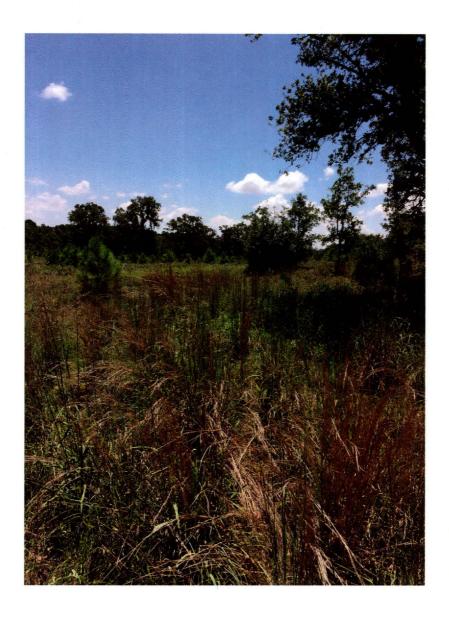
State Parks | Natural Resources | Planning and Geospatial Resources Texas Parks & Wildlife Department

Bastrop State Park Golf Course Area



December 2018

Public Use Plan



Bastrop State Park Golf Course Area

Public Use Plan

Signatory Concurrence:

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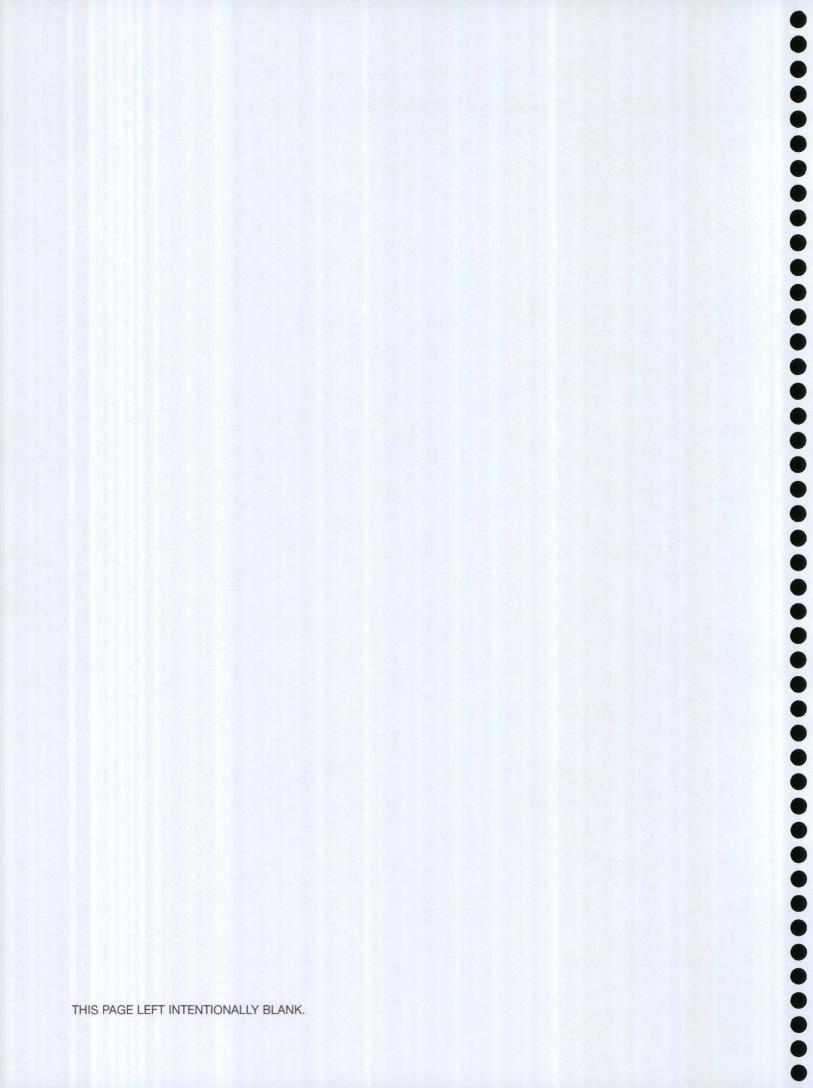
December 2018

Prepared by Matthew Fougerat Texas Parks & Wildlife Department State Parks Division Natural Resources Planning and Geospatial Resources

Signature / Date

12/14/18

17 Dec 18 Signature / Date



Bastrop State Park Golf Course Area

Public Use Plan

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December 2018

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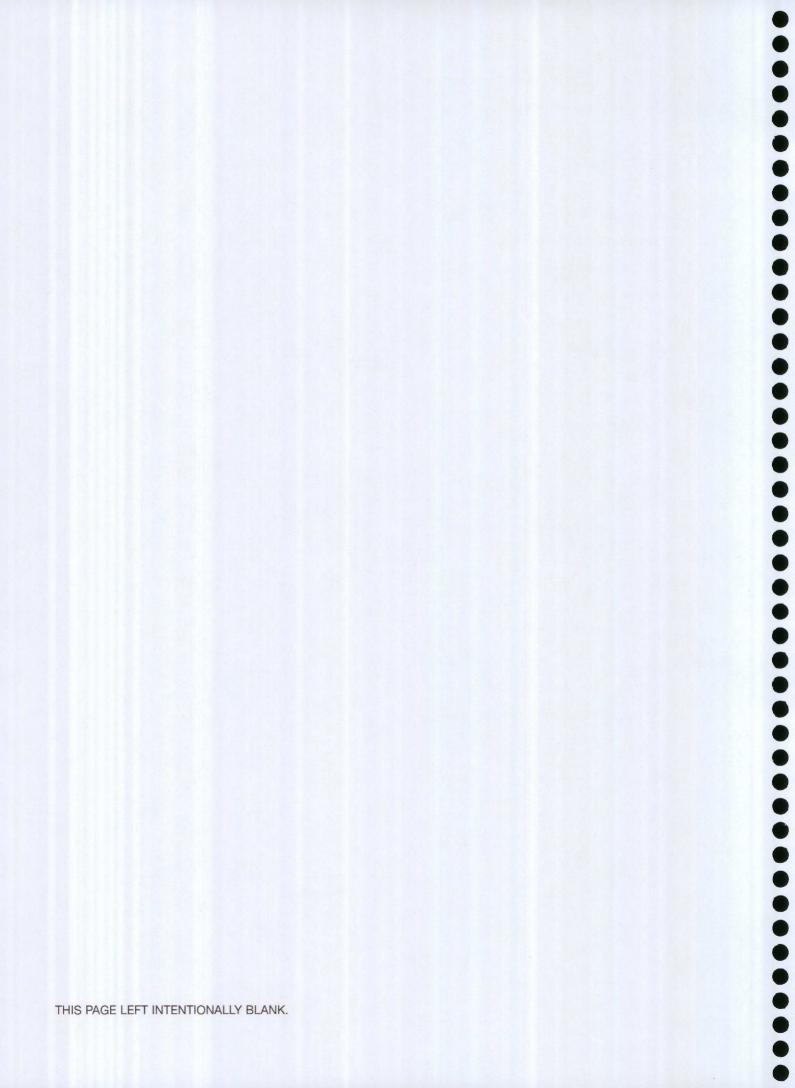
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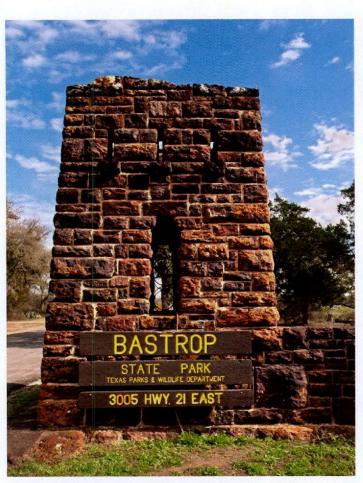


Photo 1 | New Deal era stone gatehcuse at Bastrop State Park

Introduction

Executive Summary

Located thirty miles east of the state capital of Austin, Bastrop State Park is one of the gems of the Texas State Park system. Opened to the public in 1937 and now encompassing over 6,700 acres, the park is ecologically and historically significant. It is situated within a disjunct community of loblolly pine – post oak woodland known as the Lost Pines. Although largely devastated by the 2011 Bastrop County Complex wildfire, much of park remains as designated critical habitat for the endangered Houston toad (Anaxyrus houstonensis). In 1997 the park was selected for National Historic Landmark (NHL) status as it is considered one of the foremost examples of rustic New Dealera design and craftsmanship. Additionally, remnants of two significant historic corridors associated with early European settlement, the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail and Gotier Trace, are found within the park.

Part of the original park design and construction, the 137 acre nine-hole golf course is an integral component of the park's historic legacy. The course has long been a social hub of the greater Bastrop community and was a contributing factor in the Historic Landmark designation. Unfortunately, the course has faced financial insolvency since the 1990s. In an effort to increase visitation the course was expanded from the original nine holes to eighteen holes in 1995. Despite the best efforts of Texas Parks & Wildlife Department—working in conjunction with local governments and dedicated community members—the golf course was forced to close in 2015. Later that same year, TPWD executives met with city, county and private representatives, along with elected state officials, following a nationwide solicitation process through a Request for Proposal (RFP) which resulted in no responses. A consensus decision was made that the golf course would be permanently closed. Subsequently, it was determined that Texas Parks & Wildlife Department would proceed with alternative plans for public access and recreational use of the golf course area.

This Public Use Plan represents the culmination of the Bastrop State Park Golf Course Area planning process begun in March 2017. Although the decision to close the historic golf course was difficult, there is now an opening to greatly expand recreational and educational opportunities. Whereas golf was incompatible with the open use of the cart paths as recreational trails, the backbone of this plan is a trail network based on the renovation of much of the existing paths. Over five miles of trails will now be accessible to the public and will be the intermediate link between downtown Bastrop and Bastrop State Park's twenty-plus miles of backcountry nature trails. The historical significance of the site will be highlighted through the conversion of the Golf Club House into a New Deal era Interpretive Center, the renovation of historic elements of Lake Mina, and actively managing select fairways of the original nine-hole course in a manner that reflects the historic landscape. A nature center, with outdoor classroom space, will be dedicated to educating visitors on the Lost Pines ecosystem. An outdoor amphitheater will enhance the park's ability to offer further educational and event opportunities. Day use facilities will offer visitors space for large group gatherings in the Central Terrace or more solitary picnic options at tables spread among the shade of the pines. Finally, the park will be positioned to handle future increases in visitation demands with new headquarter facilities.

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Following the 2011 Bastrop County Complex wildfire, the greater Bastrop community has been in a state of recovery, renewal, and adaptation. Bastrop State Park is a visible, tangible manifestation of this process. This Public Use Plan for the former golf course area presents the citizens of Texas increased opportunity to access, interact, and learn about the distinct natural and cultural history that sets Bastrop State Park and the Lost Pines ecosystem apart. This will further enhance the potential of Bastrop State Park to remain an ideal recreational and educational destination, not only for the present generation of Texans, but also for all that follow.



Photo 2, 3, and 4 | Bastrop State Park, a landscape in transition Upper left corner: Circa 1940s Lost Pines Golf Club, TPWD historical archives; Bottom left corner: Bastrop Complex Wildfire of 2011, TPWD; Bottom right corner: Natural regeneration of loblolly pine, 2018, TPWD

Purpose of Document

This Public Use Plan (PUP) will direct the expansion of public access and recreational use for the former Golf Course Area (GCA) at Bastrop State Park (Bastrop SP). This plan shall remain in effect until it is superseded by future planning documents. Through implementation of this plan, and consistent with site resource stewardship, the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) will strive to increase public access and recreational opportunities by improving existing facilities, roads, parking, and paths, as well as creating new facilities intended for day use purposes. The proposed uses and activities will promote informed stewardship and the conservation and protection of natural and cultural resources through on-site education of visitors and staff.

It is the intention of TPWD to manage the GCA in a manner that promotes and restores historic ecological integrity, does not harm sensitive or endangered species, acknowledges historical and cultural legacies, and facilitates a broad range of recreational and educational opportunities. Through this plan, TPWD will provide the visitor with day use recreational opportunities such as hiking, biking, picnicking, fishing, gathering space, and both formal and informal play. This plan also promotes interpretation and interaction with the park's natural and cultural resources in order to better educate the visitor about those resources and their stewardship. The proposed changes in public use found in this plan will increase inclusivity, foster connectivity between the park and the greater Bastrop community, as well as improve public awareness of the Lost Pines ecosystem and the legacy of the New Deal era design and construction.

This PUP is intended to be a dynamic document that may be subject to modification as visitor use patterns change. To better conserve and protect the park's natural and cultural resources, changes may be made to the plan when monitoring programs document unacceptable impact to park resources. Changed or unforeseen circumstances might also precipitate a need for plan revision over the life of the plan.



Figure 1 | Photo montage of proposed hike & bike trail network



Feet

Significance of Bastrop State Park & Golf Course Area

Situated in the heart of Central Texas, directly adjacent to the growing community of Bastrop, within a distinct biological community, and with both diverse prehistoric and historic cultural roots, Bastrop SP is significant geographically, ecologically, and culturally.

Geographic

metropolitan areas.

Bastrop SP is located in central Bastrop County, Texas within the southwestern portion of what is known as the "Texas Triangle," a megaregion delineated by the major transportation corridors—US I-10 to the south, US I-45 to the east, and US I-35 to the west—connecting the cities of San Antonio, Austin, Houston, and Dallas / Fort Worth ("Texas Triangle - America 2050" n.d.). As measured in 2005, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from this region was over \$800 billion dollars, 7% of the total US GDP. Moreover, according to the 2010 US census, almost 20 million residents live within this region, accounting for almost 6% of the total US population. Population is projected to reach over 38 million by the year 2050, a 93.3% increase. If projections hold, the four major metropolitan areas comprising the Texas Triangle will account for 70% the State's total population. Bastrop SP is within a three to three-and-a-half hour drive of all four of these

Dallas / Fort Worth Texas Triangle

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Figure 2 | Texas Triangle

San Antonio

Source: Regional Planning Association

1,000

Houston

More locally, Bastrop SP provides both day use and overnight resource based recreational opportunities for residents of both large and small communities. The park is situated thirty miles from downtown Austin and less than two miles east of downtown Bastrop. Smaller surrounding communities include:

- Smithville: 13 mi. south on TX 71
- Elgin: 18 mi. north on TX 95
- Giddings: 25 mi. northeast on TX 21
- Gonzales: 50 mi. south on TX 304

Given this geographic significance, Bastrop SP has historically been one of the most visited parks in the State Park system. However, in recent years natural

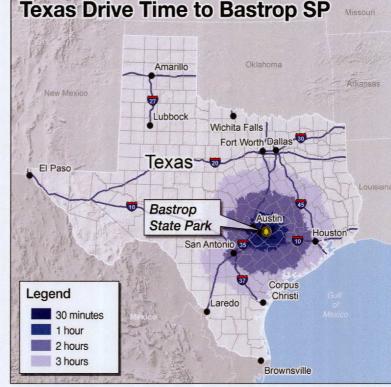


Figure 3 | Texas Drive Time to Bastrop State Park

disasters have greatly impacted the ecology of the park, and, subsequently, visitation rates. In September 2011, the Bastrop County Complex wildfire burned approximately 96% of the park. Just as the vegetation began to recover. the area was hit with a large flood in 2015 which resulted in the failure of the New Deal Era constructed dam. draining Bastrop State Park Lake. In the intervening years, active restoration efforts have helped advance recovery of this distinct biological community. At the time of this writing. Bastrop State Park Lake dam is also currently being reconstructed. It is expected that as the biological community recovers, and the landscape features are restored, Bastrop SP will once again return to, and likely exceed, its pre-fire visitation rates.

Ecological

The entirety of the 6,700 acre park contains a significant portion of a disjunctive population of loblolly pines known as the "Lost Pines." The loblolly pine woodland is isolated from the main body of East Texas Pines by approximately 100 miles of rolling, post oak woodlands. This pine-oak woodland covers approximately seventy square miles and is part of the most westerly stand of loblolly pines in the continental United States.

In terms of significant species, the park has been designated critical habitat for the state and federally listed endangered Houston toad (*Anaxyrus houstonensis*, formerly *Bufo houstonensis*). Prior to the Bastrop County Complex wildfire, the largest remaining populations of Houston toads were found within the park. Although the severity of the fire has negatively impacted the extant population, breeding pairs have since been identified inside the park boundaries.

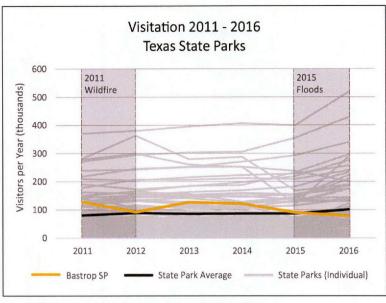


Figure 4 | Texas State Parks Visitation 2011 - 2016

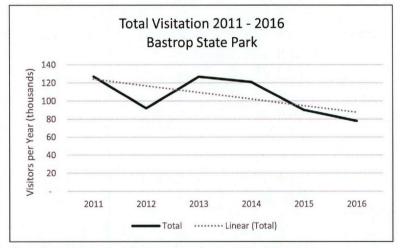


Figure 5 | Bastrop State Park Total Visitation 2011 - 2016

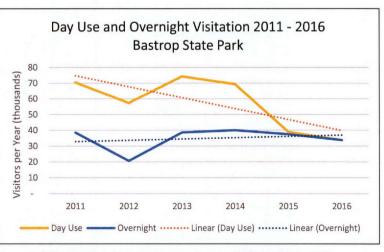


Figure 6 | Bastrop State Park Day Use and Overnight Visitation 2011 - 2016

Cultural

The cultural significance of Bastrop SP is rich and diverse. Prehistoric sites within the area have been dated back to approximately 10,000 years before present (BP). Historical accounts have been documented as early as 1691. Remnants of two significant historic corridors lie within the park: the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail and the Gotier Trace. Both served as arterials during European colonization of the region.

More recently, designed and constructed as part of the New Deal era efforts, the park is considered one of the best examples in the state of intact Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) structures, craftsmanship and landscape design. In 1997, the park was awarded National Historic Landmark Status, one of a select number of CCC parks in the nation with this recognition.

Golf Course Area

An original component of the park plan and construction, the GCA comprises approximately 137 acres of Bastrop SP. The GCA shares much significance with the broader park, but is distinguished further by the following:

- A part of the New Deal era park masterplan and construction, the historical significance of the original nine-hole course was a contributing factor to the NHL landmark status.
- Located at the primary public entrance near the intersection of US Hwy 21 and CR 150, the GCA represents the face of the park.
- Less than two miles from downtown Bastrop, the golf course has been a civic and social hub of the greater community for over eighty years.

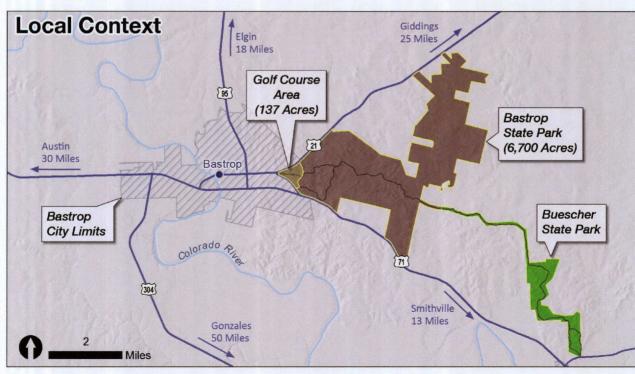


Figure 7 | Golf Course Area Local Context Map



Figure 3 | Bastrop State Park Golf Course Area

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Project Chronology

- 1930s Constructed through New Deal era programs (Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) company #1811)
- 1937 Bastrop State Park (Bastrop SP) Opens to the public
- 1970 Houston Toad (Anaxyrus houstonensis) is listed under the endangered species act
- 1995 Golf Course expanded from 9 to 18 holes (opened as 18 in 1997)
- Required a memorandum of agreement between National Park Service (NPS), Texas Historical Commission (THC), and the National Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP)
- US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) issued a biological opinion with required mitigation actions for Houston toad habitat loss associated with golf course expansion
- 1997 National Historic Landmark (NHL) designation
- 2004 TPWD reduces franchise fee for golf concessionaire due to lack of revenue
- 2009 TPWD funds cart path repairs (\$25k)
- 2010 TPWD reduces franchise fee for golf concessionaire due to lack of revenue
- 2011 TPWD funds capital repairs to club house (\$248k)
- 2011 Bastrop County Complex Wildfire
- 2011 LPGC receives Small Business Administration loan (\$50k)
- 2012 TPWD advertised RFP for golf operations; No bids received, contract with LPGC extended through 2013
- 2013 City of Bastrop approves voucher program for LPGC using HOT funds (\$25k)
- 2014 TPWD eliminates franchise fee so 1% can be paid toward arrears (\$29k); contract extended to 2019
- 2014 TPWD assists LPGC in maintenance / repair items (pump, well service, etc.) (\$4k)
- 2015 LPGC closes
- 2015 TPWD advertises RFP for 8 months, no bids received
- Oct. 2015 TPWD issues press release announcing consensus decision to move forward with go f course area planning
- June 2016 TPWD suspends planning efforts at request of State Representative Cyrier to allow the City of Bastrop to conduct a feasibility study for golf course
- June 2016 City of Bastrop passes resolution for TPWD to reconsider closing golf course and work with interested parties to reopen
- October 2016 TPWD issues letter to Mayor Kesselus announcing continuation of planning efforts
- March 2017 TPWD officially begins process for Bastrop State Park Golf Course Area Public Use Plan (PUP)
- August 1, 2017 TPWD hosts first public comment session for the Golf Course Area PUP
- August 22, 2017 TPWD presents history of Lost Pines Golf Course to Bastrop City Council
- September 26, 2017 Bastrop City Council approves R-2017-79 supporting TPWD's proposed PUP and "Strongly urging" TPWD to build a "Tribute Green" to preserve and educate future generations of the important role that the Lost Pines Golf Course played in the Bastrop State Park's history
- October 19, 2017 TPWD hosts second public comment session for the Golf Course Area PUP
- April 23, 2018 TPWD submits PUP to THC for review
- May 21, 2018 TPWD receives THC review with recommendations provided under the authority of the Antiquities Code of Texas

Inter-Agency Coordination

Bastrop State Park is historically significant, having been distinguished as a National Historic Landmark In 1997. It is also ecologically significant as the entire park is classified as critical habitat for a federally endangered species, the Houston toad. As such, a number of state and federal agencies have vested interest in proposed recreational use and facility development within the park. Furthermore, as part of the golf course expansion from nine holes to eighteen begun in 1995, TPWD entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA 1995) which specified restrictions on future development. Although the golf course area itself is excluded from the limitations on development, interagency coordination and/or concurrence is still required. The relevant agencies include the following:

- Texas Historical Commission (THC)
- U.S. National Park Service (NPS)
- U.S. National Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP)
- U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)

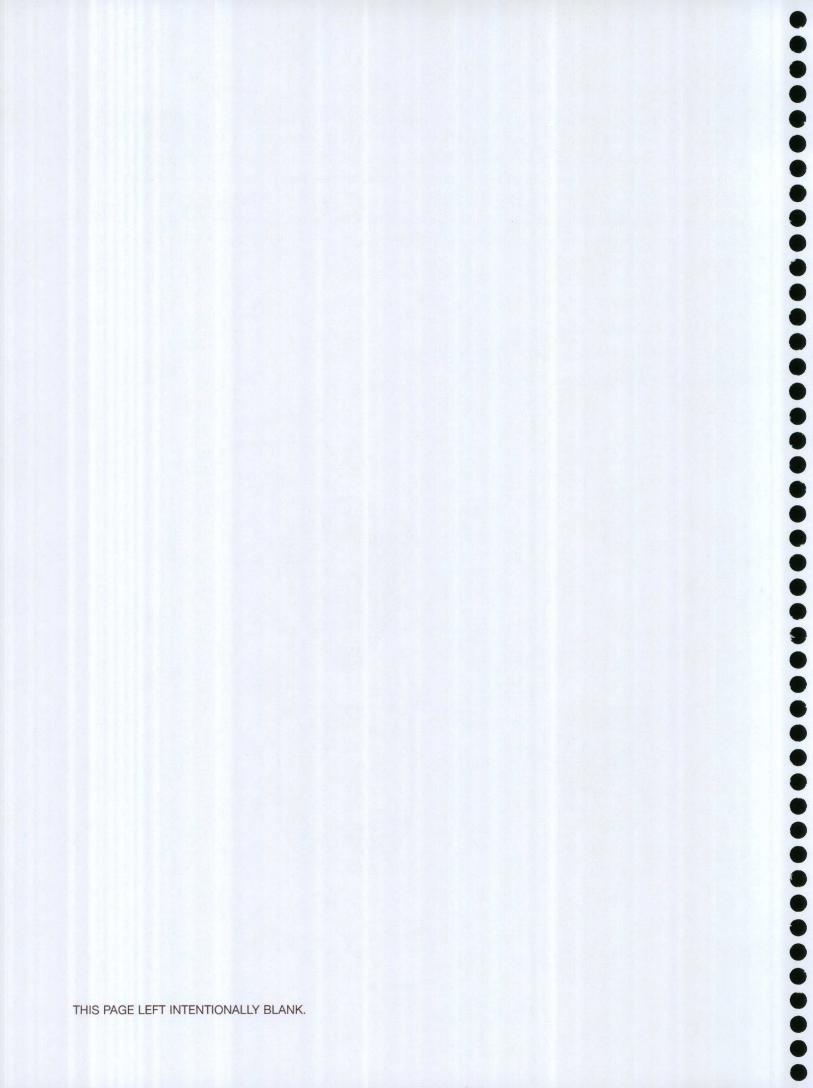


TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION real places telling real stories









Statement of Intent

TPWD Mission

To manage and conserve the natural and cultural resources of Texas and to provide hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

State Parks Mission

Manage state parks and historic sites to conserve natural and cultural resources, provide recreational and educational opportunities, and foster an understanding of the diversity of Texas' lands and heritage for all generations.

Site Mission

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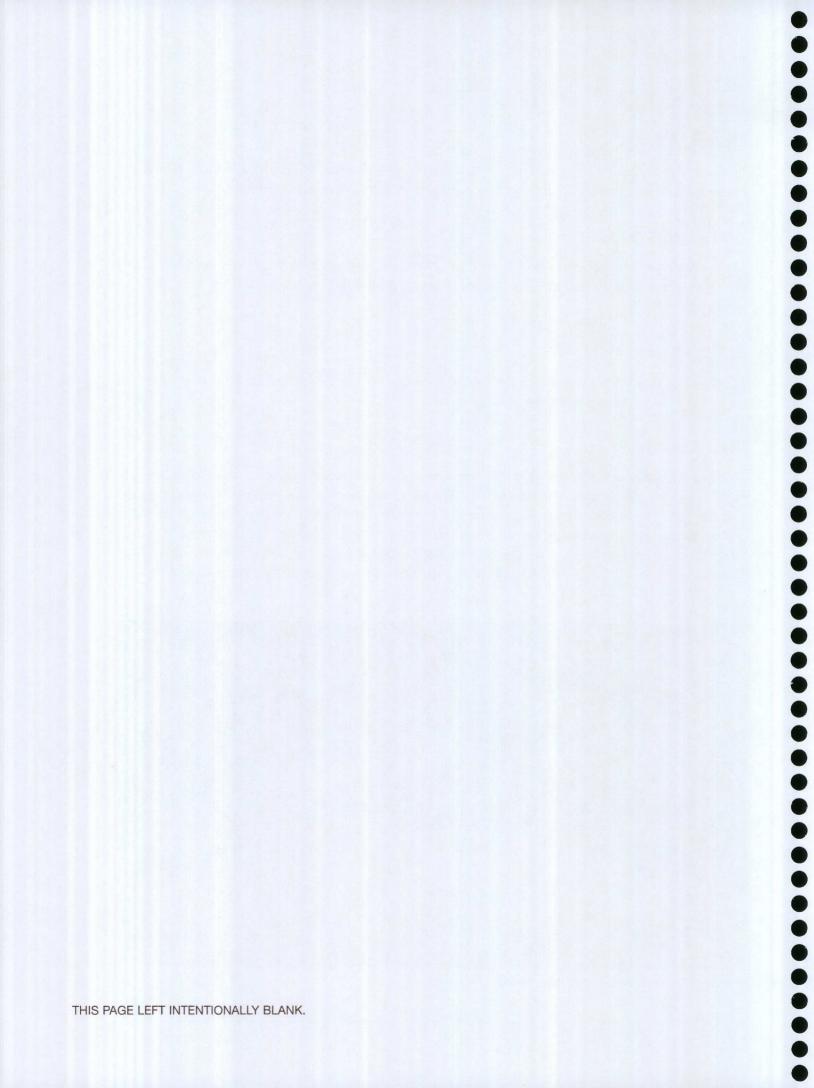
To perform as trustworthy stewards of the natural and cultural resources of the Lost Pines while providing excellent service to the citizens of Texas and their guests.

Site Purpose

The purpose of Bastrop SP is varied and includes the following tenets: 1) Conserve a representative and sustainable portion of the Lost Pines ecosystem; 2) Provide an area for the protection, preservation, study and management of the endangered Houston toad; 3) Maintain the integrity of New Deal structures, landscape and overall design; 4) Provide site appropriate recreational experiences for diverse user groups; 5) Provide interpretive and educational opportunities to foster appreciation and understanding of the park's natural and cultural resources; and 6) Provide a strong tourism base for the economic benefit of Bastrop County.



Photo 5 | View of healthy native vegetation at Bastrop State Park



Planning Process

Resource Assessment and Evaluation

The "Resource Assessment and Evaluation" phase consists of planning efforts that include a compilation of data and information regarding the natural and cultural resources of the site. A critical element in the planning process, the evaluation establishes the location of significant resources such as federal and state threatened and endangered species, key habitats and natural communities, and archeological and historical sites. Finally, the physical characteristics of the site such as topology, soils, geology, hydrology, vegetative cover, land use and human developments are compiled and analyzed. Overlaying these inventories guides the planner in determining appropriate locations for desired facilities.

Public Participation

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is a public agency and therefore accountable to the citizens of Texas. Public comment is received throughout the planning process. Comments are acquired through public meetings, personal conversations, and unsolicited communication. Persons telephoning the Department may speak directly to individual staff to express concerns and comments regarding park planning projects. Direct communication is not limited to telephone conversations. When project team members encounter private individuals concerned with a park planning project, comments are noted and recorded in the same respect as a public meeting. Unsolicited letters are often received regarding planning projects. Comments received at all stage of the process are reviewed and evaluated by the planning team in the context of the project. Only those comments received at the meeting, and for a specified period of days after, are included in this document (Refer to Appendix F).

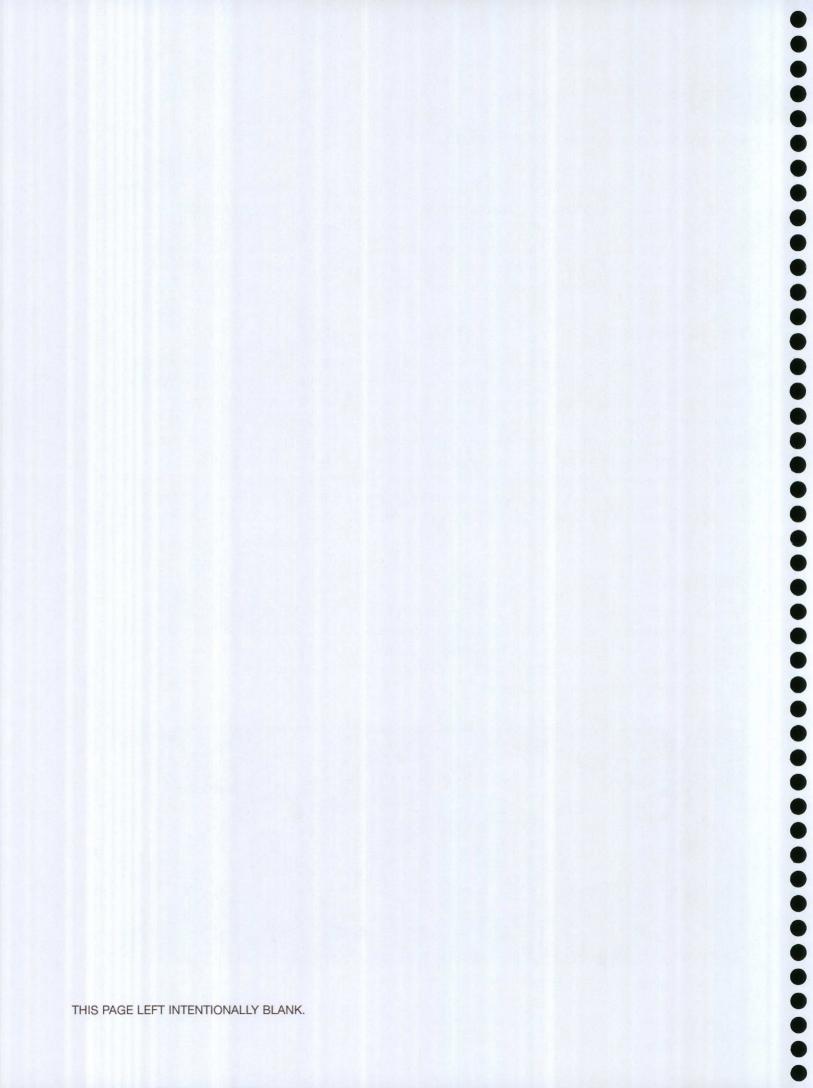
Programming

Programming of facilities is the result of the professional evaluation of the site characteristics as well as the TPWD objectives for the site. This plan proposes modifications and new development to recreation, visitor, and administrative facilities at the former Golf Course Area at Bastrop State Park through facility programming. This includes not only the actual facilities, but all associated infrastructure, services, and amenities needed for the appropriate functioning of such facilities.

Source: Mary Huber, Bess Graham



Photo 6 and 7 | Bastrop County residents and officials attending PUP public meetings



Natural and Cultural Resources

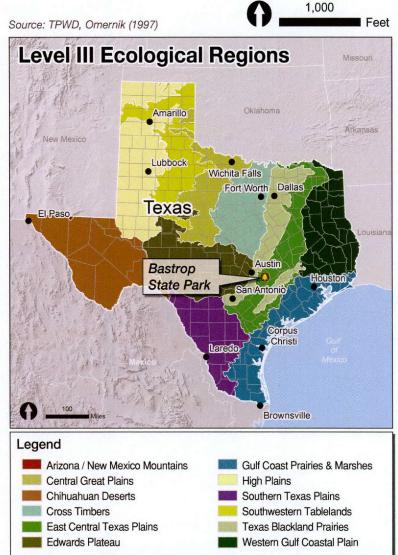
Overview

In its present configuration, Bastrop State Park proper is approximately 6,700 acres, of which the golf course area accounts for 137 acres. A map of land acquisition history for Bastrop SP can be found in Appendix B. The original 3,503.7 acres of the park, which included the golf course area, was acquired by deeds from the City of Bastrop and private landowners from 1933 to 1966 (Keith 2002). Over 3,000 acres have been added to the park since, with major acquisitions including:

- 1,450 acres in 1979
- 997 acres in 2000
- 1,275 acres in 2001
- 938 acres of smaller tracts and inholdings between 2003 and 2015

The climate of Bastrop State Park is humid subtropical with hot, humid summers and generally mild winters. August is the warmest month of the year with an average maximum temperature of 96.3 degrees Fahrenheit. January is the coldest month with average minimum temperature of 36.7 degrees Fahrenheit. Rainfall is distributed relatively evenly over the course of the year with an annual average precipitation of 34.7 inches. The month of May receives the most rainfall with an average of 5.11 inches.

The natural resources of Bastrop State Park are unique. According to the ecological classifications established by Omernik (1997), at the course Level III scale, Bastrop State Park is located within the East Central Texas Plains. However, at the more detailed Level IV scale, the entirety of the park is found within the disjunct loblolly pine communities known as the Bastrop Lost Pines. These distinct pine – oak savannas, which comprise the Lost Pines

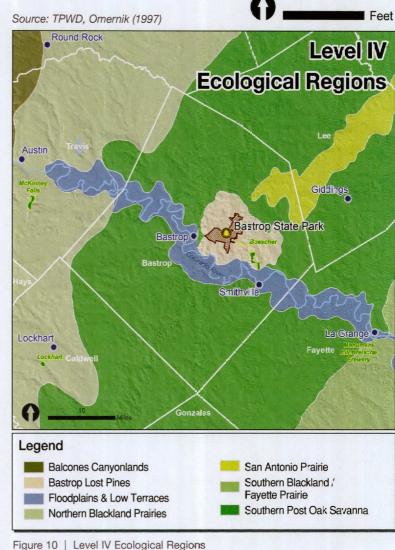




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ecosystem, provide critical habitat for the endemic, and federally endangered, Houston toad (*Anaxyrus houstonensis*). Much of the mature pine – oak stands, especially within the park proper, were damaged or destroyed in the Bastrop County Complex wildfire of 2011.

The cultural resources of the park are significant and varied. Evidence of prehistoric occupation, dating to ca. 11,200 BP, has been identified both within the surrounding area, as well as the park itself. Historical records of European incursion into the area can be traced back to 1691 (TPWD 2000). Remnants of two significant historic corridors associated with early European settlement, the El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail and Gotier Trace, are found within the park. Furthermore, as a result of its New Deal era design and construction, Bastrop State Park was designated with National Historic Landmark (NHL) status in 1997 as it has long been considered the foremost example in the state of Rustic New Deal-era design and craftsmanship. Bastrop SP is one of a very limited number of CCC parks in the nation with this recognition.



Beyond this overview, which summarizes the resources of the Bastrop State Park proper, the remainder of this section focuses specifically on the 137 acre site of the former golf course.

Natural Resources

Geology and Soils

The underlying geology of the GCA is composed of Quaternary high gravel deposits and Carrizo Sandstone. The high gravel deposits cover 88% of the GCA. Carrizo Sandstone is continental in or gin having been deposited during the Eocene (50 mya) as the outwash of an eroded mountain range that once extended from Huntsville to Elgin, Texas (Riskind and Moreland 1973). This formation can be found at the upper northwest corner of the GCA.

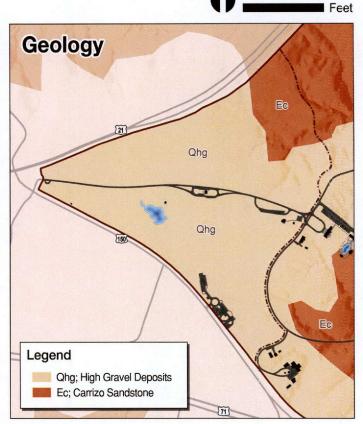
The soils that have developed over these rocks and deposits are various types of well-drained sandy Alfisols. According to the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil survey for Bastrop County, five distinct soil types can be identified in the GCA (USDA 1972). Axtell-Tabor Complex soils are the predominate type

covering 58% of the GCA. The Axtell Alfisols are formed in clayey sediment interbedded with shale and sandstone and are found on uplands and stream terraces with slopes of 1 - 8%. Tabor fine sandy loams are located on the flatter terraces with 1 - 3% slope and cover 23% of the GCA. Jedd Stony Soils are formed in clayey sediment that is underlain by weakly consolidated sandstone. Jedd Alfisols cover 18% of the area and are found on the ridgetops and short, hilly side slopes of 5 - 20%. Found primarily north of Park Road 1A in the eastern half of the GCA, this soil type is considered most at risk of erosion. Edges of Patilo complex and Vernia complex soils can also be found north of PR1A, but their occurrence is minimal.

The moisture retaining quality of these soils and clayey subsoils allow the growth of the pines and oaks associated with the Lost Pines ecosystem. However, due to their loose surface structure, erosion hazard is high for most of the soils types, particularly on the steeper slopes. The vast majority of the GCA soils are considered either highly erodible (76%) or potentially highly erodible (23%).

Topography, Elevation, and Slope

In terms of topography and elevation, the GCA is best evaluated as two separate sections: south of PR1A and north of PR1A. South of PR1A, the area is flat with very limited change in elevation—slope is gentle at 0 - 3% over the entirety of this area. In comparison, the area north of PR1A is largely flat in the eastern section, however, elevation grades become much steeper in the far northwestern corner as the drainage into Copperas Creek begins to create deeper channels and gulleys. Slopes in this portion of the north section become steep, reaching greater than 15% in certain locations along the GCA's northeastern boundary. Both the high-point and the low-point of the GCA are also found within this northern section with the peak of the GCA, at 560 fasl, located at the far northern tip and the low point of 472 fasl located in the creek drainage.



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Figure 11 | Geology

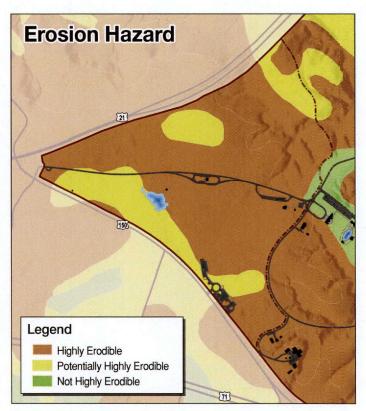


Figure 12 | Erosion Hazard

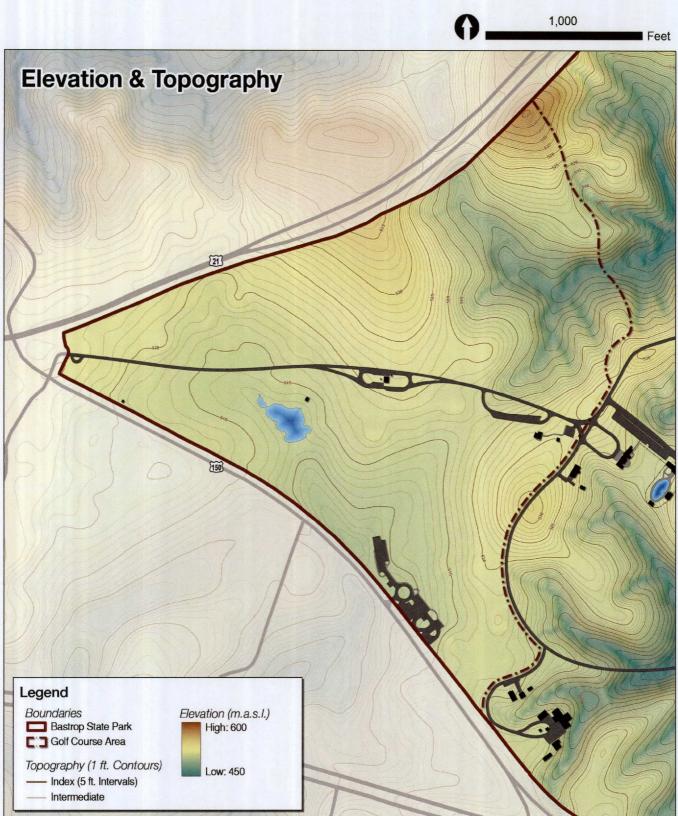
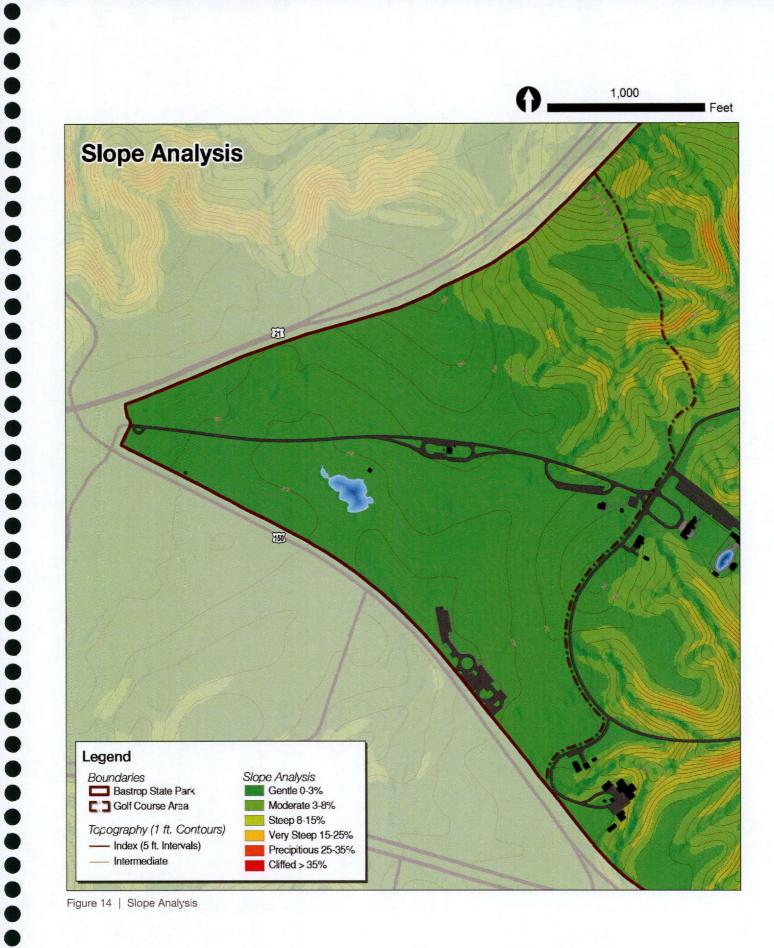


Figure 13 | Elevation & Topography



Water and Hydrology

Located on an upper terrace, the occurrence and movement of water is minimal within the GCA. There are no natural water bodies, creeks, or streams found within the site. North of PR1A, water is channeled into a network of drainage channels which feed directly into Copperas Creek. With more level terrain south of PR1A, drainage is much more broadly dispersed with little channelization. All drainage is within the Copperas Creek watershed which eventually makes it way to the Colorado River.

Lake Mina is a one acre water body located within the GCA. It is an artificial lake with historical significance as it was designed and constructed as part of the original golf course as a water hazard by the CCC. Today Lake Mina is kept full with rainfall supplemented with water pumped from an underground well.

Vegetation

As noted above, the entirety of Bastrop SP is found within the Lost Pines ecoregion. Although ecological classifications systems are useful organizational tools, at the site level, the associations are affected by idiosyncratic human land uses and manipulation, and can vary widely within the same ecoregion. The GCA has experienced nearly 150 years of manipulation through forestry practices, watershed alteration, exotic plant introduction, fire suppression, and recreation (TPWD 2000). Therefore, a more fine-scale analysis of the vegetation types specific to the GCA is required. The following site-level classifications were modified for the GCA from those originally designated by Keith (2002). Refer to Figure 15.

Developed

For almost a century the GCA provided the setting for the Lost Pines Golf Club. The land manipulation and highlevel of maintenance that is required for a golf course significantly altered the natural patterns of distribution and succession to the extent that the majority of the GCA is considered "Developed" land. According to the geographic delineation provided by Keith (2002), this equals ninety-eight acres, or 72% of the total GCA area. Active, intense maintenance of the GCA was abandoned following the closure of the golf course in 2015. Since that time, the GCA landscape has been in a state of transition with various stages of first and secondary succession. Although still largely dominated by exotic grasses and native weedy species, much of the course, especially those areas outside of the fairways, is recovering fairly rapidly as native grasses and forbs of the Loblolly Pine-Oak series, Post Oak-Blackjack Oak series, and Sugarberry-Elm series are beginning to re-colonize the nearby areas. The characteristics of these communities are described in the proceeding sub-sections.

Loblolly Pine-Oak Series

The Loblolly Pine-Oak community is likely the historical ecological precedent for most of the GCA. Presently, good representation of the type is found on twenty-two acres, or approximately 16%, of the GCA. This community is highly variable and occurs on several different soil types, including the Axtell and Tabor Series. Many of the areas where loblolly pine (*Pinus taeda*) is dominant appear to be the result of secondary succession of areas that had been cleared for timber harvest or pasture. However, since there are several areas in the uplands that contain scattered old growth pines, it is likely loblolly pine was a major component

of the uplands in this region before European settlement. Loblolly pines in this region appear to have adapted to the upland communities that are normally occupied by shortleaf and/or longleaf pine in the Pineywoods region of East Texas. Co-dominants include post oak (Quercus stellata), blackjack oak (Quercus marilandica), and black hickory (Carya texana). In areas, with past frequent fire, the understory would be dominated by native perennial grasses and forbs such as little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium), big bluestem (Andropogon gerardii), pinewoods dropseed (Sporobolus junceus), asters (Symphiotrichum sp.), and bracken fern (Pteridium aquilinum). In the absence of fire, shrubs and vines would be much more prevalent including yaupon (Ilex vomitoria), American beautyberry (Callicarpa american), Virginia creeper (Parthenocissus quinquefolia), and greenbriars (Smilax sp.).

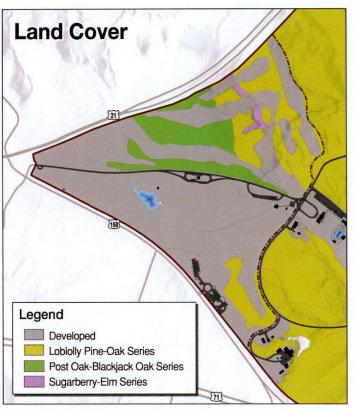


Figure 15 | Land Cover

Post Oak-Blackjack Oak Series

The Post Oak-Blackjack Oak series covers fifteen acres, or 11%, of the GCA. This community is very similar in overall structure and species composition to the Loblolly Pine-Oak community with scattered trees and large grassland openings. The distinguishing features of this community are that black hickory is absent, or less prominent, and blackjack oak becomes more prominent. Common herbaceous species include four species of love grass (*Eragrostis lugens, Eragrostis curtipedicellata, Eragrostis secundiflora*, and *Eragrostis sessilispica*), purple three-awn (Aristida purpurea var. purpurea), silver bluestem (Bothriochloa laguroides), Texas grama (*Bouteloua rigidiseta*), and bracted sida (*Sida ciliaris*). Prairie flameflower (*Talinum parviflorum*) is also present in small numbers. For the purposes of this plan, the Post Oak-Blackjack Oak series is considered part of the Loblolly Pine-Oak community.

Sugarberry-Elm Series

At 1% of the total GCA area, the Sugarberry-Elm community represents a combination of three different communities that overlap in the region of the park. In the GCA, It is present in the northwest corner of the site along the tributaries of Copperas Creek. Water oak (*Quercus nigra*), pecan (*Carya Illinoinensis*), and American elm (*Ulmus americana*) are the dominant overstory trees in this community. The only other tree present in significant numbers is loblolly pine. The understory composition of this community was probably highly variable before European settlement. Areas along the creek that are drier and allowed fire to carry are fairly open and dominated by grasses, sedges (*Cyperaceae*), rushes (*Juncus sp.*), forbs, and scattered shrubs and vines. Areas that are wetter, or sheltered by tributaries, contain a denser canopy, thicker mid-story, and shade-tolerant herbaceous species.



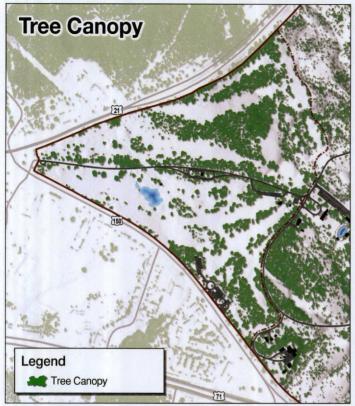


Figure 16 | Tree Canopy

Tree Canopy

Dominated by the Loblolly Pine-Oak community, a tree canopy analysis of the GCA estimates total canopy coverage of 44.2 acres, or 32% of the total 137 acres. The majority of this coverage is located north of PR1A. However, stands of mature trees are also found south of PR1A.

Wildlife

According to TPWD's Resource Management Plan for Bastrop SP (2000), a range of modern fauna may be found within the GCA, though their densities are generally lower relative to the less developed sections of Bastrop SP. This includes forty-nine species of mammals and 240 species of birds, fifty of which have been documented breeding within Bastrop SP. Additionally, there are thirty-nine species of snakes, sixteen species of lizards, five species of urodeles (reptiles with tails throughout life), and eighteen species of anurans (reptiles without tails).

The mammals that might be present in GCA are typical of the region. The most widespread include whitetail deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*), coyote (*Canis latrans*), raccoon (*Procyon lotor*), opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*), eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*), nine-banded armadillo (*Dasypus movemcinctus*), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*). Small carnivores, including bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) and gray fox (*Urocyon cinereoargenteus*), may be present but not often seen. The most common mammal encountered in surveys is the white-footed mouse (*Peromyscus leucopus*), however the discovery of two species of short-tailed shrew is noteworthy because they likely represent remnant populations left over from the Holocene. The shrews were identified as *Blarina hylophaga*, which commonly occurs in the Great Plains and Aransas County, and *Blarina carolinensis*, from the southeastern U.S. Occasional domestic dogs and cats run feral within the park. Presently, there are no known threatened or endangered mammals associated with the GCA.

A range of avifauna (birds) may be seen in the GCA. The most common are primarily composed of species inhabiting the deciduous woodlands and forests of the Post Oak Savannah ecoregion, but that prefer the large openings associated with developed areas such as various species of doves, sparrows, goldfinches, and other seed eating birds. Species associated with the presence of Loblolly pines include Hairy Woodpecker (*Leuconotopicus villosus*), Pileated Woodpecker (*Hylatomus pileatus*), and Pine Warbler (*Setophaga pinus*) may also be present. Approximately fifty species have been documented as breeding within Bastrop SP and may be present in the GCA. The most significant of these are the pine forest species and wood warblers that reach the westernmost extent of their range, including Kentucky (*Geothlypis formosa*), Hooded (*Setophaga citrina*), and Swainson's (*Limnothlypis swainsonii*) Warblers. Being located in the southern United States along a major fly-way, as well as being a forest habitat isolated from other extensive forest habitats, Bastrop SP attracts a broad range of migrant species in both spring and fall, many of which can be seen within the GCA. The Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) and the Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) have both been recorded in the park but are rare to the area and do not utilize any areas of the park for an extended period. No endangered birds have been found to reside in the GCA.

Although a field survey of reptiles and amphibians specific to the GCA has not been undertaken, approximately seventy-eight species have been noted in Bastrop SP.

A comprehensive survey of insects and invertebrates has not been conducted for Bastrop SP, although no threatened or endangered species are known to be present. An aggressive non-native species, fire ants (*Solenopsis sp.*) have become entrenched in the GCA. These ants compete with the native ants and can affect other animal species as well. Environmentally safe eradication of fire ant colonies is recommended.

Threatened and Endangered Species

Prior to the 2011 Bastrop County Complex Wildfire, Bastrop SP was home to one of the largest remaining populations of the federally endangered Houston toad (*Anaxyrus houstonensis*) with the entirety of Bastrop SP listed as Critical Habitat.² In the time since, a precise, comprehensive survey has not been conducted, but breeding pairs of Houston toads have been documented in the park. The general habitat requirements of the toad include friable soils, non-flowing pools that persist for sixty days, and an interspersion of woodland and grassy areas. They are not specifically dependent on the pines as they occur in other locations, however, the presence of native bunchgrasses is necessary as they facilitate toad movement. The toads use both ephemeral ponds of naturally blocked drainage systems and the small ponds found within the park for breeding sites from early February to May (TPWD 2000).

Although the GCA is considered potential habitat for the Houston toad, it was exempted from USFWS restrictions with the signing of the MOA following the expansion of the golf course in 1997 under the requirement that TPWD acquire additional land for the explicit purposes of Houston toad conservation. The ecological restoration efforts included as part of this plan are likely to reestablish toad habitat, particularly in the section of the GCA north of PR1A. However, the management practices prescribed for most of the area south of PR1A is likely to keep potential habitat to a minimum. Moreover, the high level of unstructured recreation occurring within the area is also likely to discourage toad colonization. This is actually preferred, as it reduces the potential for interactions between park visitors and toads.

Additionally, although not listed under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), the timber rattlesnake (*Crotalus horridus*) is also potentially found within the GCA and is listed as "Threatened" by the State of Texas.

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https://www.fws.gov/endangered/what-we-do/critical-habitats-faq.html



Photo 8 | Pine warbler (Setophaga pinus)



Photo 9 | Houston toad (Anaxyrus houstonensis)

Cultural Resources

Prehistoric

Prehistoric peoples are known to have inhabited the area with hundreds of archeological sites recorded in Bastrop County (TPWD 2000). Correlated more with the cultures of Central Texas than to the region to the east, the following three periods broadly characterize the prehistoric archeological associations:

- Paleoindian (11,200 to 8,800 BP)
- Archaic (8,800 to 1,200 BP)
- and Late Prehistoric (1,200 to 350 BP)

As part of the golf course expansion project in the mind 1990s, an archeological investigation was conducted under contract by the Borderlands Archeological Research Unit of the University of Texas at Austin. This project located and tested four archeological sites within the GCA. Two were potential prehistoric sites, quarries, and lithic scatters of indeterminate dating with another two having a historic / New Deal era component (Medlar 1995). A brief description of the prehistoric sites is as follows:

- Site 41BP83: The site was reported in 1977 to be a prehistoric lithic site. In 1992, efforts by TPWD staff to relocate the site failed and testing in the approximate area revealed no cultural materials. At the time, the location and nature of this site was considered lost. No recent investigations have been conducted on the site, thus limited data is available.
- Site 41BP374: A prehistoric quarry site that has been severely disturbed by the construction of State Highway 71. The research potential for the site is low and it is not likely to be subject to vandalism. It is not recommended for official State Archeological Landmark (SAL) designation and is determined ineligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

Historic

The historic period for Texas begins with the arrival of the first Europeans in between 1519 and 1523. Records of incursion into present day Bastrop County begin in 1691 with the expedition led by Don Domingo Teran de los Rios and Father Manzanet who were looking for a direct route from Mexico to the missions located in northeast Texas but were blocked by the dense pine forests (TPWD 2000). It was not until 1795 that the El Camino Real was built through the forests. This access route led to the eventual settlement of the Bastrop area when Stephen F. Austin was granted large sections of land in 1827, and again in 1831, to expand his original colony (TPWD 2000). In 1831 the Bastrop colonists opened a road from the river crossing on the El Camino Real to San Felipe. This route is referred to as the Gotier Trace.

Remnants of both the El Camino Real and the Gotier Trace are found within present day Bastrop State Park. Based on historical records and present vegetation patterns, it is likely the GCA was manipulated through forestry and other agricultural land uses (TPWD 2000). However, no evidence associated with this historic period are recorded explicitly within the GCA.

New Deal Era

During the Great Depression from 1933 - 1939, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) developed a model park in the Texas "Lost Pines" area just outside the City of Bastrop. Two other New Deal programs, the National Youth Administration (NYA) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) also contributed to the park's features and structures. In 1997, the original acreage of the park was registered as a National Historic Landmark (NHL) due

to the preservation of a significant number of New Deal Era buildings and landscapes. Within the GCA, features include the following:

- Original nine-hole golf course including all fairways, greens, and tee boxes
- Rustic clubhouse (pro-shop)
- Starter house (caddyshack)
- Lake Mina
- Entry portal, including an iconic stone gatehouse and pylon
- Perimeter stone walls



Photo 10 | NHL Marker

These features, along with the others found within the park proper, contributed in the designation of Bastrop State Park as a National Historic Landmark on September 25, 1997. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A (Event: contribution to major pattern of American history) and C (Design/ Construction: distinctive characteristics of architecture having artistic value or work of a master). Areas of Significance include Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, Conservation, Politics-Government, Community Development and Planning.

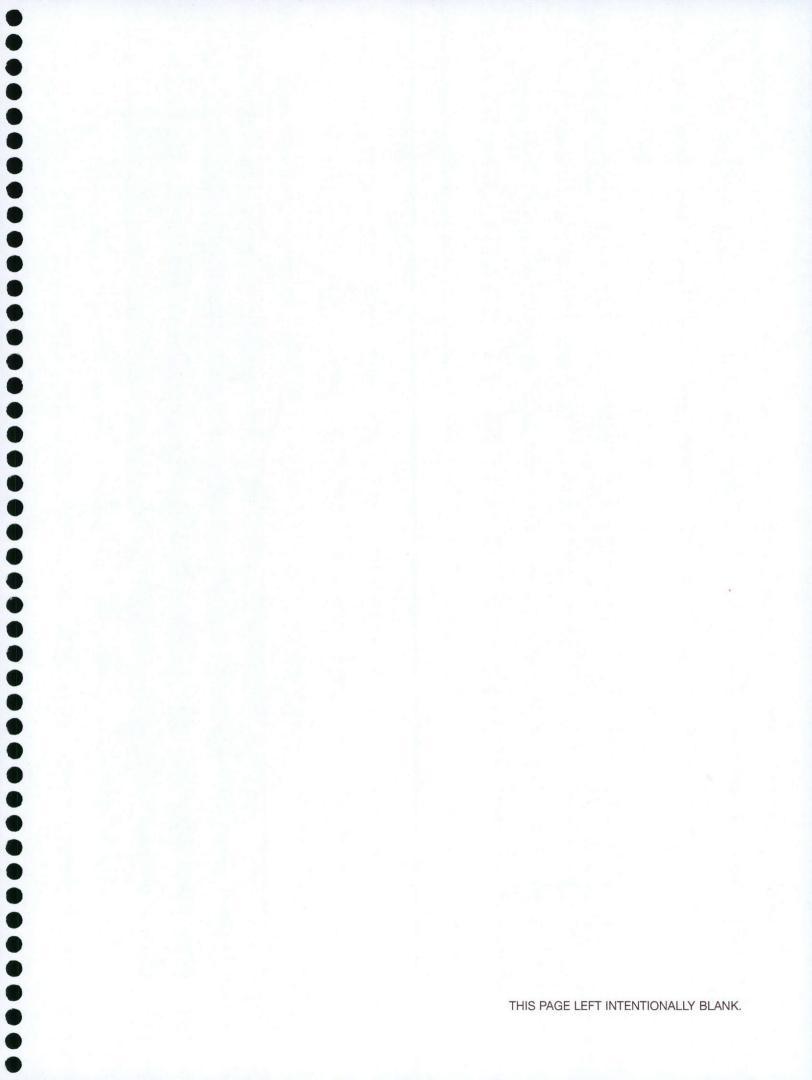
In addition to the significant New Deal Era buildings, features, and landscapes, a small number of less historical significant sites have been discovered during archeological surveys. These include the following:

- Site 41BP372: An intermittent construction/dump scatter site most likely relating to the operation and maintenance of the park. No aspect of the site's contents suggested it merited designation as a SAL. It was also ineligible for NRHP listing. The site was removed during the construction associated with the golf course expansion during the mid 1990s.
- Site 41BP375: A man-made historic period berm likely associated with the original construction of the park for sheet or rain water feature control. No associated artifacts were found upon testing, the research potential is low, and it is not likely to be subject to vandalism, therefore it does not have SAL designation. The site requires no further study.



Photo 11 | Historical photo of Lake Mina





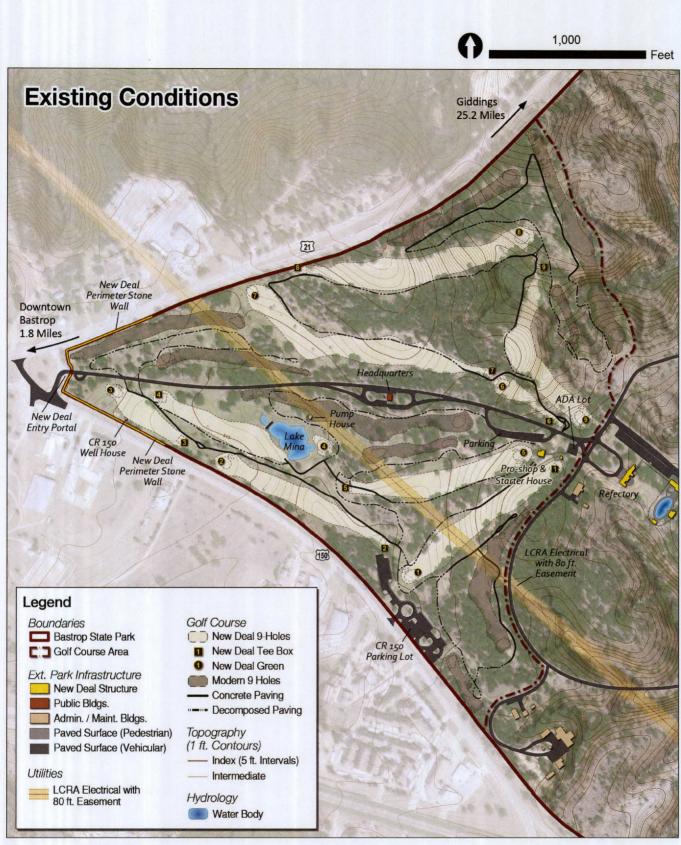


Figure 18 | Existing Conditions

Existing Facilities and Conditions

Bastrop State Park is one of the most venerable parks in the Texas system. Throughout the park, historic facilities intermingle with those more recently added. The following is a brief description of the existing facilities found exclusively within the Golf Course Area.

Historic Facilities & Structures

The facilities listed below are considered historic and directly contributed to the NHL designation at Bastrop SP. Preservation of the historical integrity of these facilities is considered a high priority.

Golf Club House, aka Pro-shop

Originally built in 1938 - 39, likely by the WPA, the Golf Club House retains excellent integrity. The structure is one story wood frame of approximately 1,400 square feet with a gabled roof and projecting wings that have shed roofs. The siding is dark, "waney-edged" weatherboard over a concrete slab foundation. A sandstone masonry chimney is located at the joint between the gable roof and one of the shed roofed wings (TPWD 1997). At present, the Golf Club House is not generally available for public use, though it remains in very good condition. It is predominately being utilized for park administration activities and meetings.

Starter House, aka Caddy Shack

The construction of the starter house dates to 1936. Approximately 300 square feet and located near the original hole 1 tee, the starter house is built of battered sandstone walls. The lower courses of the structure are massive slabs while the upper courses are a more restrained random ashlar. The heavy timbers of the roof are exposed at the ends under the wood shingles (TPWD 1997). The starter house is in good condition and is currently being used for storage by park staff. It is not currently available for public use.

Golf Course

Records indicate that the original nine-hole golf course was in use as early as 1936 (TPWD 1997). These nine links occupy approximately twenty-nine acres, or 21% of the total GCA area, and are significant in that they constitute a "Historic Designed Landscape". A Historic Designed Landscape is recognized by The National Park Service (NPS) as a subcategory of "Cultural Landscape", a cultural landscape being 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 exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values" (NPS 1998). Acknowledgement of the legacy of the course as a landscape feature will be an important component of this plan. A more detailed discussion of the preservation and management intent of the golf course links can be found on pg. 36.

Lake Mina

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Lake Mina is a small lake of approximately one acre in size built as a golf course lake in 1934 and is one of the earliest projects completed in the park. The shoreline of the lake was originally lined with sandstone rockwork, though much of the original work has deteriorated or been damaged and will require restoration. This includes a small stone terrace with sandstone benches (TPWD 1997). The original stone bridge spanning a narrow neck of the lake was replaced with a wood bridge at an undetermined time. The wood bridge is now in disrepair and needs to be replaced. While the Lost Pines Golf Club was open, Lake Mina was largely off limits to the general public. Since the closure of the golf course in 2015, the small lake has become popular with park visitors for fishing.

Entry Portal

The entry portal consists of two sandstone structures. Located on the south side of PR1A, the larger of the two, known as the "gatehouse," was one of the first structures completed in the park. The random ashlar masonry is of the rustic style with thin masonry joints and deeply recessed semi-circular arched openings containing one door and two windows (TPWD 1997). On the opposite side of PR1A is a matching, albeit smaller, stone pylon.

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Perimeter Stone Walls

Extending from both the gatehouse and pylon is a low sandstone wall. These walls run along the perimeter park boundary for approximately 1,000 ft. in either direction and are constructed of the same rusticated, random ashlar sandstone masonry of the entry portal.

Non-Historic Facilities & Structures

Facilities not considered historic are also found within the GCA. These facilities did not contribute to the NHL designation and are not part of the cultural landscape, therefore potential use, alteration, or preservation is at the discretion of TPWD.

Headquarters

The existing headquarters was built in 1968 and serves both administrative and operational functions. It is composed of a small complex of two buildings. The main building is approximately 900 sf housing the customer service counter where all permits and transactions are processed. A number of park administrative offices are also in the building. Public restrooms are available and accessed from the exterior of the building. A small gatehouse, used exclusively to process permits, is located just west of the main structure on PR1A. Parking at the headquarters complex is limited to five standard car and two ADA spaces on the entry lane side and ten standard car spaces on the exit lane side.

The headquarters buildings are functional at present. However, they are in deteriorating condition, undersized, and insufficient to accommodate and process a large number of visitors. With increased visitation expected in the coming decades, a new and redesigned headquarters facility is warranted.

Lake Mina Pump House

Built in the late 1990s and located sixty-five feet from the northeast shoreline of Lake Mina, the Lake Mina Pump House is a wood framed and sided single story structure of approximately 400 sf. The building no longer functions as a pump house and is not currently utilized by the park. Otherwise, it is in fair condition. Removal of equipment and renovation will be required for any alternative uses.

CR 150 Pump House

The CR 150 pump house is located at the far southwest corner of the GCA. Although built to resemble the historic buildings using red sandstone, it is a non-historic structure. It is currently used as the pump house for water supply to Lake Mina. The building is in fair condition for its intended uses. Any repair or renovation needed can be addressed through general park upkeep.

Historic Golf House Parking Lots

Having been recently paved in the late 1990s, the existing main golf house parking lot and the supplemental ADA lot are not historic, but currently service the historic golf clubhouse, starter house, and golf course area. The main lot is a one-way paved asphalt surface with twenty-two standard car spaces. The supplemental ADA lot has eight standard car and one ADA spaces. Both lots are in good condition.

Loop 150 Parking Lot

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The Loop 150 Parking Lot was constructed in 1997 to serve a proposed golf club house. The club house was never built and the 60,000 sf lot has sat vacant since, with a progressive deterioration of overall condition. This plan recommends the complete demolition of the lot for the following reasons:

- The original purpose of the lot is no longer applicable
- The lot creates a secondary access point into the park thereby requiring additional facilities and staff to oversee. It also makes patrolling the park more difficult.
- Removal of the lot allows for a thick, vegetative buffer to be established thereby screening both visual and auditory disturbance from Loop 150.

Golf-Cart Paths

There are currently five miles of existing cart paths. These paths vary greatly in condition. Recently renovated concrete paths are in good condition. Older paths are in various state of disrepair and decomposition. There are 1.7 miles of good condition concrete paths and 3.3 miles of "decomposed" paths.

Existing Infrastructure & Facilities						
Existing Item	Size	Condition	To Remain	Renovation	Proposed Use	
Historic Structures						
Golf Club House	1,400 sf	Fair	Yes	Yes	New Deal Interpretive Center	
Starter House	300 sf	Fair	Yes	No	Not for Public Use	
Golf Course	29 acres (Historic Fairways)	Restoration Req.	Not in Current State	Yes	Passive and Active Day Use Recre- ation and Historic Interpretation	
Lake Mina	1 Acre Lake	Restoration Req.	Yes	Yes	Day Use Recreation	
Entry Portal	88 lf	Fair	Yes	As Needed		
Stone Perimeter Walls	1,391 lf	Fair	Yes	As Needed	-	
Non-Historic Structures						
Heaquarters (HQ)	650 sf	Poor	No	No	New HQ Facilities Proposed	
Gate House	NA	Poor	No	No	New HQ Facilities Proposed	
Lake Mina Pump House	400 sf	Fair	Yes	Yes	Not for Public Use; Park Storage	
CR 150 Well House	130 sf	Fair	Yes	No	Well House	
Parking						
HQ Entry	5 Standard Car; 2 ADA	Poor	No	No	New HQ Facilities Proposed	
HQ Exit	10 Standard Car	Poor	No	No	New HQ Facilities Proposed	
Pro-shop Lot	22 Standard Car	Good	Yes	Yes	Expanded Day Use Parking with AD spaces and Bus Drop-off	
Pro-shop ADA Lot	8 Standard Car; 1 ADA	Good	Yes	No	Day Use Parking	
Loop 150 Lot	-	Poor	No	No		
Golf Cart Paths	The Specific Addition	September 1				
Concrete	9,146 Linear Ft.; 1.7 Miles	Good	Mostly	Yes	Trail Network	
Decomposed Paving	17,367.2 Linear Ft.; 3.3 Miles	Poor	Not in Current State	Yes	Trail Network	

Table 1 | Existing Infrastructure & Facilities

Historic Facilities & Structures



Photo 12 | Golf Club House, aka Pro-shop



Photo 13 | Starter House, aka Caddy Shack



Photo 14 | Historical Golf Course



Photo 15 | New Deal Entry Portal, historical photo



Photo 16 | New Deal stone benches at Lake Mina



Photo 17 | New Deal boundary stone wall at CR 150

Non-Historic Facilities & Structures



Photo 18 | Lake Mina Pump House

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Photo 19 | CR 150 Well House



Photo 20 | Golf Club House ADA Parking Lot



Photo 21 | CR 150 Parking _ot, to be removed



Photo 22 | Golf Course Path, poor condition



Photo 23 | Golf Course Path paved in good condition

Disclaimer of Obligation

This facility program describes the preferred and recommended park facility intent, types, counts, and location. The contents of this program do not constitute a Texas Parks & Wildlife Department obligation or mandate to construct or expend public funds to develop the facilities depicted herein.

Public Use Plan

Resource Management

The natural and cultural resources of the Golf Course Area are irreplaceable. Conserving these resources while providing public use and enjoyment requires management strategies that are able to sustain ecological integrity while also maintaining a visible connection to the historical legacy of the New Deal era features found within.

To differentiate specific management objectives, the GCA has been divided into a series of Ecosystem Management Zones. The zone apportionment is intrinsically tied to the distinct natural and cultural characteristics of a specific location within the GCA, but is independent from potential facility development. In other words, the existing tree cover and historical layout of the original nine-hole course are the main determinates in distinguishing zones, whereas individual facilities are not zoned separately. This is primarily a function of the largely developed state of the overall site and the need for wholesale restoration efforts across the GCA.

As a general rule, all management strategies will be adaptive. According to the National Research Council (2004), adaptive management is defined as:

flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood. Careful monitoring of these outcomes both advances scientific understanding and helps adjust policies or operations as part of an iterative learning process.

A list of management zones, with prescriptive actions, follows below. Refer to Figure 19.

Loblolly Pine - Oak Savanna Zone

The Loblolly Pine – Oak Savanna zone represents the vast majority of the GCA. It is presently composed of relatively healthy native plant communities, disturbed areas in various states of ecological succession, and highly developed areas. This zone is to be actively managed for restoration of the historic evergreen and deciduous woodlands of scattered trees and large grassland openings dominated by loblolly pine, post oak, blackjack oak and black hickory. Some mid-story woody encroachment is permissible, especially where screening of roads or neighboring development is warranted. Management actions for this zone are to include:

- Active Understory Control: Prescribed burns are recommended, but may not be possible in all areas
 of the GCA because of the proximity to Hwy 21 and CR 150. The use of prescribed burns will be left
 to the discretion of the TPWD Regional Natural Resource Specialist (NRS) and the Park managers.
 Mechanical clearing of understory may be used when necessary.
- Tree transplantation: areas that have been, or will be, planted with pine saplings to reestablish tree cover. Areas along the perimeter of the GCA were previously planted in the aftermath of the 2011 wildfire and are intended to help establish screening from Hwy 21 and CR 150.
- Wildlife Exclusion Areas: areas where fencing is placed around select saplings of post oak and / or loblolly pine for purposes of protection from wildlife. Areas are to be determined in the field.
- Seeding: A combination of mechanical and hand seeding of native species will be used to facilitate the recovery of disturbed areas. Native seed gathered locally is preferred. Approval of seed source and variety by TPWD NRS is required prior to seeding.

Loblolly Pine - Oak Savanna Zone: Day Use Mown Area

This classification is a subset of the Loblolly Pine – Oak Savanna Zone. The objective in this area is to promote the scattered growth of the dominant tree species, while mowing regularly to prevent woody encroachment and, more specifically, to maintain as open space for day use activities.

Loblolly Pine - Oak Woodland Zone

The Loblolly Pine – Oak Woodland Zone represents the areas along the perimeter of the GCA along Hwy 21 and CR 150. Boundaries for this zone are delineated by the boundary fencing of the park and the location of hike and bike trails. Note that, although not shown on the diagram, there is to be a two-mower width mown strip along the interior GCA perimeter boundary for maintenance purposes. This zone is to be managed for restoration of more dense pine-oak woodland for purposes of screening Hwy 21, Loop 150, and the neighboring developments. These areas will largely be allowed to progress naturally, with infrequent to no mowing scheduled, thereby encouraging woody encroachment. After the Loop 150 parking lot is removed, the area of its former footprint is to be actively managed as part of this zone.

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Cultural Landscape Feature Zone

This zone denotes the general location of the original New Deal fairways for all except fairway five. Currently dominated by weedy and exotic species, the areas within this zone will require restoration efforts. The objective will be to restore little bluestem dominant native prairie while excluding loblolly pine, oak, and woody encroachment with periodic mowing. Maintaining the historic viewshed free of woody encroachment, especially from prominent vantage points such as the entry drive and Pro-shop, within this zone is critical for the continued interpretation of the New Deal course history. During the first few years of restoration effort, mowing within the fairways may be performed more frequently to help delineate the Cultural Landscape Feature from the surrounding landscape. As trees and woody species become established and grow larger outside the fairways, mowing can become less frequent as the fairway outlines will be distinguished by the different vegetation heights and densities.

Cultural Landscape Feature to Loblolly Pine - Oak Woodland

Located near narrow perimeter edges of the GCA, these areas represent portions of Cultural Landscape Features that are to be both actively and passively restored to Loblolly pine – oak woodland for screening purposes. For most of the golf course's history, the neighboring lands were left in a natural state. New development now encroaches within these properties and is highly visible from within the GCA. To protect the visitor experience, screening is needed. However, in some locations the space is too narrow to effectively establish a vegetative buffer. The conversion of portions of the original fairways provide more area for screening. The overall aesthetic of the Cultural Landscape Feature will not be affected.

New Deal Interpretive Feature Zone

The New Deal Interpretive Feature Zone is the approximate outline of the original fairway five of the New Deal golf course. This zone is currently dominated by weedy and exotic species, with restoration necessary. It is to be actively maintained in a manner relatively consistent with its legacy as a golf course link for purposes of historical interpretation, informal playfields, and similar Day Use. In essence it is to remain lawn-like. Therefore, it is to remain free from all tree and shrub encroachment using regular, frequent mowing. Additional irrigation will not be provided.

Lake Mina Restoration Zone

Limited to Lake Mina and its immediate surroundings, the objective in this zone is to restore New Deal design elements associated with the lake, including stone edging, bridge, stone benches, and perimeter trails. Refer to pg. 46, Figure 23 for more detail.



Figure 19 | Natural & Cultural Resources

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Park Access

Bastrop SP is currently open to public visitors 365 days a year. Payment of entrance fee is required for all entry into the park. A valid Day Use or Overnight permit is also required on the windshield of each vehicle in the park. All payment and permits are currently processed in the existing Park Road 1A Headquarters. The headquarters / park office is open to the public during the following hours:

- March November (Peak Season):
 - Saturday Thursday: 8 am 4:30 pm
 - Friday: 8 am 6:30 pm
- December February (Non-peak Season): 8 am 4:30 pm

In general, access and use of Bastrop SP, including the facilities proposed in this plan, will continue under the existing format. However, at the time of this writing, the City of Bastrop is proposing a trail that will connect downtown Bastrop with the State Park. Access from this trail will occur at the Hwy 21 park gate. This alternative access point will require a method to process pedestrian visitors entering the park without a vehicle. Operational and staffing realities make the management of a pedestrian-only access point problematic. Potential options include the following:

- Iron Ranger: An "iron ranger", i.e. a self-pay station, to be located upon a to-be-determined point-ofentry to the park from the proposed City of Bastrop trail connecting downtown Bastrop to the State Park.
- No-fee Entry: no fee will be charged for pedestrian entry access to Bastrop SP from the proposed City of Bastrop connection trail. In this option, the GCA trails are open to the public in much the same way as a community park. Although such an agreement has not been developed at the time of this writing, a potential partnership with the City of Bastrop and/or Bastrop County may be established to help offset the loss of revenue for the services provided.

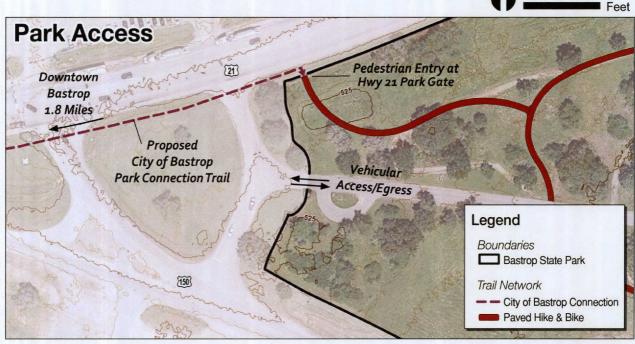


Figure 20 | Park Access

Facility Development Plan

Development Standards

As a public conservation agency, TPWD, and State Parks in particular, has a dual mandate. It is our duty to conserve the natural and cultural resources under our management, while simultaneously providing all citizens of Texas with recreational and educational opportunities to appreciate, enjoy, and learn about the diversity of Texas' lands and heritage for all generations, present and future. As such, any development that is proposed by TPWD advances under certain agency-wide standards:

- Low Impact Development (LID): According to the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), low impact development refers to the systems and practices that use or mimic natural processes that result in the infiltration, evapotranspiration or use of stormwater in order to protect water quality and associated aquatic habitat.²
 - Works with nature to manage stormwater as close to its source as possible
 - Employs principles such as preserving and recreating natural landscape features
 - Minimizing effective imperviousness
- Green Buildings: Green building is the practice of creating structures and using processes that are environmentally responsible and resource-efficient throughout a building's life-cycle.³
 - Low-impact materials
 - Non-toxic
 - Sustainably produced
 - Local
 - Energy efficiency
 - Renewable resource harvesting
 - o Solar
 - Rainwater
 - Vernacular Design
- Dark Sky Compliant: All lighting in State Parks must be Dark Sky compliant. Developed through the Dark Sky Initiative, the objective is to reduce and mitigate the effects of light pollution on the night sky.⁴ Dark Sky compliance specifies the following guidelines:
 - Light only what is needed
 - Use energy efficient bulbs and only as bright as needed
 - Shield lights and direct them down
 - Only use light when you need it
 - Choose warm light
- 2 https://www.epa.gov/nps/urban-runoff-low-impact-development

3 https://archive.epa.gov/greenbuilding/web/html/about.html; TPWD does not typically seek sustainable design accreditation, such as LEED, but does implement principles of green buildings.

4 http://www.darksky.org/

Moreover, because of its historical legacy and ecological importance, Bastrop State Park has some additional considerations that must be taken into account for any new development:

- Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between TPWD, THC, ACHP, and NPS
- National Historic Landmark (NHL) Designation
- Historic Design intent
- U.S. FWS Endangered Species Critical Habitat

Demolition

In order to implement the recreation facility development proposals contained in this plan, and outlined in the following section, some demolition of existing facilities is required. Effort is made to reuse existing infrastructure whenever possible, thus any proposed demolition is limited to the infrastructure that is either in an advanced state of disrepair (sections of golf cart paths), is incompatible with proposed park objectives (CR 150 parking lot), or can no longer sufficiently handle the modern rates of visitation (Headquarters).

The following existing infrastructure and facilities are proposed to be removed:

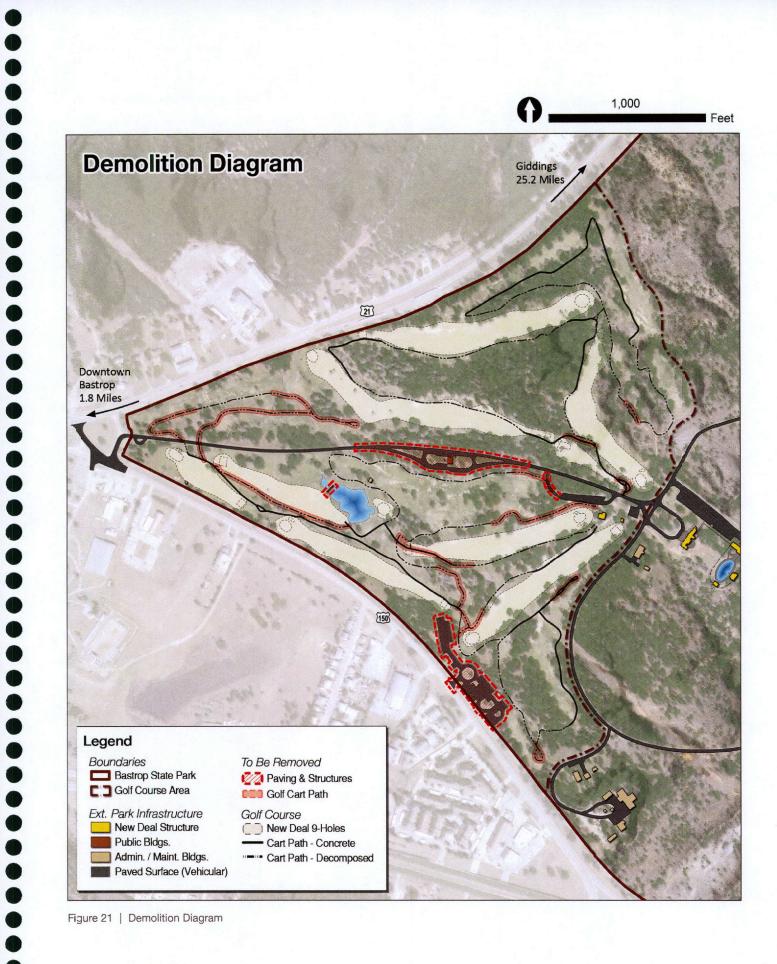
- Headquarter complex
- CR 150 parking lot
- Entry into golf club house parking lot
- Lake Mina wooden bridge
- 5,536 feet of golf cart path in poor condition; 1,135 feet of golf cart path in good condition

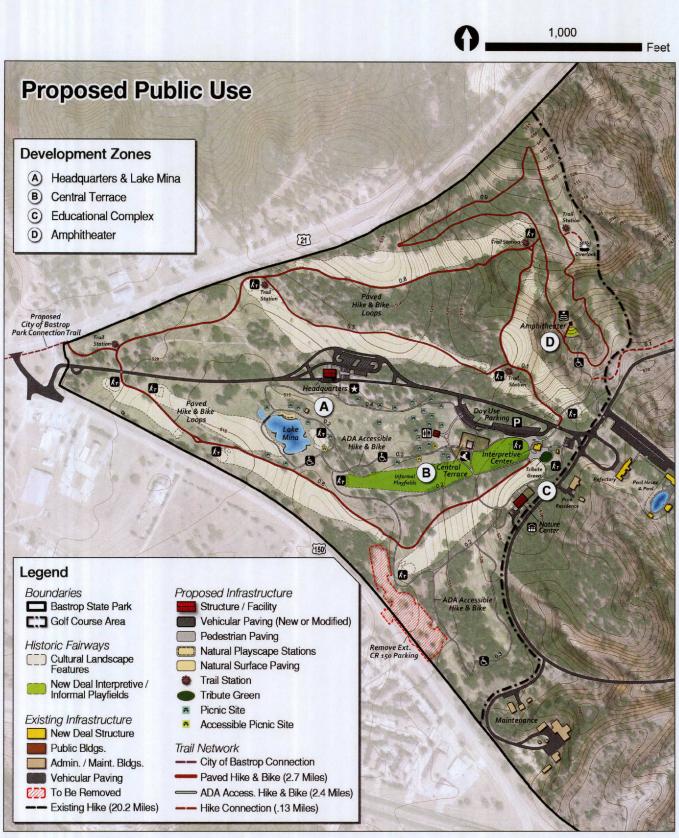
Demolition of specific elements are to proceed in coordination with design and construction of proposed recreation facilities.

Plan Symbology

The following symbols are used throughout the proceeding recreation facility plans and diagrams:







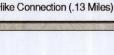


Figure 22 | Proposed Public Use

Recreation Facilities

Presented in this plan are a number of proposed public use recreation facilities. For purposes of organization, in both the narrative and graphics, each facility is grouped according to four "Development Zones":

- (A) Headquarters & Lake Mina
- (B) Central Terrace
- (C) Educational Complex
- (D) Amphitheater

The progression through the development zones moves much as a visitor would through the site. Beginning at the park Headquarters and ending at the Amphitheater, the most distant feature. Connecting each development zone to the others is the trail network. As the trail network extends through the entire GCA site, trails are not covered within any specific Development Zone, but rather are discussed within their own section in the narrative below (refer to pg. 59).

Development Zone A: Headquarters & Lake Mina

Headquarters

Development of a new Headquarters (HQ) facility is vital to the future of Bastrop SP. The existing structures are undersized, inefficient, and in need of repair. A new headquarters will ensure that visitors have a high quality experience from the outset of their visit to the park. The new facilities will improve the ability to process large numbers quickly and easily while also greatly increasing administrative office space. The new Headquarters will be responsive to patrons needs, adaptable to changing visitation demands, and representative of the historical legacy and conservation ideals of TPWD and Bastrop SP.

The new HQ facility, will be located in the general location of the existing facilities. Maintaining this location facilitates the restoration of the original entry drive corridor and viewshed, as well as allowing the utilization of existing utility connections, which can be easily reconfigured to the new facilities. The main building of the new HQ will be a single story structure between 3,500 and 4,000 sf. The overall aesthetic should compliment the local, and, more importantly, historical vernacular. The new HQ shall also be ADA compliant, sustainable, and its layout is to be configured in such a way as to maximally protect existing vegetation. At minimum, the new HQ should include the following:

- Adequate space for visitor reception area with interpretive displays
- A drive-thru type window dedicated to processing Day Use only visitors from their vehicles
- A separate gate house, approximately 20 to 30 sf, to help process Day Use only visitors during times of peak demand
- 3 offices for administrative needs
- Park store
- Public restrooms
- Storage
- Break room for park staff

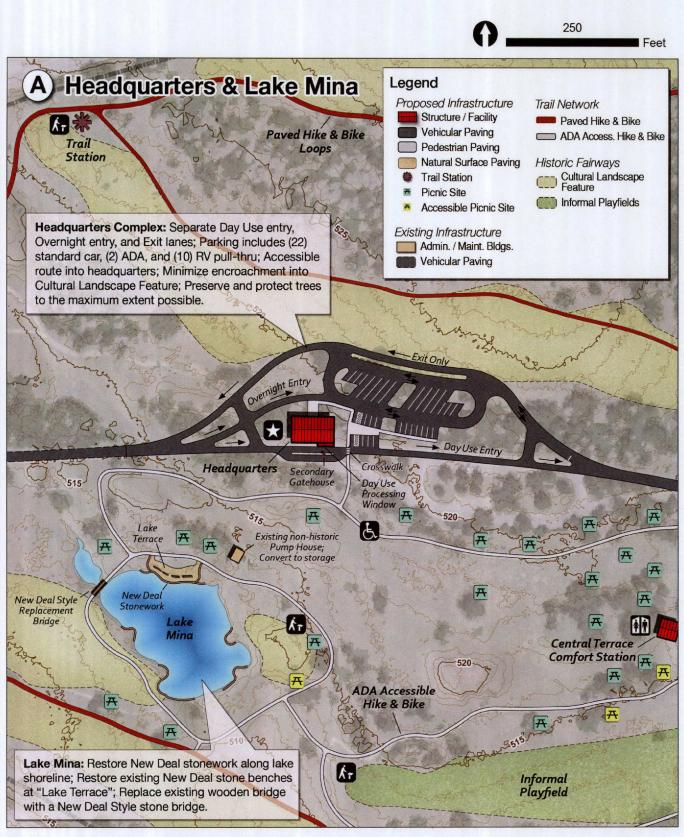


Figure 23 | Development Zone A: Headquarters & Lake Mina

The primary innovation in the efficiency of the new HQ lies in the separate processing of day users from overnight guests. This is accomplished by using vehicular circulation to funnel day users through a day use only, drive-thru type processing lane. Conversely, overnight guests are directed to a central lot where they must park their vehicle and proceed inside HQ for check-in. Finally, a separate exit lane allows visitors to easily leave the park without having to drive back through the parking area. Refer to Figure 23.

For the HQ to function efficiently, it is critical that there be adequate parking offering for a broad range of recreational vehicles, including RVs. Access to the HQ from the parking areas will be ADA compliant. The recommendations for the HQ parking facilities are as follows:

- Day Use Entry Lane and Staff Parking
 - 4 Standard Car
 - 1 ADA
- HQ Overnight Lot
 - 18 Standard Car
 - 1 ADA
 - 10 RV

Storage Facility

No longer in use, the existing Lake Mina Pump House is to be repurposed as a park storage facility. Conversion of the structure will require removal of existing equipment. The structure itself will also likely require an amount of restoration. However, since the building will not be for public use, the amount of work necessary to make it suitable for storage purposes should be minimal. If the restoration and conversion of the structure proves more expensive than anticipated, the building may be removed as it is not historically significant.

Picnic Sites

In contrast to the more formalized, large-group gathering space of the Central Terrace, discussed in greater detail below, twenty-seven picnic sites will offer more private settings for smaller group outings. The majority of the sites (20) are nestled among the oaks and pines just west of the Central Terrace and off the trails. Seven sites are located around the perimeter of Lake Mina. Area density of the twenty sites in the main picnic area is moderate by TPWD standards at six sites per acre.⁵ The sites around Lake Mina are at a low density of four sites per acre. Two sites in close proximity to the Comfort Station, and one near Lake Mina, will be ADA accessible with compliant paved routes and surfaces, picnic tables, and grills.

Each of the twenty-seven picnic sites will have a TPWD approved picnic table and waist-grill. All picnic sites will be approximately ten by twelve foot and oriented to catch afternoon shade from the surrounding trees wherever possible. Shade structures will not be provided to any picnic sites in order to protect the integrity of the historical viewshed and designed landscape. Each standard, i.e. non-ADA, picnic site will be set atop the surrounding area by a six inch high stone edge and paved with a stabilized natural surface, e.g. decomposed granite (DG) treated with a binder product. The picnic tables will be tethered by chain to an anchor set in the ground. This allows visitors to move a table within a specific radius around the designated area as shade or group needs dictate, but prevents moving the table further afield.

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TPWD calculates standard picnic site ratios from a low-density of 4 sites per acre to a high of 15 sites per acre.

Lake Mina

Lake Mina, which was largely off-limits to the general public before the golf course was closed, is poised to become one of the primary Day Use attractions. Currently, the lake already provides a picturesque background for leisurely walks and hikes, wildlife viewing, and quiet contemplation. Moreover, active recreation, in the form of fishing from the shoreline, regularly occurs in Lake Mina. The goal of this plan is to restore historical elements of the lake using the original construction drawings and historical images as reference, while also encouraging further recreational use. The following items and actions are recommended for Lake Mina:

Not to Scale

- Restore New Deal era stonework at select locations around shoreline perimeter
- Restore New Deal era stone benches
- Remove existing wooden bridge; Replace with replica of original New Deal era stone bridge. Refer to Figure 24.
- Construct a "Lake Terrace" at the site of the existing sandstone benches on the north side of Lake Mina. The terrace is to be ADA accessible, facilitating access from the surrounding loop trail to the lake shoreline. The edges of the terrace should be lined with stone to match the historical stone. A stabilized natural surface, e.g. decomposed granite (DG) treated with a binder product, is recommended as the paved surface. ⁶
- .2 mile, ADA accessible loop around the perimeter of the lake. Refer to Figure 30, pg. 58 .
- Fishing will remain permissible
- Swimming will not be allowed

6 For an example of an available binder product, reference StaLok stabilizer: http://www.stabilizersolutions. com/pathways-landscape/, or similar

Lake Mina Perspective

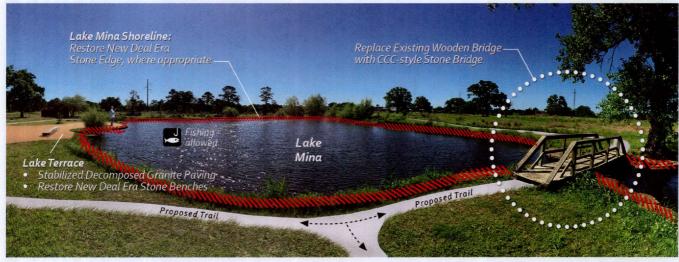


Figure 24 | Lake Mina Perspective

Development Zone B: Central Terrace

Day Use Parking

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Through this plan, the GCA is programmed to function as the primary Day Use recreational area of the park. Accommodating thirty standard car and one ADA space, the existing Historic Golf House parking lots are insufficient for the amount of use that is projected for the GCA.⁷ In order to provide adequate parking, the existing lot is to remain largely intact. Additional space and functionality will be provided by expanding the lot westward and adding a bus drop-off lane just south of the existing lot. This expansion will require a shifting of the entry to the extension lot off of PR1A approximately 150 ft. westward. Vehicular access and egress is to remain one-way. The existing entry lane will be removed and revegetated. After expansion, this Day Use Lot, in combination with the existing ADA lot—which is to remain as is—will accommodate the following:

- 62 Standard car spaces⁸
- 3 ADA accessible spaces⁹
- 3 bus pick-up/drop-off lane

In the event that the Day Use lots become full, the refectory lot will function as day use overflow. Similarly, buses will be required to drop-off their passengers in the designated lane before parking in the refectory lot. Pick-up of passengers will occur in the same designated location as drop-off.

Central Terrace

Offering a diversity of resource-based recreational¹⁰ opportunities is a primary aim of the GCA plan. The Central Terrace will provide the GCA a formalized, open-air gathering space, not found in many state parks. It will be located near the Day Use parking lot and will be capable of handling a range of group sizes, thereby serving as the primary hub from which visitors can meet before disembarking on the GCA's trails or other destinations. Moreover, it will be a destination in and of itself accommodating events both large and small.

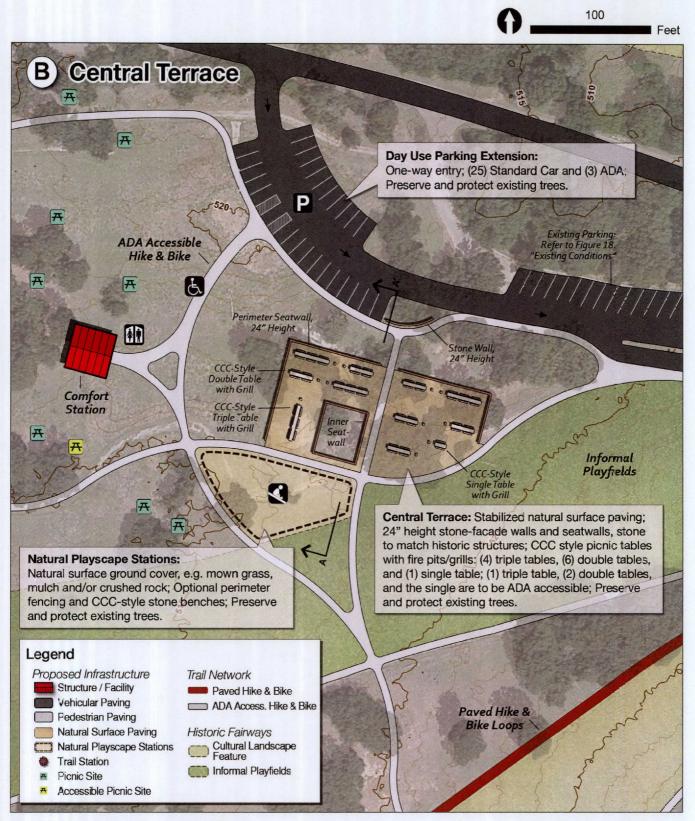
At almost 12,000 sf, the Central Terrace is well-sized. The space itself is to be defined on three sides by a low, twenty-four inch height stone-finish seatwall. The edge of a concrete path defines the remaining space. Another twenty-four inch height stone-finish seatwall, located in the terrace's western half, helps delineate smaller sub-spaces as well as to provide informal seating options. The stone finish of the walls is to match or compliment the existing New Deal era structures. All trees greater than four inch DBH are to be preserved at the maximum extent possible. The trees are a critical component of the terrace as they will provide much needed shade. The surface of the terrace is to be durable, capable of withstanding major compaction and heavy pedestrian use, while also protecting the existing trees and allowing their continued growth. A stabilized natural surface, such as decomposed granite (DG) treated with a binder product is recommended.

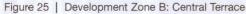
7 TPWD calculates parking needs as 1.25 per available picnic site.

8 In this plan, a standard car space is 10 ft width x 20 ft depth.

9 For lots of 51- 75 standard spaces, ADA requires 3 accessible spaces; Reference 2012 Texas Accessibility Standards (TAS), https://www.license.state.tx.us/ab/abtas.htm

10 *Resource-based recreation* is defined as recreation dependent on place-specific natural or cultural elements that cannot be easily duplicated by man.





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Feet

Central Terrace Section A - A'

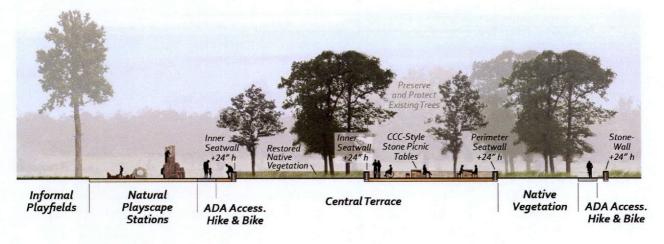


Figure 26 | Central Terrace Section

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As the Central Terrace is intended to be a more formalized space, built-in-place tables, benches, and wood/ charcoal burning grills are to be provided. These furnishings are to be based on, and complimentary to, the New Deal era structures and facilities found in Bastrop SP. The following is a list of the proposed Central Terrace furnishings:

- Picnic Tables and Benches
 - (4) Triple tables; 1 of 4 is to be ADA accessible
 - (6) Double tables; 2 of 6 are to be ADA accessible
 - (1) Single table; ADA accessible
- (11) Firepit / Grills; 1 for each table

Refer to a Figure 25 for a detailed conceptual layout of the Central Terrace.



Photo 24 and 25 | Central Terrace Examples (Phil Hardberger Park, San Antonio, Texas)

Comfort Station

Well placed, centrally located sanitation facilities are necessary to ensure the quality of visitor's overall park experience. According to TPWD guidelines, "Comfort Stations," as opposed to "Restrooms," service visitor sanitary needs but are not equipped with shower capacities. A single comfort station will be constructed in the GCA. This comfort station will be located less than 200 ft. from the primary Day Use lot, which will have two ADA accessible spaces. TPWD best practices encourage a 400 ft. service radius for restroom and comfort station facilities. The "Central Terrace", "Natural Playscape Stations," and all picnic sites, except for those located around Lake Mina picnic, are to be located within this facility's service radius. Refer to Figure 25.

The GCA comfort station will include water service for toilets, urinals, and sinks. Wastewater from the comfort station will be directed to a grinder station before being released to the City of Bastrop sewer system for treatment.

The GCA comfort station will be set it a non-intrusive way within the landscape, remaining clear of any existing trees or significant vegetation. It should be built in accordance with current TPWD design standards using durable, vandal resistant materials. The interior should be able to be hosed-down. Windows, high ceilings, natural light and cross breezes should be incorporated into the design. Special attention must be paid to the exterior material and roof angles to ensure the comfort station's overall aesthetic is complimentary to, or consistent with, the historically significant New Deal era buildings found in Bastrop SP.

The GCA comfort station is intended to service the surrounding day use activities. Additional restrooms will be located in both the Interpretive Center as well as the Nature Center. Therefore, sizing of the facility should be adequate to service a number of visitors, without being so large as to impinge on the natural setting. An overall

footprint of approx. 900 square feet is recommended. This size is adequate to accommodate the number of fixtures found in Table 2.

The sanitary facility at Village Creek SP is of similar size and has proven to be both easily maintained and highly durable. Although the exterior aesthetics should be adapted specifically for Bastrop SP, it is recommended that a similar plan and interior construction be utilized for the GCA comfort station. A floorplan and images of the Village Creek SP facility can be found in Appendix C.

Comfort Station Fixture Count				
Fixture Type	Men's	Women's		
Toilet ADA	1	1		
Toilet	1	3		
Urinals	2	0		
Lavatories	3	3		
Hand Dryer	1	1		
Other Accessories	As needed	As needed		

Table 2 | Comfort Station Fixture Count

Natural Playscape Stations and Informal Playfield

To compliment the more passive recreation of the Interpretive Center, Nature Center, Central Terrace, and picnic sites, this plan proposes areas for both semi-structured and unstructured active recreation with natural playscape stations and informal playfields, respectively. Both of these activities will be centered in the area of the historic fairway five, whose continued higher level of maintenance (refer to Figure 19, pg. 37) facilitates additional active uses. Furthermore, the area is located in close proximity to the GCA's other facilities, including the comfort station, and is a defined space bounded around the entire perimeter by paved trails. Refer to Figure 25 for general location and layout.

Natural playscape stations are intended to offer children a specific area of more structured play similar to a traditional playground. However, they differ from traditional structures in that the stations are comprised of local materials in a more natural state meant to encourage imaginative interaction through the rearrangement or modification of elements. The stations are to be located within an almost 7,000 sf area south of the Central Terrace delineated by paved trails. The ground cover within this area is to be natural and may include one, or a mix, of the following: mown grass, natural wood-based mulch, and crushed rock or gravel. Optional features of the area could include a perimeter fence, split-rail or similar is recommended, and stone finish

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benches, matching the existing New Deal (CCC) benches located at Lake Mina, which could be placed along the interior perimeter of the fencing to provide convenient seating for caregivers. To provide adequate shade, trees greater than four inch DBH are to be preserved and protected. Specific stations are not proposed at this time but should include unique natural and cultural features that expand the educational reach of the park. Examples may include the following:

- Lost Pines Savanna: a mixture of round and rough-hewn logs laid both horizontally and set vertically at a range of heights, and set within a native grassland setting.
- Houston Toad Hollow: a large hollow log or pipe covered with earth and vegetation.

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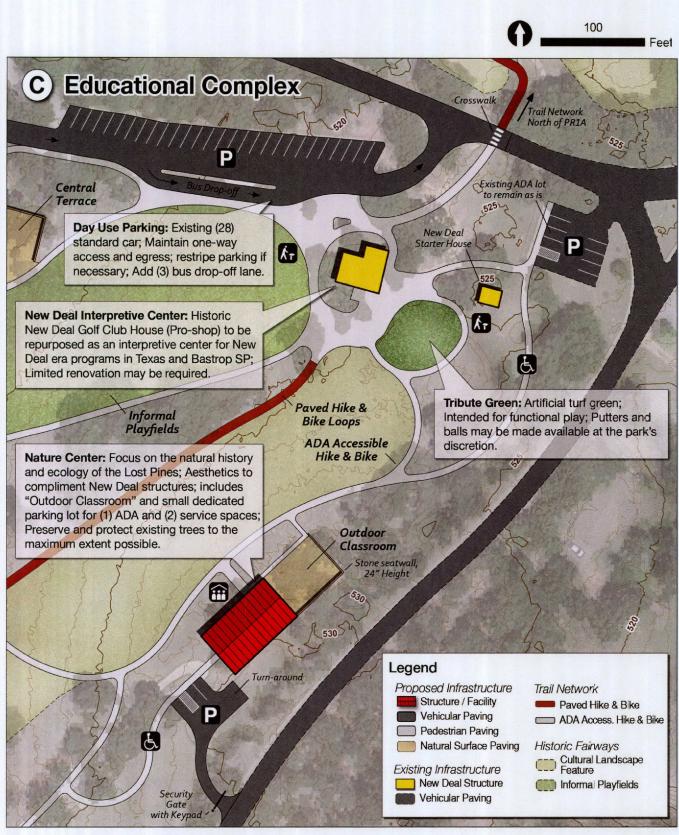
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 Sandstone Quarry: Sandstone walls matching the New Deal structures set in stair step fashion for climbing.

At over five acres, the flat, maintained open space of the former historic fifth fairway provides ideal grounds for informal playfields. The area is essentially divided into two playfields by the natural playscape stations. The eastern portion, located closest to the Day Use lot and the GCA's main developed area, will provide over one acre for unstructured active play. Seven sandstone benches will be located around the interior perimeter of the field along the paved trails, under shade where available, to provide comfortable seating with a clear view of the field. The western portion provides four acres of space. This section is bisected by high voltage electric lines therefore activities such as kite flying will be prohibited. Three sandstone benches will be provided along the trails at the southern perimeter, but at lower density with greater space in between benches.



Photo 26, 27, and 28 | Natural Playscape Station Examples





Development Zone C: Educational Complex

New Deal Interpretive Center

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With its historical significance and excellent condition, this plan proposes for the historic Golf Club House to be repurposed as a New Deal specific Interpretive Center. The main chamber of the structure will serve as the viewing area. Interpretive displays will focus on the following:

- History of the New Deal era programs, such as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA), specifically as they relate to the State of Texas and Bastrop SP
- Planning, design, and construction of Bastrop SP
- Historical Structures and Designed Landscapes of Bastrop SP
- The history of the golf course and the Lost Pines Golf Club

The Interpretive Center will be open to the public during park office hours. Existing men's and women's washrooms are located in the Interpretive Center. These will also be available to the public. Minor renovations may be required. In addition, the Interpretive Center will also serve as an office for the lead Bastrop SP park interpreter. An existing room, located along the western perimeter and now functioning as table and chair storage, will be converted for this purpose. All renovations to the Interpretive Center are to be planned in coordination with a TPWD Historic Sites & Structures program representative. Refer to Figure 27.

Starter House

The Starter House will remain closed to public entry. However, the structure is in good condition and is a notable example of the rustic aesthetic and materials of the New Deal design at Bastrop SP. Park visitors will be allowed to view, approach, and examine the craftsmanship of the building as part of the interpretive program. Additionally, an interpretive display will provide further information about the Starter House's unique history, design, and construction. The Starter House may be used for storage of items related to the Tribute Green.

Tribute Green

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TPWD acknowledges that the Bastrop SP golf course, known as the Lost Pines Golf Club, was an integral part of the Bastrop Community for almost eighty years. In honor of the history of the course, the role it has played as a community hub, and at the behest of the Bastrop City Council as part of a Resolution of Support (Refer to Appendix D for Resolution R-2017-79), a memorial "Tribute Green" will be included as part of this plan. To be located at the site of the former practice green, the Tribute Green is intended as a reflection of the original design intent of the course. Interpretive displays will be placed at select locations around the perimeter of the green to highlight the history of the course, as well as its significance to the surrounding community.

The Tribute Green is intended to function as an active putting green. There will be at least one regulation golf hole, though multiple holes are permissible. To encourage play, putters and balls may be made available, at the Park manager's discretion, from a small, lockable kiosk. To eliminate the intensive maintenance required of natural golf greens, TPWD recommends an artificial green. To the naked eye, artificial greens are now almost indistinguishable from natural grass, require no additional resources once installed, and need little to no maintenance over their lifespan.

Nature Center

As part of its biological opinion on the Houston toad, the USFWS included the following "Proposed Action" (USFWS 1995):

Develop a comprehensive education and rural outreach program on the Houston toad and its ecosystem, including information on the toad's life-history, status, distribution, phylogenetic relationships, ecological requirements, threats, conservation and management strategies, and recommendations to help protect the toad. The program would include an interactive audio-visual display about the biology of the toad, its ecosystem, and educational modules would be developed for use in area public schools. Special events to raise funds and awareness would also be included in the program.

As proposed in this plan, a dedicated Nature Center will meet and surpass the actions outlined by the USFWS. In contrast to the New Deal Interpretive Center, whose focus is on the history and cultural artifacts of the New Deal era, the Nature Center will be exclusive to the natural history, ecology, and wildlife of the Lost Pines, with a particular emphasis on the endemic and endangered Houston toad. Located on a small knoll south of the Interpretive Center and Starter House, and approximately sixty feet west of PR1A, it is imperative that the aesthetics of the Nature Center compliment the historical vernacular as it will be located in the historic viewshed, visible both from inside the Interpretive Center (Historic Golf Club House) and the original first hole fairway. Although all utilities are close by, any new lines will be run underground.

The Nature Center will be freely available to the public and open during park office hours. The program of the Nature Center is to include the following:

- 3,500 4,000 sf main structure
- ADA compliant
- Public restrooms
- 1,500 2,500 sf display space dedicated to the history, ecology, flora, and fauna of the Lost Pines, with particular emphasis on the Houston toad. Note: live toads will not be on display.
- 1,000 2,000 sf dedicated to educational/classroom space
- Outdoor classroom space
 - 2,750 sf
 - 24 inch height stone-finish, perimeter seatwall
 - Preserve and protect existing trees greater than 4 inch diameter at breast height (DBH)
 - Stabilized natural surface, e.g. decomposed granite (DG) with StaLok stabilizer.

The Nature Center will be easily accessible, including ADA accessibility, from the Day Use lots to the north. However, the distance may still be prohibitive for some visitors. To offer close access for those most in need, as well as to provide easy service access, a small lot will be located along the south facade of the Nature Center. This lot will have one ADA accessible space, two standard size dedicated service spaces, and a turn-around lane. The lot will not be open to the general public, being secured with a vehicular gate accessible with an automatic gate and keypad. Visitors wishing to access the lot may request the code for the keypad at HQ. .

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Development Zone D: Amphitheater

Amphitheater

According to the City of Bastrop's Parks and Open Space Masterplan 2015, "Outdoor Programming" and "Outdoor Education" were some of the most highly requested programming options with nearly 90% and 80% of respondents, respectively, voicing support (COB 2015). In conjunction with the Nature Center, an outdoor amphitheater will broaden the range of venue options for educational programming and special events that serves this request.

The GCA amphitheater is programmed to comfortably seat between 350 and 400 visitors semi-formally on the stone walls and informally on the terrace lawns.¹¹ Of those total seats, 146 will be ADA accessible.

The amphitheater is to be located on the north side of PR1A at the approximate location of the non-historic seventeenth hole tee box. This site provides a picturesque backdrop for the stage as it sits on the slope of a ridge overlooking the valley. The angle of orientation should be approximately twelve degrees westward from geodetic north in order to follow the aspect of the slope while also preventing a rising or setting sun from being in either the patron's or performer's line of site. In relation to parking, the amphitheater can be accessed from both the Day Use and Refectory lots. Access from both lots will be ADA accessible. Refer to Figure 28 for general location.

Seating capacities are calculated at 2 linear feet per person for semi-formal seating along the terrace walls, and 10 square feet per person for informal seating on the terrace lawns. ADA accessible capacity was calculated at 3 linear feet per person along the terrace walls.

	Amphitheater Seating Capacity						
	Sq Ft	Ln Ft	Sq ft per	Square Feet per Person	Linear Feet per Person	Seating Capacity	
Stage	450						
Terrace 1		a se lastre					
	Wall		25		2	12	
	Lawn	670		10		67	
Terrace 2							
	Wall		48		2	24	
	Lawn	1110		10		111	
Terrace 3							
	Wall		72		2	36	
	Lawn: ADA	1180		10		118	
Terrace 4							
	Wall: ADA		86		3	28	
TOTAL						396	

Table 3 | Amphitheater Seating Capacity

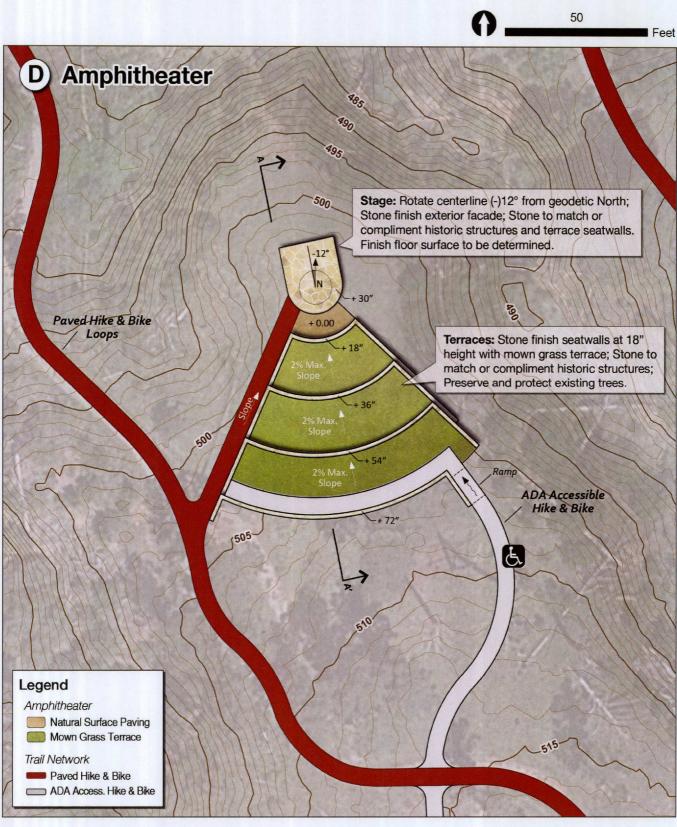


Figure 28 | Development Zone D: Amphitheater

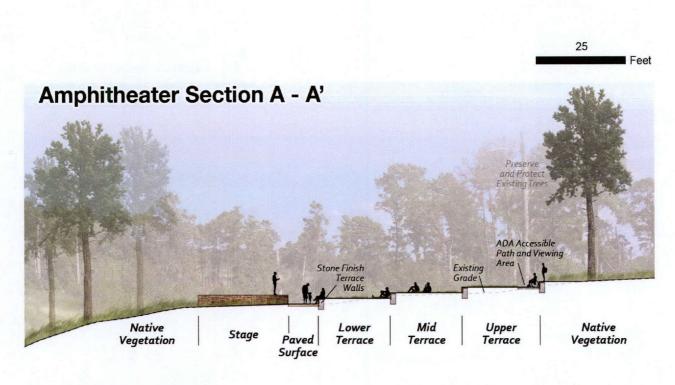


Figure 29 | Amphitheater Section

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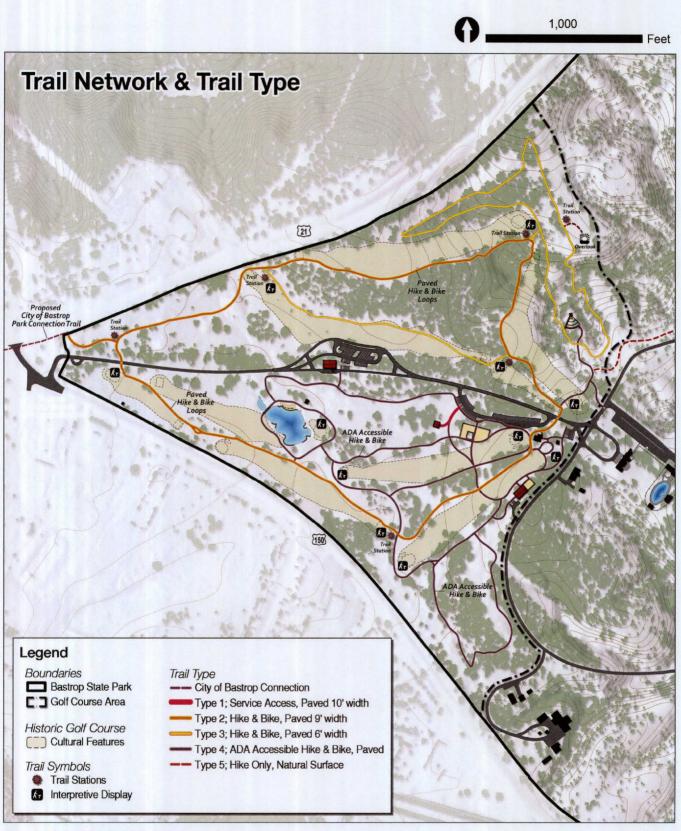
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The amphitheater will be constructed as a series of stone finish walls and native grass terraces of eighteen inch height. The grass within the terraces will be maintained at mown height. The stage will be approximately 450 square feet with a stone finish façade which matches or compliments existing historic structures. The finish floor type of the stage will be determined during the construction design phase. Preserve and protect trees greater than four inch DBH, if possible, for purposes of shade. Refer to Figure 28 for site plan and Figure 29 for section.



Photo 29 and 30 | Amphitheater Example (Lake Mineral Wells State Park)



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Trails

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Overview

According to the City of Bastrop Master Parks Plan (2015), "Hiking / Biking trails" are the top requested facility type with over 90% offering support. At the state level, the TPWD Texas Outdoor Recreation Plan 2017 noting that "Trails / places to hike or bike" was the top request when respondents were asked "Which outdoor recreation opportunities does your community currently lack or would you like to see more of in your community?" (TPWD 2017).

Since the closure of the golf course in 2015, the cart paths that once serviced only the golf course have been open to all park visitors. Even though much of the cart paths are in poor condition, they are already being widely used as recreational trails. This offers an opportunity to greatly enhance the recreation already occurring, while also providing what both the citizens of Texas and the residents of Bastrop are requesting: more multi-use trails.

This plan calls for the creation of a multi-use, multi-surface trail network in the GCA. The trail network will be developed by utilizing the existing cart paths to the fullest extent possible. Doing so not only helps reduce budgetary cost, but also reduces the risk of damage to sensitive natural and cultural resources. A variety

of trail surfaces and widths will provide visitors a broad range of hiking and biking opportunities. Once complete, the trail network will offer almost 5.5 miles of trails and will be the intermediate connection between downtown Bastrop and the over 20 miles of backcountry hiking trails of Bastrop SP.

Trail Types						
Trail Type	Activity	Surface	Width (ft.)	Length (miles)		
Bastrop	TBD	TBD	TBD	Apprx. 1		
Type 1	Hike & Bike; Service Access	Concrete	10	.03 (177 ft.)		
Type 2	Hike & Bike	Concrete	9	1.5		
Type 3	Hike & Bike	Concrete	6	1.2		
Type 4	ADA Accessible Hike & Bike	Concrete	6	2.4		
Type 5	Hike Only	Natural Surface	3	.17		

Trail Types

A total of five "Trail Types" are proposed in this plan. The different types are intended to offer a range of functional uses and recreational experiences. The trail types are as follows (also refer to Table 4):

Table 4 | Trail Types

- Type 1: Hike & Bike—Service; 10 ft. wide concrete path intended for hike and bike use, but also to provide easy access to the comfort station for a maintenance vehicle.
- Type 2: Hike & Bike; 9 ft. wide concrete path for use as the primary Hike & Bike thoroughfare. Existing concrete paths are 6 ft. wide, therefore widening of existing paths from 6 to 9 ft. will be required.
- Type 3: Hike & Bike; 6 ft. wide concrete multi-purpose path for use as secondary loops or spurs. Existing cart paths in good condition may be used as is.
- Type 4: ADA Accessible Hike & Bike; 6 ft. wide concrete multi-purpose path. Will be ADA accessible. Existing cart paths in good condition may be used as is.
- Type 5: Hike Only; 3 to 4 ft. wide natural surface trail. Type 5 trails are the link between the GCA trail network and the Bastrop SP backcountry trails, as well as provide access to the proposed scenic overlook.
- City of Bastrop Connection Trail: An approximate 1 mile trail proposed by the City of Bastrop to connect downtown Bastrop with Bastrop SP. This trail remains in the planning stages with location and park point-of-entry still to-be-determined at the time of this writing.

Not to Scale

Not to Scale

3 ft. Mown Buffer



3 ft. Mown Buffer

Figure 31 | Paved Hike & Bike Trail Perspective

Accessible Hike & Bike Trail Perspective New concrete paving, where needed Existing concrete paving, use where appropriate 3 ft. Mown 3 ft. Mown 6 ft. Wide ADA Accessible **Restoration** Zone Hike & Bike Trail Buffer Buffer



Trail Stations

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Located at select and intermittent points along the proposed trail network, "Trail Stations" will provide rest and informational/educational services.

For purposes of rest, a bench will be a central feature of the trail station. Benches are to be shaded. In instances where natural shade is available, the benches are to be strategically placed for shade during summer afternoons. If natural shade is not available, a structure is recommended. If a shade structure is determined to be warranted, it is to be designed to compliment existing historic structures in its form and materiality. Nearby university architecture schools, such as the School of Architecture at the University of Texas at Austin, are a good resource and potential partner in the design and construction as there is precedent within the State Park system for developing a class project around such features.

Each trail station will also include an informational/educational component. This could include Visitor Orientation Panels (VOPs) and/or topical interpretive waysides. All VOP or waysides are to be meet typical TPWD signage standards of form and finish.

Trail Related Amenities

At select sites along the trail network, additional amenities will be provided. These additional amenities will serve informational, educational, and functional purposes. Trail location and informational signage will be sited at 3 "Trailheads":

- 1) Day Use parking lot on the south side of PR1A
- 2) Off the main Hike & Bike trail just north of PR1A
- 3) At City of Bastrop Connection Trail point-of-entry.

At least one interpretive display, or wayside, will be located along the trail at or near the tee-box and/or green of each of the original nine-hole links. These displays are intended to educate visitors on the design, construction, history, and legacy of the golf course.

Additional interpretive displays will be located at select sites to highlight ecological or historical points of interest, e.g. native grassland vegetation communities, wildfire recovery, prehistoric peoples, etc. These displays will be combined with benches to create, what is termed here, a "Trail Station." Trail station benches will have adequate space for wheelchair accommodation and will be set within natural shade whenever possible. Exclusive to the area north of PR1A, a shade shelter may be provided if suitable natural shade is unavailable. The aesthetics of the shade shelters are to be complimentary to, or consistent with, both the historic and new structures in the GCA and Bastrop SP.

Intended as a multi-purpose hike & bike trail network, bike racks will be provided near amenities throughout the GCA. Bike racks will be located outside of all buildings, the Central Terrace, and the Amphitheater.

All signs, displays, benches, and structures are to be set back from the edge of the trail to reduce the likelihood of accidents. All signage and displays will be set back a minimum of one-and-a-half feet from the edge of trail. Trail Station benches and structures will be set back a minimum of four feet from edge of trail. Natural surface paving, such as flagstone or decomposed granite, is recommended for Trail Stations and information signage at Trailheads. Small informational signage and stand-alone waysides may be set directly within the existing vegetation.

Park System

Utilities

Utility systems for Bastrop State Park and the GCA are well established. Electricity is provided by the City of Bastrop through a system of overhead and underground services. Any new electrical services within the GCA will be run underground unless specific site conditions prohibit. Water is supplied by the City of Bastrop. Wastewater for the entire park is currently collected among seventeen grinder stations and pumped through sewer to the City of Bastrop for treatment. Telecommunications is provided through overhead and underground services. Any new telecommunications lines will be run underground. A Wifi signal available for public use will be broadcast in the Day Use area from the proposed new headquarter facility.

Signage

Signage design consistent with TPWD standards will be installed. Signage will be kept to the minimal number of signs required to direct and inform the general public. Each designated facility or location shall be identified with appropriate signage. Trail location and information signage will be located in easily identified entry points and intersections deemed appropriate to the site.

Trash

All Day Use visitors to the GCA are expected to dispose of their trash and garbage in designated receptacles. Receptacles will be located in proximity of all public use facilities including the Comfort Station, Interpretive Center, Nature Center, and Central Terrace. Additional receptacles will be located at designated trailheads for trail users to dispose of trash and garbage as they enter or exit the trail network. No receptacles will be stationed along the general length of the trail.

Pets

As they are in the rest of Bastrop State Park, pets will be allowed, with certain restrictions. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and must not be left unattended or cause a disturbance. Pets are not allowed inside any building. Pet owners are expected to place pet droppings in one of the provided trash receptacles. Disposal bags will not be provided. Guide or service dogs accompanying a person with disabilities are not considered pets and are not prohibited.

Noise

A central premise of the GCA is to offer visitors a range of experiences, from active multi-family outings to quiet solitary reflection, in a natural setting. Completely eliminating noise within the GCA is impractical given its proximity to the growing community of Bastrop and being bordered to the north and to the south by the heavily trafficked Hwy 21 and Loop 150, respectively. Reducing and managing noise pollution will be a priority. Active measures that buffer outside noise through vegetative screenings have already begun in the GCA with the planting of pine saplings in open areas bordering both Hwy 21 and Loop 150 (refer to the Natural and Cultural Resources diagram, pg. 37, Figure 18). General noise from Day Use visitors will not be restricted unless deemed to be causing a disturbance. The GCA will be open from 8 am – 10 pm, therefore, enforcing quiet hours (10 pm – 6 am), found in the overnight areas of the park, will not be required.

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Light and Night Sky

The night sky is a resource like any other aspect of the park. Maintaining a night sky as free from light pollution as possible is a priority. Lighting will be kept to a minimum necessary to ensure safety at facilities and related parking lots. The lighting that is provided will be Dark Sky compliant.¹² This means that the lighting fixtures that are provided will be shielded to only allow light projection below the horizontal, i.e. downward and not level or upward. TPWD recognizes the value in actively modeling proper lighting.

Research

Texas State Parks has established guidelines and protocols to allow scientific research in the park. All research activity addressing natural resources shall require a Scientific Research Permit issued by the Parks Division Natural Resources Program. Proposals for cultural research projects or programs must contact the State Parks Division Cultural Resources Program Director. All cultural investigations are subject to the provisions of the Antiquities Code of Texas.

Public Comment Summary

The Bastrop State Park Golf Course Area Public Use Plan had two scheduled public comment meetings: August 1, 2017 and October 19, 2017. These meeting were advertised in local papers and the TPWD website, as well as distributed in an official press release. Both Public Comment Meeting were held at the Bastrop State Park Refectory, 100 Park Road 1A, Bastrop, TX 78602.

Each of the two meetings were well attended, although the first was significantly more so than the second. Attendance at the August 1 meeting numbered eighty-two and included Bastrop County Judge Paul Pape, Mayor Connie Schroeder, several Bastrop City Council members, local nature group representatives, golf course proponents, disc golf proponents, hiking enthusiasts, biking enthusiasts, and interested citizens. Thirty-six attended the second meeting on October 19, including local nature group representatives, golf course proponents, interested citizens, and former Texas State Senator Gonzalo Barrientos. Texas Parks and Wildlife Staff were in attendance at both meetings including the lead park planner, planning manager, park superintendent, regional staff, park staff, regional director, and division director. Generally, comments and questions were responded to by the lead park planner, park superintendent, or the division director.

Comments were accepted until September 1, 2017 for the first meeting and until November 17, 2017 for the second for a combined total of eight weeks. The documentation below represents a summary of each meeting followed by a collection of verbal and written comments received during and after the meeting. All comments were recorded, including those offered verbally at the public meeting, or in subsequent phone conversations, as well as those written on comment cards, letters, or emails.

The complete record of public comments from August 1, 2017 and October 19, 2017 can be found in Appendix F.

12 International Dark Sky Association; http://www.darksky.org/

Phasing

Upon finalization of this plan, sources of funding will be sought for design and implementation. Because of the uncertainty of funding, a specific timeline for construction cannot be ascertained at this time. However, certain components of the plan are considered of higher priority, in terms of recreational need, and can be categorized into separate construction phases. Please refer the "Phasing Diagram," Figure 33. The potential phases are as follows:

- Phase 1: Day use amenities, trail network, pro-shop conversion to New Deal/CCC interpretive center, Lake Mina restoration, and active natural resource management.
- Phase 2: Nature Center and Amphitheater
- Phase 3: Headquarters

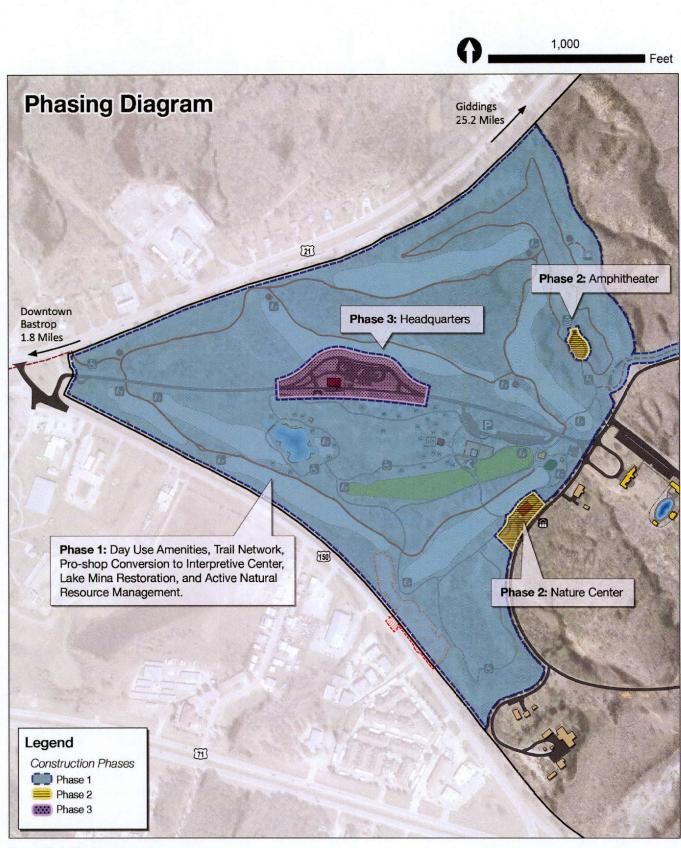


Figure 33 | Phasing Diagram

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Cost Estimate

Phase 1 Construction Costs				
Description & Location	Unit	Total Unit	Price/Unit	Cos
Demolition				
CR 150 Parking lot	LS	1	\$60,000	\$60,00
Golf Cart Paths (6,671 LF)	LS	1	\$20,000	\$20,00
Lake Mina Wooden Bridge	LS	1	\$5,000	\$5,00
Demolition Subtotal				\$85,00
Roads & Parking				
PR 1A resurfacing	SY	900	\$68	\$61,20
Day use lot and bus drop-off	SY	1,776	\$68	\$120,76
Trash Dumpster Pad w/ Screening	SF	220	\$18	\$3,96
Undefined Storm Drainage	ALW	1	\$20,000	\$20,00
Roads & Parking Subtotal				\$205,92
Utilities				
Electric Service - Underground Secondary	LF	450	\$20.00	\$9,00
Switchgear, Transformers & Meters	LS	1	\$35,000	\$35,00
Forced Sanitary Sewer	LF	450	\$45	\$20,25
Service Cleanouts	EA	1	\$650	\$65
Water Service Line	LF	450	\$33	\$14,85
Sewage Pumps	EA	1	\$68,050	\$68,05
Manholes	EA	1	\$4,500	\$4,50
Gate Valve & Box	EA	2	\$1,200	\$2,40
Flush Valve & Box	EA	3	\$5,000	\$15,00
Parking Light Poles, Base & Circuits	EA	3	\$2,800	\$8,40
Pedestrian Lights at Building Entry	EA	3	\$1,200	\$3,60
Utilities Subtotal				\$181,70
Facilities				
Comfort Station	SF	1,000	\$350	\$350,00
FF&E, Comfort Station	ALW	1	\$50,000	\$50,00
New Deal Interpretive Center (Pro-shop) Renovations	LS	1	\$25,000	\$25,00
FF&E, Interpretive Center	ALW	1	\$15,000	\$15,00
Building Site Landscape, 80% seeding, 20% planting	AC	2	\$14,600	\$29,20
Facilities Subtotal				\$469,20
Day Use				
Natural Playground Stations	LS	1	\$60,000	\$60,00
Central Terrace	SF	12,500	\$32.00	\$400,00
Lake Mina Terrace	LS	1	\$25,000	\$25,00
Lake Mina Stonework Restoration	LS	1	\$25,000	\$25,00
Lake Mina Bridge	SF	250	\$300	\$75,00
Information Kiosk	EA	1	\$7,485	\$7,48
Picnic Site - Single	EA	24	\$2,386	\$57,26
Picnic Site - Single ADA	EA	3	\$2,586	\$7,75
Day Use Subtotal				\$657,50
Trail Network				
Type 1 - Hike & Bike/Service, Concrete, 10 ft width	SF	1,770	\$9	\$15,93
Type 2 - Hike & Bike, Concrete, 9 ft. width	SF	71,280	\$9	\$641,52
Type 3 - Hike & Bike, Concrete, 6 ft width	SF	38,016	\$9	\$342,14

Phase 1 Total Cost Range			\$5,139,581	\$5,910,518
			Low	High
Project Contingency	15%			\$140,505
Project Costs Subtotal				\$936,699
TPWD Inspection	2 Years			\$115,520
TPWD Project Management and Review	Allowance			\$150,000
Cultural Resource Management	4%			\$141,301
Survey and Testing	1%			\$35,326
A/E Consultant Reimbursable/Additional Services	2%			\$70,651
A/E Consultant Services - New Construction	12%			\$423,901
Phase 1 Project Costs				
Construction Contingency	15%			\$529,876
Construction Subtotal				\$3,532,501
Trail Network Subtotal				\$1,933,166
Interpretive Displays	LS	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
Trail Signage - Detailed	LS	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
Trail Signage - Carsonite Markers	MI	5	\$120	\$600
Trail Bridge (2)	SF	800	\$100	\$80,000
Trail Stations	EA	6	\$7,485	\$44,910
Existing concrete repair	LS	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
Type 5 - Hike only, natural surface	LF	900	\$7.50	\$6,750
Type 4 - Accessible Hike & Bike, Concrete, 6 ft. width	SF	82,368	\$9	\$741,312

Phase 2 Construction Costs				
Description & Location	Unit	Total Unit	Price/Unit	Cost
Roads & Parking				
Nature Center Parking	SY	350	\$68	\$23,800
Security Gate with Keypad	LS	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
Undefined Storm Drainage	ALW	1	\$10,000	\$10,000
Roads & Parking Subtotal				\$43,800
Utilities				
Electric Service - Underground Secondary	LF	600	\$20	\$12,000
Switchgear, Transformers & Meters	LS	1	\$35,000	\$35,000
Site Communications Line	LF	600	\$35	\$21,000
DataComm Extension	LF	50	\$25	\$1,250
Forced Sanitary Sewer	LF	600	\$45	\$27,000
Service Cleanouts	EA	1	\$650	\$650
Water - Service Line	LF	600	\$33	\$19,800
Sewage Pumps	EA	1	\$68,050	\$68,050
Manholes	EA	1	\$4,500	\$4,500
Gate Valve & Box	EA	2	\$1,200	\$2,400
Flush Valve & Box	EA	3	\$5,000	\$15,000
Parking Light Poles, Base, & Circuits	EA	1	\$2,800	\$2,800
Pedestrian Lights at Building Entry	EA	4	\$1,200	\$4,800
Utilities Subtotal				\$214,250

			Higl \$3,709,101
15%			\$100,639
			\$670,922
2 Years			\$115,520
Allowance			150,00
4%			\$85,34
1%			\$21,33
2%			\$42,67
12%			\$256,04
15%			\$320,05
			\$2,133,69
			\$1,875,64
LS	1	\$400,000	\$400,00
AC	1	\$14,600	\$14,60
EA	1	\$45,000	\$45,00
ALW	1	\$20,000	\$20,00
ALW	1	\$84,000	\$84,00
SF	2,720	\$32	\$87,04
SF	3,500	\$350	\$1,225,00
	SF ALW ALW EA AC LS 15% 15%	SF 2,720 ALW 1 ALW 1 EA 1 AC 1 LS 1 15% 12% 2% 1% 4% Allowance 2 Years	SF 2,720 \$32 ALW 1 \$84,000 ALW 1 \$20,000 EA 1 \$45,000 AC 1 \$14,600 LS 1 \$400,000

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Phase 3 Construction Costs				
Description & Location	Unit	Total Unit	Price/Unit	Cost
Demolition				
Existing HQ, Buildings, Curbs, & Sidewalks	LS	1	\$60,000	\$60,000
Existing HQ Road	LS	1	\$40,000	\$40,000
Demolition Subtotal				\$100,000
Roads & Parking				
Headquarter Complex	SY	6,800	\$68	\$462,400
Security Gates w/ Motors & Controls	EA	2	\$7,500	\$15,000
Raised Curb for Drainage	LF	1,000	\$24	\$24,000
Car Counter	EA	1	\$7,500	\$7,500
Trash Dumpster Pad w/ Screening	SF	220	\$18	\$3,960
Undefined Storm Drainage	ALW	1	\$20,000	\$20,000
Roads & Parking Subtotal				\$532,860
Utilities				
Electric Service - Underground Secondary	LF	500	\$20	\$10,000
Switchgear, Transformers & Meters	LS	1	\$35,000	\$35,000
Site Communications Line	LF	500	\$35	\$17,500
DataComm Extension	LF	100	\$25	\$2,500
Forced Sanitary Sewer	LF	500	\$45	\$22,500
Service Cleanouts	EA	1	\$650	\$650
Water - Service Line	LF	500	\$33	\$16,500
Sewage Pumps	EA	1	\$68,050	\$68,050
Manholes	EA	1	\$4,500	\$4,500
Gate Valve & Box	EA	2	\$1,200	\$2,400
Flush Valve & Box	EA	3	\$5,000	\$15,000

Phase 3 Total Cost Range			\$3,715,188	\$4,272,466	
			Low	Higl	
Project Contingency	15%			\$110,843	
Project Costs Subtotal				\$738,938	
TPWD Inspection	2 Years			\$115,520	
TPWD Project Management and Review	Allowance			\$150,00	
Cultural Resource Management	4%			\$99,66	
Survey and Testing	1%			\$24,91	
A/E Consultant Reimbursable/Additional Services	2%			\$49,834	
A/E Consultant Services - New Construction	12%			\$299,000	
Phase 3 Project Costs					
Construction Contingency	15%			\$373,749	
Construction Subtotal				\$2,491,660	
Facilities Subtotal				\$1,564,90	
Building Site Landscape, 80% Seeding, 20% Planting	AC	4	\$14,600	\$58,40	
Concrete Walks	SF	3,050	\$10	\$30,50	
Flagpole & Base	EA	1	\$3,000	\$3,00	
Cistern & Rainwater Harvesting System	EA	1	\$45,000	\$45,00	
FF&E, Site	ALW	1	\$10,000	\$10,00	
FF&E, Headquarters	ALW	1	\$88,000	\$88,00	
Headquarters	SF	3,800	\$350	\$1,330,00	
Facilities					
Utilities Subtotal				\$293,900	
UG Propane Tank	EA	1	\$6,000	\$6,00	
Propane Emergency Generator	EA	1	\$65,000	\$65,000	
Vehicle Charge Station, dual sides	EA	1	\$7,500	\$7,50	
Pedestrian Lights at Building Entry	EA	8	\$1,200	\$9,60	
Entry Parking Light Poles, Base, & Circuits	EA	4	\$2,800	\$11,20	

	Low	High
Phase 1 Total	\$5,139,581	\$5,910,518
Phase 2 Total	\$3,225,305	\$3,709,101
Phase 3 Total	\$3,715,188	\$4,272,466
Total Projected Cost Range	\$12,080,074	\$13,892,085

Acronym Key

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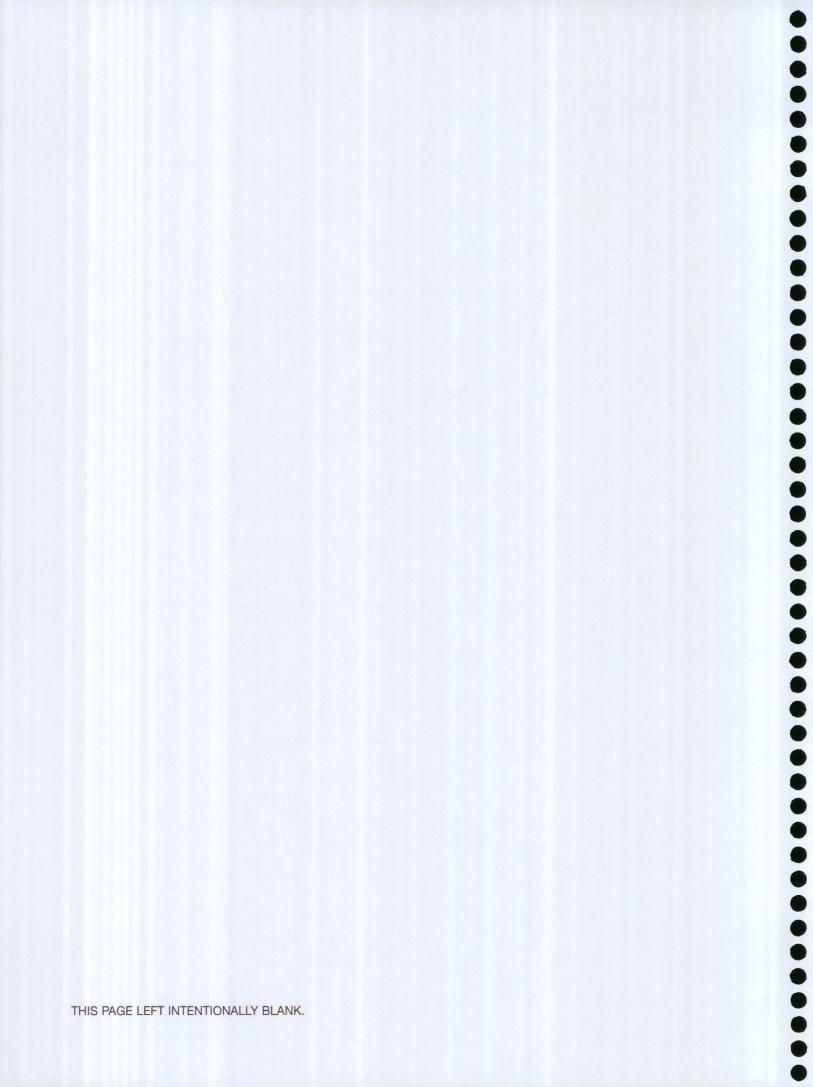
AC = Acres ALW = Allowance EA = Each LF = Linear Foot LS = Lump Sum SF = Square Foot SY = Square Yard



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Glossary

Adaptive Management: Flexible decision making that can be adjusted in the face of uncertainties as outcomes from management actions and other events become better understood. Careful monitoring of these outcomes both advances scientific understanding and helps adjust policies or operations as part of an iterative learning process.

Critical Habitat: A term defined and used in the US Endangered Species Act. It is specific geographic areas that contain features essential to the conservation of an endangered or threatened species and that may require special management and protection. Critical habitat may also include areas that are not currently occupied by the species but will be needed for its recovery.

Cultural Landscape: 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. According to US National Park Service there are four general types of cultural landscapes, not mutually exclusive: historic sites, historic designed landscapes, historic vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes.

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 theory and practice of landscape architecture. Aesthetic values play a significant role in designed landscapes.

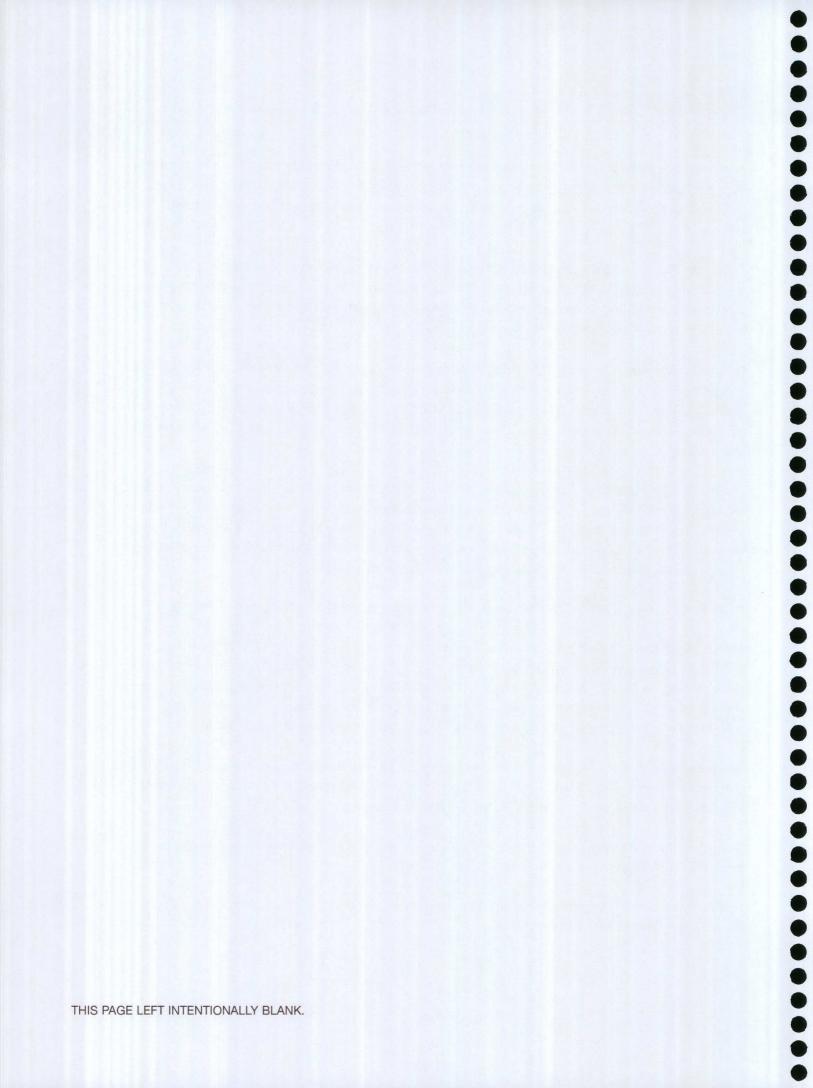
Historic Site: A landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity, or person.

Management Zone: Distinct areas identified by the primary resources, social conditions, type and level of visitor uses, and/or type and level of park development found within that area. Examples of management zones may include "Overnight Use", "Day Use", or "Backcountry". The goal of management zoning is to identify areas with different management requirements and visitor carrying capacities. Many variations of visitor activities may occur in a single zone so long as the management prescriptions remain constant.

Resource-Based Outdoor Recreation: Recreation dependent on location specific natural and cultural elements that cannot be easily duplicated by man. In contrast, "user-oriented recreation" is location independent, and can generally be developed anywhere given the availability of space and funds.

Resources: The biotic, geologic, hydrologic, aesthetic, ethnographic, architectural, historic, and archaeological elements and features found within a specific site.

Significant Resources: The abiotic, biotic, or social elements of a site that are uniquely important and therefore require increased monitoring and protection.



Appendix A

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Overview of Laws, Regulations, and Policies

Texas Administrative Code, §§ 59.61-59.64, Sec. A. Classifications and Guidelines. State Parks.

- State Parks. State Parks are areas of natural or scenic character, often containing historical, archeological, ecological, or geological values selectively developed to provide resource-oriented recreational opportunities.
 - 1. Selection.

A. State Parks should be areas possessing natural or scenic values, that are adaptable to both active and passive recreational development and use;

B. State Parks should be located to help meet the priority recreational needs of Texans, or where outstanding natural values of statewide significance create a substantial recreation demand; and

C. State Parks should provide recreational opportunities capable of attracting significant visitation on a regional or statewide basis.

D. New acquisitions should normally include a minimum of 500 acres of land, but may include less in the case of an extraordinary recreational resource of statewide significance.

2. Development.

A. State Parks should be developed to optimize recreational opportunities afforded by the site and to provide for a variety of facilities and activities while retaining the character of the natural setting.

B. Intensity of development of a State Park should provide for the sustainability of the resource.

C. Recreation facilities and supporting developments should be located and designed to minimize disturbance to natural and cultural resources.

3. Operation.

A. Visitor information and interpretive programs should be emphasized to provide the visitor with a more complete understanding of park resources and meaningful recreational experience.

B. State Parks should be operated in an economically efficient manner, with appropriate cost recovery, while not compromising the natural or cultural resources or the enjoyment thereof.

4. Use.

A. State Parks should provide for a variety of resource oriented recreation and public uses not detrimental to the long term stewardship and conservation of the natural and cultural resources as identified in the site management plan.

B. State Parks may provide public hunting opportunity when such use is not detrimental to the primary goals and management of the area, and sound biological management, location, physical conditions, safety and other uses permit.

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5. Management.

A. Resources within State Parks should be managed to provide the opportunity for a quality and appropriate recreational experience while maintaining the natural, cultural and scenic features of the park.

B. Habitat management should emphasize maintenance and restoration of natural communities, and natural biodiversity.

C. State Parks should be managed, consistent with the site management plan, to address habitat needs of indigenous flora and fauna including species and communities listed as threatened or endangered or species of special concern as identified by staff.

- Parks and Wildlife Code § 13.020. Local Public Hearings On Park Development Plans.
- Before the commission approves a park master development plan, the department must hold a
 public hearing to receive comments on the plan in an area near the location of the new park site.

TPWD Policy LF-02-02. Design and construction Minimum Standard Requirements. National Environmental Policy Act of 1970, P.L. 91-190, 83 Stat. 852, 16 U.S.C. Sec. 4321 et seq.

 Establishes policy, sets goals and provides means for carrying out the national policy for environmental protection.

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, P.L. 93-205, 87 Stat. 884 16 U.S.C. Sec. 1531 et seq.

Protects listed threatened or endangered species and their habitat.

Parks and Wildlife Code – title 5. Wildlife and Plant Conservation, Subtitle B., Chapter 43, Chapters 67 & 68.

Relates to the protection of listed threatened and endangered species and other non-game species.

American with Disabilities Act of 1990, Public Law 101-336 and Texas Labor Code, Chapter 21. Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation, Elimination of Architectural Barriers.

• Defines the accessible design criteria for built environments.

Texas Administrative Code, Title 34, Code §19.31. Requirements to use Design Standards.

 Requires that state agencies use the energy and water conservation design standards promulgated by the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) when constructing new state buildings or conducting major renovations of existing state buildings.

Texas Administrative Code, Title 31, Code §61.Contracts for Public Works.

• Outlines the guidelines for solicitation, submission and receipt of bids and the solicitation, evaluation and selection of Proposals.

Texas Administrative Code, Title 30, Code §7.113. Adoption of Memoranda of Understanding between the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission.

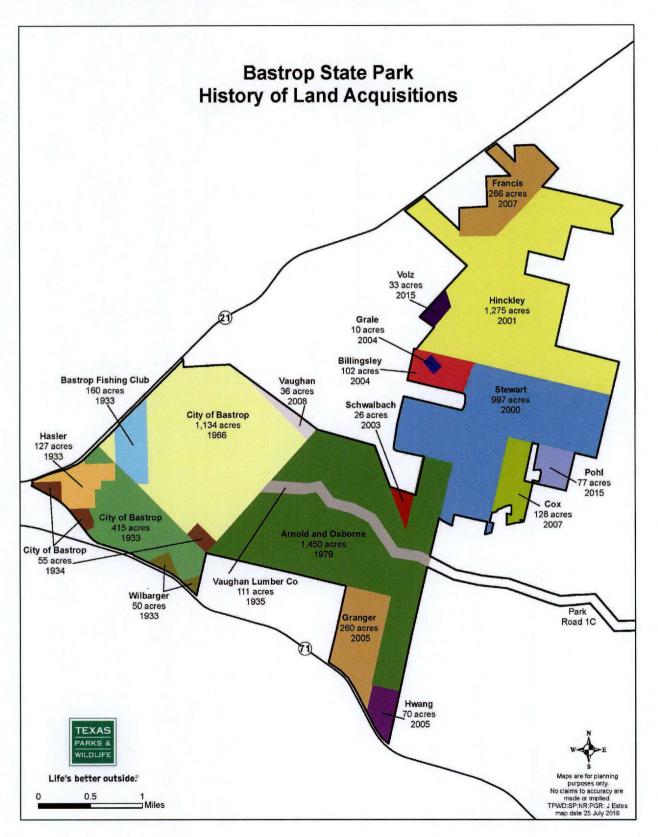
• Establishes the coordination of program responsibility and procedural mechanism for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) minimum regulations.

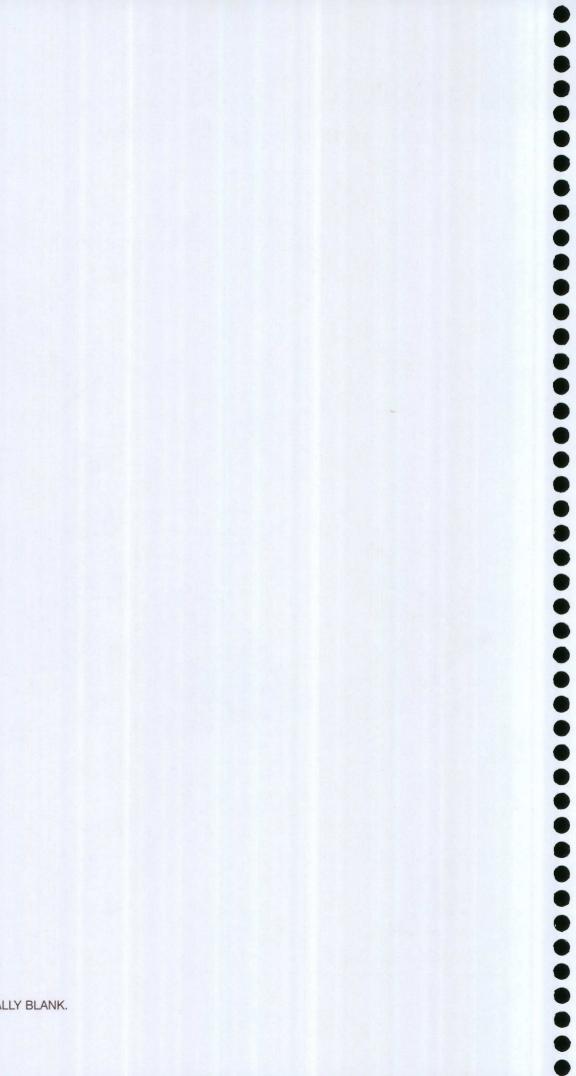
Texas Administrative Code, Title 9, Chapter 191. Texas Antiquities Code.

• Outlines the guidelines for locating, protecting, and preserving cultural resource sites in Texas.

Appendix B

Bastrop State Park History of Land Acquisitions



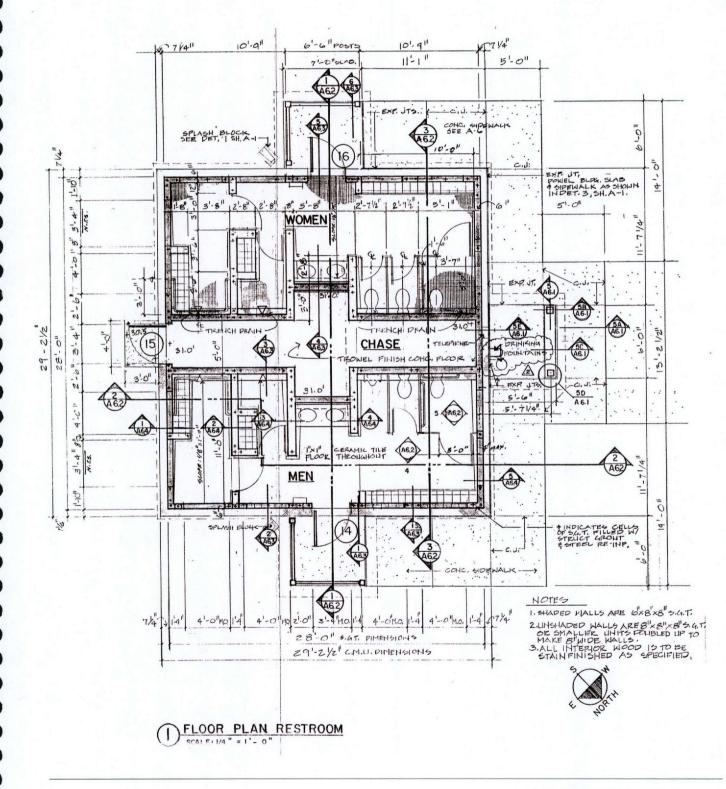


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Appendix C

Village Creek Comfort Station Example Floorplan

This example restroom is from Village Creek State Park. Note that this floorplan is for a "Restroom" which includes showers. In contrast, the facility defined in this plan is a "Comfort Station," which does not include showers.





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Appendix D

City of Bastrop Resolution of Support

RESOLUTION R-2017-79

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS SUPPORTING THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT'S (TPWD) PROPOSED PUBLIC PLAN FOR THE 135 ACRE SITE, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE LOST PINES GOLF CLUB, WITH EMPHASIS ON OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING, OUTDOOR EDUCATION, AND HIKING AND BIKING TRAILS; STRONGLY URGING THE TPWD TO BUILD A "TRIBUTE GREEN" TO PRESERVE AND EDUCATE FUTURE GENERATIONS OF THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THE LOST PINES GOLF COURSE PLAYED IN THE BASTROP STATE PARK'S HISTORY; PROVIDING A REPEALING CLAUSE; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Bastrop State Park was constructed in the 1930's during the New Deal by the Civilian Conservation Corps, also known as the Tree Army, on property deeded to the State of Texas by the City of Bastrop for purposes of a State Park; and

WHEREAS, the Bastrop State Park contained a nine (9) hole golf course, known as the Lost Pines Golf Club, which was originally created by the Bastrop Golf Club in the early 1900's, was expanded to an 18-hole course in 1995, and closed in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Bastrop State Park was designed as a National Historic Landmark in 1997; and

WHEREAS, in the past ten (10) years, the City of Bastrop has experienced unprecedented growth, resulting in numerous challenges for the City to provide appropriate provision of services, specifically those related to parks, trails, recreation and open spaces; and

WHEREAS, the City Council authorized the Master Parks Plan Update in 2008 and 2015 to provide for and to continue park and recreation facilities, provide trail opportunities, preserve open spaces and update existing parks in the City of Bastrop; and

WHEREAS, the recently adopted Bastrop Comprehensive Plan states that quality of life measures embodied by a well-managed public parks system is a barometer of community health, which can influence the City's competitiveness for private investment and growth; and

WHEREAS, the Bastrop Comprehensive Plan recognized the need to strengthen connections between the City's active recreation parks and local natural resources, which are best represented by Bastrop State Park, the Colorado River and lost Pines Nature Preserve; and

WHEREAS, Objective 7.1.2 of the Bastrop Comprehensive Plan supports increasing citywide bicycle and pedestrian accessibility through the development of a linear park system; and

WHEREAS, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) presented their Proposed Public Use Plan for the 135-acre site, where the Lost Pines Golf Club was previously located, to the City Council on August 22, 2017 and used the City of Bastrop Master Parks Plan 2015 as a basis for their proposal citing 90% support from citizens for outdoor programing and 80% for outdoor education; and

WHEREAS, the TPWD Plan will provide 18 acres for day use area with informal play fields, natural playscape stations and picnic sites, converting the historic pro-shop and starter house to an Interpretive Center, and building a nature/education center and creation of an amphitheater; and

WHEREAS, the TPWD Plan creates almost five (5) miles of new hike and bike trails within the State Park and a connection to the City of Bastrop's proposed trail to the State Park, citing 90% support from citizens for hiking/biking trails as the most requested facility type in the 2015 Bastrop Master Parks Plan Update; and

WHEREAS, the TPWD Plan, if adopted, expands a continuum of recreational opportunities for the citizens of the City of Bastrop with emphasis on outdoor programming, outdoor education, and hiking and biking trails as well as identifies existing and future partnerships with Bastrop State Park without further cost to the City of Bastrop; and

WHEREAS, the City of Bastrop Parks Board approved a Resolution endorsing the State of Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Proposed Plan for the Bastrop State Park at their August 10, 2017 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the City Council strongly urges the TPWD to acknowledge the important role that the golf course played in the Bastrop State Park's early history through the creation of a "tribute green" in order to preserve and educate future generations of this history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS:

<u>Section 1:</u> That the City Council of the City of Bastrop, Texas hereby supports the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's proposed public plan for the 135-acre site, formerly known as the Lost Pines Golf Club, with emphasis on outdoor programming, outdoor education, and hiking and biking trails.

<u>Section 2:</u> That the City Council strongly urges the TPWD to acknowledge the important role that the golf course played in the Bastrop State Park's early history through the creation of a "tribute green" in order to preserve and educate future generations of this history.

Section 3: All orders, ordinances, and resolutions, or parts thereof, which are in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of such conflict, and the provisions of this Resolution shall be and remain controlling as to the matters resolved herein.

Section 4: That this Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage, and it is so resolved.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 26th day of September, 2017.

CITY OF BASTROP, TEXAS

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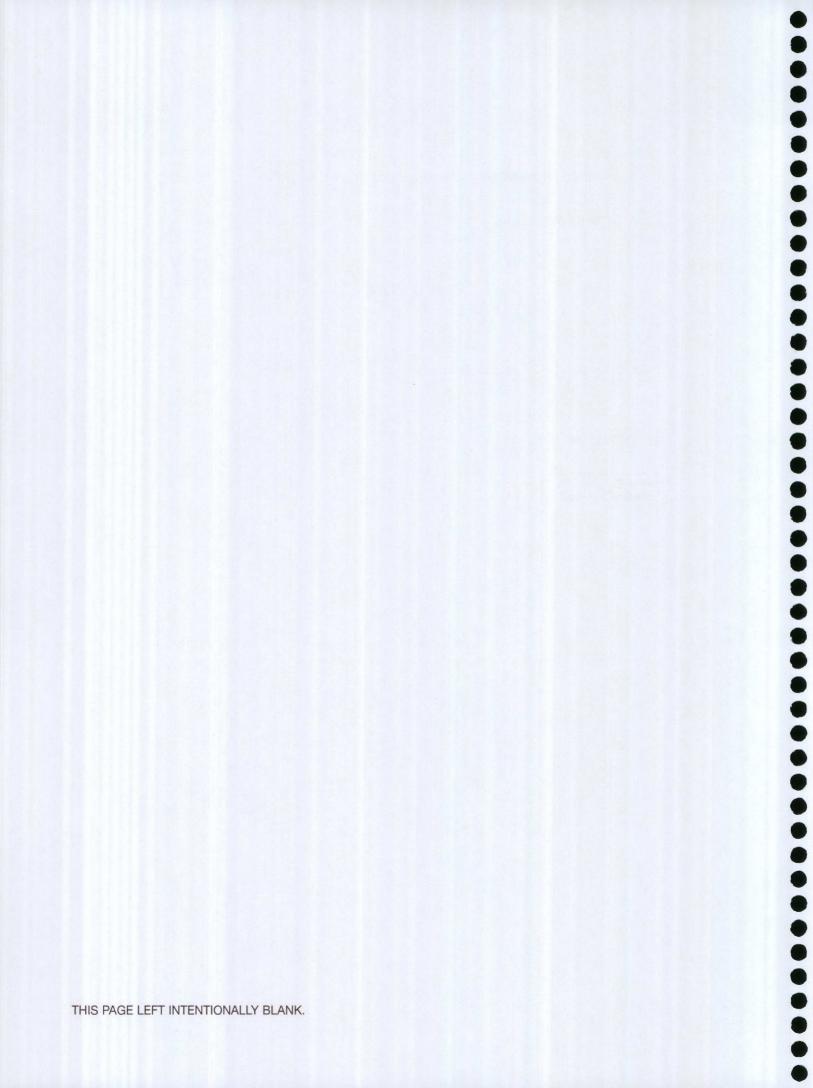
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choeder Conrie B. Schroeder, Mayor

ATTEST: Ann Franklin, City Secretary

APPROVED AS TO FORM: Augh 4. stop

Joseph J. Gorfida, Jr. Interim City Attorney



Appendix E

Inter-agency Review

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On April 23, 2018 the draft Public Use Plan (PUP) for the Golf Course Area at Bastrop State Park was submitted to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for consultation. THC's consultation summary was received by TPWD on May 21, 2018. The following is documentation of the consultation summary, as well the changes to the plans made in response to the THC's recommendations:

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

May 21, 2018

Bess Althaus Graham State Parks Division Historic Sites and Structures Program 4200 Smith School Road Austin, TX 78744

Re: Project review under the Antiquities Code of Texas, Golf Course, Bastrop State Park, Bastrop County, Texas (NHL)

Dear Ms. Graham,

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above-referenced undertaking. This letter serves as comment on the proposed project from the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The SHPO review staff, led by Lydia Woods, has completed its review of the project documentation received on April 23, 2018. The original nine holes of the golf course are all contributing resources, while the later nine holes are all non-contributing resources in Bastrop State Park, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and is a National Historic Landmark (NHL).

After extensive review, attending one of the public meetings regarding the project, and discussing it with several other THC reviewers we would like to make a few design suggestions. We agree with several of the comments made by the National park Service staff member, Tom Keohan. To reference Mr. Keohan's response please see attached e-mail. Though we agree that the approach of maintaining the outline of the holes but utilizing a new grass seed will preserve the general appearance of the fairway, we agree with NPS that the native grass type should be shorter if possible. We would highly suggest that fairways two, three, six, seven, eight, and nine should be treated the same as one and four instead of letting them get overgrown. The current placement of the new trail system, amphitheater, and overlook are minimal and mostly toward the exterior of the land space, we do not feel as though these installations are problematic.

As the project currently stands, the THC's review authority is only The Antiquities Code of Texas therefore all comments above are simply advisory. We have determined that the MOA referenced in the report was in regards to that specific project through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and therefore does not pertain to this project. However, if the funding or permits required change from the current submission please contact our office for further consultation. If the project changes to require addition federal involvement, therefore triggering a Section 106 review we may need to discuss how the project will move forward in regards of a potential adverse effect determination.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this state review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please call Lydia Woods at 512/463-9122.

Sincerely

Lydia Woods, East Texas Regional Reviewer For: Mark Wolfe, Executive Director, Texas Historical Commission

MW/lw

Cc:

Cindye Wolford, Chair, Bastrop County Historical Commission



GREG ABBOTT, GOVERNOR • JOHN L. NAU, III, CHAIR • MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TEXAS • 78711-2276 • P 512.463.6100 • F 512.475.4872 • thc.texas.gov

Lyuia woods	
From:	Keohan, Tom <tom_keohan@nps.gov></tom_keohan@nps.gov>
Sent:	Wednesday, May 16, 2018 3:06 PM
To:	Bess Graham
Cc:	Astrid Liverman; Lydia Woods
Subject:	TPWD Bastrop State Park: Golf Course Area Public Use Plan (PUP) Review Submission

Bess,

Ludia Woods

Thank you for additional details and back ground information for the PUP and its potential affects on the Bastrop State Park NHL, and for giving us the opportunity to comment on the plan.

We support the methodology for preserving the appearance of fairways one and four. Maintaining these with native grasses would preserve the historic viewshed as you suggest. We would recommend a shorter native grass however, such as buffalo or blue grama. Fairway five is also maintained, depending on the installation of field equipment to support the play fields. We would recommend mobile equipment that could be removed when not in use.

Regarding fairways six, seven, eight and nine, we would recommend employing a similar methodology as proposed for one and four rather than allowing trees and native undergrowth to invade the historic fairways. Development of a trail system, a new amphitheater, and an overlook could be designed on the edges of the fairways, preserving the historic fairway viewsheds.

We would also recommend the same approach to fairways two and three, planted with native grasses rather than dense trees. Screening could be keep between the fairways and the road.

Astrid Liverman, our NHL program manager is on travel this week, but she may have additional comments once she returns and has an opportunity to review the materials you provided.

Thomas G. Keohan, LEED Green Assoc. Historical Architect Heritage Partnerships Program Intermountain Regional Office 12795 West Alameda Parkway Lakewood, CO 80228 303-969-2897 tom keohan@nps.gov

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Bastrop State Park Golf Course Area Public Use Plan TPWD | State Parks | Natural Resources | Planning and Geospatial Resources

August 2018 TPWD Response Summary to THC Review dated 5/21/2018

THC Review, as summarized by TPWD. TPWD response shown in blue:

- Under the authority of the Texas Antiquities Code; THC cannot provide a determination of "no adverse impact at this time"
- 2. The 1995 MOA does not pertain to this project
- 3. The use of any federal funds could trigger NHPA Section 106 Review
- 4. Keep heavily developed elements, i.e. HQ Complex, Nature Center Complex, and Natural Playstations, to the periphery of the historic fairways

The outlines of the historic fairways shown in the original THC submittal, dated 4/23/2018, were from a TPWD geodatabase of unspecified reference imagery or date. To obtain the most accurate representation of the historic fairways, a request for the "earliest available" aerial imagery was placed with TNRIS. The result of this request is a georeferenced historical aerial dated to 1951. This image was used to revise the outlines of the historical fairways (refer to Figure 1).

As a result of this revision process, the Nature Center Complex was shown to be outside the historical Fairway 1, therefore no revisions were warranted (refer to Figure 5 'C'). Conversely, the Natural Playscape Stations were encroaching within Fairway 5 and have been subsequently moved to the periphery of the fairway in the revisions shown here (refer to Figure 5 'B').

Similarly, the HQ Complex, as presented to THC 4/23/2018, encroached within Fairway 7. In response to THC's recommendations, the HQ complex was reconfigured to minimize this encroachment (refer to Figure 5 'A'). The benefits, both to historical context and park function, of this configuration are as follows:

1) Minimizes encroachment into Fairway 7

- 2) The overall shape of the parking area now parallels very closely to the historic fairway outline
- 3) Restores the original as-designed path-of-travel for park entry
- 4) Pushing all elements of HQ Complex north of PR1A provides a large vegetative buffer south of of the road between the HQ complex and the primary Day Use activity area
- 5. Maintain all former historic fairways as open with "shorter" native species; NPS suggests buffalo grass or blue grama

In respect of the recommendations, all fairways, excluding Fairway 5, are to be maintained as "Cultural Landscape Features" (CLFs). Refer to Figure 4, "Natural & Cultural Resources" diagram, as well as the management definition in the narrative excerpt immediately following. The treatment of Fairway 5 as a "New Deal Interpretive Feature" has not changed.

Please note: in a number of areas the boundaries of the "Cultural Landscape Features" (CLFs) do not correspond exactly to their historic antecedent. In some cases, the boundary is expanded, in others it is contracted. These deviations are largely a result of tying the CLF boundaries to the edges of the trails, for the benefit of both maintence ease and aesthetics.

Although buffalo grass (*Bouteloua dactyloides*) and blue grama (*Bouteloua gracilis*) are native to Texas, they are considered inappropriate for this particular location and ecosystem. More appropriate is a little bluestem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*) dominated prairie. Specific management prescriptions for how to delineate the fairways from the surrounding landscape can be found in the "Natural and Cultural Resources" narrative excerpt (page # 7 in this packet).

6. Trail Network, Amphitheater, and Overlook are not problematic as proposed



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Figure 1: Historical Aerial, 1951; Source: TNRIS Georeferenced Historical Imagery, Obtained July 2018

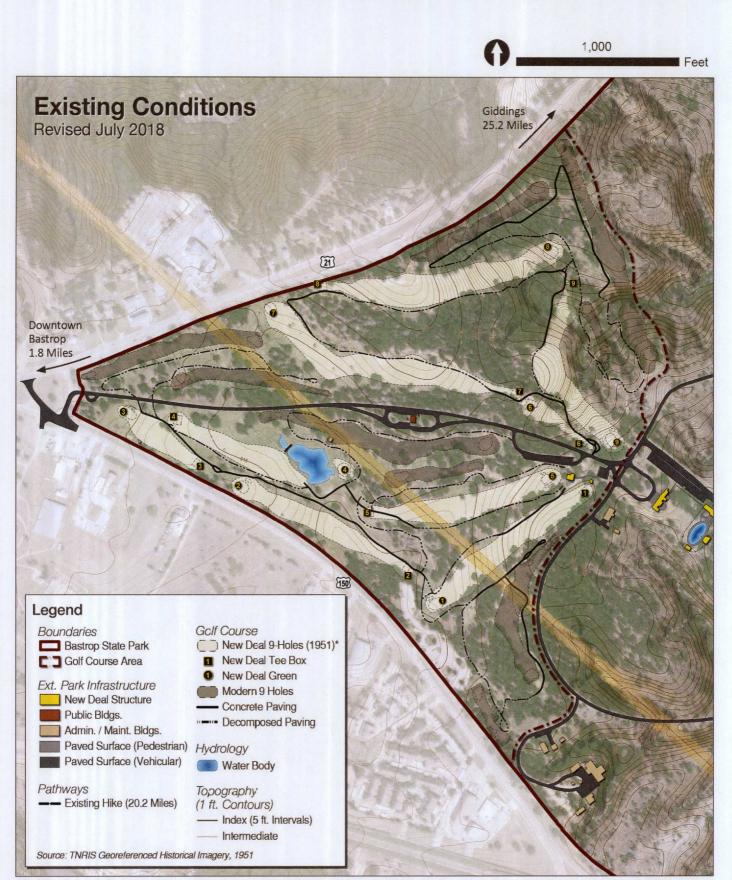


Figure 2: Existing Conditions; Revised July 2018 with New Deal 9-Hole outlines from TNRIS Historical Imagery, 1951

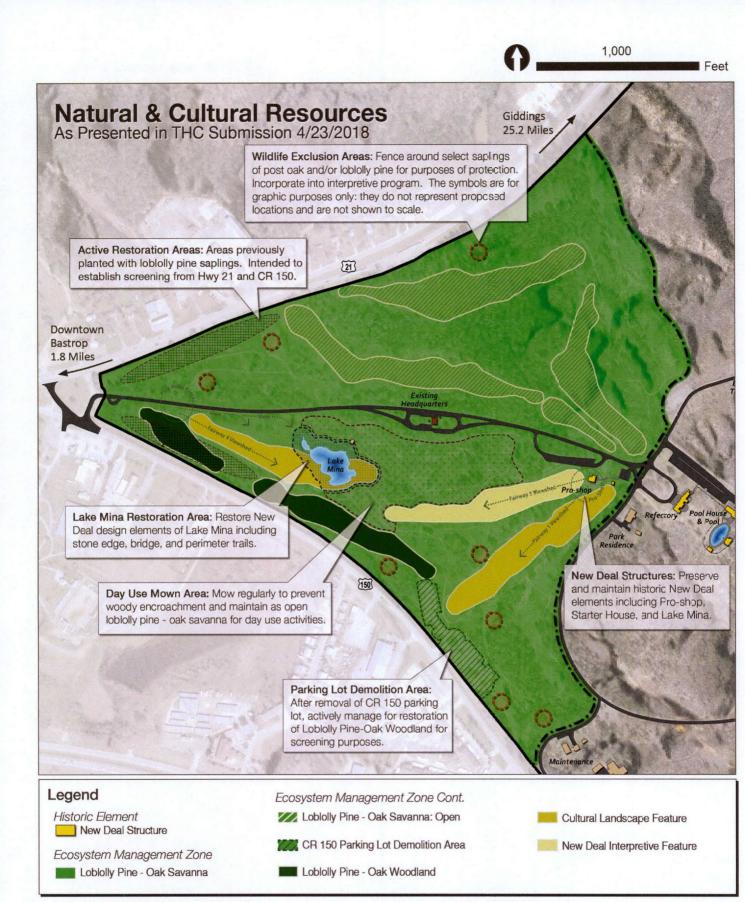


Figure 3: Natural & Cultural Resources; As presented in THC Submission 4/23/2018

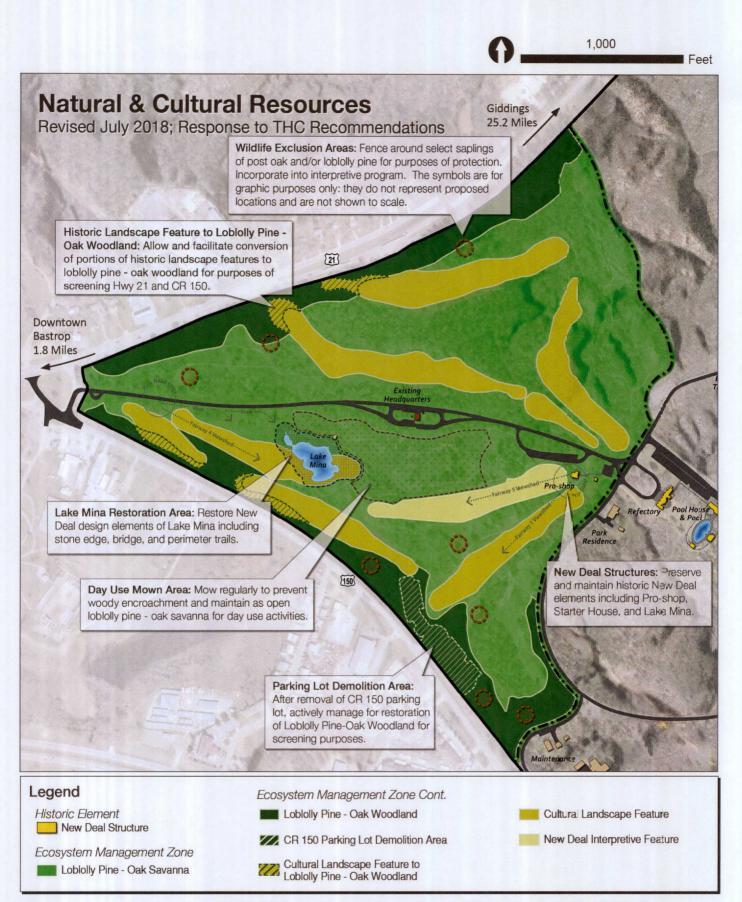


Figure 4: Natural & Cultural Resources; Revised July 2018; Response to THC Recommendations 5/22/2018

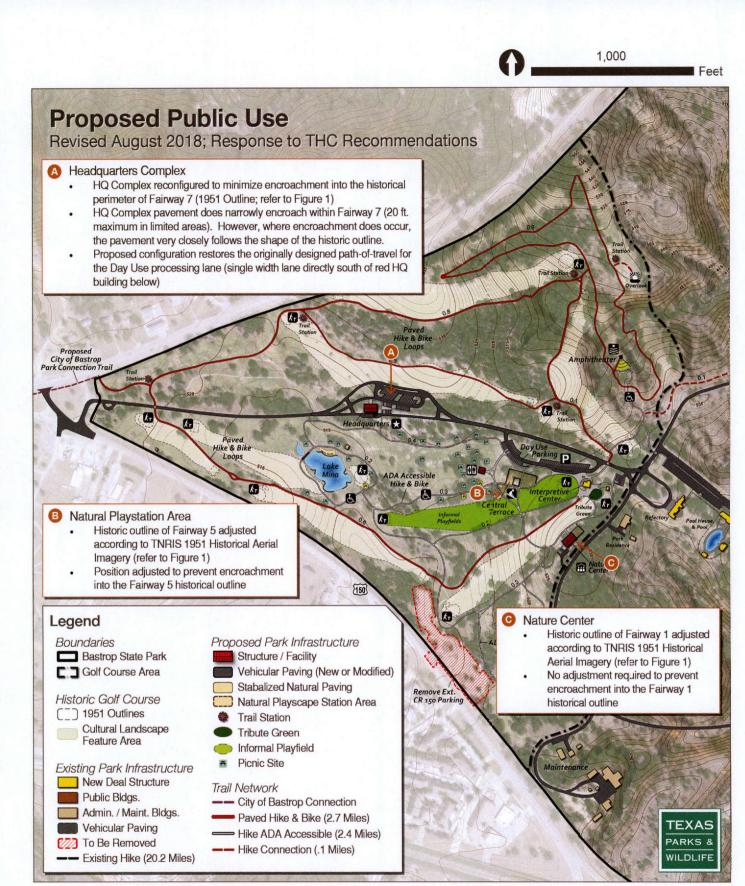
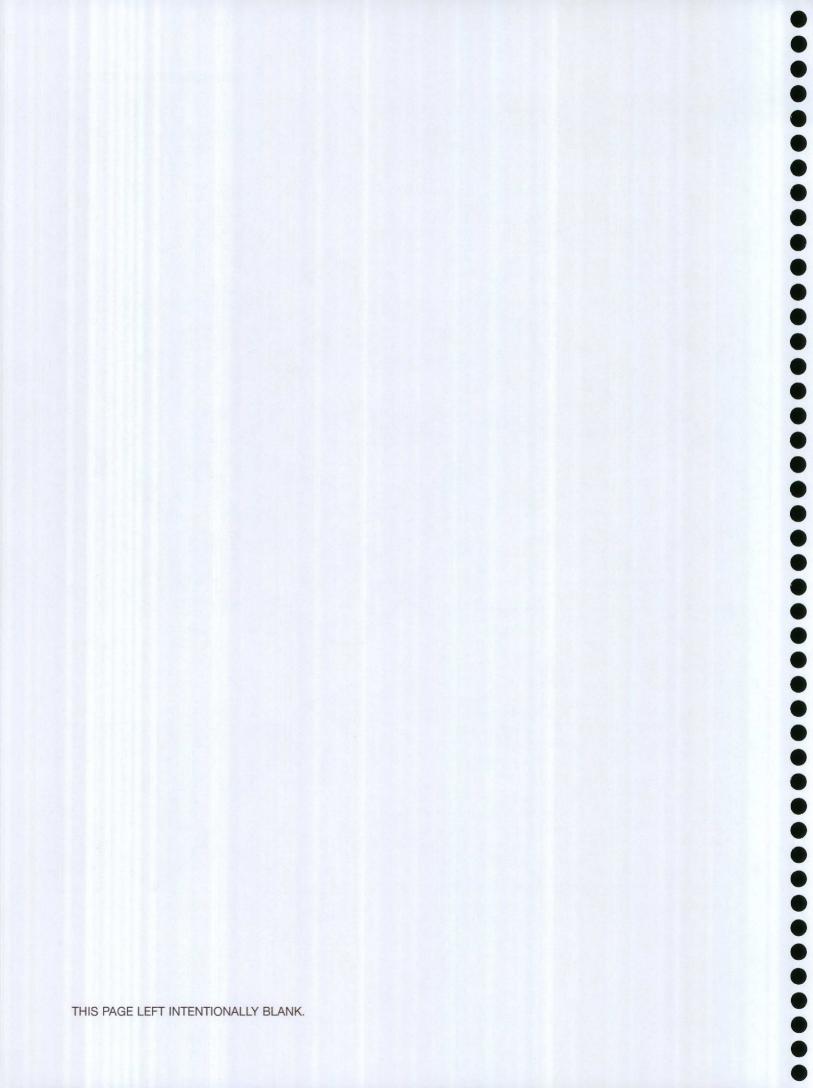


Figure 5: Proposed Public Use Plan; Revised August 2018; Response to THC Recommendations 5/22/2018



Appendix F

Public Comment Meeting August 1, 2017

TPWD Staff Presenting: Jamie Creacy, Lost Pines SP Complex Superintendent Matt Fougerat, SP Planning

TPWD Staff Attending: Brent Leisure, SP Director Chris Beckcom, SP Planning JJ Fleury, SP Planning Bess Graham, SP Historic Sites & Structures Todd McClanahan, Region 3 Director Greg Creacy, Region 3 Natural Resource Specialist Luis Alvarado, Region 3 Cultural Resource Specialist Katie Raney, Region 3 Interpretive Specialist Cullen Sartor, Site Manager Bastrop SP Jayson May, Bastrop SP

Verbal Comments (Paraphrased)

I'm familiar with the course and even helped to build the expansion to 18 holes and some of the trails. 50/50 on golf course and trails. Bastrop needs trails in length for walking. A loop around Lake Bastrop, similar to Lady Bird Lake Trail in Austin, was proposed but failed because of Houston toad habitat. Bastrop needs something similar--a destination for tourists for to come to Bastrop. This [TPWD Plan] is a great idea, but we can set aside some places to build a little golf course—even 3 holes—that would provide a destination. Partnership is the way to get things done: we should look for ways to partner with other corporations to get things done in Bastrop.

Born in Bastrop. Avid golfer and supporter of golf. Been working since 1981 to get 9 additional holes added to the course, which we did through grant programs. "Golf has meant so much to me and my family." It's difficult to go to the Hyatt because it is so expensive. Golf course at Bastrop State Park is unique. Disagree with TPWD statement about no applicants for RFP. That section of the property [golf course area] was always designated for golf—It's registered as a National, Texas, and Civilian Conservation Corp landmark. In 2008, the San Felipe Golf Course, belonging to TPWD, was deeded to the Texas Historical Commission, who in turn sold the course to a private group. Why can't a similar idea be used in Bastrop to revitalize the course? Since this [TPWD Plan] is a proposal, I hope that TPWD provides a plan to revitalize the golf course, which belongs to our community, and helps bring people from all over to Bastrop.

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Appreciates what this golf course means to the City and this area. Representing the City Council, I think there is a way to dovetail with other entities to include progressive recreational ideas such as pitch and putt, like in Austin, to make it self-sustaining. A pitch and putt would not only pay tribute to the golf course but would encourage repeat visitation to the park. What you [TPWD] are proposing is similar to what McKinney Roughs has. Additionally, the pitch and putt could be coupled with an offleash dog space. We need progressive recreational opportunities to pull people in repeatedly.

I love your [TPWD] plan. I also have a large dog and use golf course area trails to walk him because it's not safe on the roads. I didn't notice any trash cans as proposed. Hard to be a responsible pet owner if facilities are not there. I hope future iterations include dog friendly facilities.

Been in Bastrop a long time. I didn't hear a plan to revitalize the golf course from the state. Entry into park has been drab and lifeless since close of the golf course. I suggest looking at another plan to revitalize the golf course. Agrees with Mr. Cervantes that there is a way. The golf course was formed in 1928 as the Bastrop Golf Company. Wasn't until 1933 that it became a park. Water used to fill Lake Mina belongs to the City of Bastrop because mineral rights and water rights were retained when land was deeded over. Golf has been good for youth development and for tourism. Club members took kids under their wing and the golf course was a safe place for the after school. One of the more important things of the golf course and what it could be again. Please keep an open mind on the golf course until we can get some more information.

Grew up in Bastrop and longtime member of Bastrop County. The 9-hole course provided me with the opportunity to be an outstanding golfer winning the state championship 3 times in a row and attending Texas A&M on a golf scholarship. The history of the 9-hole course is deep with notable golfers, including Ben Crenshaw and Sandra Haynie, as former players. Would love to have the original 9-hole course revitalized because of the rich history. 9-hole course would require less funding than the 18 holes. This 9-hole course could have national status. Do the hike and bike trails, because Bastrop needs those as well, but please revitalize the 9-hole course.

I love the idea of the ball golf course and the observatory and hike and bike trails. Would like to add the idea of a disc-golf course. Disc golf reaches a new, broad demographic. From a fitness professional point-of-view, walking is best for your heart—with disc golf you're walking constantly only carrying a small bag. Disc golf is a growing sport and inexpensive, 18 baskets cost \$3k or \$4k, and are a fraction of the cost of maintaining ball golf course. Additionally, large volunteer organizations, such as Waterloo Disc Golf Club actively support and help maintain courses.

Longtime resident of Bastrop. Best for this area to preserve the original 9-hole golf course because of the historical significance of the course and the memories it has produced and what it means for the community. Those elements proposed by TPWD could be implemented in the back 9, but the original 9 holes should be preserved.

Grew up in Bastrop County area. Not a golfer, but if the golf course is revitalized hopefully the trails and the lake would remain open to other visitors.

Question: Will Lake Mina be stocked?

Answer (Creacy): Would depend on the goals that come from the plan.

Question: Would public hunts shut down this area?

Answer (Creacy): All hunts take part in the northern portion of the park and none of the front is ever closed.

Question: Will there still be day use access over here?

Answer (Fougerat): The existing day use area will be allocated for overnight visitors, while the proposed day use area will be day use specific.

Hopes that the trail to the city is implemented because I like to ride my bike to the park and that is a very dangerous stretch or highway. Campers at the park would also be more likely go into town if the trail was available.

I'm not a ball golfer, but I recognize the historical significance of the 9-hole course. A disc-golf course could be incorporated with the historic course and could help bring in additional revenue. The disc golf could be 9 holes, or 18 holes, or two 9 holes. Even within existing plan [TPWD plan], a disc golf course could be incorporated, especially if planned concurrently. Disc golf is affordable for a diverse demographic and is great for fitness. I encourage TPWD to increase courses beyond the one planned at Abilene. Whether the historic 9-hole course is revitalized or the TPWD plan proceeds, a disc golf course can be incorporated into either. Much less land is needed for a disc golf course versus a ball course—maybe 1 ½ to 2 acres per hole, so a 9 hole course in maybe 15 acres. Unlike ball golf courses, trees and vegetation are an integral part of the course so vegetation can be left more in a natural state.

Lives in downtown Bastrop. Advocating for walking and biking trails for the health of the community. Dangerous for cyclists around town. Park Road 1A has a reputation as a great rode for cyclists, it would be great to have these additional trails as well. No multi-use trails at Bastrop SP. Would like to see Bastrop SP add mountain bike trails. Rocky Hill Ranch, a big regional draw for cyclists in Smithville is closing. There is a real need for trails in Bastrop, especially since flood and fires, especially ones that cyclists can use. Park Road 1A and the cycling opportunity was a major reason we moved here. It would be awesome to be able to put my two kids in bike trailer, ride to park from the North end of Bastrop, ride park trails, swim in the pool, and ride home. Numbers [from Bastrop Parks Masterplan survey] suggest there are a lot people like me here. Golf is great, but there are already 2 courses in town.

Moved here because of the State Park and pine trees. I've been educating children in nature since moving here. I can't tell you what it means to me to have a nature center and hiking trails that can be accessed safely from school buses. Increasing children's access to nature and their connection to our community is priceless to me.

First, moving the day use area away from the campers is a great idea, but would like to add campsites. Second, no place for people, especially scouts, to ride their bikes safely in a large area, so would like to see hiking and biking here. With that would also like to see emergency call boxes and water fountains along trail. Finally, what about turning the existing parking lot off of 150 into a disc golf course? In Bastrop since 1991. As a naturalist, I loved the plan as presented this evening. Love the close connection to nature and bringing my kids and grandkids out to parks for walking and hiking. The legacy of the State Parks is bringing nature to the community and showing the connection between earth and land. That's what I would like to see carried on in this proposal.

Husband is a competitive cyclist. I am a cyclist too. We chose to live in Bastrop because of the ease of access to the park and the opportunity to ride from front door to the park and be safe along the way. This park is such a gift, preserving the nature of Bastrop that we all love so much and is unique in the State of Texas. Love the idea of diversifying the uses of the park with different activities that attracting different people. Love the idea of preserving the golf course and putting a disc golf course in, and especially mountain bike trails and hike and bike trails—the culture of cycling is a family event. One of the things we always consider when planning or going to cycling events is the economic impact to the surrounding area—attendees from all over come and stay at local hotels, they go to restaurants and shop at the local stores. Far reaching economic impact.

As a triathlete, I love coming to the park to swim and run. To be able to bring my bike as well and train in all three sports would be amazing. I'm a big advocate for the biking trails.

Written Comments

Please add Disc Golf to the plan. Either with a revival of the historic golf course or with the new, proposed amenities. Very affordable to install and maintain. Plus, affordable to play. Will bring in visitors and tourism dollars. Great for exercise. Playable by kids as young as 4 or 5 and seniors in the 70s and 80s. A fast growing sport that will increase the use of the park and increase the diversity of activities in the park.

Disc Golf is a sport I have enjoyed for 31 years. At the age of 63, disc golf helps to alleviate arthritic pain while enjoying the camaraderie of other people. This is a sport that has grown tremendously, especially in the last 10 years. It is a low cost alternative that all ages can enjoy.

I love all features of your plan.

Hiking (mowed) trails. Amphitheater - Yay

Hoping for a bark park section for my dog & Hike / Bike trails.

Email Comments

I am a 65 year old psychologist living in Austin who has played disc golf in Central Texas since 2004.

I am a member of the Waterloo Disc Golf Association and the Professional Disc Golf Association number 23447. I am so excited by the prospect of a new disc golf course that could take form at Bastrop State Park near the old Bastrop State Park Golf Course.

I am writing because I cannot attend the upcoming meeting Tuesday August 1st to extoll the various virtues of disc golf in person. Disc golf is a wonderful sport that is enjoyed by families with children of all ages, by men and women, and even old farts like myself. The costs for installing and maintaining a disc golf course are low, even trivial when compared to the costs of traditional golf courses and are low impact in terms of their effect on the earth. It has been my experience that players actively engage in serving their local courses and regularly take part in work days to help maintain and improve their courses.

Disc golfers regularly engage in benefits to raise money for local needs such as food banks.

You may want to look at how other parks have addressed their courses such as Williamson County (https://www.dgcoursereview.com/course.php?id=927)

Thank you for considering this wonderful addition to your park's many features.

Hope to be playing there soon.

Thank you for your time and presentation tonight. I wanted to send you a note expressing my full support for your proposal. I liked pretty much every element of it, and hope to see it move forward. I especially like the thought that was put into segregating traffic flows. I hike the park at least once a week and agree that keeping bike, foot, and vehicular traffic streams separate is a great idea. Thank you for that design element.

I would like to echo the feedback provided by another person tonight. I have dogs as well, and having trash receptacles for 'poop bags' will go a long way towards having pet owners being responsible.

I think that your proposal does much to utilize the existing infrastructure, and make the space available to many more people than a golf course ever would. There are already several private golf courses in the area, and a public one is unnecessary.

Thanks again, and I look forward seeing the final plans at the end of the year.

Thank you for your fine presentation last evening - my wife & I live in Bastrop & have been members of the park for almost 25 yrs. - we enjoy walking on the cart paths several times a week & are so excited over the proposed development - it will be great to have a nice place where families can walk, exercise, enjoy nature, & breathe fresh air - yesterday I met a lady who was 85 walking on the back nine - said she walked several times a week & felt it had saved her life since her doctor had recommended walking for her failing heart. Anyway, we thank you, and the people of Texas who visit the park in the future will thank you. As for the golfers, there are three public18 hole courses in the Bastrop area, drive an extra 45 minutes to Austin & there are numerous public courses - if they can't afford the green fees to play on those courses then perhaps they should take up walking - they'll live longer than driving around in a golf cart. Forgive my rambling, but had to let you know what a great asset I think the renovations you propose will be for Bastrop & Texas residents.

My input for that space is that I love the idea of more hike and bike trails, day use accessible, but I would so love to see a disc golf course to go along with it. It could be just a simple 9 hole disc golf course. I know many people in Bastrop who love to play the sport and have to drive to either Austin, Smithville, Elgin or Manor to access one. I have been, and plan to continue to be, a purchaser of the annual Parks Pass. I really would love a course to be more local and in such a beautiful location.

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Nature Trail Suggestions:

- 1. Mow one mower width wide on both sides of pathway.
- 2. Stock pond with fish for kids.
- 3. Use the golf club building as a nature center and CCC museum.
- 4. Install water spigot at the pond for drinking water.
- 5. Master Naturalist program to help start native plants on trail.
- 6. Mow areas next to Park Road 1A to give it a Park setting.
- 7. Vendor to rent golf carts for trail.
- 8. Encourage guided photography tours of trail.
- 9. Bring in School Groups (biology classes) to tour trail.
- 10. Add picnic benches at Pond area.

The proposed plan for use of the former golf course presented last week is excellent. The plan is well designed, makes good use of the space and benefits people of all ages from the very young to the elder. I wholeheartedly support the plan.

I am a tent camper at various state parks and a frequent walker at the Bastrop Park. Some of my thoughts about aspects of the plan:

1. It is good that trails will be available for bikes. I have been concerned seeing families with very young bike riders using the park roads. It will be so much safer for young children to ride on the trails.

2. The old golf cart paths currently open to walkers has been greatly appreciated by all ages, but particularly for older walkers as well as runners. The implemented plan will be even better. Older walkers risk falls on the trails inside the park road loop.

3. The proposed natural playscape will offer adventures for children that a traditional playground cannot provide.

4. Having a picnic area in the center of trails and play grounds is a good location.

5. A nature center is needed. At state parks that have nature centers, I have noticed that people get very involved in studying and learning from the displays.

6. An amphitheater provides an informal meeting place that works well for a nature related presentation.

7. The tree planting in the old fairways earlier this year is showing results despite the drought conditions. The plan when implemented will continue to bring enhancements to the natural habitat.

I just came back from playing my first ever FOOTgolf at Harvey Penick. It was amazing!

Friends and I want to play again.

I'm late to the news about the Bastrop State Park course

I want to offer FOOTgolf as an alternative. They cut the holes out of the way so that it does not interfere with golf or disc golf.

I live in Bastrop and would rather play here than drive into Austin, please consider.

I would like to submit my thoughts about the plan that was revealed for the future of the Bastrop State Park golf course. I whole heatedly believe the plan is awesome and is the best course of action. There are limited opportunities for people of all ages to enjoy outdoor activities and the plan encompasses so many niches that it will benefit ten-fold the amount of people that a struggling golf course would. I believe the best use of resources is to evolve with the needs of the community versus trying to find unexisting pots of money to try to resurrect a golf course that has long been gone. I have fond memories of golfing there with my Dad when I was a child and I will have a great time sharing those memories and stories with my kids as we are there on those same grounds enjoying activities that my family would otherwise not be able to enjoy. My family and I support the park's plan for the former golf course and thank you for putting so much thought and time in putting together a plan that supports everyone!!

We liked the plan presented. If it wasn't for the Bastrop State Park, we wouldn't have anywhere to run near our home (We also love day hiking in the park too.) From a runner's perspective, we really like the more natural feel the park has to it now along the golf course. We hope that a wider, cement path will still allow for the natural vegetation along the path for wildlife. Just three weeks ago running on the golf cart path we came across a bobcat (probably making its way to the pond) and while we were cautious it was pretty awesome to see!

We appreciate the history of the golf course and while we understand it isn't economically feasible any longer, we didn't think the idea of a 9-hole disc course was a bad idea as it would draw more people into the park and would allow for the natural vegetation to stay too.

We look forward to seeing the final plans.

On behalf of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club, I am submitting comments on the draft concepts of the public use plan for the golf course area at Bastrop State Park.

The Chapter recognizes that Bastrop State Park encompasses both historic and natural assets. We appreciate that the draft concepts of the public use plan balances the enhancement and restoration of both historic cultural and natural assets. The Chapter is especially pleased that the golf course area will be largely restored to habitat that better suits the mission of the Texas state parks while allowing multiple recreational uses.

In general, the Chapter supports the Proposal Summary as presented on August 1st at the public meeting on the draft concepts, with the design intent of ecological restoration and management for historic interpretation. We particularly appreciate the creation of the playscape stations for encouraging outdoor play, the creation of the trail system with connectivity to the city of Bastrop, the removal of the parking lot, the conversion of the historic pro shop and starter house to an interpretive center on the New Deal, and the creation of a nature/education center.

We have some specific comments on some of these design elements as follows:

Ecological Restoration

The area will be managed for restoration of loblolly pine and oak with active management to restore native prairie at the former golf links. The draft plan revision should include a table of the steps TPWD recommends to restore the remains of the Bermudagrass turf and weedy species to native prairie and an estimated timeline. It should address whether there is a need for soil preparation, such as tilling and invasive species control. What method of sowing will be used? The intended source of native prairie should be discussed and whether there is an opportunity for volunteer involvement in collecting seed and perhaps sowing some of it. With respect to woodland restoration, what kind of management does TPWD envision?

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Since the Houston toad habitat was diminished by the expansion of the golf course, it would be especially important to detail the vegetation, soils, and hydrology that would be conducive to supporting a population of Houston toads in the restored area. It should be a goal to provide habitat for the Houston toad in the restored area.

A list of desirable plants to be established by the restoration process would be useful.

Trail System

As noted above, the Chapter favors the connectivity of the trail system to the city of Bastrop. We note that there are 3 miles of paved hike/bike trail, 1.5 miles of ADA compliant trail, and 0.25 mile of hiking only trail. The hiking only trail is extremely short. However, we do recognize that the more trail that is installed, the greater the habitat fragmentation. As an alternative, would it be possible to mow temporary hiking-only trails through areas of prairie, with changes in orientation? The changing location of the mowed trail would reduce the amount of exotic species in disturbed areas.

The paved hike/bike trail calls for a four-foot mowed buffer on each side of the trail with restoration areas on either side. If the mowing is done too frequently, it will tend to select against native prairie species and favor the invasives common on disturbed sites. It would be better if the hike/bike trail mowed areas were mowed only two times a year and no shorter then 4-6inches. This would still allow the natives to compete.

Nature/Education Center

In particular, we want to stress how valuable the educational component could be at the Bastrop site. There is a particular opportunity to highlight the importance of Bastrop SP as an example of providing habitat to endangered and threatened species, in addition to other species of plants and wildlife. This would be an opportunity to educate the public about the role of the TPWD Wildlife Diversity Program, which deals with non-game species.

The Houston Zoo runs a captive breeding program for the Houston toad. The creation of a nature/ education center would be an opportunity to showcase the Houston toad, ideally with a live display. The inclusion of such an exhibit would probably be best done in cooperation with the Houston Zoo. I have broached the subject with Ms. Renee Bumpus, the Conservation Program Manager of the Houston Zoo, at a meeting of the Texas Black Bear Alliance on August 24th. She is interested in discussing the suggestion further. We hope that TPWD would be interested in exploring this possibility.

The Lone Star Chapter appreciates the readiness of the TPWD to answer our questions regarding the draft plans. It has been of great help in preparing these comments. We look forward to the restoration of the golf course to valuable habitat and the opportunities for environmental education and recreation.

The Lone Star Chapter would like to participate in the subsequent stages in the development of

the plan. We would appreciate being notified when the next round of public planning meetings is scheduled. Please add me to your notification list, using the contact information below.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

I am hopeful that public plans will incorporate the historic-designated golf course (be it 9 hole) AND bike and hike trails.

It is my understanding that this can be done and at lesser amount than was publicly discussed.

I look forward to the next meeting.

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Thank you again for all you do for so many.

1. Years of experience have given me deep respect for the professionalism and dedication of personnel at Bastrop Stat Park. They love nature. If there is anything they love and respect as much as nature, it is history.

Most of the comments tonight fail to take cognizance of the years of thought, research, evaluation and effort that have gone into the plan presented tonight. Many of the comments sound as though this situation is a matter of first impression and can be easily solved. That is disrespectful and closeminded. The golf course failed over a period of years despite best efforts to save it. This plan is the result of an exhaustive and inclusive approach to how best to move forward.

The proper focus tonight was to see if they missed anything or if the plan could be enhanced in some way. It is pointless to revisit concepts that have been thoroughly explored and found not realistic.

2. The golf course became a money losing enterprise over a period of years, despite best efforts, including the waiver of fees by TPWD.

3. All of the factors that caused the golf course to become financially untenable still exist; restrictive "obligations" and competing new courses.

4. In addition, deferred maintenance on the golf course, floods and the inroads of nature over a two year period since closure mean that it would probably take one to two million dollars to restore greens, fairways, cart paths and irrigation.

5. The plan for alternative utilization would open the area to a much broader swath of users, and facilitate interconnection of the Park trail system with the City.

6. A gold course is contrary to nature and imposes extraordinary demands on critical water resources. The expectation of most golfers is that a course look like an oasis and that greens be "playable." That requires constant water and grooming. When we were planting loblolly pines on some fairway areas, Texas Forestry Service told me that many of the trees would due because it was an inhospitable environment because of the things they did to make it a golf course.

7. Although portions of the plan would require substantial investment at the front end, part of the concept is that most of the features then become essentially self-sustaining, with minimal maintenance. That is important in an environment in which the Park has decades of deferred projects and needs due to fund and resource limitations.

8. Frankly, one must be skeptical of many of these here-is-how-to-fix-it-schemes presented tonight. This matter has been floating around for at least two years. It has gone through at least one extended, national RFP (essentially two) and NO ONE CAME FORWARD WITH COMMITMENT AND MONEY. Some of the comments were little more than recitations of all the efforts they had made that had failed. (One definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result.)

9. Bastrop State Park and TPWD have presented a balanced, considered plan that is the result of several years of input, discussion and evaluation The time is near or has come, when the right and sensible thing is to accept the constraints of reality and move on, per the plan. Plus, Nature and the Park are inherently dynamic environments. Is it becomes obvious down the line that some tweak is desirable and doable, a new plan for enhancement could always be undertaken, tailored to the circumstances of that time.

TPWD Staff

I am very excited about the proposed public use plan and if it has not already been considered would like to suggest shade shelters with benches strategically placed along the walking paths to take a rest from the sun or in the event of being caught off guard should adverse weather conditions take place. I think it would encourage more visitation to that area that we could "talk up" and encourage our customers to pace themselves and take those shade breaks. A shade shelter around Lake Mina would be great for our fishing folks to stay out longer enjoying themselves.

Public Comment Meeting October 19, 2017

TPWD Staff Presenting: Jamie Creacy (JC), Lost Pines SP Complex Superintendent Matt Fougerat (MF), SP Planning

TPWD Staff Attending: Brent Leisure (BL), SP Director Chris Beckcom (CB), SP Planning JJ Fleury, SP Planning Bess Graham, SP Historic Sites & Structures Todd McClanahan, Region 3 Director Greg Creacy, Region 3 Natural Resource Specialist Luis Alvarado, Region 3 Cultural Resource Specialist Katie Raney, Region 3 Interpretive Specialist Cullen Sartor, Site Manager Bastrop SP Jayson May, Bastrop SP

Verbal Comments (Paraphrased)

Question (Q): I just want clarification on conflict between "Day Use" and "Campers," at the previous presentation it seemed to be an issue.

Answer (A): MF: The purpose is to alleviate conflict between "Day Users" and "Campers" by expanding and separating facilities by use type. Right now, day users must drive into the overnight areas of the park to use the playground facility. This takes up parking and increases road traffic. Offering additional facilities for day use only helps reduce this conflict.

Q: What changes do you make to the plan in response to the public comments from the first meeting.

A: MF & JC: Most of the responses we received were very positive and show the plan is on the right track. However, we did make adjustments to the plan based on feedback. For example, at the direct request of the Bastrop City Council we did explicitly add an active-play element, referred to as the "Tribute Green," as a way of honoring the significance of the golf course to the community.

We like a lot of the things we see. However, it is very important to go into the details of the ecological restoration work, particularly as they pertain to the Houston toad. There is also the potential to collaborate with the Houston zoo. It will be important that these revegetation and restoration efforts are highlighted, not only for the Houston toad, but also all the other species that share the same habitat to encourage conservation interest.

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Q: Curious about the removal Loop 150 parking lot—do you have any plans for that or are you going to let it go back to nature?

A: MF: We will be facilitating the restoration of the parking area to dense pine-oak woodland for screening purposes.

Q: Have you thought about using the Loop 150 parking lot as an additional entrance?

A: MF: We did. However, we must adhere as close as possible to the historical design intent because these plans have to go to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) for approval.

Does the parking lot have to be destroyed? What about using that area for pickleball?

Q: Will Texas Parks & Wildlife or US Fish & Wildlife be conducting a feasibility study? How might review from THC and FWS alter the plans?

A: MF: TPWD will not be conducting a feasibility study, but will be notifying FWS about the plans. If the reviewing agencies request mitigation to the plans, then we may need to make changes to meet their requirements.

Q: Do you know what the timeline is for the THC review? Do they then give it to FWS?

A: CB: THC has a 30 day review window. Once we receive concurrence from State agencies, then we go to Federal.

Fifth generation Bastropian. The park has always been here, but the golf course was here before the park. In one of your brochures, it even says that TPWD is willing to fund the restoration of the golf course. Not here to promote golf, but the golf course is unique and to see it go away because of funding is disappointing as a Texas. There is plenty of room for both trails and golf course. In terms of City of Bastrop Connection Trail, who is going to pay for flyovers to get over Loop 150? The park adds such a beauty and energy to people coming into this area. Don't give up on this golf course. Find the funding. The park and the golf course is a learning place for kids and young adults, don't shut it down. It all can be done together. Let's be open-minded—don't nail the door shut.

Q: Can I get a copy of the Request for Proposal that was sent out?

A: MF & JC: We are working with the City to provide those documents on the website; a copy can also be emailed.

Q: Is it true that there are no longer non-hybrid Houston toads in the park?

A: JC: There are some hybrids, but there are also still true genetic Houston toads in the park.

Additional Comment: Adding the Tribute Green is like putting up a cardboard cut-out of the Alamo... it's just not the same.

Q: Where does the water come from that is used in the Park?

A: JC: Two water providers, the City of Bastrop and Aqua Water Supply. The golf course had a well but it is not in use.

Q: Is there fish in Lake Mina?

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A: JC: Yes, though we are not actively stocking. We will work with our Inland Fisheries divisions to develop a stocking plan depending on goals.

Q: Curious about opportunity for live toad exhibits and partnering with the Houston Zoo or a University?

A: JC: Since the 1990s, the Park has partnered with Universities to conduct research and will continue to do so. Also highly involved with the Houston Zoo breeding program—the breeding toads were supplied by the park and have been actively returned to the park. The actual details of the exhibits will have to be worked out at a later time.

Former Texas State Senator. Here to see if I can help, first get whatever the people here want, but also the citizens of the state.

Q: Is this a done deal?

A: MF: These plans are not finalized.

Q: How much money has been spent on development of these plans, including consultants?

A: MF: The plans have been developed in-house. Nothing has been spent on consultants.

Q: How much will this plan cost the taxpayers of Texas?

A: MF: Our estimates at this time are between \$4.25 - 5 million, not including the new HQ. The new HQ will likely be an additional \$3 - 4 million.

Q: What is timeline of implementation of this plan.

A: MF & CB: Budget comes from the legislature. This last biennium did not provide the funding we were hoping for. No specific answer: it could be 3 years from now, it could be 8 years from now.

Q: TPWD is historically underfunded. Did you get a bump in funding this biennium?

A: BL: 2 years ago we received 94% of the sporting goods sales-tax; this term we received 88%, but not in the same form, most of that goes to the backlog of capital repair.

Q: After the floods did you receive money from the rainy-day fund?

A: BL: TPWD received \$4.9 million but I believe the money was not from the rainy-day fund, but from the general fund.

Q: Since the park received the \$4.9 million after the floods, do you know when the dam is going to be done?

A: BL: The dam is in design right now. Typically there is a five year timeline on this size of project, but this project is funded, it is happening.

Q: When will the loop road be opened up to get across the creek for hiking?

A: JC: Right now it's closed because of safety issues, but you can get across via other trails.

Q: Is there an alternate plan to allow traffic from water tower down for trail access to make the loop?

A: BL: We cannot build a temporary road because of cost, and the other big issue is safety. There's a lot of big trucks driving up and down that road frequently.

Q: is there a bikepath that goes up around to the north?

A: JC: No, there's not.

Q: Any chance this plan can be done in phases?

A: BL: This can be done in phases. Likelihood that it will be funded at one time is not high. We can develop a strategy for implementing the pieces, such as the trails, earlier than some of the other more costly items using federal trail grants.

Please don't give up on the original 9-hole golf course. There is cultural significance to Bastrop. This plan is nice and all, but has it been considered to keep the back nine holes while allowing other recreation on the other side of PR1?

A: JC: Just to make it clear, the original 9 holes were on both sides of PR1. The request for proposal that was sent out included the potential at looking at creative solutions to make the course economically viable, but we received no responses and we had to move forward. Part of the problem is that no one would insure a golf course in a multi-use space because of liability concerns.

Q: Could you do another plan that would look at the original 9 holes, but also include the hiking trails?

A: BL: We don't have operator to run the golf course, so we can't plan for use as a golf course.

The golf course was last used in 2015. That's 3 years of no maintenance. It will be 5 years before anything is even constructed again, which is nearly a decade of regrowth. Realistically, the golf course is already gone.

We have to understand the facts. TPWD tried to solicit an operator for the course and could not find anyone. Additionally, TPWD does not have the ability to maintain and run a golf course itself. Golf courses take up a lot of natural resources and use a lot of water which is contrary to the mission of TPWD. The bigger picture is we need to move on. The golf course is simply not viable here, for a number of reasons. To try and appropriate a large amount of funds to renovate the course would divert money away from other worthwhile projects across the state.

Q: Has TPWD ever operated the Bastrop golf course, or has it always been operated by a third party?A: JC: It has always been operated by a concessionaire.

This plan is going to bring the most value to community. I'm excited about it. Along with the new backcountry trails, this will put Bastrop on the map. No other community will have such close access to this large a natural area.

Written Comments

Could the Tribute Green be expanded? – Something like a multi-hole putter green as well as a practice putting green?

Regarding adding sand volleyball courts to some of the Public Use Planned Areas. They would be low maintenance areas, not taking up much space. They are family friendly, no equipment needed, not even shoes! Sand volleyball is an International Olympic sport with scholarship opportunities all across the country. Potentially, there would be travelling international Olympic teams stopping in Bastrop for tournaments, needing places to stay. Would be good for Bastrop's economy and another reason to put Bastrop State Park on the map.

Email Comments

Many community members feel that the golf course should be reopened and that priority be given to the original historical 9 holes. None of the FEMA funds from the 2011 fires and floods were shared with the golf course, thus putting a heavy burden on the golf club, also members were not informed by the board of directors to meet regarding the final decision to close. We were only given a letter stating it was done.

The San Felipe Golf Course in Sealy, TX, as seen below, this could have been suggested in an effort to keep this course open. The Lost Pines Golf Course is a gem and it beautifies the entrance to the Bastrop State Park. It has been an avenue where over 22 juniors were given an opportunity to learn the game and pursue their education through receiving a golf scholarship. This course was affordable for many of these juniors as the majority were minorities. It also gives our seniors, families and park visitors a friendly, alcohol free place to play.

HISTORY

Stephen F. Austin State was deeded to the Texas Parks and Wildlife from the San Felipe de Austin in Corporation in 1940. The park's 600+ acres offered many outdoor activities including a nine hole golf course. A 12 acre portion of the park down river was set aside as San Felipe de Austin State historic site. In 2008 the Historic Site was transferred from TPWD to The Texas Historical Commission. The Stephen F. Austin Golf Course was sold to a private group and is now The Stephen F. Austin Golf Club.

The members of the Lost Pines Golf Association should be given more time to acquire grants, funds and in-kind service from Local, State and Federal entities.

As is noted in the county records a large portion of acreage was deeded to the state in 1966 for the expansion of the park and for the additional 9 holes.

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Open a 9 hole golf course.

I will offer more than just verbal advice. Also willing to "roll up sleeves," and help make it happen.

I have summarized my comments below:

Priorities:

- 1. Restoration of native landscaping/habitat, removal/control of invasive species
- 2. Minimal mowing of native grasses
- 3. Keep paved surfaces to a minimum, consider mowing some trails that may change seasonally
- 4. More details needed on habitat restoration, species, soil prep, costs, timelines
- 5. Possible live displays of Houston Toad, Horned toad, partner with appropriate organizations

6. Public education to stress importance of habitat and species preservation and on historical significance and CCC

7. Importance of public input, interactive opportunities in all phases of planning and implementation

I appreciate having the opportunity to give my input and appreciate any future opportunities to participate in the planning and implementation of Bastrop State Park.

I am at the park about 4-8 times each month, either on my own or with my grandchildren hiking and camping. I want to do whatever I can to help preserve this beautiful park and natural ecosystem so that my grandchildren will be able to enjoy it in the future.

What do you think about a butterfly garden stocked with Bastrop, Texas native plants? I spent some time working with the Ladybird Johnson milkweed project (Monarch and Queen butterfly host plants). Since then, I've been compiling a list of local natives to support butterflies and native bees.

I've already started two native milkweeds for my own landscape from seed, and expect a third in the mail any day. Along with this, I'm collecting native nectar plants to feed migrating butterflies.

This would be partly volunteer, so it should not impact your budget. Perhaps Master Gardener and Master Naturalist would be interested in participating?

Thank you for providing the presentation and graphics handouts. I love all the components, the considerations to history, and the incorporation of the Bastrop parks master plan.

My only negative comment is that the only access is through the main gate. There are residents of the apartments along 150 and Tahitian that use the park for walking and day use. 150 isn't a great road to walk down to get all the way to the main entrance. Is the proposed screening and lack of connection to 150 an intentional barrier to discourage the park for local day/evening use by neighborhood residents? This forces them to drive into the park rather than walk into the park.

Thanks for everything the park does!

First of all let me thank you for all your hard work in getting this plan together. I really appreciate the effort you put into this design. I feel it is a good, forward thinking plan that allows for a great diversity of use. It would be a shame to restrict the former golf course 137 acres to exclusive use by a few people for a single purpose. As a plant person (NPSOT and Lost Pines Master Naturalist) I look forward to helping ya'll establish the designated green areas.

Thank you so much. My husband and I really like the plans.

When I walked the golf course path about a month ago it was very warm since there is so little shade. I would recommend plating more trees along the path or it won't be used.

I am a little concerned about developed space for the nature center and play areas. I just would like to see more land left as natural. Would the other playground be left there? It seems like a lot of play area in 1 park.

I had heard that Houston toads had been heard calling at the pond. I didn't see anything in the proposal that addressed this or ways to improve the habitat around the pond for them.

Overall, good plan and very sensitive to a lot of varying interests and needs.

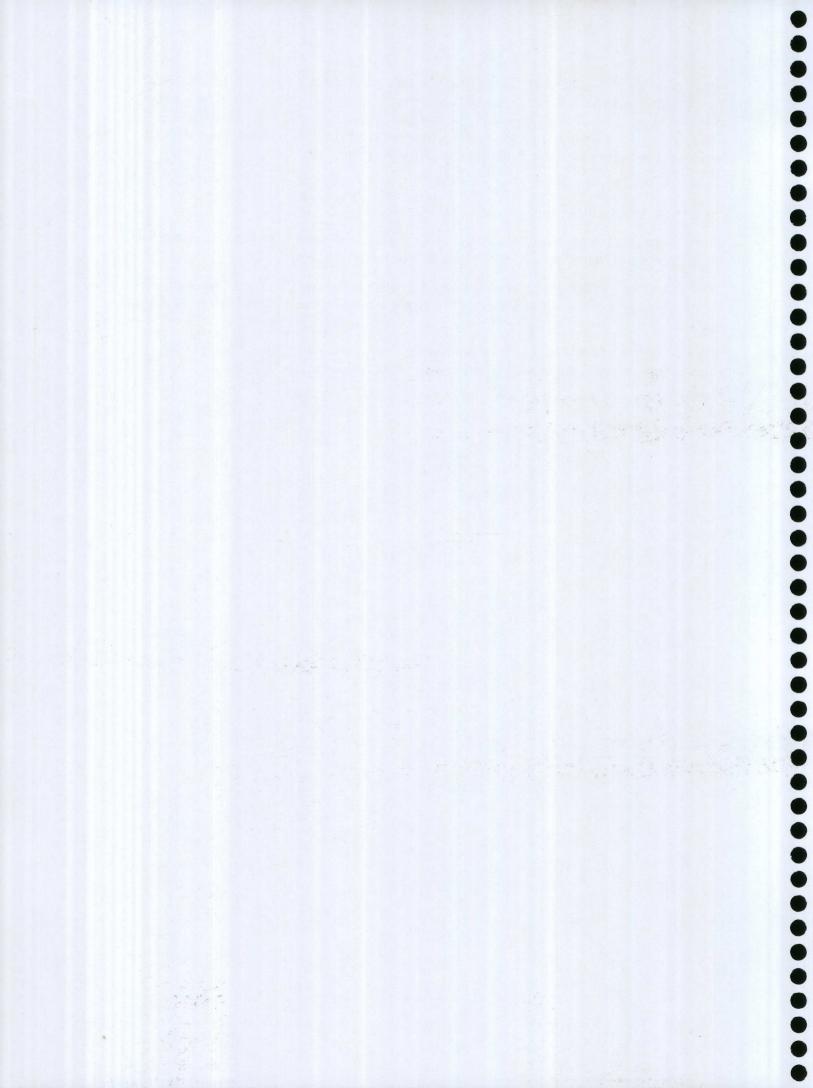
Thank you - good job!

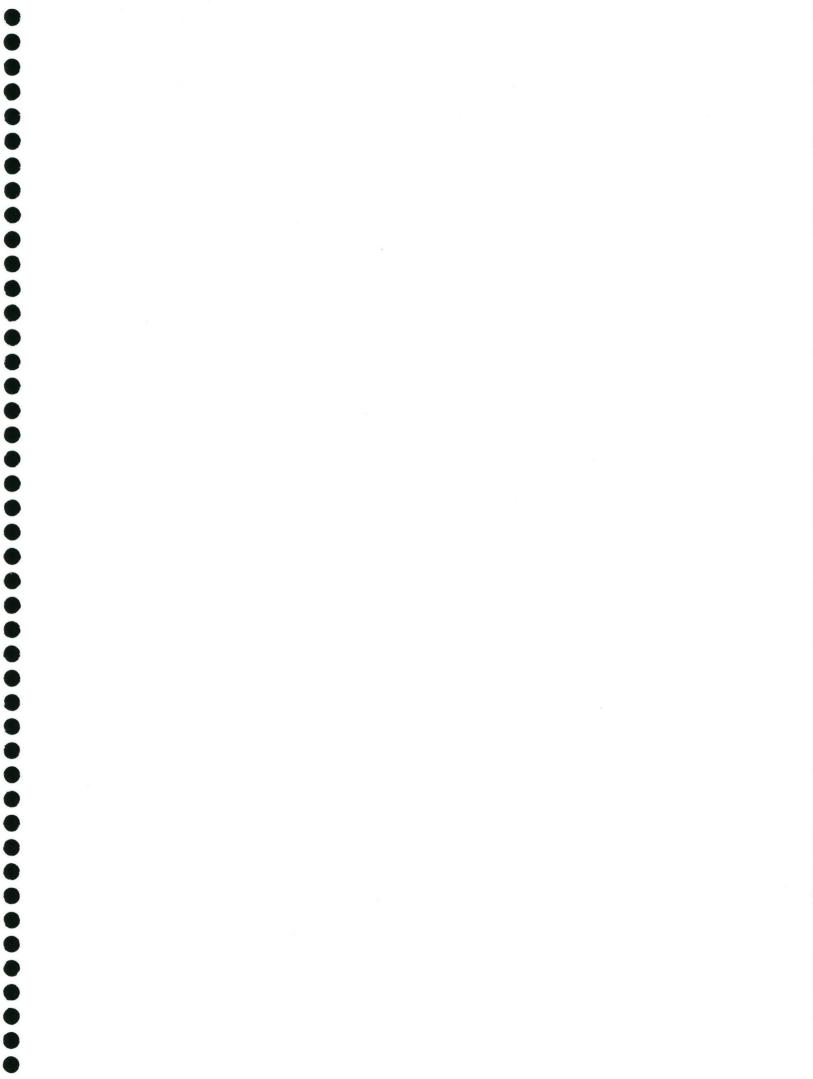
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