



Draft Guiding Principles

Standards that all future projects must strive to achieve



Respect for People and Nature

- Projects should promote inclusivity and should not privilege users based on class, race, cultural tradition, age, income, physical ability, or other factors.
- Projects should promote free use of the park, and where possible, should open access to areas of the park which are currently restricted.
- Projects should protect or enhance natural resources and habitat and should integrate nature into the recreational experience to further people's connection to ecological systems.
- Projects should be implemented for long-term sustainability including a plan for and funding of maintenance, operations, and programming.



Respect for History and Culture

- Projects should honor and interpret cultural history including comprehensive traditions of use.
- Where existing physical history can be preserved, it should be. Where that is not possible or nothing remains to be preserved, interpretation (through a variety of means) should be incorporated.
- Projects should take the entire history of the area which is now Brackenridge Park into consideration, including indigenous use, Spanish colonial development, the land uses precedent to establishment of the park, and the history of the park itself. Further, projects should educate the public about that full history and should include all periods of interpretation.



Respect for Compromise

- If a project has internal conflict between principles but is still deemed worthy of implementation by the evaluation process, divergent principles should be respected through a balanced approach; **no principle may be ignored.**





Draft Project Evaluation Criteria

Considerations for project prioritization



River

- Does the project mitigate flooding of homes and structures surrounding the park?
- Does the project respect the comprehensive historic and ecological character of the river?
- Does the project increase access to the river where appropriate?
- Does the project preserve, improve, or contribute positively to the river ecology?
- Does the project preserve / improve river recreation?
- Does the proposed recreational use appropriately integrate with the river's natural ecology?
- Does the project allow safe access to the river for spiritual and diverse interests?





Draft Project Evaluation Criteria

Considerations for project prioritization



Land

- Does the project protect, restore, or enhance natural ecosystems in the park?
- Does the project incorporate non-invasive native and climate-adapted plant materials?
- Does the project prioritize natural ecology while also incorporating nature-focused recreational access, where appropriate?
- Does the project incorporate nature-based solutions and maximize the benefits of nature for public health, habitat, and environmental sustainability?
- Does the project preserve park open space?
- Does the project preserve or increase the amount of natural area within the park as a whole?
- Does the project interpret and educate people about natural systems including their ecological, spiritual, historic, and climate-conscious value?
- If a project negatively impacts natural habitat, does it fully mitigate this loss by improving or restoring habitat elsewhere in the park?





Draft Project Evaluation Criteria

Considerations for project prioritization



Cultural Resources (Archaeology & Architecture)

- Does the project balance ecological or natural resources with built resources?
- Does the project educate the public about and include interpretation of the park's full history and culture?
- Does the project enhance the interpretation of the water story of the park? Does it enhance the ecological and cultural story of the park?
- Does the project reinforce the unique and distinctive character areas of the park?
- Does the project utilize historic structures in order to increase their utility or useful life?
- Does the project increase or result in space that is accessible for public use?





Draft Project Evaluation Criteria

Considerations for project prioritization



Circulation / Connections

- Does the project improve parking availability while not impacting existing open space or increasing impervious cover?
- Does the project incorporate universal design and accessible principles?
- Does the project resolve pedestrian/bicyclist/traffic conflicts?
- Does the project enhance pedestrian and bicycle connectivity between major transportation modes (bus, vehicular) and destinations?
- Does the project connect circulation and parking outside the park to amenities in the park?
- Does the project enhance park wayfinding and navigation?
- Does the project include design features that improve and promote public safety while respecting nature?
- Does the project balance wildlife and human corridors?
- Does the project include traffic mitigation features within and adjacent to the park?

