

# Brackenridge Park Master Plan

## First Draft

April 26, 2016



City of San Antonio  
Transportation & Capital  
Improvements



PARKS & RECREATION  
SAN ANTONIO

# Brackenridge Park Master Plan First Draft



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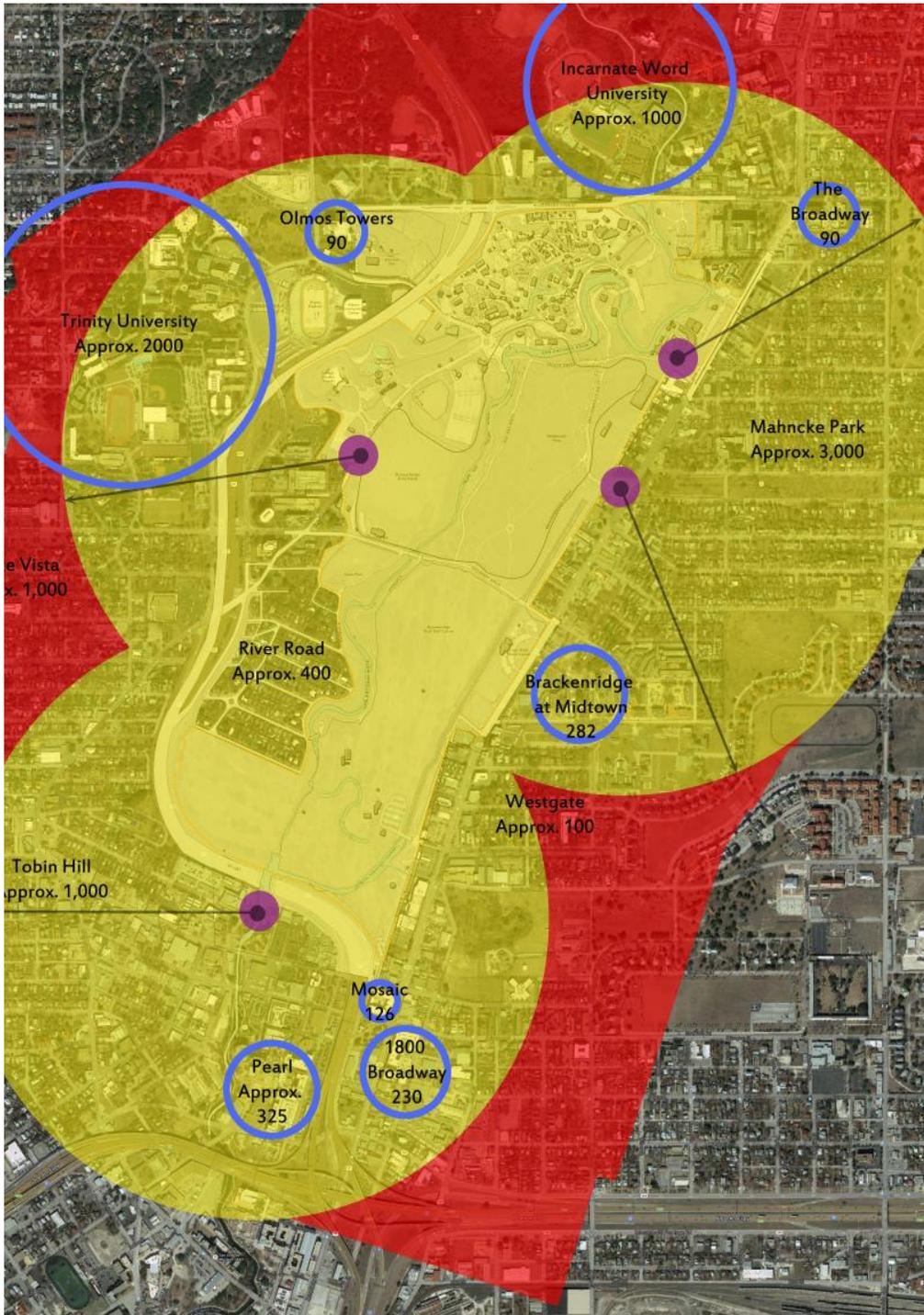
What are the major issues?



**The park is perceived as a collection of parts rather than as a whole**

Goal: Integrate the park into its surroundings and clarify the park perimeter

Strategy: Develop a common hardscape and landscape theme/design for edges of all portions of the park (fee and non-fee)



## **Pedestrian connections to surrounding neighborhoods, traffic arteries, and other areas are weak**

Goal: Integrate the park into its surroundings and clarify the park perimeter

Strategy: Create a better pedestrian environment between neighborhoods and the park and improve crossings at major streets



## **Traffic and parking dominate the natural landscape**

Goal: Strengthen the historic north-south organization of the park along the river by creating a series of pedestrian-focused spaces along the river

Strategy: Rethink the parking and traffic strategy by eliminating portions of interior roads and pushing parking to the perimeter; rededicate land to public space



## **Lack of parking and constricted roadway access for major attractions and events is a growing issue**

Goal: Reduce traffic and parking impacts on the park

Strategy:

- Add parking structures to the park perimeter through public/private joint ventures
- Employ reinforced turf for overflow parking conditions
- Consider land acquisition



Natural habitat in the park is diminished by man-made elements, or by invasive plants and animals

Goal: Restore the character of natural areas

Strategy:

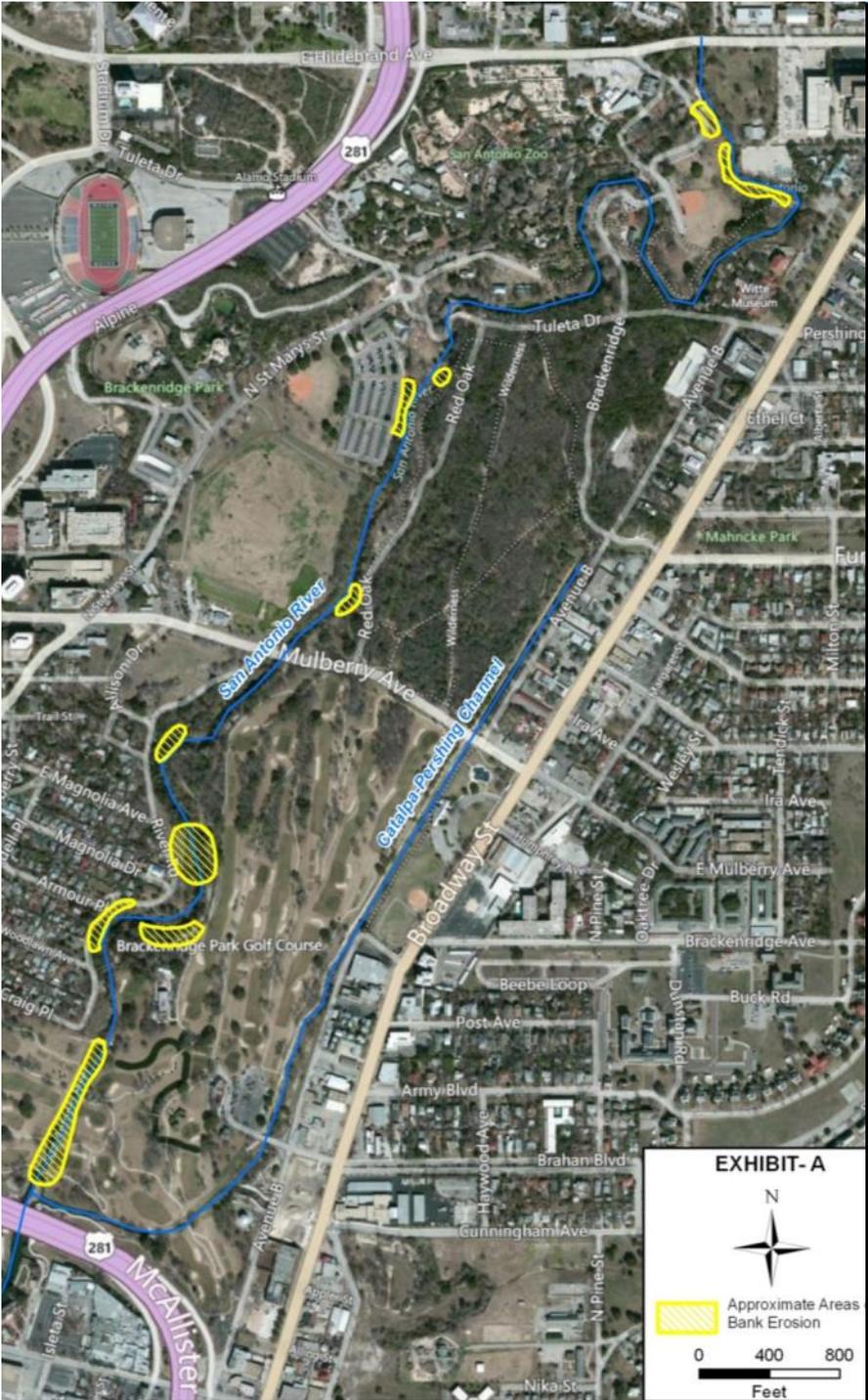
- Use modern drainage design techniques to naturalize the aesthetic of flood control
- Incorporate pedestrian access to bank edges

Bank erosion along the river and water quality are significant issues

Goal: Restore the character of natural areas

Strategy:

- Strive to improve water quality to a level that would support human contact.
- Stabilize river banks using current engineering technology to naturalize those environments at the same time





Only a third of the park is available for unscheduled free use

Goal: Balance active, passive, and cultural uses of the park

Strategy:

- Over time repurpose large portions of the park from single-user activity to multi-activity focused space
- Where possible blur the lines between fee and non-fee use areas
- Reclaim surface parking lots for green space



Maintenance, operations,  
and programming of park  
assets is difficult and  
expensive

Goal: Create community support for  
the well-being of the park

Strategy:

- Through a private entity, develop mechanisms to fund on-going O&M outside of, or in addition to, the COSA general fund

## Section 2

# Physical Plan

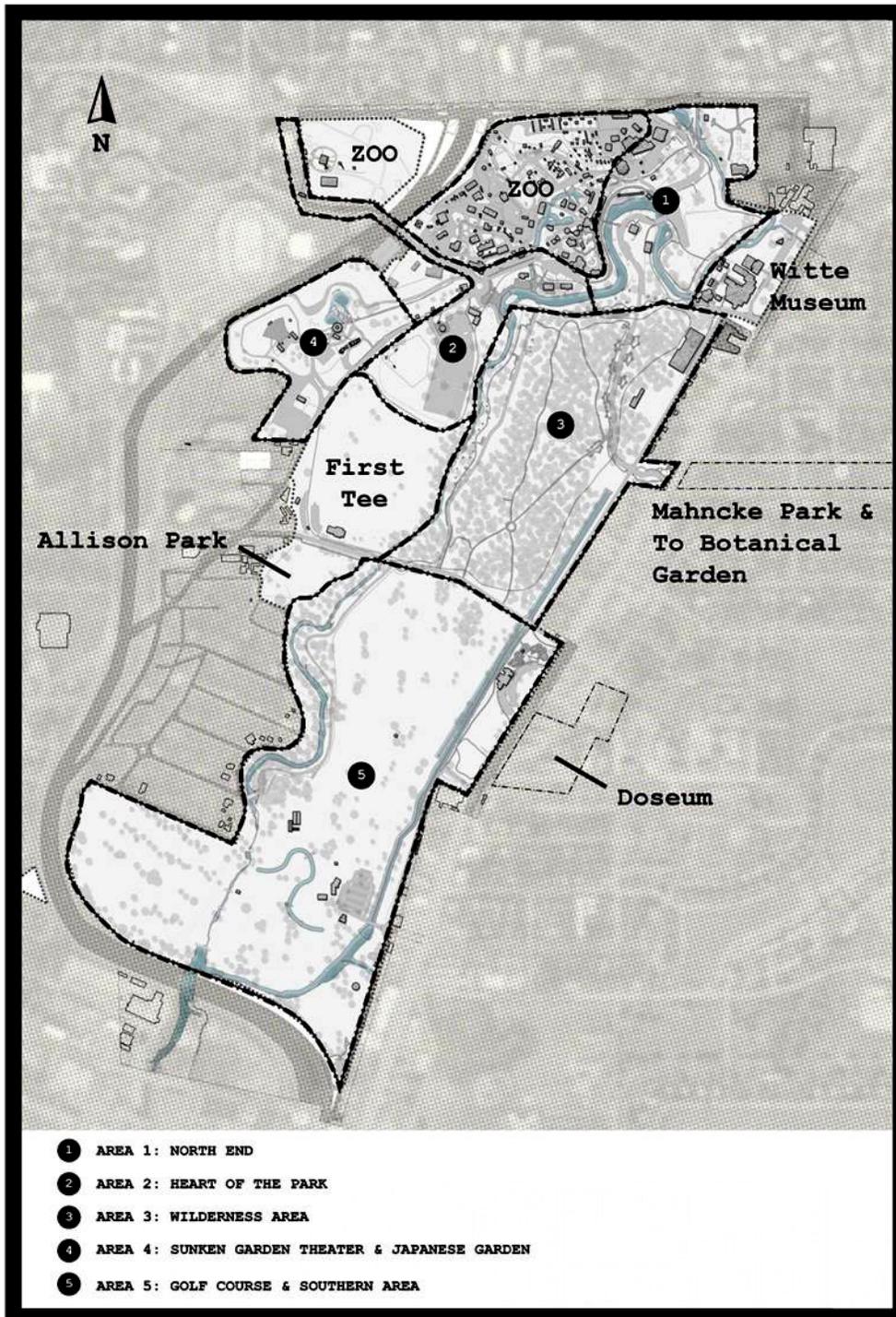
Area #1 – North End History and Walking Area

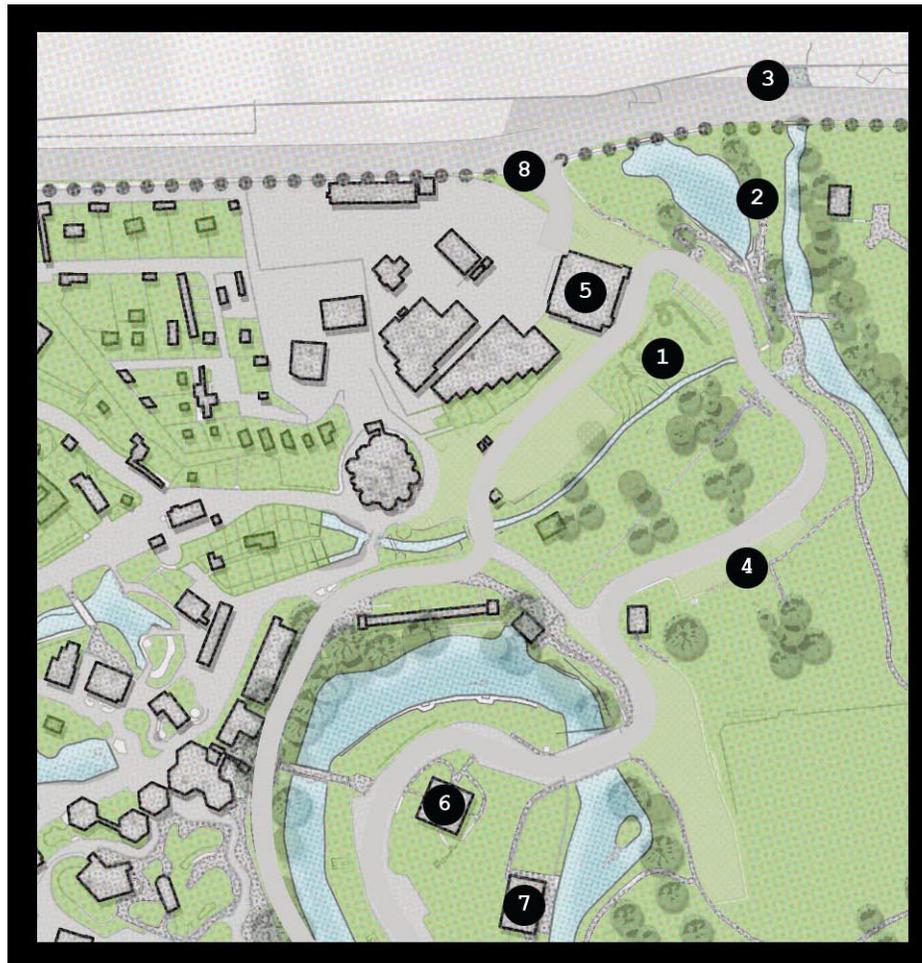
Area #2 – Heart of the Park

Area #3 – Wilderness Area

Area #4 – Sunken Garden Theater/Japanese Tea Garden

Area #5 – Golf Course and Southern Areas



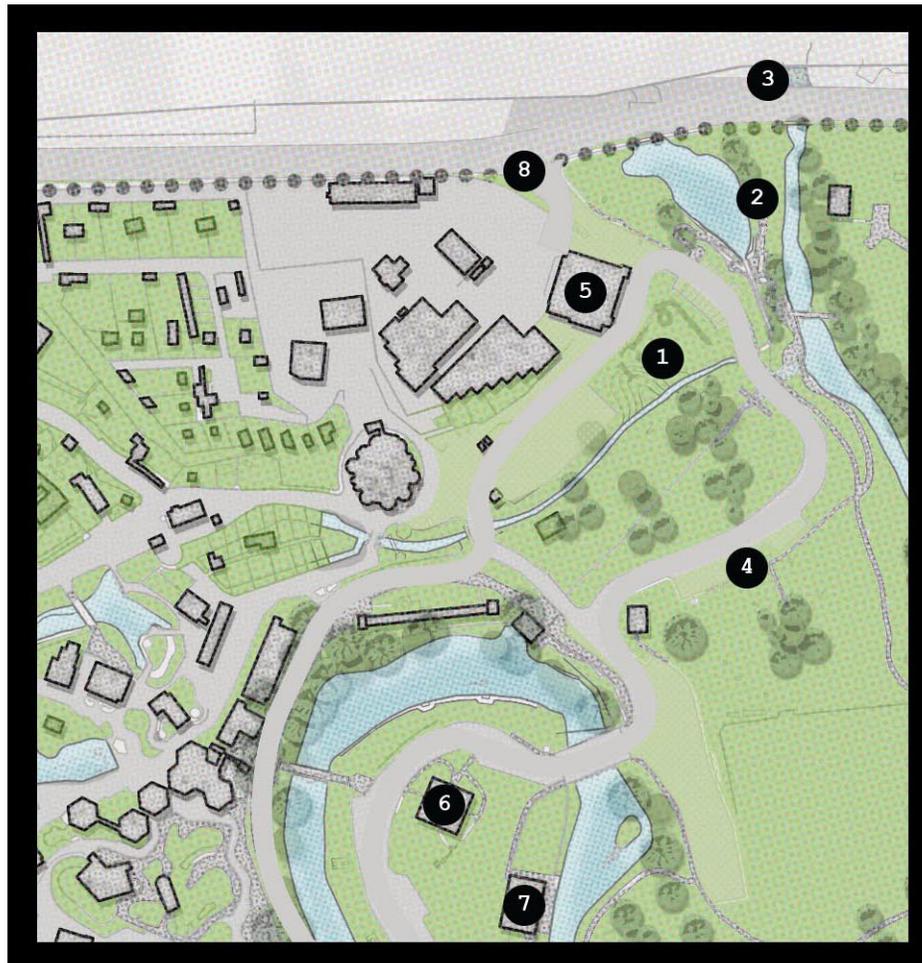


## Area #1 – North End History and Walking Area

### **General Improvements:**

- Remove traffic (asphalt) from the area
- Close Hildebrand Entrance except for Zoo service
- Create multi-use paths to allow walkers, leisure bikers, and a motorized people mover

- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1 Amphitheater        | 5 Donkey Barn    |
| 2 Upper Labor         | 6 BPC Office     |
| 3 Path to 'Blue Hole' | 7 Joske Pavilion |
| 4 Multi-use trail     | 8 Service Drive  |



- |                       |                  |
|-----------------------|------------------|
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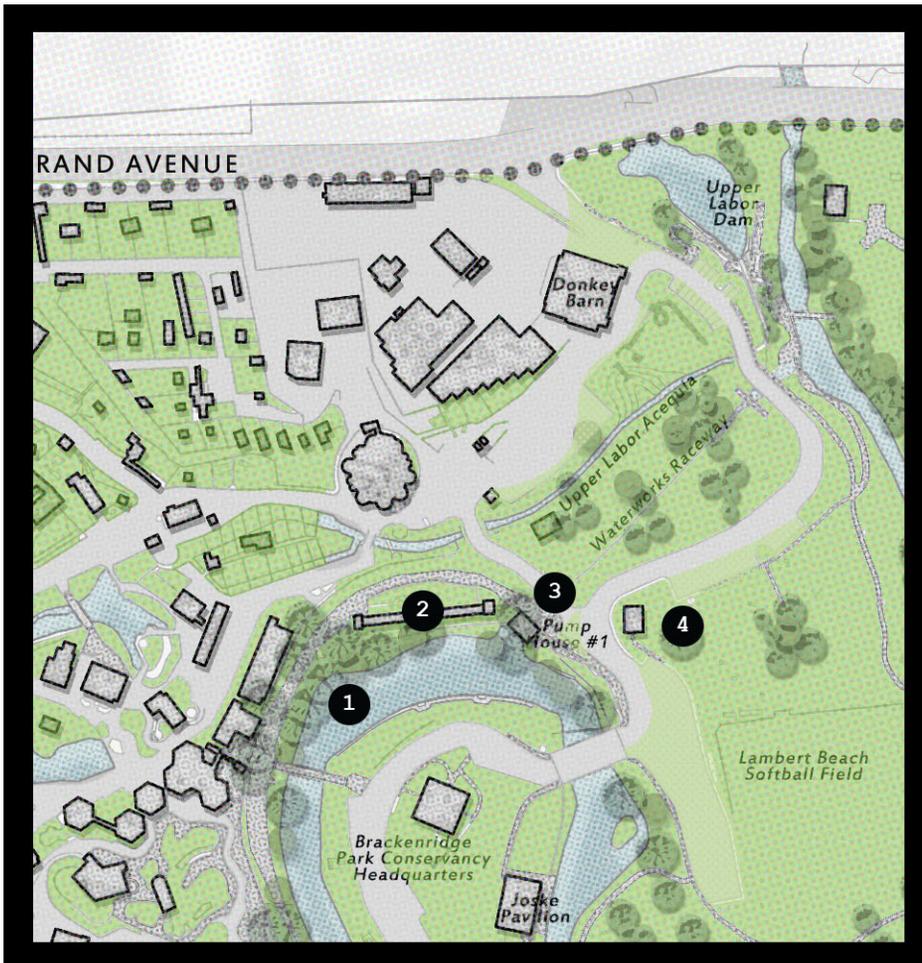
## Area #1 - North End History and Walking Area

### General Improvements:

- Create an amphitheater for educational events and incorporate Civil War era sluice recovered from previous archeological exploration
- Interpret multiple layers of history through (Upper Labor Dam, SA Waterworks features, etc.)the built environment and signage
- Extend a path north under Hildebrand to connect the park to the “Blue Hole” and the Headwaters at Incarnate Word



North End History and Walking Area



- 1 Swimming Hole
- 2 Changing Rooms
- 3 Pump House No. 1
- 4 Restrooms

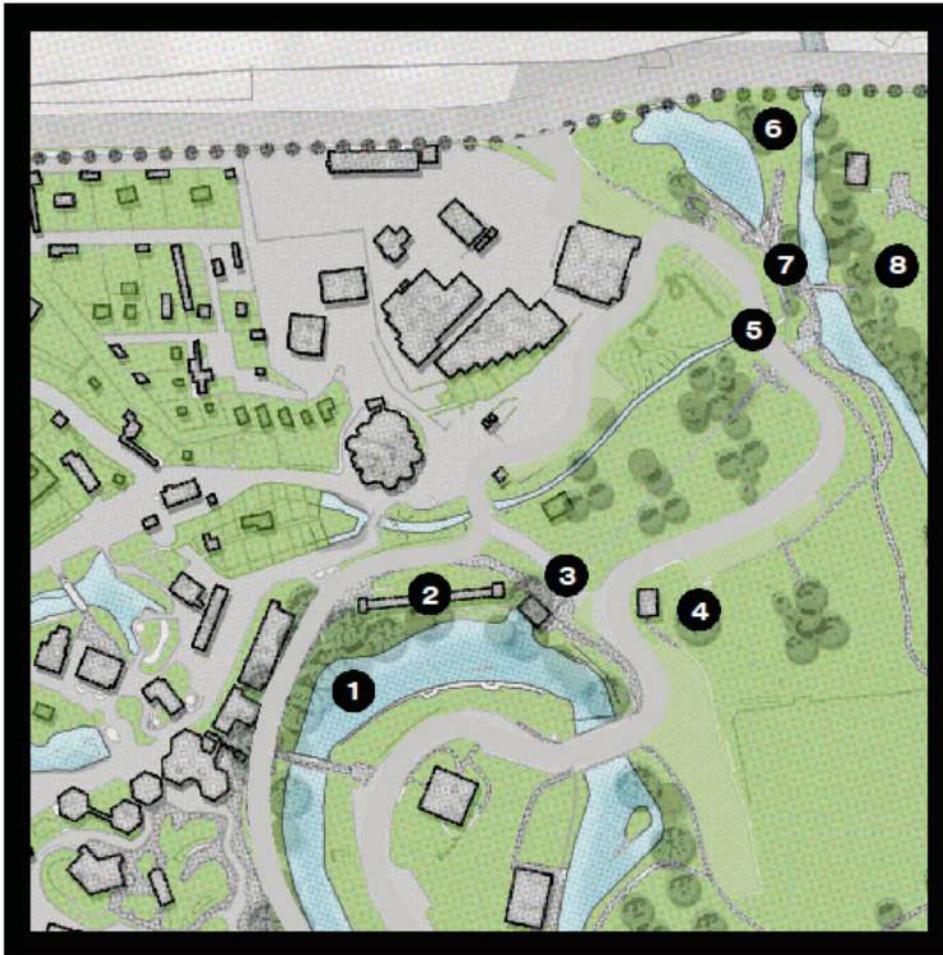
## Area #1 – North End History and Walking Area

### Lambert Beach

- Improve water quality
- Repurpose historic buildings to support park user needs
- Remove earth road bridge from pump house face and replace with pedestrian bridge that was original to the park
- Introduce water activities allowable as water quality improves (paddle boats, etc.)



Lambert Beach Back to Historic Use

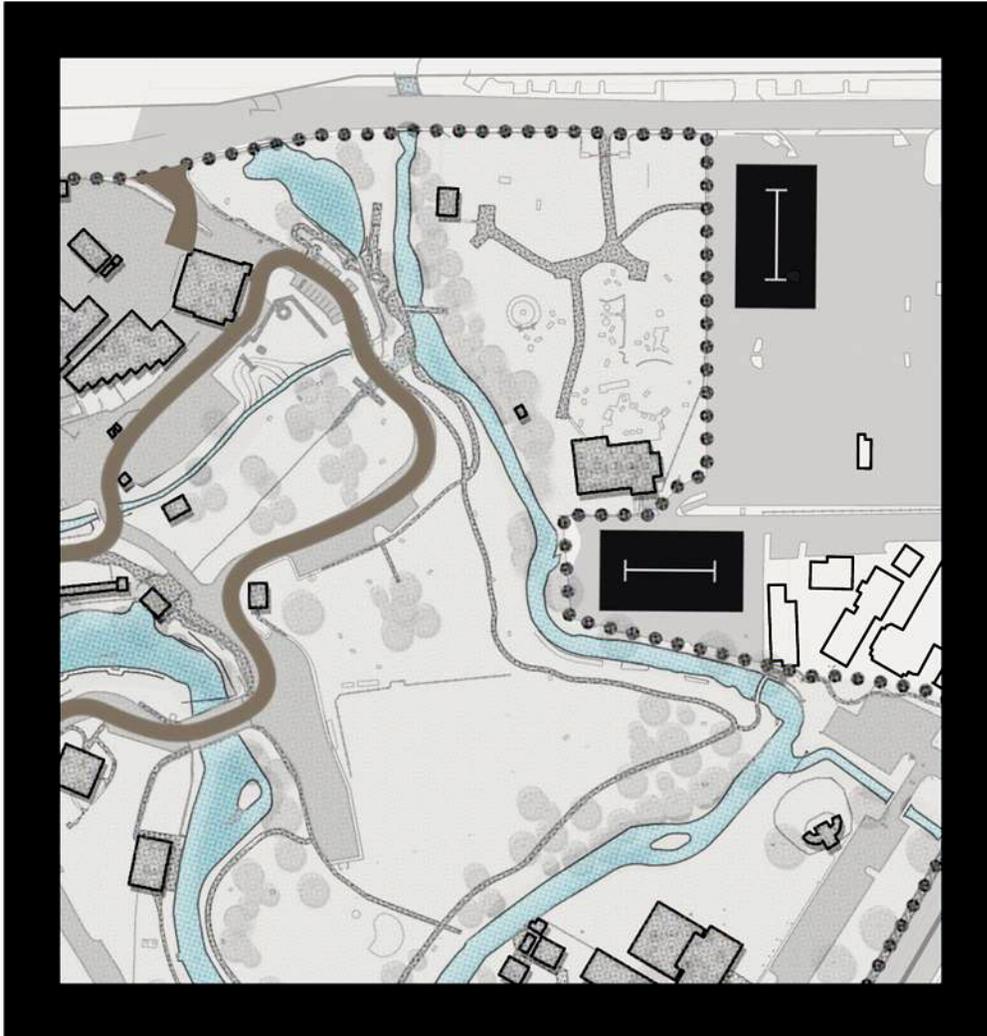


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|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 Swimming Hole    | 5 Rodriguez Bridge                 |
| 2 Changing Rooms   | 6 Upper Labor Interpretive Feature |
| 3 Pump House No. 1 | 7 Bridge to Miraflores             |
| 4 Restrooms        | 8 Miraflores                       |

## Area #1 - North End History and Walking Area

### **Miraflores Connection**

- Honor the Master Plan already created for the Miraflores property
- Existing footbridge links Miraflores to the park

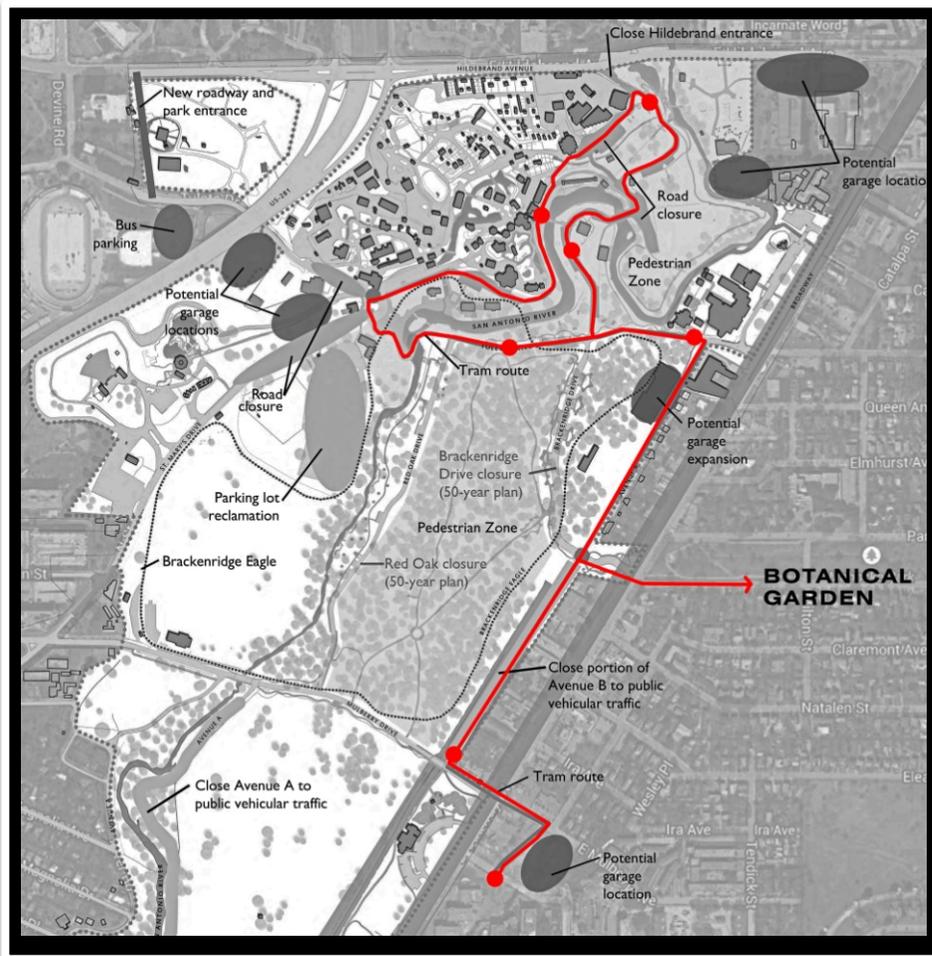


## Area #1 – North End History and Walking Area

### **Additional Parking**

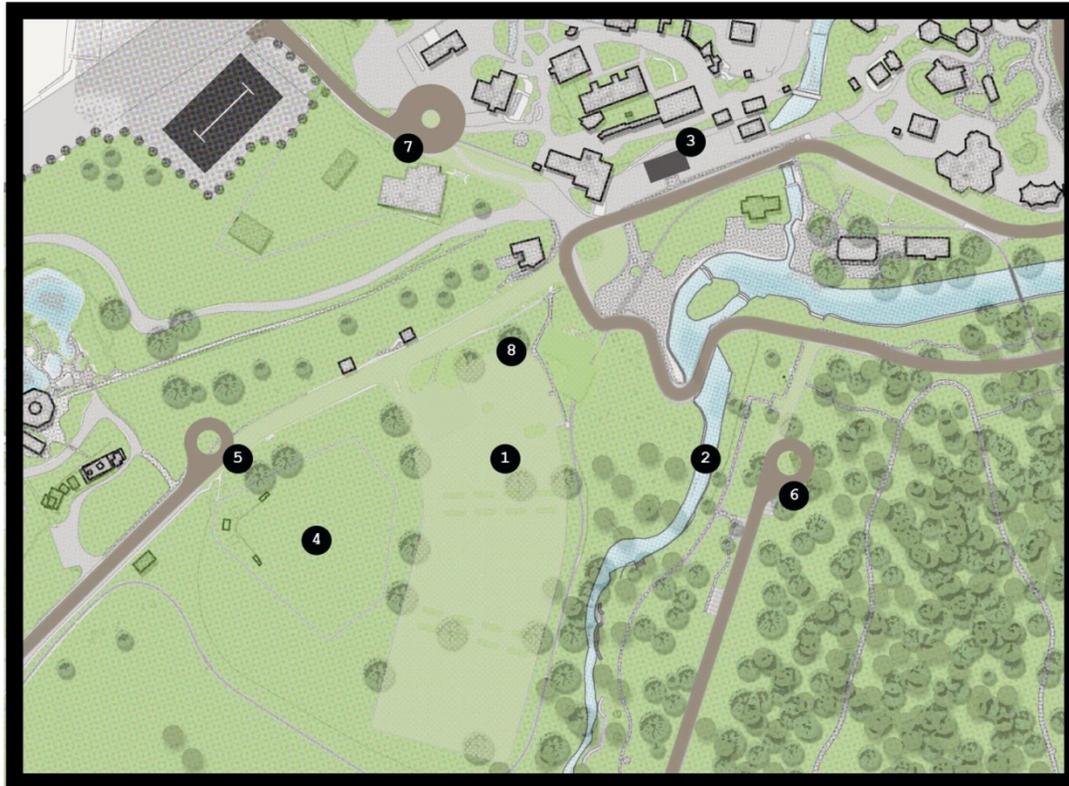
- Participate in the construction of a joint-use parking garage northeast of the park on private property. This facility could benefit the land owner, park users, and the University of the Incarnate Word
- Provide access from the parking garage to Miraflores and the park
- Create multi-use path to include circulator tram

## Area #1 – North End History and Walking Area



- Create multi-use path to include circulator tram

## Area #2 – Heart of the Park



- |   |                               |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 Grand Lawn                                | 5 St. Mary's Turnaround       |
| 2 San Antonio River                         | 6 Red Oak Turnaround (Future) |
| 3 Relocated Train Station                   | 7 Tuleta Turnaround           |
| 4 Relocate Martinez Softball Field (Future) | 8 New Playground              |

- A focused public space for major events and daily recreation that is synergistic with Sunken Garden Theater and Japanese Tea Garden
- Remove parking
- Relocate train station and concession adjacent to zoo
- Provide safe connections from the Grand Lawn to the San Antonio River
- Future consideration: relocate Martinez softball field to make a more grand space
- Develop utility infrastructure to support events



Grand Lawn Before



Grand Lawn

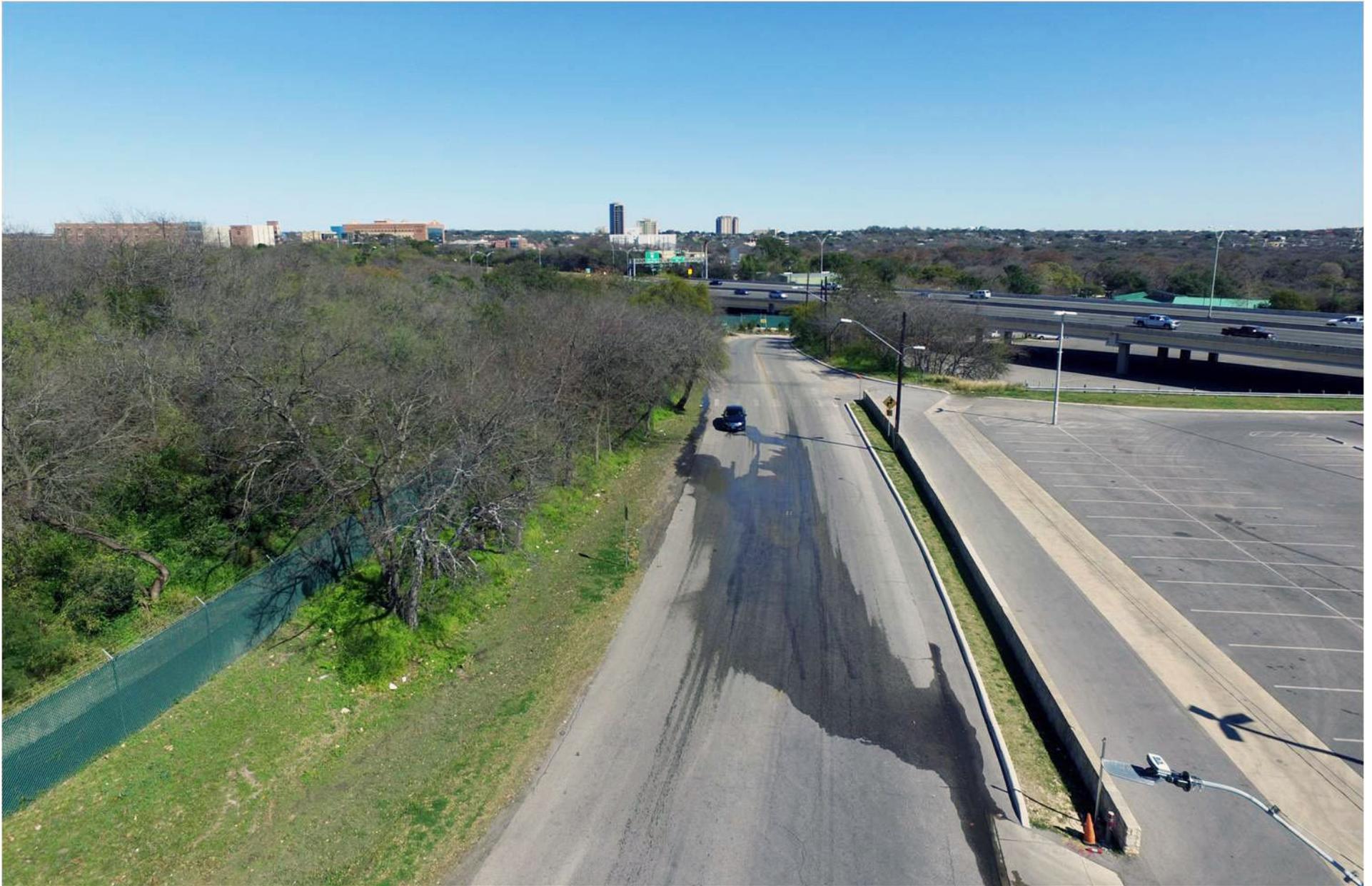
## Area #2 – Heart of the Park



- Emphasize US Highway 281/Hildebrand exits as main access to SA Zoo and Brackenridge Park
- Create a grand entrance plaza at the zoo; re-purpose Stadium Drive and the north end of Tuleta as the park and zoo entrance

1 Stadium Drive/Tuleta Park & Zoo Entrance

2 Joint-Use Parking Garage



Stadium Drive/Tuleta Entrance - Before



Stadium Drive/Tuleta Entrance

## Area #2 – Heart of the Park



1 Stadium Drive/Tuleta Park & Zoo Entrance

2 Joint-Use Parking Garage

- Close Tuleta just past the Paul Jolly Center for Pet Adoption
- Create a bus drop off and turn around for the zoo
- Negotiate a joint use agreement with SAISD for the use of surface parking lot for bus staging (Zoo, Witte, and DoSeum)
- Close St. Mary's Street just north of the "Mexican Village" below the Japanese Tea Garden



- 1 Restored San Antonio River
- 2 Restored Catalpa-Pershing channel
- 3 Remove invasive plant species, plant natives
- 4 Convert roads to paths

## Area #3 – Wilderness Area

### **San Antonio River and Catalpa Pershing Channel**

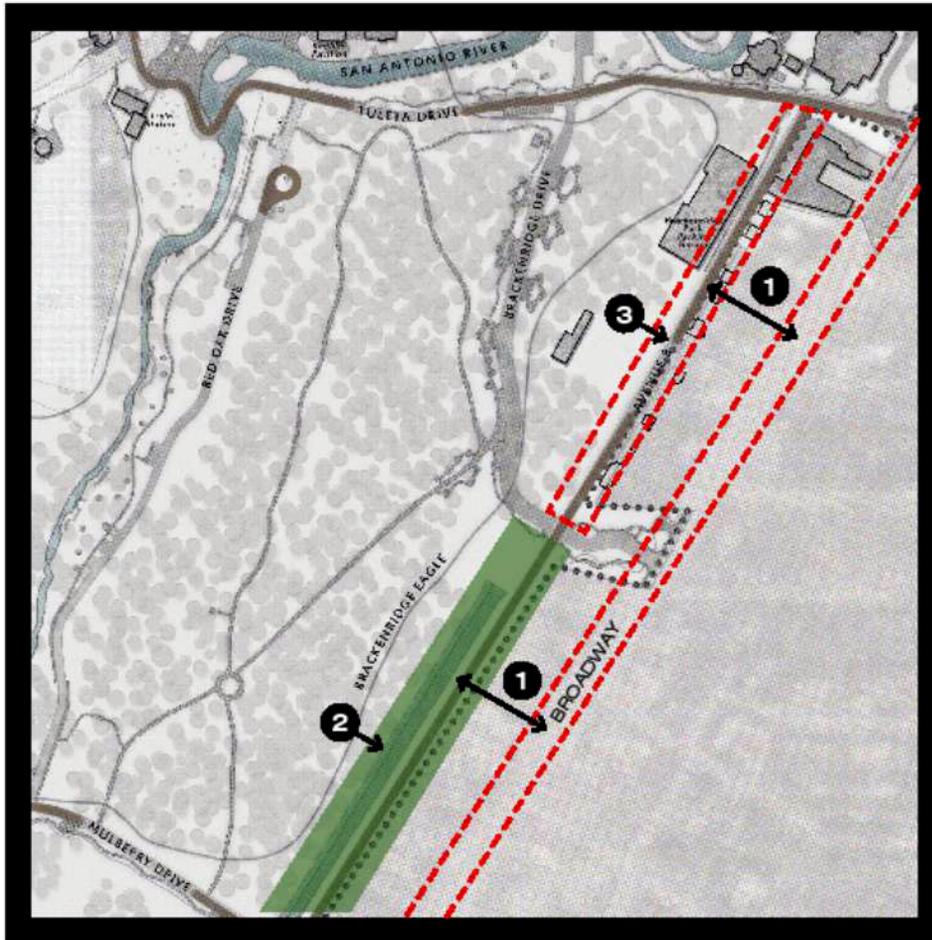
- Restore the San Antonio River channel
- Restore the Catalpa-Pershing Channel to a more natural state
- Manage invasive species
- Continue to convert roadways to multi-use paths



Catalpa-Pershing Channel - Before



Catalpa-Pershing Channel



- 1** Connect to Broadway
- 2** One-way Avenue B. with trail
- 3** Two-way Avenue B. with trail

## Area #3 – Wilderness Area

### **Broadway Connections and Avenue B**

- Create at least two corridor connections between Broadway and the Catalpa-Pershing Channel (via land acquisition)
- In those corridors develop generous walkways, public art, lighting, and appropriate planting
- Develop Avenue B as a one-way northbound park road allowing access for existing driveways.
- Create a meandering multi-use trail between the road and the Catalpa-Pershing Channel



Avenue B-Mulberry to Brackenridge - Before



Avenue B – Mulberry to Brackenridge



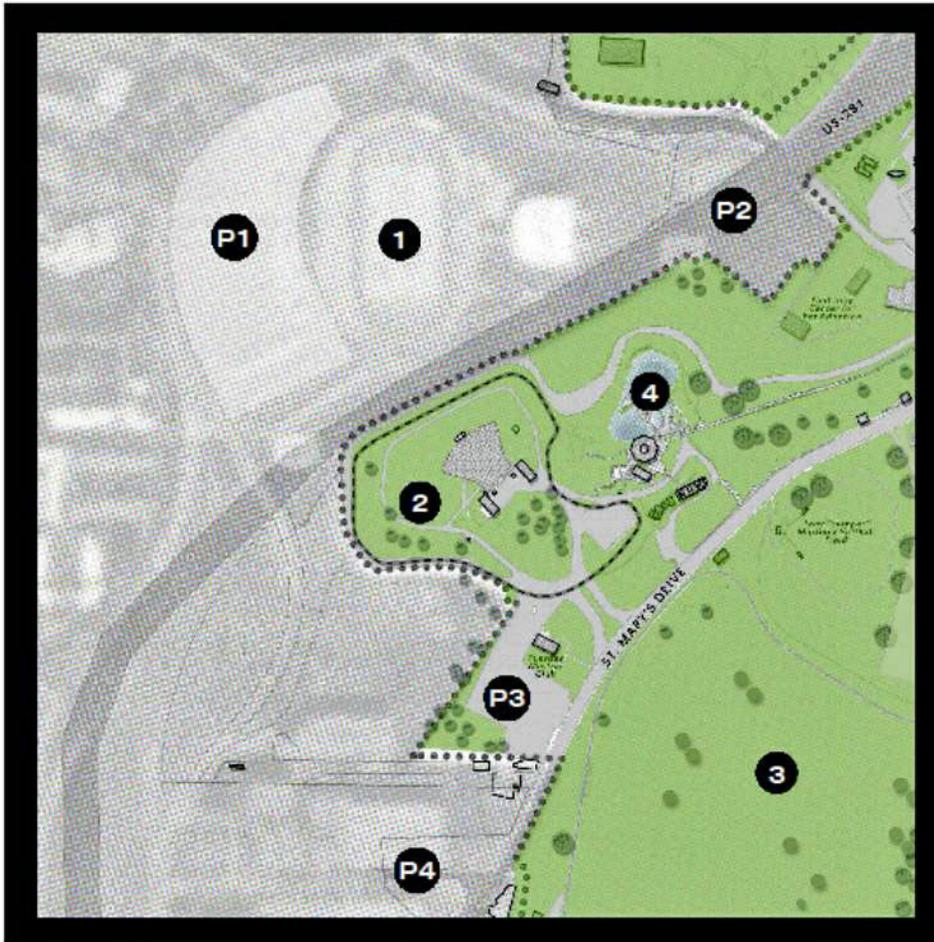
- 1** Alamo Stadium
- 2** Sunken Garden Theater
- 3** Great Lawn

## Area #4 – Sunken Garden Theater and Japanese Tea Garden

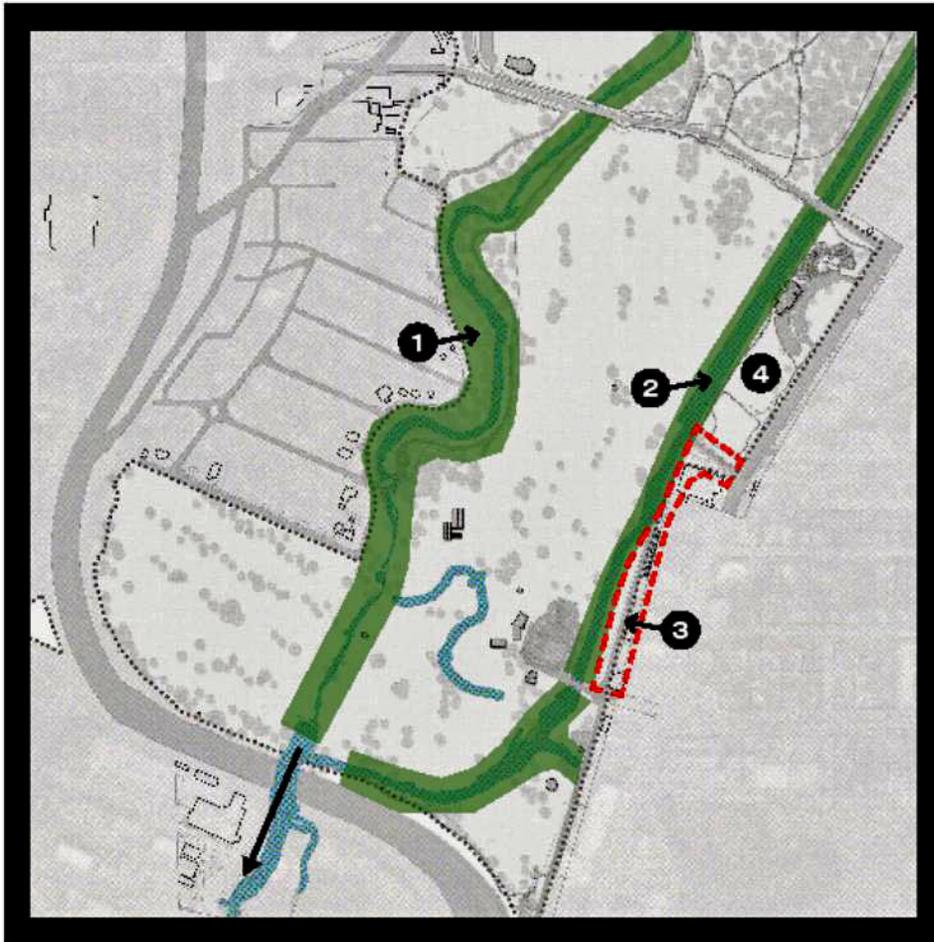
- Identify an organization to sponsor the renovation of Sunken Garden Theater
- Implement a full renovation of the theater
- Develop a year-round event calendar for the theater
- Partner with other entities to resolve traffic and parking issues

## Area #4 – Sunken Garden Theater and Japanese Tea Garden

- Almost 1,800 parking spaces available within walking distance.



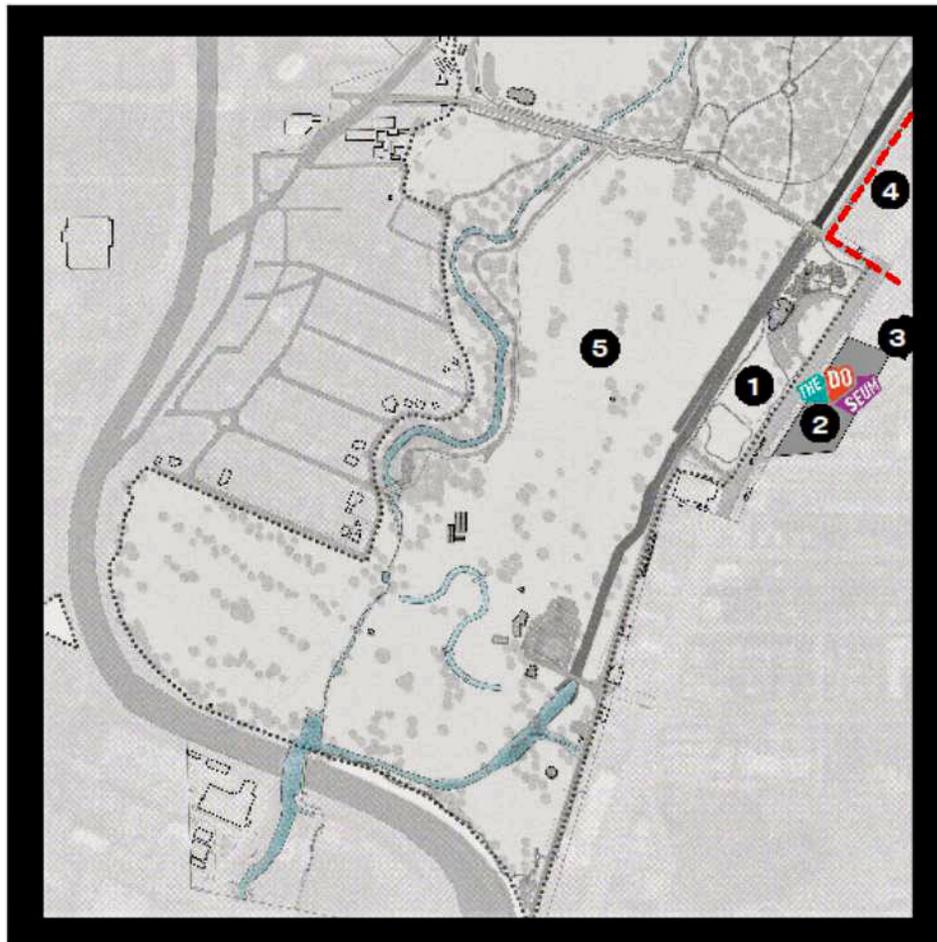
- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| <b>1</b> Alamo Stadium         | <b>P1</b> SAISD Surface Lot - 350 Cars       |
| <b>2</b> Sunken Garden Theater | <b>P2</b> New Structured Parking - 600 Cars  |
| <b>3</b> Great Lawn            | <b>P3</b> VIP/Paid Surface Lot - 215 Cars    |
| <b>4</b> Japanese Tea Garden   | <b>P4</b> SAWS Structured Parking - 633 Cars |
- Total Available Parking = 1798 Cars



- 1 SA River Channel Improvements
- 2 Catalpa-Pershing Channel Improvements
- 3 Avenue B Improvements
- 4 Lion's Field Park

## Area #5 – Brackenridge Park Golf Course and Southern Areas

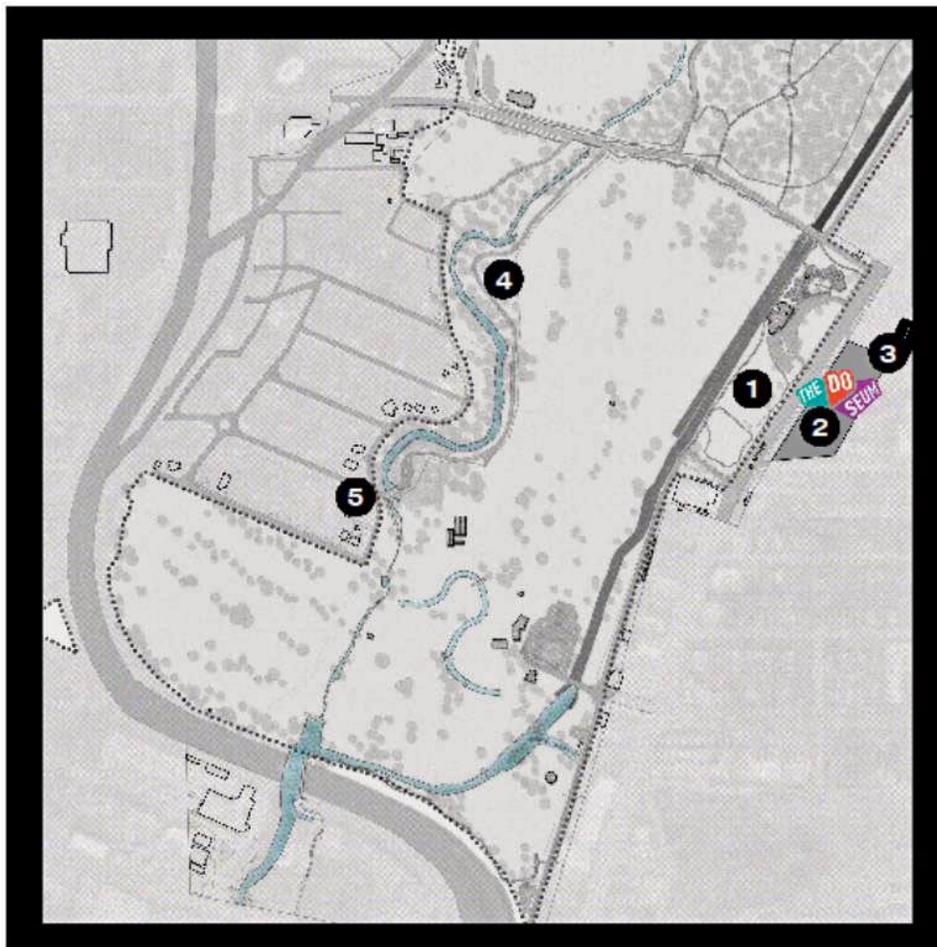
- No major changes to the golf course are proposed in this plan, except the continued improvement to perimeter fencing in keeping with recent SARIP installations
- SA River channel restoration
- Catalpa-Pershing Channel restoration (include Lion's Field connection/access)
- Continue improvement to Avenue B
- All multi-use paths should connect south to the Museum Reach SARIP



- 1 Lyon's Field Park
- 2 The Doseum
- 3 Potential Parking Garage
- 4 Tram route to park
- 5 Golfcourse

## Area #5 – Brackenridge Park Golf Course and Southern Areas

- DoSeum has enlarged the perceived boundaries of the park district
- Connect the DoSeum to the park by including it on the route of the people mover
- Support the development of a parking garage that would be sited partly on DoSeum property and partly in the right-of-way of Margaret Street
- Include the DoSeum and Botanical Garden in the joint bus staging plan with SAISD



- 1 Lyon's Field Park
- 2 The Doseum
- 3 Potential Parking Garage
- 4 Avenue A
- 5 Low Water Crossing

## Area #5 – Brackenridge Park Golf Course and Southern Areas

- Convert Avenue A to multi-use path with limited golf course service access
- Existing low water crossing upgraded to allow pedestrian access from River Road neighborhood to park

