. Research findings provide a foundation to make educated decisions for work, and can also facilitate ongoing maintenance and management operations, interpretation and eventual compliance requirements.

A variety of primary and secondary sources may be consulted. Primary archival sources can include historic plans, surveys, plats, tax maps, atlases, U. S. Geological Survey maps, soil profiles, aerial photographs, photographs, stereoscopic views, glass lantern slides, postcards, engravings, paintings, newspapers, journals, construction drawings, specifications, plant lists, nursery catalogs, household records, account books and personal correspondence. Secondary sources include monographs, published histories, theses, National Register forms, survey data, local preservation plans, state contexts and scholarly articles.

Contemporary documentary resources should also be consulted. This may include recent studies, plans, surveys, aerial and infrared photographs, Soil Conservation Service soil maps, inventories, investigations and interviews. Oral histories of residents, managers, and maintenance personnel with a long tenure or historical association can be valuable sources of information about changes to a landscape over many years. For properties listed in the National Register, nomination forms should be consulted.

#### **Preparing Period Plans**

In the case of designed landscapes, even though a historic design plan exists, it does not necessarily mean that it was realized fully, or even in part. Based on a review of the archival resources outlined above, and the extant landscape today, an *as-built period plan* may be delineated. For all successive tenures of ownership, occupancy and landscape change, *period plans* should be generated. Period plans can document to the greatest extent possible the historic appearance during a particular period of ownership, occupancy, or development. Period plans should be based on primary archival sources and should avoid conjecture. Features that are based on secondary or less accurate sources should be graphically differentiated. Ideally, all referenced archival sources should be annotated and footnoted directly on *period plans*.

Where historical data is missing, period plans should reflect any gaps in the CLR narrative text and these limitations considered in future treatment decisions.

#### **Inventoring and Documenting Existing Conditions**

Both physical evidence in the landscape and historic documentation guide the historic preservation plan and treatments. To document existing conditions, intensive field investigation and reconnaissance should be conducted at the same time that documentary research is being gathered. Information should be exchanged among preservation professionals, historians, technicians, local residents, managers and visitors.

To assist in the survey process, National Register Bulletins have been published by the National Park Service to aid in identifying, nominating and evaluating designed and rural historic landscapes. Additionally, Bulletins are available for specific landscape types such as battlefields, mining sites, and cemeteries.



Understanding the geographic context should be part of the inventory process. This aerial photograph at Rancho Los Alamitos, Long Beach, CA, was taken in 1936. (See, below.) Photo: Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation.

Although there are several ways to inventory and document a landscape, the goal is to create a baseline from a detailed record of the landscape and its features as they exist at the present (considering seasonal variations). Each landscape inventory should address issues of boundary delineation, documentation methodologies and techniques, the limitations of the inventory, and the scope of inventory efforts.



This present-day view of Rancho Los Alamitos shows present-day encroachments and adjacent developments that will affect the future treatment of visual and spatial relationships. Photo: Rancho Los Alamitos Foundation.

These are most often influenced by the timetable, budget, project scope, and the purpose of the inventory and, depending on the physical qualities of the property, its scale, detail, and the inter-relationship between natural and cultural resources. For example, inventory objectives to

develop a treatment plan may differ considerably compared to those needed to develop an ongoing maintenance plan. Once the criteria for a landscape inventory are developed and tested, the methodology should be explained.

#### Preparing Existing Condition Plans

Inventory and documentation may be recorded in plans, sections, photographs, aerial photographs, axonometric perspectives, narratives, video-or any combination of techniques. Existing conditions should generally be documented to scale, drawn by hand or generated by computer. The scale of the drawings is often determined by the size and complexity of the landscape. Some landscapes may require documentation at more than one scale. For example, a large estate may be documented at a small scale to depict its spatial and visual relationships, while the discrete area around an estate mansion may require a larger scale to illustrate individual plant materials, pavement patterns and other details. The same may apply to an entire rural historic district and a fenced vegetable garden contained within.

When landscapes are documented in photographs, *registration points* can be set to indicate the precise location and orientation of features. Registration points should correspond to significant forms, features and spatial relationships within the landscape and its surrounds. The points may also correspond to historic views to illustrate the change in the landscape to date. These locations may also be used as a management tool to document the landscape's evolution, and to ensure that its character-defining features are preserved over time through informed maintenance operations and later treatment and management decisions.

All features that contribute to the landscape's historic character should be recorded. These include the physical features described above (e.g. topography, circulation), and the visual and spatial relationships that are character defining. The identification of existing plants, should be specific,



including genus, species, common name, age (if known) and size. The woody, and if appropriate, herbaceous plant material should be accurately located on the existing conditions map. To ensure full representation of successional herbaceous plants, care should be taken to document the landscape in different seasons, if possible.

Treating living plant materials as a curatorial collection has also been undertaken at some cultural landscapes. This process, either done manually or by computer, can track the condition and maintenance operations on individual plants. Some sites, such as the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, in Brookline, Massachusetts have developed a field investigation numbering system to track all woody plants. Due to concern for the preservation of genetic diversity and the need to replace significant plant materials, a number of properties are beginning to propagate historically important rare plants that are no longer commercially available, unique, or possess significant historic associations. Such herbarium collections become a part of a site's natural history collection.

Once the research and the documentation of existing conditions have been completed, a foundation is in place to analyze the landscape's continuity and change, determine its significance, assess its integrity, and place it within the historic context of similar landscapes.

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### READING THE LANDSCAPE

A noted geographer, Pierce Lewis, stated, "The attempt to derive meaning from landscapes possesses overwhelming virtue. It keeps us constantly alert to the world around us, demanding that we pay attention not just to some of the things around us but to all of them--the whole visible world in all of its rich, glorious, messy, confusing, ugly, and beautiful complexity."

Landscapes can be read on many levels--landscape as nature, habitat, artifact, system, problem, wealth, ideology, history, place and aesthetic. When developing a strategy to document a cultural landscape, it is important to attempt to read the landscape in its context of place and time.

Reading the landscape, like engaging in archival research, requires a knowledge of the resource and subject area as well as a willingness to be skeptical. As with archival research, it may involve serendipitous discoveries. Evidence gained from reading the landscape may confirm or contradict other findings and may encourage the observer and the historian to re-visit both primary and secondary sources with a fresh outlook. Landscape investigation may also stimulate other forms of research and survey, such as oral histories or archeological investigations, to supplement what appeared on-site.

There are many ways to read a landscape-whatever approach is taken should provide a broad overview. This may be achieved by combining on-the-ground observations with a bird's-eye perspective. To begin this process, aerial photographs should be reviewed to gain an orientation to the landscape and its setting. Aerial photographs come in different sizes and scales, and can thus portray different levels of detail in the landscape. Aerial photographs taken at a high altitude, for example, may help to reveal remnant field patterns or traces of an abandoned circulation system; or, portions of axial relationships that were part of the original design, since obscured by encroaching woodland areas. Low altitude aerial photographs can point out individual features such as the arrangement of shrub and herbaceous borders, and the exact locations of furnishings, lighting, and fence alignments. This knowledge can prove beneficial before an on-site visit.

Aerial photographs provide clues that can help orient the viewer to the landscape. The next step may be to view the landscape from a high point such as a knoll or an upper floor window. Such a vantage point may provide an excellent transition before physically entering the cultural landscape.

On ground, evidence should then be studied, including character-defining features, visual and spatial relationships. By reviewing supporting materials from historic research, individual features can be understood in a systematic fashion that show the continuum that exists on the ground today. By classifying these features and relationships, the landscape can be understood as an

artifact, possessing evidence of evolving natural systems and human interventions over time.

For example, the on-site investigation of an abandoned turn-of-the-century farm complex reveals the remnant of a native oak and pine forest which was cut and burned in the mid-nineteenth century. This previous use is confirmed by a small stand of mature oaks and the presence of these plants in the emerging secondary woodland growth that is overtaking this farm complex in decline. A ring count of the trees can establish a more accurate age. By *reading* other character-defining features, such as the traces of old roads, remnant hedgerows, ornamental trees along boundary roads, foundation plantings, the terracing of grades and remnant fences--the visual, spatial and contextual relationships of the property as it existed a century ago may be understood and its present condition and integrity evaluated.

The findings of on-site reconnaissance, such as materials uncovered during archival research, may be considered primary data. These findings make it possible to inventory and evaluate the landscape's features in the context of the property's current condition. Character-defining features are located *in situ*, in relationship to each other and the greater cultural and geographic contexts.

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#### **Historic Plant Inventory**

Within cultural landscapes, plants may have historical or botanical significance. A plant may have been associated with a historic figure or event or be part of a notable landscape design. A plant may be an uncommon cultivar, exceptional in size, age, rare and commercially/unavailable. If such plants are lost, there would be a loss of historic integrity and biological diversity of the cultural landscape. To ensure that significant plants are preserved, an inventory of historic plants is being conducted at the North Atlantic Region of the National Park Service. Historical landscape architects work with landscape managers and historians to gather oral and documented history on the plant's origin and potential significance. Each plant is then examined in the field by an expert horticulturist who records its name, condition, age, size, distribution, and any notable botanic characteristics.

Plants that are difficult to identify or are of potential historical significance are further examined in the laboratory by a plant taxonomist who compares leaf, fruit, and flower characteristics with herbarium specimens for named species, cultivars and varieties. For plants species with many cultivars, such as apples, roses, and grapes, specimens may be sent to specialists for identification.

If a plant cannot be identified, is dying or in decline, and unavailable from commercial nurseries, it may be propagated. Propagation ensures that when rare and significant plants decline, they can be replaced with genetically-identical plants. Cuttings are propagated and grown to replacement size in a North Atlantic Region Historic Plant Nursery.

#### **Site Analysis: Evaluating Integrity and Significance**

By analyzing the landscape, its change over time can be understood. This may be accomplished by overlaying the various period plans with the existing conditions plan. Based on these findings, individual features may be attributed to the particular period when they were introduced, and the various periods when they were present.

It is during this step that the *historic significance* of the landscape component of a historic property and its integrity are determined. Historic significance is the recognized importance a property displays when it has been evaluated, including when it has been found to meet National Register Criteria. A landscape may have several areas of historical significance. An understanding of the landscape as a continuum through history is critical in assessing its cultural and historic value. In order for the landscape to have integrity, these character-defining features or qualities that contribute to its significance must be present.

While National Register nominations document the significance and integrity of historic properties, in general, they may not acknowledge the significance of the landscape's design or historic land



The landscape of Lyndhurst, Tarrytown, New York, is significant in American culture and work of a master gardener, Ferdinand Mangold. Photo: National Trust for Historic Preservation.

uses, and may not contain an inventory of landscape features or characteristics. Additional research is often necessary to provide the detailed information about a landscape's evolution and significance useful in making decision for the treatment and maintenance of a historic landscape. Existing National Register forms may be amended to recognize additional areas of significance and to include more complete descriptions of historic properties that have significant land areas and landscape features.

*Integrity* is a property's historic identity evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics from the property's historic or pre-historic period. The seven qualities of integrity are location, setting, feeling, association, design, workmanship and materials. When evaluating these qualities, care

should be taken to consider change itself. For example, when a second-generation woodland overtakes an open pasture in a battlefield landscape, or a woodland edge encloses a scenic vista. For situations such as these, the reversibility and/or compatibility of those features should be considered, both individually, and in the context of the overall landscape. Together, evaluations of significance and integrity, when combined with historic research, documentation of existing conditions, and analysis findings, influence later treatment and interpretation decisions.

### Developing a Historic Preservation Approach and Treatment Plan

Treatment may be defined as work carried out to achieve a historic preservation goal--it cannot be considered in a vacuum. There are many practical and philosophical factors that may influence the selection of a treatment for a landscape. These include the relative historic value of the property, the level of historic documentation, existing physical conditions, its historic significance and integrity, historic and proposed use (e.g. educational, interpretive, passive, active public, institutional or private), long-and short-term objectives, operational and code requirements (e.g. accessibility, fire, security) and costs for anticipated capital improvement, staffing and maintenance. The value of any significant archeological and natural resources should also be considered in the decision-making process. Therefore, a cultural landscape's preservation plan and the treatment selected will consider a broad array of dynamic and inter-related considerations. It will often take the form of a plan with detailed guidelines or specifications.

### TREATMENTS FOR CULTURAL LANDSCAPES

*Prior to undertaking work on a landscape, a treatment plan or similar document should be developed. The four primary treatments identified in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, are:*

**Preservation** is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. New additions are not within the scope of this treatment; however, the limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project.

**Rehabilitation** is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical or cultural values.

**Restoration** is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project.

**Reconstruction** is defined as the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location.

Adopting such a plan, in concert with a preservation maintenance plan, acknowledges a cultural landscape's ever-changing existence and the inter-relationship of treatment and ongoing maintenance. Performance standards, scheduling and record keeping of maintenance activities on a day-to-day or month-to-month basis, may then be planned for. Treatment, management, and maintenance proposals can be developed by a broad range of professionals and with expertise in such fields as landscape preservation, horticulture, ecology, and landscape maintenance.

The selection of a primary treatment for the landscape, utilizing the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, establishes an overall historic preservation approach, as well as a philosophical framework from which to operate. Selecting a treatment is based on many factors. They include management and interpretation objectives for the property as a whole, the period(s) of significance, integrity, and condition of individual landscape features.

For all treatments, the landscape's existing conditions and its ability to convey historic significance should be carefully considered. For example, the life work, design philosophy and extant legacy of an individual designer should all be understood for a designed landscape, such as an estate, prior to treatment selection. For a vernacular landscape, such as a battlefield containing a largely intact mid-nineteenth century family farm, the uniqueness of that agrarian complex within a local, regional, state, and national context should be considered in selecting a treatment.

The overall historic preservation approach and treatment approach can ensure the proper retention, care, and repair of landscapes and their inherent features. In short, the Standards act as a preservation and management tool for cultural landscapes. The four potential treatments are described above.

Landscape treatments can range from simple, inexpensive preservation actions, to complex major restoration or reconstruction projects. The progressive framework is inverse in proportion to the retention of historic features and materials. Generally, preservation involves the least change, and is the most respectful of historic materials. It maintains the form and material of the existing landscape. Rehabilitation usually accommodates contemporary alterations or additions without altering significant historic features or materials, with successful projects involving minor to major change. Restoration or reconstruction attempts to recapture the appearance of a property, or an individual feature at a particular point in time, as confirmed by detailed historic documentation. These last two treatments most often require the greatest degree of intervention and thus, the highest level of documentation.

In all cases, treatment should be executed at the appropriate level, reflecting the condition of the landscape, with repair work identifiable upon close inspection and/or indicated in supplemental



When the American Elm was plagued with Dutch Elm Disease, many historic properties relied on the Japanese Zelkova as a substitute plant (see below). Photo: NPS files.



**Compared to the American Elm (above right), it is readily apparent that the form and scale of this tree is really quite different, and would be an inappropriate substitute plant material within a restoration or reconstruction project. Photo: NPS files.**

interpretative information. When repairing or replacing a feature, every effort should be made to achieve visual and physical compatibility. Historic materials should be matched in design, scale, color and texture.

A landscape with a high level of integrity and authenticity may suggest preservation as the primary treatment. Such a treatment may emphasize protection, stabilization, cyclical maintenance, and repair of character-defining landscape features. Changes over time that are part of the landscape's continuum and are significant in their own right may be retained, while changes that are not significant, yet do not encroach upon or erode character may also be maintained. Preservation entails the essential operations to safeguard existing resources.

Rehabilitation is often selected in response to a contemporary use or need-- ideally such an approach is compatible with the landscape's historic character and historic use. Rehabilitation may preserve existing fabric along with introducing some compatible changes, new additions and alterations. Rehabilitation may be desirable at a private residence in a historic district where the homeowner's goal is to develop

an appropriate landscape treatment for a front yard, or in a public park where a support area is needed for its maintenance operations.

When the most important goal is to portray a landscape at an exact period of time, restoration is selected as the primary treatment. Unlike preservation and rehabilitation, interpreting the landscape's continuum or evolution is not the objective. Restoration may include the removal of features from other periods and/or the construction of missing or lost features and materials from the reconstruction period. In all cases, treatment should be substantiated by the historic research findings and existing conditions documentation. Restoration and re-construction treatment work should avoid the creation of a landscape whose features did not exist historically. For example, if features from an earlier period did not co-exist with extant features from a later period that are being retained, their restoration would not be appropriate.

In rare cases, when evidence is sufficient to avoid conjecture, and no other property exists that can adequately explain a certain period of history, reconstruction may be utilized to depict a vanished landscape. The accuracy of this work is critical. In cases where topography and the sub-surface of soil have not been disturbed, research and existing conditions findings may be confirmed by thorough archeological investigations. Here too, those features that are intact should be repaired as necessary, retaining the original historic features to the greatest extent possible. The greatest danger in reconstruction is creating a false picture of history.

False historicism in every treatment should be avoided. This applies to individual features as well as the entire landscape. Examples of inappropriate work include the introduction of historic-looking benches that are actually a new design, a fanciful gazebo placed in what was once an open meadow, executing an unrealized historic design, or designing a historic-looking landscape for a relocated historic structure within "restoration."



**The historic birch allee at Stan Hywet Hall, Akron, Ohio, which had suffered from borer infestation and leaf miner, was preserved through a series of carefully executed steps that took 15 years to realize. Photo: Child Associates.**

## LANDSCAPE INTERPRETATION

Landscape interpretation is the process of providing the visitor with tools to experience the

landscape as it existed during its period of significance, or as it evolved to its present state. These tools may vary widely, from a focus on existing features to the addition of interpretive elements. These could include exhibits, self-guided brochures, or a new representation of a lost feature. The nature of the cultural landscape, especially its level of significance, integrity, and the type of visitation anticipated may frame the interpretive approach. Landscape interpretation may be closely linked to the integrity and condition of the landscape, and therefore, its ability to convey the historic character and character-defining features of the past. If a landscape has high integrity, the interpretive approach may be to direct visitors to surviving historic features without introducing obtrusive interpretive devices, such as free-standing signs. For landscapes with a diminished integrity, where limited or no fabric remains, the interpretive emphasis may be on using extant features and visual aids (e.g., markers, photographs, etc.) to help visitors visualize the resource as it existed in the past. The primary goal in these situations is to educate the visitor about the landscape's historic themes, associations and lost character-defining features or broader historical, social and physical landscape contexts.

### Developing a Preservation Maintenance Plan and Implementation Strategy

Throughout the preservation planning process, it is important to ensure that existing landscape features are retained. Preservation maintenance is the practice of monitoring and controlling change in the landscape to ensure that its historic integrity is not altered and features are not lost. This is particularly important during the research and long-term treatment planning process. To be effective, the maintenance program must have a guiding philosophy, approach or strategy; an understanding of preservation maintenance techniques; and a system for documenting changes in the landscape.



Central Park has developed an in-house historic preservation crew to undertake small projects. A specialized crew has been trained to repair and rebuild rustic furnishings. Photo: Central Park Conservancy.

The philosophical approach to maintenance should coincide with the landscape's current stage in the preservation planning process. A Cultural Landscape Report and Treatment Plan can take several years to complete, yet during this time managers and property owners will likely need to address immediate issues related to the decline, wear, decay, or damage of landscape features. Therefore, initial maintenance operations may focus on the stabilization and protection of all landscape features to provide temporary, often emergency measures to prevent deterioration, failure, or loss, without altering the site's existing character.

After a Treatment Plan is implemented, the approach to preservation maintenance may be modified to reflect the objectives defined by this plan. The detailed specifications prepared in the Treatment Plan relating to the retention, repair, removal, or replacement of features in the

landscape should guide and inform a comprehensive preservation maintenance program. This would include schedules for monitoring and routine maintenance, appropriate preservation maintenance procedures, as well as ongoing record keeping of work performed. For vegetation, the preservation maintenance program would also include thresholds for growth or change in character, appropriate pruning methods, propagation and replacement procedures.

To facilitate operations, a property may be divided into discrete management zones. These zones are sometimes defined during the Cultural Landscape Report process and are typically based on historically defined areas. Alternatively, zones created for maintenance practices and priorities could be used. Examples of maintenance zones would include woodlands, lawns, meadow, specimen trees, and hedges.

Training of maintenance staff in preservation maintenance skills is essential. Preservation maintenance practices differ from standard maintenance practices because of the focus on perpetuating the historic character or use of the landscape rather than beautification. For

example, introducing new varieties of turf, roses or trees is likely to be inappropriate. Substantial earth moving (or movement of soil) may be inappropriate where there are potential archeological resources. An old hedge or shrub should be rejuvenated, or propagated, rather than removed and replaced. A mature specimen tree may require cabling and careful monitoring to ensure that it is not a threat to visitor safety. Through training programs and with the assistance of preservation maintenance specialists, each property could develop maintenance specifications for the care of landscape features.

Because landscapes change through the seasons, specifications for ongoing preservation maintenance should be organized in a calendar format. During each season or month, the calendar can be referenced to determine when, where, and how preservation maintenance is needed. For example, for some trees structural pruning is best done in the late winter while other trees are best pruned in the late summer. Serious pests are monitored at specific times of the year, in certain stages of their life cycle. This detailed calendar will, in turn, identify staff needs and work priorities.

Depending on the level of sophistication desired, one approach to documenting maintenance data and recording change over time is to use a computerized geographical or visual information system. Such a system would have the capability to include plans and photographs that would focus on a site's landscape features.

If a computer is not available, a manual or notebook can be developed to organize and store important information. This approach allows managers to start at any level of detail and to begin to collect and organize information about landscape features. The value of these maintenance records cannot be overstated. These records will be used in the future by historians to understand how the landscape has evolved with the ongoing care of the maintenance staff.

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### **Recording Treatment Work and Future Research Recommendations**

The last and ongoing step in the preservation planning process records the treatment work as carried out. It may include a series of as-built drawings, supporting photographic materials, specifications and a summary assessment. New technologies that have been successfully used should be highlighted. Ideally, this information should be shared with interested national organizations for further dissemination and evaluation.

The need for further research or additional activities should also be documented. This may include site-specific or contextual historical research, archeological investigations, pollen analysis, search for rare or unusual plant materials, or, material testing for future applications.

Finally, in consultation with a conservator or archivist-to maximize the benefit of project work and to minimize the potential of data loss--all primary documents should be organized and preserved as archival materials. This may include field notes, maps, drawings, photographs, material samples, oral histories and other relevant information.

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### **DEVELOPING A PRESERVATION MAINTENANCE GUIDE**

In the past, there was rarely adequate record-keeping to fully understand the ways a landscape was maintained. This creates gaps in our research findings. Today, we recognize that planning for ongoing maintenance and onsite applications should be documented--both routinely and comprehensively. An annual work program or calendar records the frequency of maintenance work on built or natural landscape features. It can also monitor the age, health and vigor of vegetation. For example, onsite assessments may document the presence of weeds, pests, dead leaves, pale color, wilting, soil compaction--all of which signal particular maintenance needs. For built elements, the deterioration of paving or drainage systems may be noted and the need for repair or replacement indicated before hazards develop. An overall maintenance program can assist in routine and cyclic maintenance of the landscape and can also guide long term treatment projects.

To help structure a comprehensive maintenance operation that is responsive to staff, budget, and maintenance priorities, the National Park Service has developed two computer-driven programs for its own landscape resources. A Maintenance Management Program (MM) is designed to assist maintenance managers in their efforts to plan, organize, and direct the park maintenance system. An Inventory and Condition Assessment Program (ICAP) is designed to complement MM by providing a system for inventorying, assessing conditions, and for providing corrective work recommendations for all site features.

Another approach to documenting maintenance and recording changes over time is to develop a manual or computerized graphic information system. Such a system should have the capability to include plans and photographs that would record a site's living collection of plant materials. (Also see discussion of the use of photography under Preparing Existing Conditions Plans) This may be achieved using a computer-aided drafting program along with an integrated database management system.

To guide immediate and ongoing maintenance, a systematic and flexible approach has been developed by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. Working with National Park Service landscape managers and maintenance specialists, staff assemble information and make recommendations for the care of individual landscape features.

Each landscape feature is inspected in the field to document existing conditions and identify field work needed. Recommendations include maintenance procedures that are sensitive to the integrity of the landscape.

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### Summary

The planning, treatment, and maintenance of cultural landscapes requires a multi-disciplinary approach. In landscapes, such as parks and playgrounds, battlefields, cemeteries, village greens, and agricultural land preserves more than any other type of historic resource--communities rightly presume a sense of stewardship. It is often this grass roots commitment that has been a catalyst for current research and planning initiatives. Individual residential properties often do not require the same level of public outreach, yet a systematic planning process will assist in making educated treatment, management and maintenance decisions.

Wise stewardship protects the character, and or spirit of a place by recognizing history as change over time. Often, this also involves our own respectful changes through treatment. The potential benefits from the preservation of cultural landscapes are enormous. Landscapes provide scenic, economic, ecological, social, recreational and educational opportunities that help us understand ourselves as individuals, communities and as a nation. Their ongoing preservation can yield an improved quality of life for all, and, above all, a sense of place or identity for future generations.

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### Selected Reading

Birnbaum, Charles A., guest editor. *Preservation Forum*. "Focus on Landscape Preservation". Washington, D.C.: National Trust for Historic Preservation, Volume 7, No. 3, May/June 1992.

Buggey Susan, guest editor. *APT Bulletin. Special Issue: Conserving Historic Landscapes*. Fredericksburg, VA: Association for Preservation Technology International, Volume XXIV, No. 3-4, 1992.

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Diehl, Janet and Thomas S. Barrett, et al. *The Conservation Easement Handbook. Managing Land Conservation and Historic Preservation Easement Programs*, The Land Trust Exchange (now Alliance) and the Trust for Public Land, 1988.



International Committee of Historic Gardens and Sites, ICOMOS-IFLA. *Jardins et Sites Historiques*, Scientific Journal. ICOMOS1993. Compilation of papers on the subject, in both English and French.

Kelso, William M., and Rachel Most. *Earth Patterns: Essays in Landscape Archaeology*. Charlottesville, VA. University Press of Virginia, 1990.

Stokes, Samuel, N., et al. *Saving America's Countryside: A Guide to Rural Conservation*. Baltimore and London: John Hopkins University Press, 1989.

Tishler, William, editor. *American Landscape Architecture: Designers and Places*. Washington, DC: The Preservation Press, 1989.

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### Acknowledgements

The author, Charles A. Birnbaum, Coordinator, Historic Landscape Initiative, Preservation Assistance Division, National Park Service would like to acknowledge the assistance of H. Ward Jandl and Kay Weeks. The Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation at the Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site including Margie Coffin, Lauren Meier, Nora Mitchell, and Charlie Pepper provided invaluable support. In particular, the proposed rewrite on Preservation Maintenance and historic plant materials was written by Margie Coffin. Significant contributions were also made by Patricia M. O'Donnell, Linda McClelland, Ellen Lipsey, Christine Capella Peters, Robert Page, Ian Firth and Robert Melnick. Useful comments and technical assistance were provided by regional NPS staff (Mary Hughes, Lucy Lawliss, Jill Cowley, Sherda Williams, Michael Crowe, Robbyn Jackson) and staff at the Preservation Assistance Division (Cheryl Wagner, Michael Auer and Anne Grimmer).

**Washington, D.C. September, 1994**

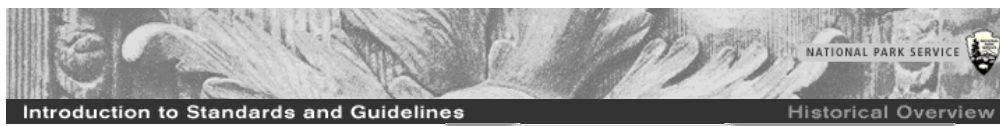
**Home page logo: Taro fields in Hanalei, Hawaii. Photo: NPS files.**

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*This publication has been prepared pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, which directs the Secretary of the Interior to develop and make available information concerning historic properties. Technical Preservation Services (TPS), Heritage Preservation Services Division, National Park Service prepares standards, guidelines, and other educational materials on responsible historic preservation treatments for a broad public.*

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[Questions](#)



## introduction

### Choosing an Appropriate Treatment for the Historic Building



The Standards are neither technical nor prescriptive, but are intended to promote responsible preservation practices that help protect our Nation's irreplaceable cultural resources. For example, they cannot, in and of themselves, be used to make essential decisions about which features of the historic building should be saved and which can be changed. But once a treatment is selected, the Standards provide philosophical consistency to the work.

The four treatment approaches are Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction, outlined below in hierarchical order and explained:

The first treatment, **Preservation**, places a high premium on the retention of all historic fabric through conservation, maintenance and repair. It reflects a building's continuum over time, through successive occupancies, and the respectful changes and alterations that are made.

**Rehabilitation**, the second treatment, emphasizes the retention and repair of historic materials, but more latitude is provided for replacement because it is assumed the property is more deteriorated prior to work. (Both Preservation and Rehabilitation standards focus attention on the preservation of those materials, features, finishes, spaces, and spatial relationships that, together, give a property its historic character.)

**Restoration**, the third treatment, focuses on the retention of materials from the most significant time in a property's history, while permitting the removal of materials from other periods.

**Reconstruction**, the fourth treatment, establishes limited opportunities to re-create a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object in all new materials.

**Choosing the most appropriate treatment for a building requires careful decision-making about a building's historical significance, as well taking into account a number of other considerations:**

**Relative importance in history.** Is the building a nationally significant resource—a rare survivor or the work of a master architect or craftsman? Did an important event take place in it? National Historic Landmarks, designated for their "exceptional significance in American history," or many buildings individually listed in the National Register often warrant Preservation or Restoration. Buildings that contribute to the significance of a historic district but are not individually listed in the National Register more frequently undergo Rehabilitation for a compatible new use.

**Physical condition.** What is the existing condition—or degree of material integrity—of the building prior to work? Has the original form survived largely intact or has it been altered over time? Are the alterations an important part of the building's history? Preservation may be appropriate if distinctive materials, features, and spaces are essentially intact and convey the building's historical significance. If the building requires more extensive repair and replacement, or if alterations or additions are necessary for a new use, then Rehabilitation is probably the most appropriate treatment. These key questions play major roles in determining what treatment is selected.

**Proposed use.** An essential, practical question to ask is: Will the building be used as it was historically or will it be given a new use? Many historic buildings can be adapted for new uses without seriously damaging their historic character; special-use properties such as grain silos, forts, ice houses, or windmills may be extremely difficult to adapt to new uses without major intervention and a resulting loss of historic character and even integrity.

**Mandated code requirements.** Regardless of the treatment, code requirements will need to be taken into consideration. But if hastily or poorly designed, a series of code-required actions may jeopardize a building's materials as well as its historic character. Thus, if a building needs to be seismically upgraded, modifications to the historic appearance should be minimal. Abatement of lead paint and asbestos within historic buildings requires particular care if important historic finishes are not to be adversely affected. Finally, alterations and new construction needed to meet

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#### **Site**

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The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Histo...

[http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/overview/choose\\_treat.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/standguide/overview/choose_treat.htm)

accessibility requirements under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 should be designed to minimize material loss and visual change to a historic building.



historical overview - **PRESERVING** - **REHABILITATING** - **RESTORING** - **RECONSTRUCTING**

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## **Antiquities Code of Texas (Amended Sept. 1, 1997)**

The Antiquities Code of Texas was established by Senate Bill No. 58, Chapter 442, Government Code of Texas, and was redefined as the Texas Natural Resource Code of 1977, a formal revision of the statutes relating to the public domain. Title 9, Chapter 191 of the Resource Code pertains to the Antiquities Code of Texas. Further revisions to the Antiquities Code were added in the Sunset Review process as reflected in Senate Bill 231 enacted by the legislature in 1983, House Bill 2056 in 1987, and again in the Sunset Review process as reflected in Senate Bill 365 in 1995, and by the 75th Legislature through Senate Bill 1865 and House Bill 2848, effective Sept. 1, 1997.

In 1995 the 74th Legislature abolished the Texas Antiquities Committee and made the Texas Historical Commission the legal custodian of the Antiquities Code, and therefore, all cultural resources, historic and prehistoric, within the public domain of the State of Texas. Such diverse resources as historic buildings, shipwrecks, and aboriginal campsites fall within the jurisdiction of the Commission. These sites may be designated as State Archeological Landmarks by the Commission.

Permits to conduct archeological investigation of cultural resources are granted to qualified individuals and institutions who demonstrate the capability and willingness to obtain the maximum scientific archeological and educational information from such investigation. In addition, materials recovered from such investigations must be properly stored and available to the public for study.

For additional information concerning permits and copies of the General Rules of Practice and Procedure (Chapter 26), contact the Texas Historical Commission, P. O. Box 12276, Austin, Texas, 78711, 512/463-6096.

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**CHAPTER 191.  
ANTIQUITIES CODE**

**SUBCHAPTER A.  
GENERAL PROVISIONS**

**Sec. 191.001.** Title. This chapter may be cited as the Antiquities Code of Texas.

**Sec. 191.002.** Declaration of Public Policy.

It is the public policy and in the public interest of the State of Texas to locate, protect, and preserve all sites, objects, buildings, pre-twentieth century shipwrecks, and locations of historical, archeological, educational, or scientific interest, including but not limited to prehistoric and historical American Indian or aboriginal campsites, dwellings, and habitation sites, archeological sites of every character, treasure imbedded in the earth, sunken or abandoned ships and wrecks of the sea or any part of their contents, maps, records, documents, books, artifacts, and implements of culture in any way related to the inhabitants, pre-history, history, natural history, government, or culture in, on, or under any of the land in the State of Texas, including the tidelands, submerged land, and the bed of the sea within the jurisdiction of the State of Texas.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2683, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.003.** Definitions. In this chapter:

(1) "Committee" means the Texas Historical Commission.

(2) "Landmark" means a state archeological landmark.

(3) "State agency" means a department, commission, board, office, or other agency that is a part of state government and that is created by the constitution or a statute of this state. The term includes an institution of higher education as defined by Section 61.003, Texas Education Code.

(4) "Political subdivision" means a local governmental entity created and operating under the laws of this state, including a city, county, school district, or special district created under Article III, Section 52(b)(1) or (2), or Article XVI, Section 59, of the Texas Constitution.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2683, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2001, ch. 364, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 109, Sec. 18, eff. Aug. 30, 1995.

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**Sec. 191.004.** Certain Records Not Public Information.

- (a) Information specifying the location of any site or item declared to be a state archeological landmark under Subchapter D of this chapter is not public information.
- (b) Information specifying the location or nature of an activity covered by a permit or an application for a permit under this chapter is not public information.
- (c) Information specifying details of a survey to locate state archeological landmarks under this chapter is not public information.

Added by Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 959, ch. 365, Sec. 1, eff. June 10, 1981.

**Sec. 191.021.** Compliance with Open Meetings Act and Administrative Procedure and Texas Register Act.

- (a) Repealed by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 109, Sec. 29, eff. Aug. 30, 1995.
- (b) If an institution of higher education notifies the committee in a timely manner (as established by the committee's rules) that it protests the proposed designation of a building under its control as a landmark, the matter becomes a contested case under the provisions of Sections 12 through 20 of the Administrative Procedure and Texas Register Act. In the conduct of proceedings under the Administrative Procedure and Texas Register Act, both the hearing officer in his or her recommendations to the committee and the committee in its determinations of findings of fact and conclusions of law shall consider, in addition to such other objective criteria as the committee may establish pursuant to Section 191.091 of this chapter:
  - (1) that the primary mission of institutions of higher education is the provision of educational services to the state's citizens;
  - (2) that the authority for expenditure of the portion of the state's resources allocated to institutions of higher education for construction and repair purposes is entrusted to the governing boards of institutions of higher education for the purpose of the furtherance of the primary mission of the respective institutions of higher education;
  - (3) whether the benefit to the state from landmark designation outweighs the potential inflexibility of use that may be a consequence of the designation; and
  - (4) whether the cost of remodeling and/or restoration that might be required under the permit procedures of the committee if the building were designated as a landmark may be so substantially greater than remodeling under procedures established by law for the review of remodeling projects for higher education buildings not so designated as to impair the proper use of funds designated by the state for educational purposes at the institution.



(c) If an institution of higher education notifies the committee in a timely manner (as established by the committee's rules) that it protests the terms of a permit proposed to be granted to an institution of higher education under this chapter, the matter becomes a contested case under the provisions of Sections 12 through 20 of the Administrative Procedure and the Texas Register Act. The hearing officer in his or her recommendations to the committee and the committee in its determination of findings of fact and conclusions of law shall consider:

(1) that the primary mission of institutions of higher education is the provision of educational services to the state's citizens;

(2) that the authority for expenditure of the portion of the state's resources allocated to institutions of higher education for construction and repair purposes is entrusted to the governing boards of institutions of higher education for the purpose of the furtherance of the primary mission of the respective institutions of higher education;

(3) whether the legislature has provided extra funds that may be required to implement any proposed requirements;

(4) the effect of any proposed requirements on maintenance costs;

(5) the effect of any proposed requirements on energy costs; and

(6) the appropriateness of any proposed permit requirements to the uses to which a public building has been or will be dedicated by the governing board of the institution of higher education.

(d) Weighing the criteria set forth in Subsections (b) and (c) of this section against the criteria it adopts pursuant to Section 191.092 of this chapter and such criteria as it may adopt with regard to permit requirements, the committee shall designate a building under the control of an institution of higher education as a landmark or include a requirement in a permit only if the record before the committee establishes by clear and convincing evidence that such designation or inclusion would be in the public interest.

Added by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2003, ch. 364, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1983. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 109, Sec. 29, eff. Aug. 30, 1995.

**Sec. 191.051.** In General.

(a) The committee is the legal custodian of all items described in this chapter that have been recovered and retained by the State of Texas.

(b) The committee shall:

(1) maintain an inventory of the items recovered and retained by the State of Texas, showing the description and depository of them;

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(2) determine the site of and designate landmarks and remove from the designation certain sites, as provided in Subchapter D of this chapter;

(3) contract or otherwise provide for discovery operations and scientific investigations under the provisions of Section 191.053 of this code;

(4) consider the requests for and issue the permits provided for in Section 191.054 of this code;

(5) prepare and make available to the general public and appropriate state agencies and political subdivisions information of consumer interest describing the functions of the committee and the procedures by which complaints are filed with and resolved by the committee; and

(6) protect and preserve the archeological and historical resources of Texas.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2685, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2002, ch. 364, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 4, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

**Sec. 191.052.** Rules.

The committee may promulgate rules and require contract or permit conditions to reasonably effect the purposes of this chapter.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2685, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.0525.** Notice Required.

(a) Before breaking ground at a project location on state or local public land, the person primarily responsible for the project or the person's agent shall notify the committee. The committee shall promptly determine whether:

(1) a historically significant archeological site is likely to be present at the project location;

(2) additional action, if any, is needed to protect the site; and

(3) an archeological survey is necessary.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), the committee shall make a determination not later than the 30th day after the date the committee receives notice under Subsection (a). If the committee fails to respond in the 30-day period, the person may proceed with the project without further notice to the committee. If the committee determines that an

archeological survey is necessary at the project location, the project may not commence until the archeological survey is completed.

(c) The committee shall make a determination not later than the 15th day after the date the committee receives notice under Subsection (a) for project locations regarding oil, gas, or other mineral exploration, production, processing, marketing, refining, or transportation facility or pipeline projects. If the committee fails to respond in the 15-day period, the person may proceed with the project without further notice to the committee. If the committee determines that an archeological survey is necessary at the project location, the project may not commence until the archeological survey is completed.

(d) A project for a county, municipality, or an entity created under Section 52, Article III, or Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution, requires advance project review only if the project affects a cumulative area larger than five acres or disturbs a cumulative area of more than 5,000 cubic yards, whichever measure is triggered first, or if the project is inside a designated historic district or recorded archeological site.

(e) There exist categorical exclusions since many activities conducted on nonfederal public land have little, if any, chance to damage archeological sites, and therefore should not require notification under this section. The following are categorical exclusions at a minimum:

- (1) water injection into existing oil and gas wells;
- (2) upgrading of electrical transmission lines when there will be no new disturbance of the existing easement;
- (3) seismic exploration activity when there is no ground penetration or disturbance;
- (4) building and repairing fences that do not require construction or modification of associated roads, fire breaks, or previously disturbed ground;
- (5) road maintenance that does not involve widening or lengthening the road;
- (6) installation or replacement of meter taps;
- (7) controlled burning of fields;
- (8) animal grazing;
- (9) plowing, if the techniques are similar to those used previously;
- (10) installation of monuments and sign posts unless within the boundaries of designated historic districts;

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- (11) maintenance of existing trails;
- (12) land sales and trades of land held by the permanent school fund and permanent university fund;
- (13) permanent school fund and permanent university fund leases, easements, and permits, including mineral leases and pooling agreements, in which the lessee, grantee, or permittee is specifically required to comply with the provisions of this chapter;
- (14) oil, gas, or other mineral exploration, production, processing, marketing, refining, or transportation facility or pipeline project in an area where the project will cross state or local public roads, rivers, and streams, unless they contain a recorded archeological site or a designated state land tract in Texas' submerged lands;
- (15) maintenance, operation, replacement, or minor modification of an existing oil, gas, or other mineral exploration, production, processing, marketing, refining, or transportation facility or pipeline; and
- (16) any project for which a state permit application has been made prior to promulgation of rules under this section.
- (f) This section does not apply to any state agency or political subdivision that has entered into a memorandum of understanding for coordination with the committee.
- (g) (1) If, during the course of a project or class of projects that have complied with the notification requirements of this section, a person encounters an archeological site, the person shall abate activity on the project at the project location and shall promptly notify the committee. Within two business days of notification under this subsection, the committee shall determine whether:
- (A) a historically significant archeological site is likely to be present in the project area;
  - (B) additional action, if any, is needed to protect the site; and
  - (C) an archeological investigation is necessary.
- (2) If the committee fails to respond within two business days, the person may proceed without further notice to the committee.
- (h) The notification required by this section does not apply to a response to a fire, spill, or other emergency associated with an existing facility located on state or local public lands if the emergency requires an immediate response.
- (i) The committee by rule shall establish procedures to implement this section.

Added by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 109, Sec. 19, eff. Aug. 30, 1995, Amended by Acts 1997, 75th Leg., eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

**Sec. 191.053.** Contract for Discovery and Scientific Investigation.

(a) The committee may contract with other state agencies or political subdivisions and with qualified private institutions, corporations, or individuals for the discovery and scientific investigation of sunken or abandoned ships or wrecks of the sea, or any part of the contents of them, or archeological deposits or treasure imbedded in the earth.

(b) The contract shall:

(1) be on a form approved by the attorney general;

(2) specify the location, nature of the activity, and the time period covered by the contract; and

(3) provide for the termination of any right in the investigator or permittee under the contract on the violation of any of the terms of the contract.

(c) The executed contract shall be recorded by the person, firm, or corporation obtaining the contract in the office of the county clerk in the county or counties in which the operations are to be conducted prior to the commencement of the operation.

(d) Title to all objects recovered is retained by the State of Texas unless and until it is released by the committee.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2685, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2006, ch. 364, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 5, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

**Sec. 191.054.** Permit for Survey and Discovery, Excavation, Restoration, Demolition, or Study.

(a) The committee may issue a permit to other state agencies or political subdivisions or to qualified private institutions, companies, or individuals for the survey and discovery, excavation, demolition, or restoration of, or the conduct of scientific or educational studies at, in, or on landmarks, or for the discovery of eligible landmarks on public land if it is the opinion of the committee that the permit is in the best interest of the State of Texas.

(b) Restoration shall be defined as any rehabilitation of a landmark excepting normal maintenance or alterations to nonpublic interior spaces.

(c) The permit shall:

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- (1) be on a form approved by the attorney general;
  - (2) specify the location, nature of the activity, and the time period covered by the permit; and
  - (3) provide for the termination of any right in the investigator or permittee under the permit on the violation of any of the terms of the permit.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2685, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2006, ch. 364, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 6, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

**Sec. 191.055.** Supervision.

All scientific investigations or recovery operations conducted under the contract provisions in Section 191.053 of this code and all operations conducted under permits or contracts set out in Section 191.054 of this code must be carried out:

- (1) under the general supervision of the committee;
- (2) in accordance with reasonable rules adopted by the committee; and
- (3) in such manner that the maximum amount of historic, scientific, archeological, and educational information may be recovered and preserved in addition to the physical recovery of items.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2686, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2002, ch. 364, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1983.

**Sec. 191.056.** Acceptance of Gifts.

The committee may accept gifts, grants, devises, or bequests of money, securities, or property to be used in the pursuance of its activities and the performance of its duties.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2686, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2006, ch. 364, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1983.

**Sec. 191.057.** Survey, Excavation, or Restoration for Private Parties.

The committee may survey, excavate, or restore antiquities for private parties under rules promulgated by the committee. All real and administrative costs incurred in the survey, excavation, or restoration shall be paid by the private party.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2686, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.  
Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 7, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

**Sec. 191.058. Curation of Artifacts.**

(a) As far as is consistent with the public policy of this chapter, the committee, on a majority vote, may arrange or contract with other state agencies or political subdivisions, and qualified private institutions, corporations, or individuals, for public display of artifacts and other items in its custody through permanent exhibits established in the locality or region in which the artifacts were discovered or recovered. The committee, on a majority vote, may also arrange or contract with these same persons and groups for portable or mobile displays.

(b) The committee is the legal custodian of the items described in this chapter and shall adopt appropriate rules, terms, and conditions to assure appropriate security, qualification of personnel, insurance, facilities for preservation, restoration, and display of the items loaned under the contracts.

(c) Arrangements for curation of artifacts, data, and other materials recovered under Texas Antiquities Committee permits are specified in the body of the permit. Should a state agency or political subdivision lack the facilities or for any reason be unable to curate or provide responsible storage for such artifacts, data, or other materials, the Texas Antiquities Committee will arrange for curation at a suitable institution. The Texas Antiquities Committee may by rule assess costs for the curation.

(d) The committee may contract with a qualified institution for the institution to serve as a repository for artifacts and other items in the custody of the committee. The Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History is the repository for marine artifacts. The committee may contract with other qualified institutions to serve as additional repositories for marine artifacts. The committee may authorize an archeological repository to loan artifacts and other items curated by the repository to a qualified institution for public display. The Corpus Christi Museum of Science and History:

- (1) does not own the artifacts for which it serves as a repository; and
- (2) shall make available for loan to a qualified institution for display the marine artifacts for which it serves as a repository.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2687, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2008, ch. 364, Sec. 8, eff. Sept. 1, 1983; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 8, eff. Sept. 1, 1987, Acts 1997, 75th Leg., eff. Sept. 1, 1997.

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**Sec. 191.059.** Complaints.

(a) The committee shall keep an information file about each complaint filed with the committee.

(b) If a written complaint is filed with the committee, the committee, at least as frequently as quarterly and until final disposition of the complaint, shall notify the parties to the complaint of the status of the complaint.

Added by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2009, ch. 364, Sec. 9, eff. Sept. 1, 1983.

**Sec. 191.091.** Ships, Wrecks of the Sea, and Treasure Imbedded in Earth.

Sunken or abandoned pre-twentieth century ships and wrecks of the sea, and any part or the contents of them, and all treasure imbedded in the earth, located in, on, or under the surface of land belonging to the State of Texas, including its tidelands, submerged land, and the beds of its rivers and the sea within jurisdiction of the State of Texas, are declared to be state archeological landmarks and are eligible for designation.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2687, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 9, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

**Sec. 191.092.** Other Sites, Artifacts, or Articles.

(a) Sites, objects, buildings, artifacts, implements, and locations of historical, archeological, scientific, or educational interest, including those pertaining to prehistoric and historical American Indians or aboriginal campsites, dwellings, and habitation sites, their artifacts and implements of culture, as well as archeological sites of every character that are located in, on, or under the surface of any land belonging to the State of Texas or to any county, city, or political subdivision of the state are state archeological landmarks and are eligible for designation.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a structure or a building has historical interest if the structure or building:

(1) was the site of an event that has significance in the history of the United States or the State of Texas;

(2) was significantly associated with the life of a famous person;

(3) was significantly associated with an event that symbolizes an important principle or ideal;

(4) represents a distinctive architectural type and has value as an example of a period, style, or construction technique; or



(5) is important as part of the heritage of a religious organization, ethnic group, or local society.

(c) An individual or a private group that desires to nominate a building or site owned by a political subdivision as a state archeological landmark must give notice of the nomination at the individual's or group's own expense in a newspaper of general circulation published in the city, town, or county in which the building or site is located. If no newspaper of general circulation is published in the city, town, or county, the notice must be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in an adjoining or neighboring county that is circulated in the county of the applicant's residence. The notice must:

- (1) be printed in 12-point boldface type;
- (2) include the exact location of the building or site; and
- (3) include the name of the group or individual nominating the building or site.

(d) An original copy of the notice and an affidavit of publication signed by the newspaper's publisher must be submitted to the commission with the application for nomination.

(e) The commission may not consider for designation as a state archeological landmark building or site owned by a political subdivision unless the notice and affidavit required by Subsection (d) are attached to the application.

(f) Before the committee may designate a structure or building as a state archeological landmark, the structure or building must be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

(g) The committee shall adopt rules establishing criteria for the designation of a structure or building as a state archeological landmark.

(h) The committee shall consider any and all fiscal impact on local political subdivisions before any structure or building owned by a local political subdivision may be designated as a state archeological landmark.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2687, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 193, ch. 90, Sec. 1, eff. Aug. 31, 1981; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 10, eff. Sept. 1, 1987. Amended by Acts 1995, 74th Leg., ch. 109, Sec. 20, eff. Aug 30 1995

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**Sec. 191.093.** Prerequisites to Removal, Altering, Damaging, Destroying, Salvaging, or Excavating Certain Landmarks.

Landmarks under Section 191.091 or 191.092 of this code are the sole property of the State of Texas and may not be removed, altered, damaged, destroyed, salvaged, or excavated without a contract with or permit from the committee.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2687, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1981, 67th Leg., p. 193, ch. 90, Sec. 2, eff. Aug. 31, 1981; Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 11, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

**Sec. 191.094.** Designating a Landmark on Private Land.

(a) Any site located on private land which is determined by majority vote of the committee to be of sufficient archeological, scientific, or historical significance to scientific study, interest, or public representation of the aboriginal or historical past of Texas may be designated a state archeological landmark by the committee.

(b) No site may be designated on private land without the written consent of the landowner or landowners in recordable form sufficiently describing the site so that it may be located on the ground.

(c) On designation, the consent of the landowner shall be recorded in the deed records of the county in which the land is located.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2687, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.095.** Permit for Landmark on Private Land.

All sites or items of archeological, scientific, or historical interest located on private land in the State of Texas in areas designated as landmarks, as provided in Section 191.094 of this code, and landmarks under Section 191.092 of this code, may not be taken, altered, damaged, destroyed, salvaged, or excavated without a permit from the committee or in violation of the terms of the permit.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2688, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.096.** Marking Landmark on Private Land.

Any site on private land which is designated a landmark shall be marked by at least one marker bearing the words "State Archeological Landmark".

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2688, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 12, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

**Sec. 191.097.** Removing Designation as Landmark.

(a) Any landmark on public or private land may be determined by majority vote of the committee to be of no further historical, archeological, educational, or scientific value, or not of sufficient value to warrant its further classification as a landmark, and on this determination may be removed from the designation as a landmark.

(b) On removal of the designation on private land which was designated by instrument of record, the committee shall execute and record in the deed records of the county in which the site is located an instrument setting out the determination and releasing the site from the provisions of this chapter.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2688, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 13, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

**Sec. 191.098.** Notification of Alteration or Demolition of Possible Landmark.

(a) A state agency may not alter, renovate, or demolish a building possessed by the state that was constructed at least 50 years before the alteration, renovation, or demolition and that has not been designated a landmark by the committee, without notifying the committee of the proposed alteration, renovation, or demolition not later than the 60th day before the day on which the agency begins the alteration, renovation, or demolition.

(b) After receipt of the notice the committee may waive the waiting period; however, if the committee institutes proceedings to determine whether the building is a state archeological landmark under Section 191.092 of this code not later than the 60th day after the day on which the notice is received by the committee, the agency must obtain a permit from the committee before beginning an alteration, renovation, or demolition of the building during the time that the committee's proceedings are pending.

(c) Should the committee fail to provide a substantive response within 60 days to a request for a review of project plans, application for permit, draft report review, or other business required under the Antiquities Code, the applicant may proceed without further reference to the committee.

Added by Acts 1983, 68th Leg., p. 2009, ch. 364, Sec. 10, eff. Sept. 1, 1983. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 14, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.

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**Sec. 191.131.** Contract or Permit Requirement.

(a) No person, firm, or corporation may conduct a salvage or recovery operation without first obtaining a contract.

(b) No person, firm, or corporation may conduct an operation on any landmark without first obtaining a permit and having the permit in his or its possession at the site of the operation, or conduct the operation in violation of the provisions of the permit.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2688, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.132.** Damage or Destruction.

(a) No person may intentionally and knowingly deface American Indian or aboriginal paintings, hieroglyphics, or other marks or carvings on rock or elsewhere that pertain to early American Indian or aboriginal habitation of the country.

(b) A person who is not the owner shall not willfully injure, disfigure, remove, or destroy a historical structure, monument, marker, medallion, or artifact without lawful authority.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2688, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.133.** Entry Without Consent.

No person who is not the owner, and does not have the consent of the owner, proprietor, lessee, or person in charge, may enter or attempt to enter on the enclosed land of another and intentionally injure, disfigure, remove, excavate, damage, take, dig into, or destroy any historical structure, monument, marker, medallion, or artifact, or any prehistoric or historic archeological site, American Indian or aboriginal campsite, artifact, burial, ruin, or other archeological remains located in, on, or under any private land within the State of Texas.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2688, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.171.** Criminal Penalty.

(a) A person violating any of the provisions of this chapter is guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50 and not more than \$1,000, by confinement in jail for not more than 30 days, or by both.

(b) Each day of continued violation of any provision of this chapter constitutes a separate offense for which the offender may be punished.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2689, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.172. Civil Action by Attorney General.**

(a) In addition to, and without limiting the other powers of the attorney general, and without altering or waiving any criminal penalty provided in this chapter, the attorney general may bring an action in the name of the State of Texas in any court of competent jurisdiction for restraining orders and injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin violations or threatened violations of this chapter, and for the return of items taken in violation of the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Venue for an action instituted by the attorney general lies either in Travis County or in the county in which the activity sought to be restrained is alleged to be taking place or from which the items were taken.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2689, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.173. Civil Action by Citizen.**

(a) A citizen of the State of Texas may bring an action in any court of competent jurisdiction for restraining orders and injunctive relief to restrain and enjoin violations or threatened violations of this chapter, and for the return of items taken in violation of the provisions of this chapter.

(b) Venue of an action by a citizen lies in the county in which the activity sought to be restrained is alleged to be taking place or from which the items were taken.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2689, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977.

**Sec. 191.174. Assistance From State Agencies, Political Subdivisions, and Law Enforcement Officers.**

(a) The chief administrative officers of all state agencies and political subdivisions are directed to cooperate and assist the committee and the attorney general in carrying out the intent of this chapter.

(b) All state and local law enforcement agencies and officers are directed to assist in enforcing the provisions and carrying out the intent of this chapter.

Acts 1977, 65th Leg., p. 2689, ch. 871, art. I, Sec. 1, eff. Sept. 1, 1977. Amended by Acts 1987, 70th Leg., ch. 948, Sec. 15, eff. Sept. 1, 1987.



## 6 SITE DESIGN—HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

## Credit 6.4

<b>Credit 6.4</b>	<b>Protect and maintain unique cultural and historical places</b>
2–4 Points	

**Intent**

Protect and maintain cultural and historical locations, attributes and artifacts to enhance a site's sense of place and meaning.

**Requirements**<sup>87</sup>

- **2 points:** Protect site features that are identified as significant to local culture and local histories, including cultural landscapes and other non-registered places, and, if existing, protect site features that have been, or are eligible to be:
  - designated, listed, or identified by a local government as historic or contributing to a locally designated historic district pursuant to a local preservation ordinance, and/or
  - designated, listed, or identified as historic or contributing to a historic district under a state historic register or on the National Register of Historic Places and/or National Historic Landmarks.

**AND**

In the site maintenance plan (see *Prerequisite 8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance*), outline the long-term strategies and identify short-term action plans to achieve preservation maintenance goals for the site's cultural/historic feature(s). The plan should include the following information:

- Yearly and long-term goals for preservation and maintenance of the cultural/historic site feature(s).
  - Specific maintenance activities: The work performed for maintenance is recorded, and may include a series of as-built drawings, supporting photographic materials, specifications and a summary assessment. The plan may include detailed specifications related to the repair or replacement of features on the site. That is, when repairing or replacing a feature, every effort should be made to achieve visual and physical compatibility. Historic materials should be matched as appropriate in design, scale, color, and texture.
  - Skill level required to complete tasks.
  - Timeline and schedules: The maintenance program includes schedules (ideally, in calendar format) for monitoring and routine maintenance, appropriate preservation maintenance procedures, and on-going documentation of the work performed. The calendar records the frequency of maintenance work on built or natural landscape features.
  - **4 points:**
    - Achieve the low point value
- AND**
- Ensure the lasting protection of the cultural/historical site feature(s) (e.g., conservation easements).

**Submittal documentation**

- **2 points:**
  - **Option 1:**
    - Provide supporting documentation that qualifies a site feature as historic—from the National Register of Historic Places and/or National Historic Landmarks, or from a qualified organization or agency within the community or the local government.

**Economic and social benefits**

Economic benefits of including cultural aspects in site design may include opportunities for increased employment, entrepreneurship, tourism, and resource and energy conservation.

Enhanced human experience and attachment to the land can result in a stronger sense of stewardship.



## 6 SITE DESIGN—HUMAN HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

### Credit 6.4

#### Links to other Sustainable Sites credits

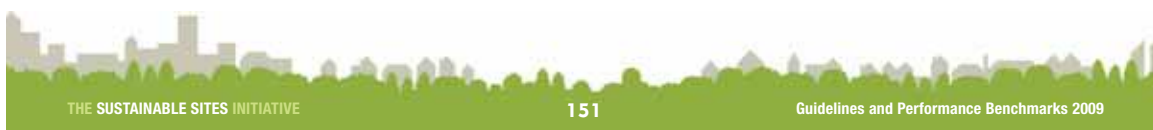
- Conducting a thorough site assessment before design (see *Prerequisite 2.1: Conduct a pre-design site assessment and explore opportunities for site sustainability*) will help identify information for potential historical and cultural features on site.
- Engaging the local community and preservation professionals during the design phase of the project will help identify important local histories or cultures that are not included on National or State Historic Registers and may contribute to achieving *Credit 2.3: Engage users and other stakeholders in site design*.
- Maintaining on-site structures and other built features may contribute to achieving *Credit 5.2: Maintain on-site structures, hardscape, and landscapes amenities*.

#### Resources

- For information on the National Register of Historic Places, refer to the National Register of Historic Places Fundamentals, [http://www.nps.gov/nr/national\\_register\\_fundamentals.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/national_register_fundamentals.htm)
- For treatment of historic properties, refer to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, [http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standards\\_guidelines.htm](http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/tps/standards_guidelines.htm)
- For information on National Historic Landmarks, <http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/QA.htm#2>
- For information on historic and cultural landscapes, refer to the following:
  - National Park Service's Historical American Landscapes Survey (HALS), <http://www.nps.gov/hdp/hals/index.htm>
  - Cultural Landscape Foundation, <http://www.tclf.org/whatis.htm>
  - National Park Service's Historic Landscape Initiative—Protecting Cultural Landscapes Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes, <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/TPS/briefs/brief36.htm>
  - National Trust for Historic Preservation, <http://www.preservationnation.org>
- For information on historic preservation easements, refer to the National Park Service's Technical Preservation Services, [www.nps.gov/hps/tps/tax/easement.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/tax/easement.htm)

#### Definition

*Cultural landscape* is a geographic area, including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein, associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.



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**Credit 6.4 Protect and maintain the integrity of cultural and historic landscapes.****Intent**

Protect historically significant cultural landscapes; portions of historically significant cultural landscapes; and areas adjacent to or near historically significant cultural landscapes by avoiding development that will result in the loss of integrity of resources listed on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places; Native American/American Indian tribal registers/inventories of cultural resources; state registers/inventories of historic resources; and/or local/community/municipal registers/inventories of historic resources.

**Economic and Social Benefits**

Economic benefits of protecting cultural landscapes and the appropriate treatment of cultural landscapes as part of integrated site design may include opportunities for increased employment, entrepreneurship, tourism, and resource and energy conservation. Social benefits include respecting sensitive places associated with cultural traditions, which will enhance human experience by creating a stronger attachment to the land and a stronger sense of stewardship.

**Requirements**

For all points:

The cultural landscape must be protected from damage to and/or loss of character-defining features, components, and systems that convey significance. Development and associated construction activities, including those associated with adaptive reuse and rehabilitation, within and adjacent to the identified cultural resource and/or the Cultural Resource Protection Zone (CRPZ) (see below) shall be in accordance with the *Secretary of Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and Guidelines for Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*.

2 Points

Protect existing culturally or historically significant sites, buildings, structures and/or objects as identified in *Prerequisite 2.1: Conduct a pre-design site assessment and explore opportunities for site sustainability*, or as identified through meetings with the client, adjacent property owners, the community or other stakeholders as in *Credit 2.3: Engage site users and other stakeholders in site design*".

4 Points

Protect sites or portions of sites, including contributing buildings, structures and/or objects, specifically listed as or eligible for listing as a historically significant cultural landscape or a portion of a historically significant cultural landscape on federal, tribal, state, and/or registers/lists/inventories as identified in the site assessment (see *Prerequisite 2.1: Conduct a pre-design site assessment and explore opportunities for site sustainability*).



Designate the full extent of the historically significant cultural landscape on the site, including appropriate protective buffers and sensitive viewsheds from the cultural landscape, as a cultural resource protection zone (CRPZ).

The following requirements pertain to the Cultural Resource Protection Zone (CRPZ):

- Impacts from overall site development, including land use and construction activities outside of the CRPZ, shall not result in loss of integrity or the ability of the cultural landscape within the CRPZ to convey historical significance.
- The area of the CRPZ should be sufficient to provide protection to the cultural resource and may range from less than an acre (such as a cemetery or garden) to several acres (house site, park or plaza) to several hundred acres (campus, battlefield, traditional cultural properties, parkways). The boundary of the CRPZ should be consistent with established boundaries or limits documented in available National Register of Historic Places nominations, state or tribal registers or inventories, local/community/municipal registers/inventories, Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) documentations, cultural landscape inventories, cultural landscape reports, or other similar documentation completed by qualified cultural resource experts (see list below). If available boundary information is not available, a qualified cultural resource expert should identify the boundary or limits during site assessment.
- During land development and construction activities, the CRPZ shall be protected with a physical barrier (e.g., fencing) that cannot be easily moved that protects the zone from vehicular and equipment access, storage of materials, and other construction activities.
- All construction and maintenance personnel are to be educated about the locations and protective measures of the CRPZ. In construction documents, outline consequences to the contractor if the CRPZ boundaries are breached.
- Develop a Preservation Maintenance Plan or incorporate into the site maintenance plan (see *Prerequisite 8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance*) provisions for ongoing activities related to managing and maintaining the landscape that are needed to protect the integrity of the CRPZ. Define the process for protecting and preserving features and systems during site maintenance that contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.
- Preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction activities, including activities to restore natural systems within cultural landscapes, may occur within this zone to accommodate appropriate uses and protect and enhance the condition and integrity of resources.

#### **Submittal documentation**

For all point options:

- Complete *Prerequisite 2.1: Conduct a pre-design site assessment and explore opportunities for site sustainability* to document existing historically significant cultural landscapes or portions of historically significant cultural landscapes.
- Provide a site map locating culturally significant sites, buildings, structures and/or objects and appropriate boundaries for protection.
- Provide a narrative to describe how the cultural resource will be preserved during construction.

- Provide a copy of the section of the site maintenance plan (see *Prerequisite 8.1: Plan for sustainable site maintenance*) that describes the ongoing management activities to protect the integrity of the cultural landscape.

For 4 points, in addition to the above:

- Provide site plans to show the boundary and extent of the cultural landscapes that are listed or eligible for listing on federal, tribal, state or local registers/inventories and the boundaries of the Cultural Resource Protection Zone.
- Show the locations and percent of total area for any minimal impact site development that will occur in the Cultural Resource Protection Zone.
- Provide a narrative to describe how the Cultural Resource Protection Zone will be preserved during construction (e.g., protective fence or other physical barrier that cannot be easily moved; appropriate treatment approaches, strategies, and proposed alterations and additions).
- Describe efforts to educate all construction personnel about the location of boundaries, the reasons for the protective measures, and potential penalties for breaching and/or negatively impacting the CRPZ.

#### **Potential technologies and strategies**

A qualified historic and cultural resource specialist or qualified design professional with historic and cultural resource training should be responsible for undertaking services involving the identification, assessment, and treatment of cultural landscapes.

- Depending on the type and significance of the cultural landscape, one or more of the following professionals may be qualified: historical landscape architects/designers, historical architects, preservation engineers, building material conservators, preservation planners, historians, design historians, archaeologists, and ethnographers.

Communicate with local, state and federal agencies, educational facilities, historical associations and the local community to identify important cultural or historic places, landscapes, or concepts to protect and incorporate into site design. During the site selection process, for sites that include cultural landscapes direct development to those areas that do not include historically significant cultural landscapes. In some cases, the appropriate adaptive reuse and rehabilitation of features and systems within a cultural landscape should be considered as a priority over the development of new facilities within undeveloped areas. Appropriate adaptive reuse and occupation of historic resources can lead to sustained cultural values through stewardship.

#### **Links to other Sustainable Sites credits**

- Conducting a thorough site assessment before design (see *Prerequisite 2.1: Conduct a pre-design site assessment and explore opportunities for site sustainability*) will help identify information for potential historical and cultural features on site.
- Engaging the local community and preservation professionals during the design phase of the project will help identify important local histories or cultures that are not included on National or State Historic Registers and may contribute to achieving *Credit 2.3: Engage users and other stakeholders in site design*.
- Maintaining on-site structures and other built features may contribute to achieving *Credit 5.2: Maintain on-site structures, hardscape, and landscape amenities*.

#### **Resources**

- For information on the National Register of Historic Places, refer to the National Register of Historic Places Fundamentals, [http://www.nps.gov/nr/national\\_register\\_fundamentals.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/national_register_fundamentals.htm)
- For treatment of historic properties, refer to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, <http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards.htm>
- For information on National Historic Landmarks, <http://www.nps.gov/history/nhl/QA.htm>
- For information on historic and cultural landscapes, refer to the following:
  - Secretary of the Interior's Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Care of Cultural Landscapes, NPS, 1996  
<http://www.nps.gov/tps/standards/four-treatments/landscape-guidelines/index.htm>
  - National Park Service's Historical American Landscapes Survey (HALS), <http://www.nps.gov/history/hdp/hals/index.htm>
  - National Park Service's Historic Landscape Initiative—Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes, "Preservation Brief 36" <http://www.nps.gov/history/hps/TPS/briefs/brief36.htm>
  - National Park Service Director's Order 28 Cultural Resource Management Guidelines [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/nps28/28contents.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nps28/28contents.htm)
  - A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Process, and Techniques, NPS,
  - NPS Guide for Developing a Preservation Maintenance Plan for a Historic Landscape [http://www.nps.gov/oclp/presmaint\\_plans.htm](http://www.nps.gov/oclp/presmaint_plans.htm)
  - The Cultural Landscape Foundation, <http://www.tclf.org/whatis.htm>
  - National Trust for Historic Preservation, <http://www.preservationnation.org>
  - International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), Cultural Landscapes International Scientific Committee <http://www.international.icomos.org/home.htm>
- For information on the minimum qualifications of cultural resource specialist refer to the following:
  - National Park Service Director's Order #28 - Cultural Resource Management Guidelines Appendix E: Qualification Standards and Selective Quality Ranking Factors for Cultural Resource Specialists <http://www.nps.gov/history/local-law/gis/html/quals.html>
  - National Park Service Director's Order # 28 - Cultural Resource Management Guidelines Appendix E: Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Preservation, Professional Qualifications Standards [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/nps28/28appenc.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nps28/28appenc.htm)
- For information on historic preservation easements, refer to the National Park Service's Technical Preservation Services, [www.nps.gov/hps/tps/tax/easement.htm](http://www.nps.gov/hps/tps/tax/easement.htm)

The quality of *significance* in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, landscape architecture, and culture is present in [cultural landscapes] that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association (*see Historic Integrity below*), and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

[http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15\\_2.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15_2.htm)

*Historic Integrity* is the ability of a property to convey its significance. To be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, a property must not only be shown to be significant under the National Register criteria, but it also must have integrity. The evaluation of integrity is sometimes a subjective judgment, but it must always be grounded in an understanding of a property's physical features and how they relate to its significance. Historic properties either retain integrity (this is, convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity. The seven aspects are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance. Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant. [http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15\\_8.htm](http://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb15/nrb15_8.htm)

***Historic designed landscapes*** are deliberate artistic creations reflecting recognized styles, such as the twelve-acre Meridian Hill Park in Washington, D.C., with its French and Italian Renaissance garden features. Designed landscapes also include those associated with important persons, trends, or events in the history of landscape architecture, such as Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and the Blue Ridge Parkway. [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/nps28/28chap7.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nps28/28chap7.htm)

***Historic vernacular landscapes*** illustrate peoples' values and attitudes toward the land and reflect patterns of settlement, use, and development over time. Vernacular landscapes are found in large rural areas and small suburban and urban districts. Agricultural areas, fishing villages, mining districts, and homesteads are examples. The 17,400-acre rural landscape of Ebey's Landing National Historical Reserve represents a continuum of land use spanning more than a century. It has been continually reshaped by its inhabitants, yet the historic mix of farm, forest, village, and shoreline remains. [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/nps28/28chap7.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nps28/28chap7.htm)

***Historic sites*** are significant for their associations with important events, activities, and persons. Battlefields and presidential homes are prominent examples. At these areas, existing features and conditions are defined and interpreted primarily in terms of what happened there at particular times in the past. [http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/nps28/28chap7.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nps28/28chap7.htm)

***Ethnographic landscapes*** are associated with contemporary groups and typically are used or valued in traditional ways. In the expansive Alaska parks, Native Alaskans hunt, fish, trap, and gather and imbue features with spiritual meanings. Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve illustrates the strong interrelationship between the dynamic natural system of the Mississippi River Delta region and several

cultural groups through many generations. Numerous cultural centers maintain ties to disti  
established groups with ethnic identities.

[http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online\\_books/nps28/28chap7.htm](http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nps28/28chap7.htm)

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