TEXAS STATE PARKS

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TEXAS STATE PARKS

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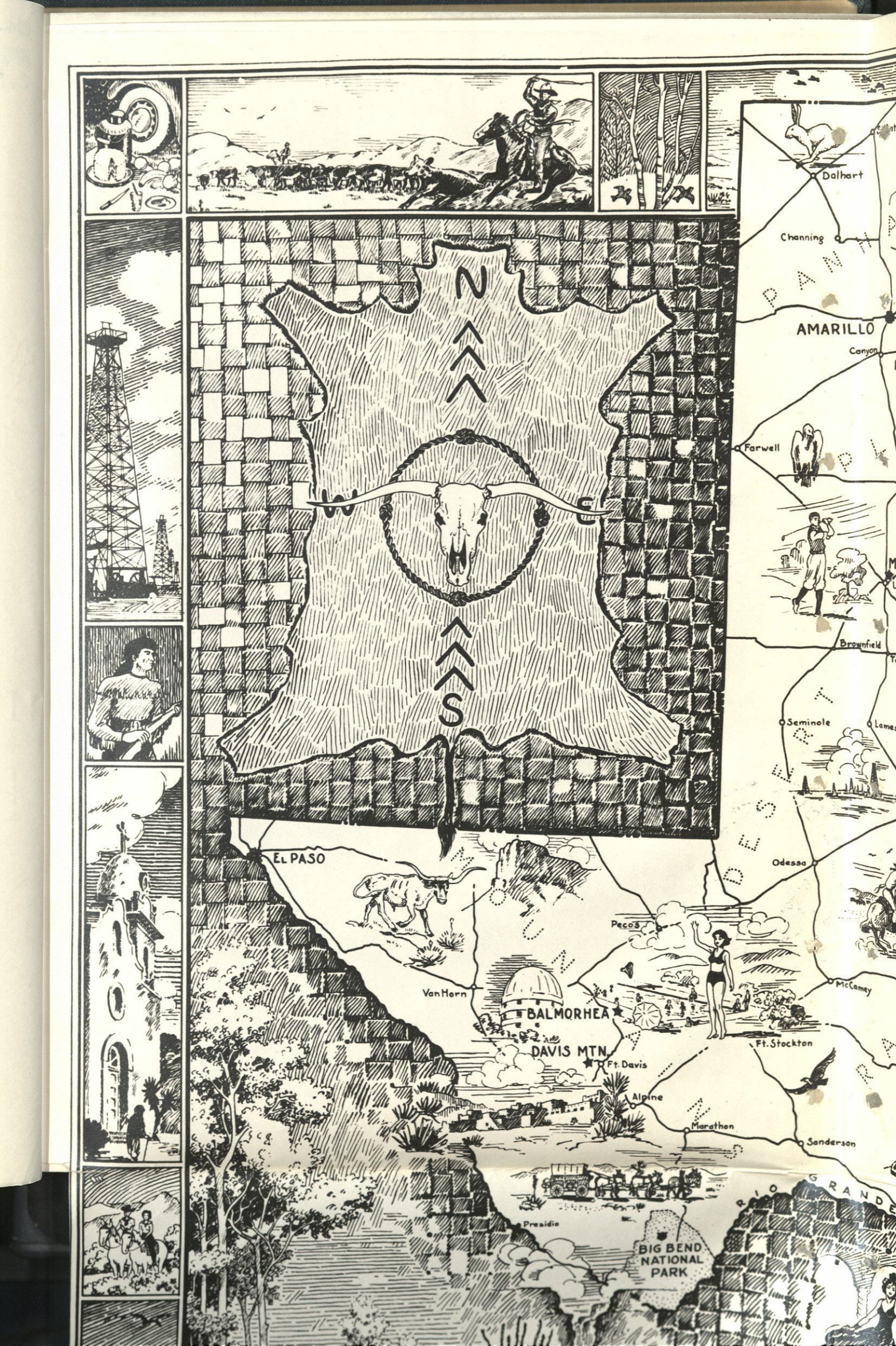
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CHAPTER I

TEXAS STATE PARKS

Evolution of the State Parks System

Texas is a comparatively young state and, as such, has not developed a well-rounded recreational and park program. The state as a whole is not thickly populated, and crowded urban areas in the past have been few. The recreational needs of the citizenry of such a large and rural state are not so great as those of the smaller and more highly industrialized states.

Texas has always had a frontier to offer to those Texans who desired an escape from the city life. When a town became too large, one could always move further on into a less populated area and escape the noise and restrictions of urban life. Under these conditions it is understandable that those who had a part in the organization of the state gave no thought to the establishing of state recreational areas.

There has been a rapid trend toward the urbanization of the population of Texas throughout the history of the State. In 1870, first census after the Civil War, only 6.7 per cent of the Texas population was urban. By the end of the century, it had grown to 17.1 per cent. It was 32.4 per cent in 1920, 41 per cent in 1930 and 45.4

per cent in 1940.[1]

It is estimated that more than half a million people shifted from rural to the urban scene in Texas during the five-year period, 1940-1944. At the end of 1944, fully 52 or 53 per cent of the civilian population was urban.

The wartime shift accounts for much of this urbanization during the years 1941 to 1945; however, it is logical to assume that the shift is relatively permanent. The rapid mechanization of the Texas agricultural industry in recent years and the consequent decline in tenantry will offer resistance to a return to the farm.

A typical early Texas town was built around a square or a plaza. The city hall, the county court house, or the city fire house usually occupied the center of this square around which other buildings of the city were set. Some cities set aside additional plazas for recreational areas, but this was the exception rather than the general rule. Life was vigorous in these new towns, and thus little time was given to organized outdoor recreation. The type of outdoor sports that the early Texans engaged in did not necessitate a restricted park area. There were sufficient uninhabited areas in Texas where the sportsman could hunt and fish without intruding upon private property.

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1. Texas Almanac, Centennial Edition, 1945-1946, page 100

With the growth of cities the need for designated recreational areas and parks began to arise. City officials and civic-minded citizens began to realize that with the disappearing of the frontier and the growth of urban life it was becoming necessary for the cities to furnish a place where its populace could go for relaxation and recreation. So it was that the cities took the initiative in planning and creating a parks movement in Texas.

There was no connection between the parks in one city and those in the adjoining city. Each city instituted and carried out its parks program to the best of its own financial ability and as the necessity arose. Usually these parks were scattered through the residential districts or placed on the outskirts of the town. Most of these parks were little more than a city block equipped with picnic facilities, some playground equipment, and, in some instances, a swimming pool.

As cities began to grow and to become more densely populated, these city parks became inadequate. The urban population started a movement for places where they could spend their leisure in the open and away from the crowds. The increase in the number of automobiles and the improvement of the highways started a steady flow of migration away from the cities and into the country by those who were living in crowded areas. It was this migration and expressed desire for designated park areas to which they

might go that caused state leaders to realize that Texas was now ready for and in great need of State parks and recreational areas.

The Present Parks System

In 1922 Mrs. Isabella Neff, mother of Governor Pat M. Neff, expressed a desire to give a part of the old Neff homestead to the State for a park. However, at that time there was no one who could legally accept such a donation in the name of the State. There was no board, group, or person who had the authority to accept the land as a gift, and there was no authority or appropriation made to purchase areas of historical significance or scenic interest. This situation was corrected when in 1923 the legislature created a State Parks Board with a view to setting up a park system.[2]

From 1923 to 1933 the chief concern of the State Parks Board was the acquiring of lands by gifts as no appropriations had been made by the legislature for the purchasing of lands. Most of the parks acquired during this period were small tracts of land which owners desired to give to the State for park purposes. They were chiefly picnic grounds as there was no money with which to improve the tracts given.

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2. Appendix I, page 122

When Federal funds became available in 1933 for State park development, it was agreed that the State Parks Board should acquire more desirable park sites and the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Park Service would assist in the development of the State park system. During that period, with the aid of the Civilian Conservation Corps, the National Park Service, the National Youth Administration, the assistance of other State and Federal agencies, and the appropriation of funds for the operation of the State Parks Board, a system of thirty-six State parks was established. Thirty-four of these sites were donated to the State Parks Board. Two, Palo Duro Canyon and Longhorn Cavern, were purchased under agreement by which the purchase price was to be paid out of receipts from fees and charges.

It was the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior that in 1933 undertook the supervision of the placing of WPA, CCC, and NYA units in these park areas, and through this Service buildings were erected, roads and trails cut, trees felled, landscaping done, and furniture made for the parks. This contributed much to the developing of a true parks system and saved the State untold amounts of money.

The following chart shows the parks under the supervision of the State Parks Board, how each was obtained, and which ones were developed by the National Park Service through the Civilian Conservation Corps.

Name of Park	Date of Deed	How Acquired	How Developed
Abilene	1933	Gift	CCC
Balmorhea	1930	Gift	CCC
Bastrop-Buescher	1937	Gift	CCC
Bentsen-Rio Grande	1944	Gift	---
Big Spring	1934	Gift	CCC
Blanco	1933	Gift	CCC
Bonham	1934	Gift	CCC
Caddo Lake	1933	Gift	CCC
Cleburne	1936	Gift	CCC
Daingerfield	1935	Gift	CCC
Davis Mountains	1936	Gift	CCC
Fort Griffin	1940	Gift	---
Fort Parker	1935	Gift	CCC & TCF*
Frio	1925	Gift	CCC
Garner	1934	Gift	CCC
Goose Island	1933	Gift	CCC
Huntsville	1937	Gift	CCC
Inks Lake	1940	Gift	CCC
Jim Hogg	1940	Gift	---
Kerrville	1934	Gift	CCC
Lake Corpus Christi	1934	Gift	CCC
Lockhart	1936	Gift	CCC
Longhorn Cavern	1931	Purchased	CCC
MacKenzie	1935	Gift	CCC
Meridian	1933	Gift	CCC
Mineral Wells	1935	Gift	CCC
Mother Neff	1923	Gift	CCC
Palmetto	1934	Gift	CCC
Palo Duro Canyon	1936	Purchased	CCC
Possum Kingdom	1940	Gift	CCC
San Jose Mission	1941	Gift	---
Stephen F. Austin	1940	Gift	---
36th Division	1933	Gift	CCC
Tyler	1941	Gift	CCC
**			

* Texas Centennial Funds

** The area around Lake Texoma was not a park at the beginning of this study.

Administration of State Parks

The Texas State Parks Board, created by the signing of a bill by Governor Neff in 1923 and composed of five members, was created for the purpose of acquiring park

sites for the State. The members were appointed for six years from date of appointment; however, in the first appointment one was appointed for two years, two for four years, and two for six years. They served without compensation but were reimbursed for traveling expenses and hotel bills.

Governor Neff appointed Mr. D. E. Colp of San Antonio as chairman of this first Board. The four other members were: Mrs. Phoebe Warner of the Panhandle, Mrs. W. C. Martin of Dallas, Mrs. James Waelder of Victoria, and Mr. Hobart Key of East Texas. Mr. Key served as secretary.

Mr. Colp was reappointed after each term and served as chairman of the Board until his death in 1935. After his death it was decided that the Federal program for the development of park lands involved so much time and effort that it would be advisable to hire a full-time general manager and supervisor of the State parks on a salary basis. Accordingly, in 1936, a general manager, Mr. W. J. Lawson, was selected. Later this position became that of executive secretary, and still later that of executive secretary-director.

Mr. Frank D. Quinn was elected executive secretary-director in 1939 and served in this capacity until 1945. Chief engineer of the Board, Mr. N. H. Lee, was appointed to succeed Mr. Quinn, who had resigned to go into private

business. Mr. Lee died in 1947, and Mr. Gordon K. Shearer was appointed executive-secretary director on January 1, 1948.

The executive secretary-director is the administrative official. He is aided by a staff of professional, technical, and clerical assistants. In the field are the park keepers and maintenance supervisors.

The State Parks Board has no regularly scheduled meetings but meets at call of the chairman. The Board usually meets three or four times a year in Austin or, if necessary, in one of the parks.

The duties of the Board are to make investigations as to suitability for parks, to see what desirable lands can be acquired and under what terms, and to arrange for, or employ, a keeper in each of the State parks under the control of the State Parks Board.

The operation of the parks is supervised by a traveling staff who make regular inspections of the parks and check the park managers and concessionaires. In most cases daily reports are made by the park managers to the executive secretary-director, but some of the smaller parks are required to report only for the week.

Policies of Parks Board

The policy of the present State Parks Board in the acquisition of new parks is to consider variety and balance,[3] that is, to conserve the outstanding examples of scenic, historic, or scientific value. Nine State parks were established for the preservation of scenic, historic, or scientific value; the remaining twenty-three for recreational use. Parks of State-wide significance, rather than local or regional interest, have been given preference.

The Board proposes to expand and develop further the existing park areas, to draw up maps and plans for each park. These maps and master plans with valuable data such as location, forestry, picnic facilities, geological facts, roads, water, and general conditions of the park with suggestions for further improvement, may be found in the office of the State Parks Board, Austin, Texas. The Board also proposes to acquire additional acreage wherever needed and to add playground equipment and camping facilities when possible.

In adding structures to the parks, it is the policy of the Board to preserve the intrinsic or special qualities

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3. Fuller, L. C., Texas Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Plan Progress Report, November, 1939

of the individual parks. All designs and specified constructions must uphold this principle and, in addition, must be of a character which involves minimum maintenance cost. They should conform with the plan of nature in the park. There must be a good approach road with an attractive public entrance, and also the opposite side must be free from unattractive buildings, signs, or anything that would mar the beauty of the view from the park.

The Parks Board, in order to add to the enjoyment of the parks, plans to have all public roads short and with a dustless surface. No park is to be divided by a highway. Every park will be provided with "turn-outs" to afford special views. Walks and trails giving easy access to all points of interest will be provided. These trails will be narrow so as not to detract, yet will be made safe at all seasons.

Picnic areas are planned in each park. There is to be a ratio of one fire place to every three picnic tables maintained in the parks. All areas will be kept sanitary, and drinking water will be tested by the State Health Department at regular intervals. All fountains, rest stations, etc., are to be inconspicuous, single in design, and harmonious with their surroundings. Signs within the parks are to be simple, easily read, yet void of high colors.

Any planting that is done by the keepers is to be that of native plants.

The carrying out of these policies in all of the park areas is no small task. It calls for close supervision by the visiting staff and cooperation on the part of the park supervisors.

Accommodations

Fourteen of the State parks at the present time are equipped with cabins, furnished or unfurnished, lodges, or overnight camping grounds. The Board proposes to build overnight cabins that will be self-supporting. Camp grounds are to be provided where cabins are not practical. For the present, hotels may be found in the towns near the parks.

The chart on page 12 shows the location, acreage, and accommodations of each State park.

All parks are operated under the same general rules, and the Parks Board reserves the right to dictate the policies bo be followed in each park. Regular inspections are made of all parks to make sure the regulations are carefully observed.[4] The rules as posted in each State park are:

1. No intoxicating liquors or beverages may be brought into, sold, or consumed within State park limits.

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4. Placard published by State Parks Board

Name of Park	Facilities*	Location and Highway	Acreage
Abilene	CS	20 mi. S.W. of Abilene Hy.89	507
Balmorhea	OSC	4 mi. S.W. Balmorhea, U.S. 290	889
Bastrop-Buescher	OBGCF	1 mi. E. of Bastrop, U.S. 290	3,830
Bentsen-Rio Grande		9 mi. S.W. McAllen, Telegraph Rd.	587
Buescher	FC	1 mi. N.W. Smithville, Tex. 71	1,730
Big Spring	CD	2 mi. S. Big Spring, U.S. 87	363
Blanco	FSC	In Blanco, U.S. 281	110
Bonham	BSFOC	3½ mi. S.E. Bonham, Country Rd.	555
Caddo Lake	DOFBC	1 mi. W. Karnack, Texas 43	485
Cleburne	OFBSC	12 mi. S.W. Cleburne, Tex. 174	483
Daingerfield	DBCOF	2 mi. S.E. Daingerfield, Tex. 49	581
Davis Mountains	CO	5 mi. W. Fort Davis, Texas 118	1,541
Fort Griffin	C	15 mi. N. Albany, U.S. 283	489
Fort Parker	DFBSC	7 mi. S. Mexia, Texas 14	1,496
Old Fort Parker		6 mi. N. Groesbeck, off Texas 14	15
Frio	F	10 mi. S. Pearsall, U.S. 81	51
Garner	OFSC	26 mi. N. Uvalde, U.S. 83	641
Goose Island	FBC	12 mi. N.E. Rockport, Texas 35	157
Huntsville	DC	6 mi. S. Huntsville, U.S. 75	2,123
Inks Lake	OFBC	10 mi. W. Burnet, Texas 29	1,202
Jim Hogg		2 mi. N.E. Rusk, off U.S. 84	177
Kerrville	FRC	3 mi. S.E. Kerrville, Texas 16	500
Lake Corpus Christi	FBSCD	3 mi. S.W. Mathis, U.S. 59	14,111
Lockhart	DSBGC	2 mi. S.W. Lockhart, Texas 29	261
Longhorn Cavern	C	11 mi. S.W. Burnet, U.S. 291	708
MacKenzie	SBG	In Lubbock, U.S. 82,62, and 87	550
Meridian	DOBSC	3 mi. S.W. Meridian, Texas 22	469
Mineral Wells	C	In Mineral Wells, U.S. 281	56
Mother Neff	CF	8 mi. S.W. McGregor on County Rd.	253
Palmetto	CF	7 mi. S.E. Luling, Texas 29	198
Palo Duro Canyon	ORC	12 mi. E. Canyon City, Texas 217	15,104
Possum Kingdom	OFBC	25 mi. Breckenridge, off U.S. 281	6,970
San Jose Mission		1 mi. S. San Antonio, U.S. 281	6
Stephen F. Austin	CF	3 mi. E. Sealy, off U.S. 90	664
36th Division	OFBSCD	24 mi. N.W. Brownwood, Texas 279	538
Tyler	FDSBC	10 mi. N. Tyler, Texas 14	992

*Facilities Abbreviations: B-Boating; C-Camping; D-Dancing; F-Fishing; G-Golfing; O-Overnight accommodations in cabins or lodges; R-Riding Stables; S-Swimming

2. No gambling or lottery devices may be exhibited or operated.

3. No hunting shall be allowed in any State park in Texas, and there shall be no shooting or killing of birds, animals, or game of any type within the State park during any season of the year.

4. No fishing shall be allowed in State parks except at specified times and places and in accordance with the rules applying to each park and administered by the local park manager.

5. Traffic is limited to defined roads, trails, and parking areas. No vehicle will be permitted to move at a speed in excess of twenty (20) miles per hour. Please drive slowly.

6. Fires will only be built in grates and fireplaces. Be careful that all fires are completely out before leaving. Extinguish matches, cigarettes, and cigars before discarding. A grass fire might result in complete destruction of this park.

7. Please burn all refuse in grates or deposit same in receptacles provided for that purpose. Please do not leave the area in an unsightly or unsanitary condition.

8. Picking of wild flowers, cutting, breaking, or otherwise injuring or mutilating trees and shrubs is positively prohibited. Do not write or carve upon, deface or injure any building, fixture, tree, or other park feature.

9. Molesting wild life in State parks is positively prohibited. No dogs or cats will be permitted to run loose within the park area. Please help us protect the birds and animals in this park.

10. No loud or unnecessary noise, language, or unbecoming conduct will be permitted, and offenders will be ejected from the park. Remember that other visitors have come here

for rest and relaxation.

11. Prices charged for merchandise, commodities, and services are in line with those prevailing in the near-by towns. Please report any case of overcharge or undercharge, and oblige.

These eleven rules ask nothing more than common-sense use of the park and its facilities, yet time after time the keepers have had to refuse admittance to people because they refused to abide by these rules.

The keeper in charge of the park acts in the same capacity as a peace officer and has the right to refuse to allow individuals to come into the park or may demand that they leave the park.

Finance

Prior to 1932 the State Parks Board received no appropriations from the Legislature. For this reason no lands could be bought, and no improvements could be made to the lands given the State Parks Board.

As noted previously, Federal funds became available in 1933, but the most important financial aid now comes from legislative appropriations. Since 1932 the following amounts have been appropriated from State funds for use by the Texas State Parks Board:[5]

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5. Figures from budgets of State Parks Board

For	the	fiscal	year	ending	August	31,	1932-	$ 500
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1933-	500
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1934-	25,376
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1935-	51,925
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1936-	32,070
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1937-	36,090
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1938-	40,000
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1939-	39,250
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1940-	81,300
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1941-	68,500
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1942-	91,000
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1943-	89,000
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1944-	72,820
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1945-	72,070
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1946-	120,571
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1947-	118,571
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1948-	130,595
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	1949-	120,095

For the year ending August 31, 1950, $2,233,802[6] has been asked for; and $191,172 has been asked for for the year ending August 31, 1951.

In order to meet the obligation of the State to maintain and operate the parks, the Legislature has authorized the State Parks Board to make concession contracts and place the funds realized from this in a Special Park Fund to be used in the parks. The Special Fund is used to supplement the appropriations for maintenance; however, practically no park in the state has been properly maintained under this system.

The appropriation for state park purposes in Texas is less than two cents per capita. Of the State's tax dollar less than one tenth of one per cent is spent annually for state parks.

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6. See page 98

Some financial aid comes from special gifts and subscriptions to the parks. The Federal Government has invested approximately $30,000,000 up to January 1, 1942, in the Texas State Parks.[7] This investment of the Federal Government in the parks must be protected from depreciation, or the investment will be curtailed in the future.

Roadside Parks

Texas has 516 roadside parks. All of these on the highway system were developed in property donated to the State for park purposes. In some cases local garden clubs purchased the site or promoted its donation and aided the Highway Department in developing it. Many owners gave the land in memory of some member of their family.

The roadside parks are under the administration and care of the State Highway Department. The Highway Department has a two-fold purpose in constructing and maintaining these roadside parks. The more essential reason is to offer a place for an emergency stop and to aid in the managing of a vehicle that gets out of control. Secondly, roadside parks add to the enjoyment of motorists passing through the State.

The Highway Department is careful in selecting the types of vegetation and the arrangement of its planting.

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7. Files, Texas State Parks Board

> In carefully selecting the types of vegetation and the arrangement of its planting it is possible to kill several birds with one stone. Outlining curves, high fills and bridge ends with rows of shrubs or trees gives motorists advance warning of danger points. Blinding glare of approaching headlights on divided lane pavements can be eliminated by planting shrubs down a center parkway.[8]

Out-of-state motorists more frequently comment favorably on the roadside parks of Texas than on any other feature of the Texas Highway System.

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8. "Texas Has 516 Roadside Parks," Wm. S. Alderman, SPARKS, January, 1947, page 5

CHAPTER II

RECREATIONAL PARKS

Texas is the meeting place of four great physiographic regions, as follows: (I) the Coastal Plains which extend into the State from the east; (II) the Lower Great Western Plains which cross the border from the north; (III) the Higher Great Western Plains which extend into the State in the Panhandle and continue into Southwest Texas, and (IV) the Rocky Mountain region which traverses the Trans-Pecos areas.[1]

The recreational parks of Texas, under the administration of the Texas State Parks Board, will be discussed in this same order. Each site was selected because of its own particular attraction and these interests or attractions vary in the different divisions of the State. The various divisions offer separate types of forestry, flora, and geographic interests. Thus each park will be discussed under its physiographic area.

Coastal Plains

The Coastal Plains is that part of Texas which lies south and east of the Balcones fault line. This line runs in a general southwesterly and northeasterly direction

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1. Texas Almanac, 1945-1946, page 132

from the Rio Grande near Del Rio to northwestern Bexar County, to the vicinity of Austin, and to the Red River northeast of Dallas.

The Rio Grande Plain, a part of the Coastal Plains, is a rolling plain with open prairies in some of the upper portions but usually covered with thick growth of mesquite, small oaks, chaparral, huisache and other small trees and shrubs, and the prickly pear cactus.

Throughout this area there is a large Spanish-speaking population. Many of them are descendants of families who have lived north of the Rio Grande since Mexican sovereignty.

In this part of the Coastal Plains lie three State parks, Lake Corpus Christi State Park, Goose Island State Park, and Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park.

Lake Corpus Christi State Park, 12,381 acres of land on the Nueces River, four miles from the town of Mathis on U. S. Highway 96, was acquired by the State Parks Board in February, 1934, from the city of Corpus Christi on a ninety-nine year lease. In this park will be found a 6,900-acre recreational lake, which affords boating, swimming, and fishing for all. Deer, coyote, and gray wolves are found in abundance in this area, and, in November, 1941, through the efforts of J. Frank Dobie, twenty head of Texas longhorn cattle were given to this park.

In July, 1933, a strip of land between Aransas and Copano Bays was given to the State Parks Board by the State

of Texas to be used as a park. Goose Island State Park was opened to the public in March, 1938. It consists of 157 acres and is twelve miles northeast of Rockport on Texas Highway 35. Of special interest to the visitor is a big tree, a giant oak, the largest of its kind. This big tree is fifty feet in circumference, its branches spread over 6,000 square feet of ground, and it is calculated to be 2,000 years old. There is good fishing in Aransas Bay. Many species of salt-water fish abound, trout, redfish, flounder, sheephead, and tarpon, to mention a few. Rowboats are available for rent.

The Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park, nine miles southwest of McAllen in the Texas citrus fruit-growing country is a newly-acquired park site. This is a sub-tropical region, plentifully supplied with native shade trees profusely hung with Spanish moss.

The Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park is the first site to be established in a winter vacation section of Texas. Plans for future development include a palm-lined boulevard approach, rustic cabins, tennis courts, tropical and sub-tropical plants, unique birds, and wildlife.

Included in this section of Texas is the Pine Belt, or Piney Woods, which extends for an average distance of one hundred miles westward from the Louisiana border. It is above the Coastal Prairies and has a mild temperature. This belt is a rolling terrain, covered with loblolly,

longleaf, and shortleaf pine and hardwoods in the valleys of the Trinity, Neches, Sabine,and other streams. Several hundred sawmills operate in this section producing more than one billion board-feet annually.

To be seen in this East Texas Pine Belt are many flowering shrubs and trees. Most notable of these are the dogwoods with their white cluster, the scattered redbuds, and the big heavily-scented magnolias.

In this section lie three of the Texas State Parks. Caddo Lake, one of the South's largest natural lakes, is sixty-five miles long. Here is located Caddo Lake State Park. The Indians say that the lake was formed overnight in 1812 by some kind of volcanic eruption. Also to be heard in this section are numerous tall tales about the alligators that are in this lake. Caddo Lake State Park covers 35,432 acres and is fifteen miles northeast of Marshall on Texas Highway 43. The lake is dotted with strange bottle-shaped cypress trees, giving the appearance of a partly submerged forest.

This park offers the visitor fishing, camping, swimming, pleasure cruising, and canoeing. There are log cabins for overnight, weekend, or longer vacations.

Adjacent to Caddo Lake lies Daingerfield, one of the oldest towns in the State. It was founded by Captain London Daingerfield, a famous fighter of Indians. Daingerfield



Typical of East Texas is Caddo Lake State Park with its tall pine trees. Picnic tables are plentiful in the park area.

State Park,[2] of 580 acres, was chosen for a State park because of the desire of the people of Daingerfield to perpetuate the beauty of these wooded hills and to preserve the wildlife of this area. Wildlife is found in abundance. Rabbit, o'possum, squirrel, blue-jay, and quail live in this area, and the lake within the park is stocked with bass.

The park has a profusion of native trees including the pine, oak, chinquapin,[3] mulberry, willow, dogwood, and such shrubs as wild myrtle, wild plum, and buckeye.

On a peninsula jutting out into the lake is an attractive building which is used by the fishermen and swimmers and which provides for refreshments, lounging, and dancing space. Near the building are well-shaded picnic units.

Ten miles north of Tyler, the nation's greatest rose industry city, on Texas Highway 270, is 985 acres called the Tyler State Park. The chief attraction in this park is the lake, which has a 900-foot shoreline. The visitor will be delighted with the fields of roses which line each side of the highway leading to the park. Inside the park is a 240-acre wildlife sanctuary where quail, mocking birds, cardinals, thrushes, chaparral, and many water fowl, as well as fox, raccoons, squirrels, and rabbits, abound. The park is well equipped with picnic grounds, a bath house,

2. Two miles southeast of Daingerfield on Texas Highway 49
3. One, five feet in diameter, is thought to be the largest in the State.

boat house, and concessions building.

Possibly the most cultivated land in Texas is the rolling prairie of black soils located adjacent to the Balcones fault line. Many wild flowers are found in this section because of its soil, climate, and rainfall. In the spring the fields and roadsides are a mass of color with Indian blanket, Indian paint brush, the wild phlox, and the State flower, the bluebonnet. On the Blackland Prairies are to be found Palmetto State Park, Bastrop-Buescher State Park, Lockhart State Park, and Mother Neff State Park.

Palmetto State Park is located one mile off Highway 29, twelve miles from Gonzales and joins the location of the Gonzales Warm Springs Foundation for Crippled Children.

This park received its name for its many palmetto trees, and the park may be truthfully called the Texas Wild Flower Garden. More than three hundred different varieties of flowers may be found here. Wild orchids grow in the swamps. The earth in sections shakes when walked upon due to top soil resting upon a water foundation. This is referred to as the "Quaking Ground." Sulphur and other mineral springs create 360 acres of lagoons high above the San Marcos River, which flows through the park.

There is some fishing and swimming in the San Marcos River as it winds its way through the park. Group gatherings

may be held in the natural reddish rock concessions building.

Bastrop State Park is one mile east of Bastrop on U. S. 290. It covers 2,100 acres and is connected by a scenic drive of seven miles with Buescher State Park. These two parks are referred to as one park. In the Bastrop area is the "Lost Pine Forest", a unique forest of loblolly pine which covers seventy square miles in Bastrop and Fayette Counties. It is the last pine forest to be found between Bastrop and the West for seven hundred miles. For recreation and rest the park offers swimming, horseback riding, and golf.

Lockhart State Park, two miles southwest of the city of Lockhart and west of Texas Highway 29, is five miles from the famous battle on Plum Creek. This battle was fought between the Texans and the Comanches in 1840. The park is a rough, heavily wooded land, cut by a stream filled with fish. Picnicking, golfing, swimming, and dancing are to be enjoyed by the visitor. There are large trees, elm, oak, ash, and pecan, in the park area. A heavy stand of native shrubs and wild flowers is to be found.

Mother Neff State Park, a part of the old Neff Homestead, and composed of 256 acres in Coryell County, is the oldest of Texas State Parks. In 1922 Mrs. Isabella Neff donated the land to the State to be used as a public recreational unit.

These lands were used by the Tonkawa Indians as a camping ground. Many fossils are to be found in a cave with limestone formations; this cave is open to the general public.

Pat M. Neff gave an additional 250 acres adjacent to the original gift, and on this land has been erected an imposing pavilion of rock and wood to house meetings of a religious, educational, or political nature. The speaker's desk here is of especial interest, since it is a part of a tree trunk standing four feet high, slanted at the top, with the inscription, "In God We Trust." Also on this land are three of the oldest houses in the State. They were built by slave labor. Adjoining one is a barn with a corn crib made of logs hewn at each end, without pegs or nails.

Lower Great Western Plains

The Lower Great Western Plains lie between the Blackland Prairies on the east and the Cap Rock Escarpment on the west. It has an elevation of 700 feet on the east and about 2,500 on the west at the foot of the Cap Rock. In the east it is partly timbered, while the remainder is largely prairie. This is the second main division of the State geographically.

West of Waco and Fort Worth is the division of the Great Western Plains known as the Grand Prairie. Its



Mother Neff State Park's Refectory, built of native limestone and crude cedar logs, is a good example of the type of refectory that is planned for recreational parks.

principal trees are pecans and other hardwoods. Cotton, wheat, oats, and grain sorghums are the principal crops. Only two State parks are found in this division.

One of the finest fishing and boating lakes in Texas is formed by Possum Kingdom Dam. This lake is more than one hundred miles long and more than two miles wide in places. The area, 6,969 acres of land ten miles upstream from the Dam, is Possum Kingdom State Park. The area includes rugged hills, a dense timber growth, canyons, and the tortuous bends of the Brazos River. This park is divided into two areas, West Side, which is twenty-five miles from Breckenridge, off U.S. Highway 80A, and East Side, which is twenty-five miles from Graham and Mineral Wells.

The park's development to date has emphasized the fisherman's needs in the way of barracks and tents for camping, but there is a concession building and six modern overnight cabins.

At the north city limits of Mineral Wells on U. S. Highway 281 is found Mineral Wells State Park. The fifty-six acres of this park offer excellent picnic areas and out-of-door camping spots, and the park has been developed with these two types of recreation in mind. The city of Mineral Wells is nationally known as a health resort because of the natural mineral waters produced in hundreds of wells.

It is becoming a pleasure resort also, and the State park is designed to fit into this scheme.

The East and West Cross Timbers, a second section of the Lower Great Western Plains, is sandy and red clay soil wedged between Blackland and Grand Prairie. Post oak and blackjack are the prevailing timbers, and some areas of the hills and low, flat-topped mountains are covered with cedar. Of interest to the visitor are the numerous brick plants. The parks in this section are particularly attractive to the fisherman.

Cleburne State Park, twelve miles southwest of Cleburne on State Highway 174, has overnight accomodations and offers a special attraction as such for a day off to the crowds of Fort Worth and Dallas. This is 471 acres of valley land and rolling limestone hills, densely timbered with liveoak, pin oak, cedar, elm, and wild plum trees. The 116-acre lake offers to fishermen the sport of angling for cat, bream, and crappie.

Bonham State Park is located three and one-half miles southeast of Bonham on a county road. It is only twelve miles south of the Texas-Oklahoma State line. Its beautiful lake, which covers sixty-five acres, provides opportunity for swimming, fishing, and boating. The concessions building has a large dance terrace.

Meridian State Park lies just three miles southwest of Meridian on Texas Highway 22. The central attraction of

this park is the seventy-five-acre lake which has been formed by the damming of Bee Creek. Its water is so crystal clear that the under-water plant growth and the many fish which inhabit the lake are easily visible from the surface.

On the shore of the lake is the Refectory Building. It is built of native limestone from the hills of the park. Fishing, boating, picnicking, and swimming may be enjoyed at Meridian State Park.

The Thirty-Sixth Division State Park, twenty-four miles northwest of Brownwood on Texas Highway 279, was originally Lake Brownwood State Park. It was renamed in honor of the Thirty-Sixth Division. Its 538 acres are in the very heart of Texas in the granite hills. The park area includes the lake with its ten thousand acres of water and one hundred miles of shoreline. This is an ideal setting for fishing, swimming, picnicking, and boating all year. There are seventeen cabins in the park, and the clubhouse serves meals.

A small area of the Lower Great Western Plains lying principally in Burnet and Llano Counties is called the Burnet-Llano Region. In this area there are wide expanses of prairie country with pecan trees along the streams, and wild flowers are found along the highways. Some commercial cedar is found in this section. This is an eroded area, traversed by deep valleys of the Colorado and Llano Rivers.

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Two of Texas' most popular and attractive parks lie in this section.

Longhorn Cavern State Park is the only Texas park that has as its chief point of interest an extensive natural cavern, and it is one of the most centrally located, geographically, of the parks. This park is being developed by the National Park Service in cooperation with the Texas State Parks Board.

Longhorn Cavern is located on the Edwards Plateau, which begins ten miles west of Austin. Some fifteen million years ago during the Pleistocene age this entire area was covered by the Balcones, or Comanchian, Sea. It was during this age that a violent upheaval occurred, called the Balcones fault, which resulted in the Llano uplift. Following this gigantic upheaval of the earth's crust, this limestone strata was exposed to the elements of erosion, which resulted in this underground grotto.

Today the Cavern is largely the result of rainwater's entering the surface and seeping through the crevices and faults to lower levels. Through constant erosion and chemical breaking down of the limestone, large channels were opened, which resulted in huge underground river channels.

There are no authentic facts as to who was the actual discoverer of the Cavern. Large bones of either camel or bison which roamed this continent centuries ago have been

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dug up in the Cavern. A collection of Indian arrowheads and grinding stones has also been found. Perhaps Indians inhabited the Cavern. Legend has it that Sam Bass and his band, who are famous in this section of the State as bandits, used it as a hideout. There are also tales of buried gold, and evidence is found of the fact that gunpowder was manufactured there during the Civil War.

This underground cavern has been excavated and illuminated so that the visitor can travel in comfort on the trails. The trip through the Cavern takes from one to two hours, and the guides can handle a maximum of thirty people per trip. Tours are conducted every hour, on the hour, from 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. Rates for the excursion trip through the entire developed portion of the Cavern are: school students, fifty cents; adults, one dollar, plus 10 per cent Federal tax. Special rates are made for school classes, groups, clubs, etc.

The guides explain the mysteries of the Cavern from the Sam Bass entrance, on through the Queen's Throne, the mammoth Assembly Hall, down the corridor to the Cathedral Room, through Dante's Inferno, to the largest stalactite in the Cavern, and finally to the Lake Room.

Picnic grounds are available for those who wish to eat in the open. There are no over-night facilities, but the entrance to the Cavern is only four miles south of the town of Burnet on U. S. Highway 281. The Longhorn

Cavern State Park is connected by a scenic road with the Inks Lake State Park.

The damming of the Colorado River at two points in the hill section of the State has produced Inks Lake, which covers 900 acres. Inks Lake State Park includes 1,201 acres and lies ten miles west of Burnet on Texas Highway 29. There are thirty picnic areas scattered through the park, and over-night camping is permitted here for the small fee of fifty cents. This region abounds in opportunities for boating, camping, fishing, and hunting.

The West Texas Rolling Prairie, still a part of the Lower Great Western Plains, is covered with mesquite woodlands. The chief industries found here are cattle raising, oil producing, and farming. Brick clays, coal, copper, and gypsum are found in this area.

The only State park in this area is the Abilene State Park. This park is easily accessible by good hard-surfaced highways. It is located on a well-maintained county road, approximately eighteen miles south of the city of Abilene and about three miles from the historic little town of Buffalo Gap. Abilene State Park is located at the foot of Big Chief Mountain, on the famous Chisholm cattle trail, and was once the site of Indian encampment grounds.

Over 4,000 tall native pecan trees offer shade for visitors. The park also has a modern 100,000-gallon swimming pool and numerous picnic accommodations with

open-air ovens and water hydrants. Wild flowers abound throughout the park, and cactus and redbud add to the floral attractions of the spot.

Higher Great Western Plains

The Higher Great Western Plains is an extension of the Great High Plains which extend from Canada to Southwest Texas. In Texas it runs southerly from the Panhandle to about Del Rio and Austin.

The Staked Plains of the Higher Great Western Plains is a slightly rolling plain that extends from the east corner of the Panhandle to Martin County. The Panhandle is devoted primarily to wheat growing, cattle raising, and dairying. There is also a large oil and gas industry in this section. The South Plain is devoted to the growing of cotton, wheat, grain, sorghum, and forage.

In this section of Texas on Texas Highway 217, twelve miles east of Canyon City, is located the JA Ranch of Colonel Charles Goodnight. This ranch was the first permanent ranch established in the Panhandle. The ranch, one of the largest in Texas, still operates under original ownership. Colonel Goodnight, "The Father of the Panhandle," entered Palo Duro Canyon in 1876, when he was driving a herd of cattle southwest from Colorado.

The Canyon is generally recognized as the most distinctive and colorful of all Texas scenery. The park is an

outstanding example of erosion in the Panhandle. Surrounded by level, treeless plains in all directions, a small stream, which is dry certain months of the year, has cut a deep, colorful canyon. This creek, one hundred miles downstream, becomes the Red River.

Geologists say the canyon is the furrow left by a great glacier as it plowed its way from the Artics down toward the Tropics. There, too, one can see the effects of erosion and time. The canyon is sixty miles in length, 1,500 feet deep, and varies in width from a few rods to fifteen miles. Every foot is below the surface of the surrounding territory.

There is one large central canyon with smaller canyons merging from either side. These small canyons are not steep, but are gradual in decline, and thus are accessible and many are in use as recreational centers.

Picnic unit number one is located at the old Comanche and Kiowa Indian Camp Ground. Here are rocks that were left by the red men; rocks that were used to grind corn, mesquite beans, and meat. Starting from this point, hiking enthusiasts will find the old Comanche Trail interesting as it leads through gardens of huge boulders, dense growth of trees and shrubbery, by Indian Springs to Point Lookout. Here one gets an excellent view of the canyon and its tributaries.

Goodnight's Dugout is the park's greatest point of interest. Here are to be found rocks which once formed the fireplace and broken poles and weathered logs that are all that remain of the original camp of Colonel Goodnight.

An interesting thirty-minute hike can be made to the Gypsum Beds. Here the Devil's Tombstone towers seventy-five feet above the canyon bed. At the summit is Capitol Peak. It takes little imagination to see the replica of the Capital Building, its House of Representatives on one side and on the other the Senate Chamber.

Smokey Rock Garden is a good place for hikers, as they can spend much time picking up beads and arrows left by the Pueblo Indians years ago.

At Cow Camp Canyon bird life may be seen at its best. The high cliffs reflect thirty shades of color changing hourly during the day. The tourist may stay at this old camp ground for a day, a week, or a month in comfort, with pure water, picnic tables, ovens, and rest rooms, all of which are available at no extra charge.[4]

The chief plant life in this canyon is the red cedar. Also to be found are white cedar, hackberry, mulberry, china berry, oak, and cottonwood. Curry Canyon is densely wooded, and not a live tree has ever been cut. The name Palo Duro is Indian, meaning "hard wood."

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4. Entrance fee into the park: thirty-five cents for car and driver; twenty cents for each additional adult; ten cents for each child, plus tax.

Wild life that abounds in this park are panther, wolves, bobcats, black bear, red and gray fox, and coyotes. Eagles, wild duck, geese, turkeys, and quail are to be seen. The American buffalo used to roam this region, but all that is left now is the famous Goodnight buffalo herd of 150 full-blooded bison.

Palo Duro Canyon State Park covers about 15,103 acres and is being purchased by funds received from admission charges into the park. On the rim of the canyon are six stone cabins equipped with double beds and double-deck beds, blankets, linens, towels, cooking stove, cooking utensils, table service, electric lights, toilets, shower baths, and a wood fireplace. Eight miles down in the canyon at Cow Camp are three more stone cabins. Special weekly rates are given on the cabins. There are also mountain-trained horses for rent.

Mackenzie State Park was named for the colorful General R. S. Mackenzie, who fought more than sixty engagements with the Indians in less than two years. The 505 acres of land within the park is the only timbered area and contains the only live streams in this part of the Plains Country. It is located in Yellowhouse Canyon between U. S. Highways 9 and 24 and adjoins the city of Lubbock.

The old Mackenzie cattle trail traverses the park area. About in the center of the park area, the last fighting between the white man and the Indian of this



Palo Duro Canyon in Palo Duro State Park is an amazing illustration of erosion in the Panhandle.

section took place, and this spot later became the first trading center of the South Plains. During the late '60s between five million and seven million buffalo crossed the plains at this point every year.

In addition to swimming, picnicking, and dancing, the park has an eighteen-hole golf course.

Big Springs State Park affords an unusual scenic drive up and around the high mesa. The 349 acres of the park embrace the rugged slopes and top of Big Spring Mountain, which lies at the south of the city limits of the city of Big Spring, on U. S. Highway 87. The level plains are broken here by this flat-topped mountain. The top of the mountain affords an amazing panoramic view of the countryside. In addition to the six-mile scenic drive, the park offers picnic areas along the river.

An interesting section of the Higher Great Western Plains is the Edwards Plateau, or the Hill Country. There are many summer resorts in thisssection, and the tourist trade contributes materially to the income of the area.

Many streams filled with fish are in this section, and cypress trees are found in abundance along these streams. Through the cooperation of the landowners with the game-enforcement authorities, this has been made the hunting ground of Texas. Deer, wild turkeys, and other wild game are found in abundance.

This section is also the center of the sheep and goat industry. Granite and marble are found here; however, little quarrying is done. There are four State parks located in this Hill Country.

In the heart of the Hill Country, three miles southeast of Kerrville on Texas Highway 16, is Kerrville State Park. This country has long been known as the State's principal health resort, and the fame of its scenic beauty is equal to that of its climate. The park has some beautiful shaded picnic areas, and the Guadalupe River gives the fisherman an opportunity to catch bass and crappie. At the present time the park is being used by the Game, Fish, and Oyster Commission for the propagation of deer and wild turkey.

On both sides of the Blanco River, where it crosses U. S. Highway 281, is the Blanco State Park. There are 110 acres of scenic beauty in the park. The damming of the Blanco River at two points within the park has formed two lakes, which afford fine fishing. Large live oak, willow, and other trees provide ample shaded areas for picnicking. There are two unfurnished cabins in the park and plenty of camping area.

On the Frio River, twenty-eight miles north of the home of former Vice-President John N. Garner in Uvalde, is the Garner State Park. The park covers a tract of 640 acres. The work of the Civilian Conservation Corps was completed in this park in 1941. The materials used in the

structures were obtained locally and finished in the park. The lumber that was used was cypress, cedar, and elm, which were obtained from the Frio and Sabinal Canyons.

The highest point in Uvalde County, 2,008 feet, is in the park. From the lookouts the visitor may view the clear waters of the Frio River as it winds its way through the foothills. There are ten miles of mountain trails that have been planned with the objective of giving hikers the most striking views possible. A never-ending supply of fresh pure water bubbles from the springs along the Frio River, and swimming in the park is unexcelled.

For the angler, the streams are full of perch, channel cat, and bass. Garner State Park affords an abundance of wildlife. It is a game refuge, and hunting is not allowed within its borders. Deer and wild turkeys roam the area, and many types of small game and birds may be observed at all times.

Large cypress, oak, elm, and pecan trees border the river, and the mountain slopes are covered with a variety of cedars, wild cherry, wild persimmons, and other mountain shrubs. In the spring the mountains are decked in a galaxy of colors, lavender of the mountain laurel, red of the redbud, and a variety of colors of the wild flowers.

Picnic spots are available for the visitor for the day. Rustic cabins are available for those who wish to remain overnight or longer.

On the Frio River, ten miles south of Pearsall on U. S. Highway 81, is Frio State Park. It is essentially a spot of rest. Smaller than other State parks, its fifty-one acres provide picnicking areas under large, shady pecan and oak trees. The river is deep enough for swimming.

Rocky Mountain Region

This section of Texas is a high plateau traversed by ranges of mountains which are the eastern ranges of the Rockies.

The Davis Mountain Area of this Rocky Mountain Region has an elevation of from 4,000 to 5,000 feet with mountains rising to a maximum of 8,382 feet. Cattle-raising is the principal industry, and the type raised here is chiefly the Highland Hereford. The only crop production is in the valleys irrigated from springs. An integral part of the Davis Mountains is the Davis Mountains State Park.

Ft. Davis was established to protect the pioneers from the Apaches. The site was the junction of the Butterfield gold trail to California, the Overland trail, and the Chihuahua trails, over which creaked cargoes of early American commerce. The crumbling adobe ruins of historic old Ft. Davis still remain. The State park consists of 2,130 acres and is located five miles west of Ft. Davis on Texas Highway 118.

The highway to the McDonald Observatory, third largest in the world, passes through the park. The observatory is only twelve miles away. The Big Bend National Park is only 130 miles south of the Lodge of the park.

The park's picturesque Indian Lodge is of Pueblo architecture. It stands 5,300 feet above sea level. This adobe structure rambles between rocky crags and cactus plants, giving the impression of massive antiquity, but actually it offers the most modern conveniences.

The Lodge is located at the head of Keesey Canyon amid the overhanging cliffs and hilly canyons. It has a native stone garden with a fountain in the center and open veranda of native timbers. There are sixteen apartments on the second floor, furnished in Indian design; on the first floor are found the reception room, lounge, dining room, and dance terrace.

The Lodge offers a picturesque setting for photographers, both amateur and professional. Horseback riding, picnicking, and indoor sports are available. Herds of wild deer and antelope, birds, bear, and mountain lion are to be seen within the limits of the park.

Balmorhea State Park, of 950 acres, is in the Davis Mountain foothills, four miles southeast of the pioneer town of Balmorhea. It is situated on U. S. Highway 290 and is in part built around San Solomon Springs and part around the reservoir lake.

Built around San Solomon Springs is the world's largest swimming pool. These springs were known as early as the eighteenth century and were used by the Indians as a watering place. The name comes from the chief of the Indian tribe. The origin of the springs is unknown, but they are believed to rise in the mountains as far off as New Mexico. The flow of the spring is from 23 million to 26 million gallons per day, and the temperature remains at 72 degrees the year around.

Near the swimming pool are eighteen cabins, insulated and equipped with furniture of Aztec design. The dining hall is in the concessions building, which also has lockers and dressing rooms for bathers. The terrace is used for dancing.

The park is within easy driving distance of Carlsbad Caverns, Big Bend National Park, McDonald Observatory, Davis Mountains State Park, and Old Mexico.

Big Bend National Park

The Big Bend area is in the southward swing of the Rio Grande at the very tip of Texas. Elevation in this section varies from 2,000 feet at the Rio Grande to 4,500 feet in the northern part. Mountains in the area rise to a maximum of 7,000 feet.

Although not a State park of Texas, Big Bend National Park is a Texas park. It is mentioned in this study because

it is a Texas park and because it became a National park through the efforts of the Texas State Parks Board and the appropriation of $1,500,000 by the Texas State Legislature to purchase its land.

Big Bend National Park is so called because it lies in that portion of Texas where the Rio Grande, forming the boundary between the United States and Mexico, makes a big U-shaped bend in its course. The nearest major road to the park is U. S. Highway 90 through Marathon and Alpine. The approximate acreage of the park is 788,682 acres, which makes it the sixth largest park in the National Park System.

Archeological findings in caves in the park indicate that the area has been inhabited for centuries. Perishable artifacts, such as sandals, matting, and baskets have been preserved in the dry caves. Open camp-sites, grinding stones, and ashy materials are evidences of the people who followed the cavedwellers, particularly of the Comanches, who came out of the north to plunder the haciendas of Mexico and crossed this area.

Spanish conquistadors seeking the elusive El Dorado and Spanish friars working for the salvation of men's souls were active in the Big Bend area. Their records show that the Apache Indians were living in this region.

In 1853 Major W. H. Emory completed the boundary survey for the United States Boundary Commission. But even to this day the area is one of the most isolated parts of the Southwest.

Establishment of the Big Bend National Park was authorized by an act of Congress approved June 20, 1935, when Texas appropriated $1,500,000 for the purchase of necessary lands which were then deeded to the Federal Government for National park purposes. The park was actually established on June 12, 1944.

The Rio Grande is the boundary here between the United States and Mexico, and the natural features of the land on both sides of the river are similar. The Mexican Government is planning to establish an adjoining National park immediately south of the Rio Grande. Thus will be formed one great international park, typifying the friendly relationship of the two countries.

The area of Big Bend once was submerged beneath a great ocean. This ocean was filled by the deposition of great quantities of lime sludge which later turned to limestone. As the sea retreated, the limey sediments were covered with clays and sand. Great trees grew and later became petrified and are now composed of agate, opal, amethyst, chalcedony, and jasper.[5]

Volcanic eruptions began to occur that arched the strata upward to form dome-like structures. Showers of volcanic ash and torrents of gray mud and stones accumulated. The climax of this phase was the floods of molten rock which

5. Big Bend National Park Project, United States Department of Interior National Park System

time and again covered the area of the Chisos Mountains with sheets of black lava. These eruptions marked the end of the period of rock formation.

Erosion set in at this stage, forming cliffs, column spires, and buttresses and left exposed strata with a wide variety of color tones.[6]

The climatic conditions in the entire Big Bend region are mild. The high altitude of the Chisos Mountain sections renders them usually moderate and cool even in the hottest summers. A small amount of snow usually occurs each winter in the mountains but never enough to prevent year-round use of the entire area.

Vegetation of the Big Bend is varied. In the lowlands are found the creosote bush, yucca, and various species of cacti. Blossoms from the yucca, or Spanish dagger, are used for food and taste similar to cabbage. Fibers taken from the leaves are used for twine, and the broad leaves are often used in making sandals and baskets. The foothills are covered with the pinon-juniper and woodland plants. The pine, Douglas fir, and Arizona cypress forests are in the canyons of the higher mountains, while along the Rio Grande are aquatic plants.

The Texas javelina ranges the foothills, and other larger animals, such as the Mexican black bear and mountain lions are found in the mountains. White-tailed and mule deer are to be seen by the careful observer.

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6. Ibid

The birds that inhabit this area include the quail, hawk, blue-throated hummingbird, bank-tailed pigeon, Inca dove, and many others that are rare or unknown in other sections.

Reptiles of the Big Bend include the yellow mud turtle, banded gecko, Texas zebra-tailed lizard, blind snake, red racer, and black-headed tantella.

As the park is developed, more overnight tourist accommodations will be developed. At present there are four cabins available. Any buildings constructed in the park will be either of stone or adobe.

The development of an old-time longhorn steer ranch somewhere in Big Bend is under consideration. Longhorns were a great factor in the development of the cattle industry in the western plains country, and, in addition to the historical value of them as such, an old-fashioned spring and fall roundup and branding will be of great interest to many tourists.

Roads will be kept at a minimum within the park. At present the main roads are gravel surfaced and well maintained. Any additional roads will consider the scenery of the various canyons and the view from the south rim.

The Big Bend National Park is administered by the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior. It is open throughout the year. Hunting or the disturbance of any natural feature of the park is

prohibited. Camping is permitted only in designated areas. Inquiries and communications may be addressed to the Superintendent, Big Bend National Park, Marathon, Texas.

CHAPTER III

HISTORICAL PARKS

Texas history, a history of six flags, has left many historic sites throughout Texas. In some instances old missions and ruins of forts still stand as monuments to the courage of the men who lived and died for the State. In other instances only a written account remains of their heroic acts.

Until recent years Texas was laggard in preserving these landmarks. However, with the Centennial Celebration in 1936, interest has begun to grow, and localities as well as the State have begun to uncover historical items and to erect monuments to honor their heroes.

Before the establishment of the Texas State Parks Board, several historical parks were in existence. These parks were placed under the State Board of Control and still remain under their administration.

Commissions have been established by the Legislature to improve, control, and preserve a number of these historical parks and shrines. These commissions work in cooperation with the State Board of Control. The following chart shows the State Park Commissions, date of establishment, composition, method of selection, compensation, duties, and status of each commission.

Historical Park Commissions[1]

Name	Date Established	No. of Members	Selection and Term	Compensation	Duties	Status
Goliad	1931	3	Appt. Gov. 6 yrs.	Expenses	Advise Board of Control	Inoperative
Gonzales	1913	3	Appt. Gov. 2 yrs.	None	Advise Board of Control	Operative
Gov. J.S. Hogg Memorial Shrine	1941	3	Appt. Gov. 5 yrs.	None	Accept gifts for shrine	Operative
King's Memorial	1941	3	Appt. Gov.* 2 yrs.	None	Advise Board of Control	Operative
San Jacinto	1907	3	Appt. Gov. 2 yrs.	None	Advise Board of Control	Operative
Washington	1923	5	Appt. Gov. 2 yrs.	None	Advise Board of Control	Operative

* Members must be residents of Refugio County.

Other Historical Parks

Name	Administrative Agency
Fannin	State Board of Control
Fort Griffin	Texas State Parks Board
Fort Parker	Texas State Parks Board
Monument Hill	State Board of Control
San Jose Mission	Texas State Parks Board and Archbishop of San Antonio with an advisory board
Stephen F. Austin	Texas State Parks Board

1. Smith, Dick, A Layman's Guide to the Texas State Administrative Agencies, The Bureau of Municipal Research, pages 194-199

Missions

One of the greatest factors in the development and settlement of the vast lands of Texas was the mission establishments and their faithful padres. The first missions in Texas were established primarily to Christianize the Indians, and secondly, to strengthen Spain's hold on this territory.

The missions were not merely churches, but they were the nucleus of civilization. The padres planted the first seeds of cultural progress in the soil of Texas. Reading, writing, sanitation, and music were taught all converts.[2] The Indian women were taught to spin and weave. Records show that the missions owned cattle and sheep and, with the help of baptized Indians, harvested corn and other crops.

San Antonio is the center of the missions. The historic city offers no greater attraction to the visitor than its ancient missions, and one of the most famous is the San Jose Mission.

San Jose Mission is the only mission in the State that is under the State Parks Board. In December, 1940, the State Parks Board acquired title to certain portions of the Mission and the right to operate the same under a three-way cooperative agreement with the Catholic Church and the National Park Service. The Mission, administered by the Texas State Parks Board and the Archbishop of San Antonio, is preserved in cooperation with the National Park Service. A special

2. Heusinger, E. W., Early Explorations and Mission Establishments in Texas, pages 92-95

advisory board composed of one representative each of the U. S. Department of the Interior, the Texas State Parks Board, the Archbishop of San Antonio, the County of Bexar, and the San Antonio Conservation Society, advises on all matters of preservation, development, and general administration. It was dedicated as a National Historical Park on May 8, 1941. This was the first time such an agreement had been worked out between the Federal Government and a State agency, and also the first national historic site established in cooperation with the Catholic Church.

San Jose Mission is approximately four miles south of the city of San Antonio on U. S. Highway 281. The Mission is open daily throughout the year from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. Admission for visitors over sixteen years of age is twenty-five cents; children and soldiers in uniform are charged ten cents. Free guide service is available to all visitors.

This site is correctly classified as a historical park, for the missions of Texas played a great part in the historical development of Texas. One cannot fully enjoy a visit to this area and entirely appreciate the architectural beauty of this shrine unless he knows the historic facts and the many difficulties that were encountered in the establishment of a mission. It must be remembered that the missions were built by the monks during a period of unrest and strife. Very little material aid was given to the monks by the church or government. There were no skilled laborers, only the Christianized

Indians with the guidance and help of the monks. The number of hours that must have been spent in hauling rocks, cutting trees, and clearing the land for all of the buildings that make a complete mission unit were great.

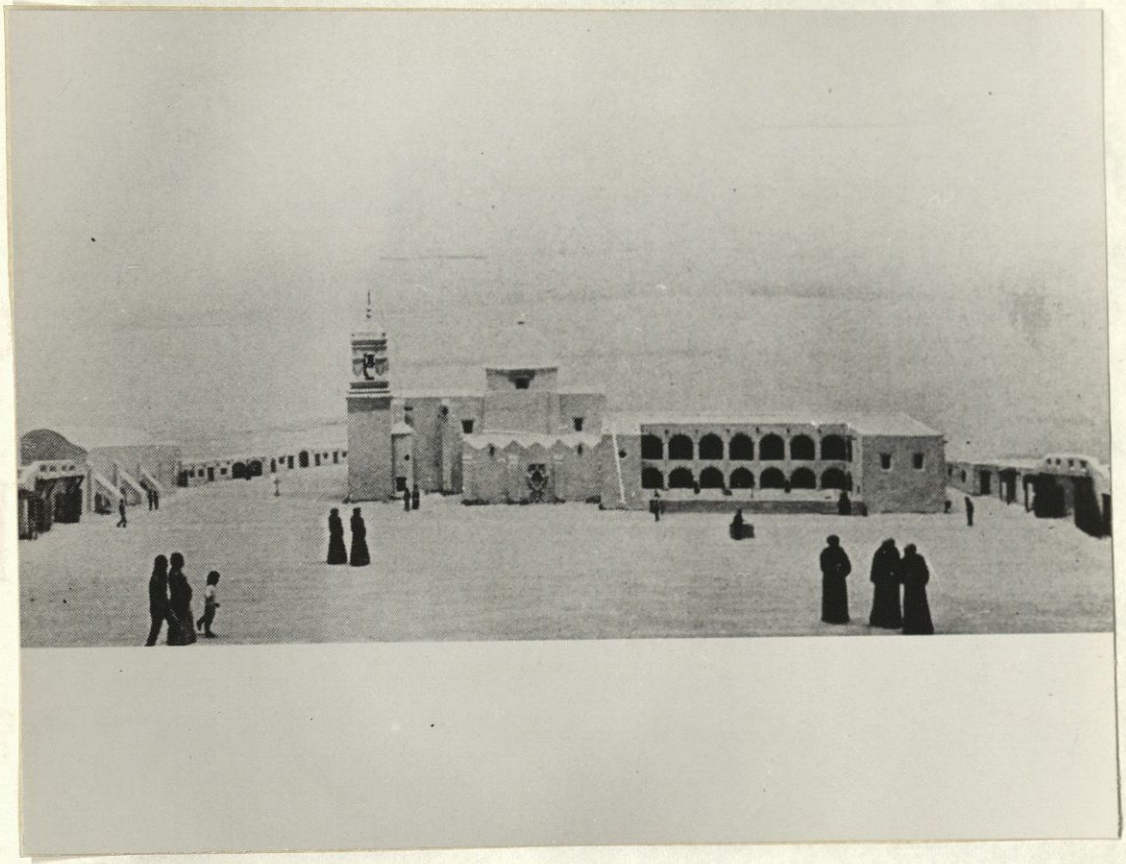
Father Margil, a member of the Franciscan Monks, was the founder of the missions of Guadalupe, Dolores, and San Miguel of East Texas in 1716. These missions were pillaged by the French who moved up from Fort St. Louis of Matagorda Bay, and the white population with their missions moved to San Antonio.

While laboring with the Indians around San Antonio, Father Margil petitioned the governor of Coahuila and Texas, Marquis de Aguayo, for the establishment of a mission to be located on the San Antonio River. The petition was granted and, on February 23, 1720, the soil was inspected, the pasturage examined, and a high spot about seven and one-half miles from the San Antonio de Valero Mission (The Alamo) was chosen. The mission San Jose de Aguayo, as its name implies, was dedicated to Saint Joseph and named in honor of the Marquis de Aguayo.[3]

The construction of the present church was not begun until 1768, although its adobe houses were by 1749 considered one of the most flourishing missions on the San Antonio River. At the height of its prosperity it was called "Queen of the Missions."

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3. Heusinger, Edward W., Early Explorations and Mission Establishments in Texas, page 86



Mission San Jose, located in San Antonio, is typical of the old missions of Texas with their enclosed plazas.

In 1777, the Mission was visited by Father Juan Marfi, the famous Franciscan historian, who described the living quarters of the missionaries as two-storied with spacious galleries. Two sun dials made of limestone were set up. There was also the image of Saint Joseph on a pedestal made by Indian labor. These may still be seen and admired by visitors. Guest rooms, offices, a large and well-ordered kitchen, a comfortable refectory, and a pantry made up the mission. There was also an armory where guns, bows and arrows, and ammunition were kept in order to arm the Indians in case of an attack.

One may still examine the granary, which was built of stone and mortar. This building housed a loom from which the Indians wove cloth of all types and blankets. Here also was a carpenter shop, a blacksmith shop, and a tailor shop. Foods was stored in this building, so that the Indians and the missionaries could live within the walls of the mission grounds for quite some time without suffering. This precaution was taken in order to protect themselves in case hostile Indians were to surround the mission. Double walls, approximately 600 feet in length and 500 feet wide, enclosed the mission. These served not only as a protection but also as living quarters for the Indians, who lived between the walls.

The skill and workmanship of the missionaries may still be seen in the two staircases which lead to the tower. Each step in the winding stairway to the second floor is a triangular block of oak, and from the second story to the lookout

windows above, the workers set up the trunk of an immense tree and notched steps eighteen inches wide into it.

The doors at the entrance of the smaller chapel and baptistry are of heavy red cedar, artistically carved, and still hang on their original wrought-iron hinges. In the baptistry is the famous rose-window which is so well known and admired by visitors because of its beauty and the romantic legend connected with it. No historic park of this type would be complete without the legends that go with it, and San Jose has its share. School children as well as adults know the story that accompanies the rose-window of San Jose, and it is one of the chief attractions of the mission.

The story is that Pedro Huizar, a handsome young Spanish sculptor, came to this country to win a name for himself and to make a fortune. When he had gained fame, Rosa, the beautiful girl who was waiting for him in a little village in Spain, was to come to this country and meet him at the Mission San Jose. Huizar was engaged by the missionary at the mission to carve a window for the church. It was self-evident that the designs for the window should be of a religious character, but the young man was so in love with his Rosa, that, into this delicately and gracefully carved window he put nothing but roses.

Huizar sent for his Rosa when the window was nearing completion. The day before her arrival his last rose was carved. On the morning of her arrival Huizar received the



The famous Rose Window and the beautifully carved doors of the San Jose Mission attract many to this historical park each year.

message that Rosa's ship had been sunk and no one was saved.

The sculptor, realizing that he was being punished for his work on the rose-window, vowed to do penance by carving the most beautiful portal in the New Spain for the church. He died upon completion of his work, but his soul was free to join his Rosa.[4]

The stories about the casting of the mission bell and the tale of the whispering corridors are not so well known nor so often repeated; however, they, too, add to the interest of the mission.[5]

After the absence of the Franciscan Fathers for more than one hundred years, due to the secularization of the missions in 1793, they returned to the mission in 1931, and in 1937 the church was rededicated for religious services.

Although the Alamo is not a State park, no discussion of historical sites would be complete without this shrine. The Alamo is called the shrine of Texas liberty because it is here that a small band of Texans fought to the last man and held Santa Anna in check for thirty-eight days. Through this delay the brave men contributed to the defeat of the Mexicans at San Jacinto.

The Alamo is located in the center of the city of San Antonio. The old monastery was purchased by the State of Texas on February 10, 1904, and custody and care only, not the title, were given to the Daughters of the Republic of Texas,

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4. Madlem, Wilma: San Jose Mission, Its Legends, Lore and History, pages 1-11
5. Ibid, pages 11-13

to be maintained by them in good order and repair as a sacred memorial.[6] Texas owes a debt of gratitude to the late Clara Driscoll Sevier of Corpus Christi, who personally purchased the land around the chapel and donated it to the State that it might be preserved.[7]

What is now known as the Alamo is really only the church of the mission San Antonio de Valero. Construction of the mission was begun in 1744. Its purpose was to convert the Indians; however, the missionaries did not overlook the need for protection, so the buildings were arranged to form a quadrangle. On February 25, 1793, the Alamo was closed as a mission, and on March 6, 1836, it was the scene of the famous battle between the Texans and the Mexicans.

At the present time one may view the church proper and the rebuilt stone wall that surrounds the grounds. The wall is from two and one-half feet to one yard thick and eight feet high. In the park that surrounds the church is a museum which houses relics of the memorable Battle of the Alamo and other events of the period of the Revolution and of the Republic.

In the boulevard immediately in front of the Alamo, honoring the heroes of the Alamo, stands the Cenotaph, a monument erected by the Centennial Control Commission at a cost of $100,000. It is constructed of gray marble and pink granite,

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6. Heusinger, E. W.: Early Explorations and Mission Establishments in Texas, page 83
7. Wasson, Deane S.: The Winning of Texas Independence, page 41

and on its sides are inscribed the names of all who fell at the Alamo.

Because of the many historical events that took place at Goliad and in the surrounding territory, the land for this park was donated by the city and county of Goliad and was created as a State park by a special act of the legislature in 1831. It was to Goliad that Urrea marched Fannin and his men. Here they were killed and their bodies burned. In the Goliad State Park will be seen a large monument to Fannin and the Texans who served under him.

Goliad is one of Texas' oldest cities. It dates back to the establishment of a Catholic mission, Espiritu Santo Mission, in 1722. This mission is located in Goliad State Park and will be described in a later paragraph.

The main part of Goliad State Park consists of 230 acres of land on Texas Highway 29 between the town of Goliad and the San Antonio River. It is under the control of the local Goliad State Park Commission.[8] The landscaping of the park and the reconstruction of the Espiritu Santo Mission was done under the Civilian Conservation Corps under the direction of the National Park Service.

Entrance to the park is through Texas Highway 29. To the left, upon entering the park, is the custodian's Mexican ranch-style home, a garage, and workshops. A little farther to the southeast is the educational center of the park.

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8. Goliad State Park Commission is inoperative at the present.

The educational center consists of an auditorium, built of concrete in modern Hispanic style, a stadium, and various playing fields.

To the right is the reconstructed Espiritu Santo Mission. The mission of Espiritu Santo was founded in 1722 near Matagorda Bay and was moved to its ultimate site in 1749. The mission is an historical monument of great interest as it was the first great cattle ranch in Texas. At times it owned more than 15,000 head of cattle.

In March of 1836, a scouting party of Fannin's men took refuge behind the walls of the mission. An attempt has been made to restore the building as closely as possible to the original design.

Adjoining the church is the chapel and granary. The granary was repaired by the City Council of Goliad for school purposes in 1848, and was later used as a part of Aranama College, one of the first institutions of its kind in Texas. The College closed its doors in 1861 when all of its students left to join the Confederate Army.

The presidio, La Bahia, is located across the San Antonio River. Although of great historical interest in connection with the State park, the mission is the private property of the Roman Catholic Church and is still used by the local Mexicans for religious services. The complete lay-out of the mission is still to be seen. One can see the simple church, living apartments for the missionaries, burial ground, and a community building.

The church is seventy-eight and a half feet long and nineteen and a half feet wide, and its walls are four feet thick.

The mission is not on the route usually taken by visitors traveling through the state; thus it is visited by fewer tourists than are the other missions. La Bahia, before the Texas Revolution, was the second largest town in Texas, but at present few people live there.

The mission site of Rosario, located about four miles west of Goliad on Texas Highway 59, was deeded to the State for a park by Mr. William J. O'Connor. The mission was founded in 1754 to christianize the Karankaway Indians. This tribe was a coastal tribe whose chief diversion was to plunder ships. They hated the Americans and few who fell into their hands ever survived. The mission was abandoned in 1781.

About nine years later, the Fathers started the mission anew, but the buildings were in such ruins that new ones had to be constructed. What is left of the mission now dates from about 1790. In 1793 there were only thirty-three Indians living there. About this time the mission of Refugio was founded and, since it was richer in cattle and more elaborately furnished, it gradually absorbed the Rosario Indians and the mission Rosario was abandoned forever.

Other Historical Parks

Texas history is rich in heroes of the battlefield, many of whom are also famous statesmen. Monuments have been erected on the most significant battlegrounds and old forts have been restored to commemorate the courage of the settlers of Texas.

The Stephen F. Austin State Park, still under construction, is located three miles east of Sealy off State Highway 73, U.S. Highway 90. The park area is 126 miles from the present capital of the State. This park is under the control of the Texas State Parks Board.

In order to understand why this site was marked as a State park, one must realize that Stephen F. Austin, the Father of Texas, is perhaps the best loved of all the Texas heroes. The people of Texas have a strong feeling for the little colony of Anglo-Americans who left their homes and came into the strange lands to live.

The 671 acres on the Brazos is the site of the original town of San Felipe de Austin. Austin, himself, chose this section of land between the Colorado and Brazos rivers. He had permission to bring 300 families, and each family head and single man was to be given 640 acres of land with 320 acres added for a wife, 160 acres for each child, and 80 acres for each slave. In return Austin was to be paid twelve and one-half cents per acre by each settler.[9]

The little settlement prospered, but in 1836 the town was burned in order to prevent its falling into the hands

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9. Steen, R. W., History of Texas, pages 76-78

of Santa Anna. After the War of Independence a few of the settlers returned. Now, as then, the town is just a small farming community.

The citizens of the town treasure the legends and traditions of a time when Austin, Houston, and other great characters of Texas history visited the town. The old well that served the town was dug by the colonists in 1824, the year in which the town was founded, and all the notables who visited the town drank from this well.

In the park is a replica of Stephen F. Austin's log cabin, the only home Austin had in Texas, the old well used by the town, the old ferry that was used for crossing the Brazos River, the remains of an ancient cottonwood tree where boats docked in the old days, the Stephen F. Austin Monument which was erected in 1928 by the school children of Austin county, and the Stephen F. Austin statue which was unveiled on Father of Texas Day, November 3, 1938.

There is good fishing in the river and plenty of space for camping and picnicking in this inspiring spot.

Two miles northeast of Rusk, off U. S. Highway 84, is the home of James Stephen Hogg. Through the generosity of the descendants of James S. Hogg, 177 acres of the old Hogg farm were repurchased a few years ago, donated to the Texas State Parks Board, and have now become another one of Texas' historical park sites which honors a statesman.

James Stephen Hogg was the first native Texan to become its governor. Near the park area are the ruins of the former

governor's birthplace and the family cemetery which is the final resting place of his mother and several other members of his family.

Governor Hogg made his way from printing through journalism and law into politics and finally into the governorship. He boasted that when he left the governor's office he had only a dollar in his pocket; however, he was later to acquire great wealth through the discovery of oil on his land.

At the present time the park area has little to offer the visitor, but plans are being made to develop this site into a fitting memorial to a great man.

In its early stages Texas was a rugged territory, and it was necessary for the people who came to Texas to band themselves together for protection. The story of this linking together is best illustrated by the stories of the old forts, the remains of many of which still stand.

Fort Parker State Park, 1,496 acres, on the Navasota River, seven miles South of Mexia on Texas Highway 14, is in the center of Texas as far as population is concerned. The park area was purchased by the citizens of Mexia and Groesbeck and was given to the State. Lake Springfield, which lies within the park, was formed by the damming of the Navasota River. This lake covers 750 acres and offers fishing, swimming, and boating to the visitor.

Fort Parker is a part of this State park. This old fort was restored by Texas Centennial Funds in 1936. The fort was built originally in 1834 by Elder John Parker of Illinois when

he came to settle in Texas. The fort and stockade were constructed by placing tall cedar logs close together. Inside, attached to the log wall, are the small one-room log dwellings of the various families of the settlers.

The historic interest of this fort lies in the thrilling and human interest story of early Texas history. It is the site of the Fort Parker massacre of May 19, 1836. Here is the locale of the story of Cynthia Ann Parker, who was taken captive by the Indians. Her life among the Comanches has long been known as one of the most romantic stories in the history of the Lone Star State. The story tells of how she had the opportunity to return to her own people, but was unhappy and returned to her life among the Indians. She married the Indian Pete Nocona and bore a son who was known as the greatest Comanche chief.

The site of old Fort Griffin and of the town bearing the same name lies fifteen miles north of the town of Albany, in Shackelford County, on State Highway 23. Fort Griffin State Park consists of 503 acres and includes the ruins and restoration of old Fort Griffin. Fort Griffin, located on Government Hill, was one of the chain of army posts which stretched across western and southwest Texas to protect settlers against hostile Indians.[9] It was first garrisoned in 1867 by federal cavalry. Situated atop the bank of the Clear Fork of the Brazos River, it overlooked the rip-roaring frontier town from which the fort took its name. The town was the focal point in the Buffalo hunting industry and later was a marketing center for

9. Toulouse, J. H., and Toulouse, J. R.,: Pioneer Posts of Texas, pages 33-46

bleached buffalo bones used as fertilizer. The fort was abandoned in 1883.

The old McKenzie Trail from Fort Griffin to Tule or Yellow House Canyon can still be traced in places out of Fort Griffin, through portions of Shackelford County. The McKenzie Trail was the earliest trail to the Staked Plains. From Government Hill the visitor can view the old Chisholm Trail and Richardson's Crossing where cattle were driven north to Dodge City, Kansas. Future plans are to develop camping and picnicking areas for the visitor.

The thrilling story of Texas can be traced through its battlefields and the incidents that occurred there. These battlefields have rightfully been set aside as historical parks, and each tells an exciting story.

The Gonzales State Park is the battlefield in Texas history where the first shot of the revolution was fired. It is located in Gonzales County and in the city of Gonzales. What may be called the first battle of the Texas Revolution was fought at Gonzales on October 2, 1835. Colonel Ugartechea sent a company of about one hundred men to Gonzales to get the cannon that had been used by DeWitt's colony as protection against the Indians. The Americans refused to give it up and fired upon the Mexicans. It was in this battle that the Texans used the flag of white cloth with a cannon designed upon it and the words, "Come and Take It" stamped upon it. The Mexicans were terrified and fled toward

San Antonio.

Visitors will be interested in spending time in the museum for relics that is to be found in this park. This museum, the Gonzales Museum and Amphitheater, was built in 1936. An interior plaque is inscribed with the names of those who held the Mexican forces. A granite monument was also erected as part of the centennial program and this monument carries the names of the men who went from Gonzales to the aid of those in the Alamo.

Washington-on-the-Brazos is the home of the Texas Declaration of Independence. In view of this fact the citizens of Texas have honored the town of Washington by making it a State park. The park is located in the town of Washington.

The town, itself, has an interesting historical background. It is located in Washington County, named for George Washington, and is on Texas Highway 90. The town was established about one year prior to the signing of the Texas Declaration of Independence. On May 20, 1831, Andrew Robinson made a deed of half of the league of land that he owned to his daughter and her husband, John W. Hall. On April 24, 1835, Robinson transferred the remaining half to Hall for $1,800. On March 24, 1836, Hall sold to a group of speculators the tract of land including the town of Washington. These men made it a boom town. The capital of the Republic of Texas was established here, and the house was built in which the framers of the Declaration of Independence signed that famous document, March 2, 1836.[10]

10. Texas Almanac, 1945, page 59

About fifteen years before the State park at Washington was laid out, school children bought from the heirs of Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas, the lot in the town on which the blacksmith shop stood in which the Declaration was signed. A monument of gray Texas granite may still be seen in the park commemorating this purchase.

The site of Washington State Park was purchased through an appropriation made by the 34th Legislature. Since then, through State and Federal assistance, the park has been developed and buildings erected.

Visitors to the park will see the old blacksmith shop and the historic house "Barrington" that served as the home of Anson B. Jones. This White House of the Republic of Texas was moved to Washington State Park and restored to its original condition by the Parks Board. On the grounds will be found many monuments; among these will be seen the statue of George C. Childress, author of the Texas Declaration of Independence.

Located at the town of Refugio on U. S. Highway 77 is Kings Memorial State Park, a monument to Captain Amos B. King and his band of twenty-eight men who were killed by the Mexicans.

Colonel Fannin had sent Captain King with a small regiment to Refugio to remove certain families from that town to a place of safety when Santa Anna started for Texas in February of 1836. Instead of returning to Goliad when they

found themselves outnumbered, King sent word to Fannin to send him additional troops. Fannin immediately sent Colonel William Ward with one hundred and twelve men to King's assistance. A scouting party, including Captain King, attacked some unfriendly Mexican ranchers and the party was captured and slaughtered by order of Urrea at a spot near Refugio on March 16, 1836.

The monument in this park is also dedicated to Colonel William Ward and his men who defended Refugio Mission against the attacks of the Mexicans.

A single monument stands guard over the field where Fannin and his men were defeated by Urrea. Fannin State Park, thirteen miles southwest of Victoria on Texas Highway 59, is owned and maintained by the State of Texas in honor of those heroes who participated in the Battle of Perdido. It was here that Fannin and his little band of Texans, numbering less than 400, were surrounded by about 1,000 Mexicans. Fannin decided that his only choice was to surrender in order to save the lives of his men. The prisoners were taken back to Goliad and put into the mission where they remained for a week. Then, on Sunday morning, March 27, they were marched out under false pretenses and shot. The wounded, including Colonel Fannin, were also shot by the Mexicans. It is because of such treachery that the Goliad Massacre shares with the Alamo the battle cry of Texas freedom: Remember the Alamo, Remember Goliad.

Fannin State Park is located on the exact spot where the battle was fought and is surrounded by a stone wall about

four feet high. It is ornamented by shrubs and flowers. In the center of the park stands the Texas gray granite monument, twenty-eight feet in height, containing the following inscription: "In memory of Colonel James W. Fannin, Jr. and fellow-patriots whose surrender here on March 20, 1837, involved the sacrifice of their lives at La Bahia." On display in the waiting room are various mementos of the battle, including guns, sabers, and other implements used by Fannin and his soldiers. Also to be seen are shot and cannon balls which have been dug up on these grounds. For comparison are shown firearms used in both the Civil War and World War I.

A painting of Mission La Bahia where Fannin and his soldiers were imprisoned prior to being shot, as well as a historical map of the State of Texas, is hung in the museum.

"The Evolution of the Texas Flag", a four-by-six foot painting by Maureen L. Purington, which depicts the eleven Texas flags in proper colors, is hanging in this waiting room.[11] Beneath the painting appears the following data:

No. 1 - Flag of San Jacinto
No. 2 - National Standard of Republic (January 24, 1839), present State Flag
No. 3 - Flag of the Alamo
No. 4 - San Felipe Flag (February 29, 1836)
No. 5 - Flag of Goliad and Velasco (Brown's)
No. 6 - McGahey Flag (1835)
No. 7 - Flag of Ward's Georgia Battalion
No. 8 - Captain Dodson's Flag (September, 1835)
No. 9 - Naval Flag (April 9, 1836)
No.10 - Capt. Burrough's Flag (1836)
No.11 - National Standard of Republic (December 10, 1836)

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11. Souvenir of Fannin State Park

On U. S. Highway 90, a few miles below the city of Houston, lies the San Jacinto State Park. San Jacinto to the Texans means the hero Sam Houston, the defeat of Santa Anna, and the beginning of a new nation. To understand the pride of the Texans over the winning of the battle of San Jacinto, one must review the story of the defeat of Santa Anna and his superior Mexican troops.

Santa Anna, after his victories at the Alamo and Goliad, assumed that the war with Texas was over. Thus he spread his army to sweep the country. He sped to Harrisburg intending to take the Texas Capital and President Burnet. Finding Harrisburg deserted, Santa Anna moved on to the junction of the San Jacinto River and Buffalo Bayou and camped with part of his army. On April 20, Sam Houston and his men took up a position opposite Santa Anna and his army.

To reach this position both armies had crossed a wooden bridge on Vince's Bayou. Sam Houston ordered Deaf Smith to destroy this bridge in order to prevent further reinforcements to the Mexicans. This they did, but not before General Cos and about four hundred troops had already crossed it to enlarge the Mexican army. The destruction of the bridge was one of the most important factors in the war as it prevented Santa Anna's escape back to his main army.

On the afternoon of April 21, Sam Houston[12] and his men took the Mexicans by complete surprise. The Mexicans were having their siesta and were apparently all asleep. The

12. The Battle of San Jacinto and Texas under Six Flags, San Jacinto State Park Bulletin, page 5

conflict lasted only a short time, and the Texans were victorious.

Santa Anna was captured the next day south of Vince's Bayou. He was later sent to Washington where he promised to ask the United States Government to recognize Texas' independence. The United States did recognize the Republic of Texas on March 1, 1837. England, France, and the Netherlands had done so by 1840.

The San Jacinto State Park is under the State Board of Control. There are no concessions on the park grounds, other than souvenirs sold in the San Jacinto Museum of History. A most popular eating place, San Jacinto Inn, joins the park and is widely known for its sea food and chicken. Inside the park are many picnic areas.

Twenty historic markers were presented by the San Jacinto Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, to commemorate the Battle of San Jacinto.[13] These markers are scattered throughout the park area.

Marker No. 1 - "Twin Sisters." Two cannons presented by Cincinnati, Ohio's patriotic citizens.

Marker No. 2 - Colonel Edward Burleson's Camp site. The first regiment commanded by Colonel Burleson occupied the centre.

Marker No. 3 - Lt. Col. Henry Millard and his Infantry occupied a camp on this site.

Marker No. 4 - Where Cavalry Troops under Colonel Mirabeau B. Lamar camped. (Cavalry numbered 61 horses and men.)

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13. Booklet published by San Jacinto State Park

Marker No. 5 - This site marks the camp of Colonel Sidney Sherman and the Second regiment.

Marker No. 6 - The place where Colonel Sherman made his advance with infantry under his command, April 21, 1836.

Marker No. 7 - Marks the site occupied by Colonel Edward Burleson and infantry commanded by him, April 21, 1836.

Marker No. 8 - The spot where Colonel Thos. J. Rusk (Secretary of War) and his force advanced as a protective measure to the camp of the Texas army.

Marker No. 9 - Marks the site at point where Lt. Colonel Henry Millard and infantry advanced on April 21, 1836.

Marker No. 10 - Colonel George W. Hockley, Artillery Special Commander advance site of April 21, 1836.

Marker No. 11 - Where Mexican forces engaged in preliminary skirmish on April 20, 1836, the day preceding the Texans' decisive victory.

Marker No. 12 - This marker indicates the site where Colonel Sidney Sherman and cavalry skirmish occurred on the day previous to the battle.

Marker No. 13 - Site of the breastwork built by Mexican army, and point where cavalry of Texans began the battle.

Marker No. 14 - Spot where Mexican's twelve-pounder cannon, loaded for action, was taken.

Marker No. 15 - This marker stands just to right of where enemy's cannon was taken, and marks Mexican breastwork.

Marker No. 16 - The spot where Santa Anna camped, and where the Texas army's onslaught awakened him and his forces from rest and refreshments.

Marker No. 17 - This marker stands on the spot where Colonel Almonte, Mexican leader responsible for the carnage of Alamo heroes, was captured.

Marker No. 18 - Marker commemorating the destruction of Vince's Bridge over Vince's Bayou near Pasadena on April 21, 1836.

Marker No. 19 - On this site General Sam Houston was wounded, and his horse killed during the battle action.

Marker No. 20 - Camp site of General Sam Houston on the day following the battle, April 22, 1836; and the spot where Texas Independence was born.

In the San Jacinto Battlefield Park of 450 acres stands the San Jacinto Monument. It is 570 feet 4 inches from grade to top and is the tallest stone monument in the world. It is of reinforced concrete faced with Texas golden buff limestone. The base of the monument houses the San Jacinto Museum of History. The erection of the monument and landscaping of the battlefield was done at a cost of $1,868,000 of State and Federal funds as part of the centennial program of 1936. There is an admission charge to go to the tower by elevator; adults twenty-five cents and children ten cents. The museum is free.

Monument Hill State Park is an area of approximately one-half acre on a high bluff overlooking the Colorado River and the city of La Grange. It is reached by U. S. Highway 77. A fence encloses the area in which is located a shaft in honor of the men of the Mier Expedition. Here rest the remains of those men of the ill-fated expedition and those of Captain Nicholas Dawson's men who fell at Salado Creek near San Antonio in one of the battles of the Texas Revolution. The monument is approximately thirty feet high, and was erected in observance of Texas' Centennial celebration in 1936.

CHAPTER IV

PUBLIC PARKS AS SOCIAL ASSETS

Purpose of Public Parks and Recreation Areas

The chief purpose of a state owned and operated recreational area is to improve the health and happiness of its people. Outdoor recreation means a healthier and more content populace. Substitutes for the betterment of health are being constantly offered to the public; but there is no substitute for the great outdoors for the restoration of both physical and mental health.

The recreation needs of the people at large can best be provided through the agency of the government. State owned parks encourage the people of the state to observe the natural beauties of their communities and to learn to relax and enjoy them. The public attitude toward recreation and play has changed materially during the past few years. The idea that "it pays to play" is approaching general acceptance. People in this hurried age must be encouraged to relax after a day's work, and, at no time can one have such complete relaxation as when he gets out among the wonders of nature. Simply a hike through the woods after a day of business routine means complete physical diversion and mental rest.

One of the highest duties of the State is the conservation of human resources as well as the conservation of natural resources. A well planned parks system does both. In the conservation of natural resources, the parks system stresses the idea of wise use of natural resources rather than the saving or conserving of natural resources without use.

Texas' Natural Advantages for Recreational Areas

Texas should lead all of the States in the ownership and maintenance of State parks since it is the only State that once owned title to all of her lands. Texas, however, did not reserve one beauty spot, nor did it set aside anywhere one acre of land to be used and enjoyed by the public, in the name of the State. Rather, Texas has now sold or given away practically all of her public lands, aggregating one hundred and seventy-two million acres.[1]

Texas is the land of great recreational opportunities. One of Texas' greatest natural resources, as far as recreation is concerned, is its waters, rivers, streams, lakes, and large reservoirs. It is a land of great diversities. In some degree its diversification is derived from the varied geological structure which is the State's physical

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1. Neff, Pat M., The Battles of Peace, 1925

foundation.

Geographically and geologically the State is a cross section between United States and Latin America. The late Dr. Robert T. Hill, the "Dean of Texas Geologists" often said, "Texas is at the crossroads of North American geology".[2] The major structural features of Texas are: the West Texas Permian Basin; the Gulf Coastal Plain; the mountains of the Rocky Mountain System; the Amarillo-Wichita-Muenster Mountains; and the broad zone between the Permian Basin and the Gulf Coastal Plain.[3]

Above the complex geological structure of Texas the surface is itself diversified. This diversification presents an interesting picture to the visitor to Texas and offers to Texas a natural advantage in the selection of varied park areas.

Texas is the meeting place of four great physiographic regions each of which has its own distinctive characteristics. The Coastal Plains which extend into the State from the east include the coastal area where the temperature is always mild, an ideal playground all the year around.

The lower Rio Grande Valley also falls in this section of Texas. Here the winter tourist may see winter vegetables in cultivation and may pick citrus fruits in December. The

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2. Texas Almanac, 1945-1946, page 129
3. Ibid, page 132

large Spanish speaking population throughout this area, many of which still live in adobe huts, are a constant source of interest and attraction for the out-of-state visitor. Part of this Latin-American population is foreign-born. This group of people still carry on the traditions of old Mexico. Visitors to the State need not go on to Mexico to see how the citizens of Mexico live because Texas has border towns from Brownsville to El Paso that are as purely Mexican as Mexico itself. Some of the inhabitants of these border towns are from families that have lived north of the Rio Grande since the time of Mexican, even Spanish, sovereignty.

The second great physiographic region is the Lower Great Western Plains which cross the border from the north and include the eroded area of the Burnet-Llano region. In this region there are wide expanses of prairie country with numerous native pecan trees along the streams; this situation makes for an ideal camping area. This section is also an eroded area, traversed by the deep valleys of the Colorado and Llano Rivers with much broken and mountainous country. Here is found the Granite Mountain and the Enchanted Rock, wonders of nature equal to any found in the United States or Latin America.

The Higher Great Western Plains, a third region, extend

into the State in the Panhandle and are an extension of the Great High Plains which lie at the base of the Rockies from Canada to Southwest Texas. The Hill Country of Texas is in this region and is a natural recreational resort area because it is a mountainous country with deep canyons and many streams fed by innumerable springs. Good cover and sparse settlement makes the area abundantly stocked with wild game. The traveler may see herds of wild deer, flocks of wild turkey, and other wild game from the highway.

The division of Texas west of the Pecos is a high plateau traversed from northwest to southwest by ranges of mountains which are a part of the Rockies in the United States and which become the Sierra Madre Oriental in Mexico. Summer tourists are attracted to this region because the summer months are relatively cool. This is because of the altitude which rises from 2,000 feet at the Rio Grande to 4,500 feet in the northern part, with mountains rising to more than 7,000 feet. Guadalupe Peak, highest point in Texas, 8,751 feet, is in this region. Mountains always attract summer visitors, and this section of Texas gives the State a natural advantage over many other states for the setting up of a park.

In addition to the mountains to attract in this section, the Salt Flats are found at the foot of the

Guadalupe Mountains. These flats, once the source of salt supply for a wide area in the United States and northern Mexico, still have commercial production.

The climate of Texas also gives it a natural advantage over many states as a year-around playground. The mean annual temperature for the entire State is 66.3 degrees Fahrenheit. The range is from 56 degrees in the northern part of the Panhandle to a mean of 74 degrees in the Rio Grande Valley. The extreme southern part of the State is subtropical, and, except on the High Plains of Northwest Texas, snowfall is negligible.

Social Value of Public Parks

Parks are great equalizers. They are social centers where people can meet and exchange ideas without the formality of schools, auditoriums, or public assemblies. The creation of parks tends to break down social barriers, sectional and racial prejudices, and religious differences, for, in nature, we are all on a common ground.

Much of the juvenile delinquency that has become so prevelant in our State could be averted if the youth of crowded areas were given healthy outdoor recreational facilities. The creation of parks would cost the State much less than the maintenance of correction homes. The State owes it to its youth to provide recreational areas

with facilities that attract. Too many times young people are required to trespass on private territory because the State has failed to acquire lake frontages, and private individuals have secured all of the land surrounding good fishing, boating, and swimming areas.

Parks have a definite educational value. Through the use of parks children learn to love and to value the wonders of nature. This appreciation of nature is as important in the formation of character as any course offered in the public schools, and Texas is rich enough in acreage to provide adequate parks for her school children.

Parks as Advertising Agents

Texans contribute greatly to the flow of money into other States, some of which have nothing to compare with the historic shrines, pleasure resorts, and beauty spots of their own State. An efficient park system would advertise Texas to Texans and tend to stop much of this migration for amusement and vacations.

Proper advertising of the parks will encourage Texans to see Texas. The average citizen knows little about his State. Most Texans think of Texas in terms of one small part of the State. With the building of highways and through a good system of parks, Texans would visit each other and

become better neighbors by becoming better acquainted with the great varieties of nature and products in Texas.

So much has been written about the vast area of Texas that emphasis on size has overshadowed the important fact that only five states, New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Ohio, and California, have a greater total population. Advertising Texas to its own populace is in itself a tremendous task but a task that would pay dividends.

Non-Texans are also interested in learning about and visiting the Lone Star State. A park system with an alert advertising division could do much to advertise the beauties and recreational opportunities to be found in Texas. The following quotations from "Sparks", a monthly magazine published by the Texas State Parks Board, serve to illustrate the curiosity that people have about Texas and the lack of an advertising agency to answer this curiosity.

> With the curiosity of non-Texans about Texans increasing a thousand-fold since the war thrust proud Texans into the far corners of the earth, questions have been rolling into various state agencies with stampede velocity.

> People from other states and other nations who write for information about Texas want to know everything from whether the climate is suitable for raising mung beans to whether land near the coast is available for grazing crabs and oysters.
>
> With no central agency in the State's setup for answering the queries the bulk of the questions land in the State Parks Board, the Texas Highway Department, the Game, Fish and Oyster Commission, the Industrial Division of the Governor's office, the Agriculture Commissioner's Office, and the General Land Office. The Parks Board has been furnishing this type of information for several years, even to the extent of carrying on regular correspondence with school students in Africa. Its most faithful and admiring questioner is Godspower Obazee of Benin City, Nigeria. 4

One effective means of answering questions and advertising at the same time is through pamphlets that contain pictures and give descriptions of the park areas and the section of country in which one finds the park area. A good example of this method done effectively is the booklet published by the Valley Forge Park Commission of Philadelphia concerning the Valley Forge Park. It is a forty-eight page record and guide book showing through maps how to reach the park from points north, east, south, and west. It also contains pictures and descriptions of the park area.

Texas has overlooked a great advertising opportunity in this respect. Very few parks in Texas have a compre-

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4. Sparks, September 1945, page 11

hensive map and description of its area. The recreational parks, for the most part, have small leaflets, but outside of the few pamphlets that were published during the Texas Centennial celebrations, no illustrated descriptions of the historical parks are available.

The Need for Recreational Facilities that Attract

In August 1945, the number of cars entering the parks of Texas was 73,054 and of this number, 5,920 were out-of-state cars.[5] The questions that these figures present with relation to the State parks system are: Are Texas parks equipped to meet the demands of the tourist, whether out-of-state or local? What inducements have the Texas State parks to offer to tourists to remain in the State and seek recreation rather than to drive through to other states?

A general recreational program needs to be developed throughout the State. As before mentioned, Texas is a land of varieties, and her recreational program and facilities can and should be equally varied.

Picnicking and camping should be an essential part of all Texas parks. Many visitors come to the parks of this State solely to enjoy camping in the great out-of-doors, because many people think of Texas in terms of the great open spaces, and this is what they are seeking. Picnicking and camping will take on a new attraction for the visitors

5. Material supplied by Texas State Parks Board, Austin, Texas

to Texas parks if every facility is provided to increase its enjoyment. Picnic tables scattered among the trees, outdoor barbeque pits with stacks of firewood, modern and clean comfort stations, and modern drinking fountains are essential to enjoyable picnicking.

Completely equipped playgrounds where the children can enjoy themselves in safety are also items to attract visitors and to aid in the enjoyment of the stay for both parent and children. Too few of the State parks have adequate playground equipment of the type suitable for youngsters.

Hunting and fishing are perhaps the most universally enjoyed outdoor types of recreation. Many Texas parks are ideal places for such sports and should be developed and advertised to the public as such. The Inks Lake State Park, for example, is a fisherman's idea of an excellent place to spend a vacation. Many other parks have good fishing streams that need to be developed.

A recreational program of hunting can be extended throughout the State because of the abundance of wild life found in all areas of the State. Hunting seasons vary, and the open-seasons should be advertised so that the visitor will be familiar with the rules and regulations within the State. Many business men will plan their vacations to coincide with these hunting seasons. A good example of this

is the winter hunting season of quail, wild turkey, and deer.

Many families are attracted to a recreational program that not only entertains but also has an educational value. Historical parks afford an excellent opportunity for co-ordinating education with recreation. Guides should be added to historical parks to explain to the visitor the story of the park, the reason why the area was chosen as a State park, and its historical importance to the State. Historical markers placed along well planned paths would instruct those who prefer to tour the area at their own leisure, or where the hiring of guides was impractical.

Recreational parks also have educational value in the observance and study of nature. The addition of a naturalist service in Texas parks would be most effective because of the abundance and variety of bird, animal, and plant life found in the various park areas. A good example showing the duties and success of such a service is found in Indiana which has a naturalist service in her state parks. The staff accompanies visitors on early morning bird hikes, nature hikes, gives lectures, and attends at the museums. It was found that 34,800 people were assisted during the summer of 1944 in their enjoyment of the Indiana State Parks by the naturalists.

Inadequacy of Present Parks

From the year 1939 to the year 1947, the total attendance of the State parks increased 1,834,176. The parks have been improved during these years, however, they are still not adequately equipped to take care of this large attendance. The following table shows the increase in attendance each year from 1939:[6]

Total Attendance in State Parks

Year	Attendance
1939	684,383
1940	1,067,147
1941	1,510,943
1942	1,813,131
1943	2,085,100
1944	2,003,689
1945	2,143,682
1946	2,479,199
1947	2,518,559

One of the greatest needs of the Texas State Parks is a building program of lodges. Camping facilities and overnight lodges are needed in every park; no park is adequately supplied. Good examples of this inadequacy are shown in the fact that Lake Corpus Christi State Park had 1,302 out-of-

6. Files of Texas State Parks Board

state cars in its park in 1944, yet it has only a combination building with dance terrace as a shelter for over-night guests. MacKenzie State Park had a total of 21,819 cars to enter its area, and it has no over-night accommodations. These figures were taken from a year when many of the visitors to the parks were soldiers and their families, many of whom were temporarily located in the State and were not seeking over-night lodges at this particular time, but it will be difficult to induce them to return in future years if they see how inadequately equipped the State parks are for an extended visit.

Visitors are not only inconvenienced by this lack of accommodations, but they are cheated out of much of the enjoyment and many of the attractions of the park if they are forced to leave the area in time to drive several miles seeking over-night accommodations. For example, one cannot view all of the beauties of Palo Duro Canyon if he must return to the nearest town before sunset in order to locate for the night. Visitors in the Davis Mountains miss the pleasure of sleeping in the fresh mountain air among the rustic surroundings.

In connection with this building program, Texas Parks System also needs a plan by which rates, rules, and regulations are published on printed forms so reservations can be made in advance. Only then will both park managers and

visitors know how to plan for their busy season.

Texas, in order to correct this inadequacy, may well follow the examples of Pennsylvania and Indiana. Pennsylvania has twenty-eight recreational parks, thirteen areas of which have from four to twenty-five cabins. Their Bureau of Parks, which comes under the Department of Forests and Waters, has a printed form which must be followed in order to reserve a cabin.[7] All reservations must be made in advance, and a reservation fee is charged. The fee, however, applies on the rent. Much the same routine is followed by Indiana which has over-night facilities in nine out of twelve State parks.

The tourist industry in Texas now ranks in dollar value along with its other industries, oil, cattle, and agriculture, and thus Texas has a definite responsibility to its citizens to support this industry.

7. Appendix II, page 124

CHAPTER V

PLANNING A PARK PROGRAM FOR THE FUTURE

If the need of a postwar works program arises in the near future, public agencies such as the parks division should be ready to use its appropriations to the best advantage. The acquisition of land now, the development of proposed recreation areas on this land, would furnish valuable employment for thousands who may be forced to look to the Federal Government for jobs. Park development jobs make excellent projects, and the returns from such labor are long and lasting. Many improvements were added to the State parks during such a works program of previous years. Almost every park in Texas was added to and developed under the supervision of the C. C. C.

A good example of a forward-looking state in relation to its parks and recreational program is Indiana. This State proposes to double the size of its present park system, to add approximately ten new units to the system, and to provide State park facilities within approximately thirty-five miles of every resident of Indiana.

Indiana also proposes to build artificial lakes in certain areas of the State. Its plan will require a period of thirty years and will entail the expenditure of five million dollars. This is a long time project, but valuable conservation developments are generally considered long time programs.

Texas must also think in terms of long-time programs. Proposed lake beds and a limited acreage adjacent to them should be in State ownership. The areas around the margin of the lakes that are acquired by the State parks should be of sufficient acreage to prevent the use of privately owned land for development which would take advantage of the lake proper.

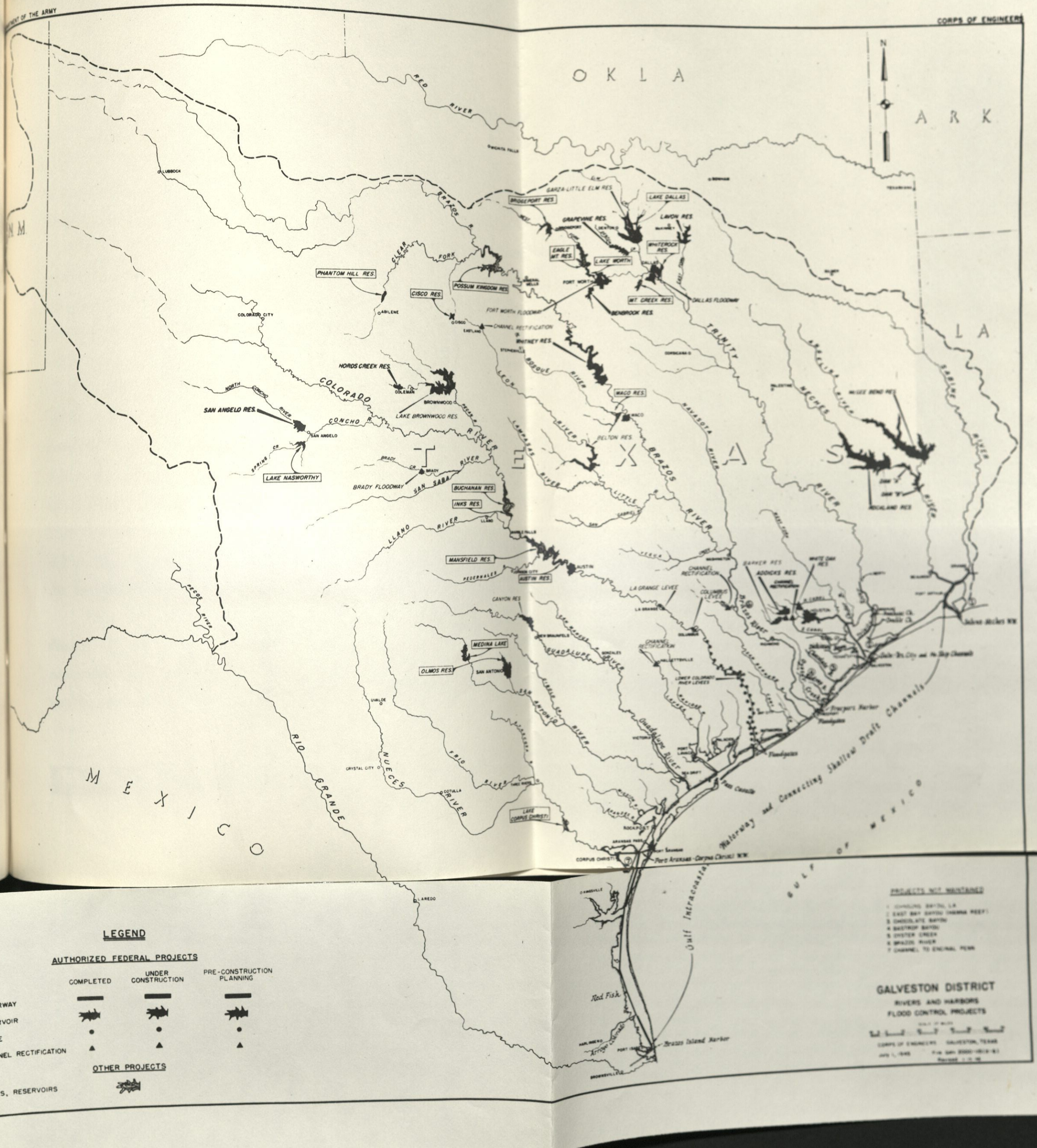
The amendment to Public Law 526, section 4, allows long-term leases of "all or any portion of lands around newly created lakes to nonprofit organizations at reduced or nominal rentals."[1] This means that the State Parks Board could acquire lands around every newly created or proposed lake site in Texas. There is no more ideal location for a park than adjacent to a lake which would offer to the vacationist boating, swimming, fishing, and camping. In the average park most people are found near the water. Water particularly attracts the summer visitor.

It is further stated in the amendment that the Federal Government will make all utilities available to these lake areas and will lease the acreage to non-profit organizations, such as the State Parks Board, for as long as ninety-nine years.

The inserted map which follows shows the authorized Federal projects in Texas; those completed, those under

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1. Appendix I, page 122



LEGEND

AUTHORIZED FEDERAL PROJECTS

	COMPLETED	UNDER CONSTRUCTION	PRE-CONSTRUCTION PLANNING
WATERWAY	▬	▬	▬
RESERVOIR	▬	▬	▬
LEVEE	●	●	●
CHANNEL RECTIFICATION	▲	▲	▲

OTHER PROJECTS

LAKES, RESERVOIRS

PROJECTS NOT MAINTAINED

1. CHANNEL BAYOU, LA
2. EAST BAY BAYOU CHANNEL REEF
3. CHOCOLATE BAYOU
4. BASTROP BAYOU
5. OYSTER CREEK
6. BRAZOS RIVER
7. CHANNEL TO ENCINAL POINT

GALVESTON DISTRICT

RIVERS AND HARBORS
FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS

CORPS OF ENGINEERS GALVESTON, TEXAS
JULY 1, 1945

PHOTOSTAT COPY BY MILLER BLUE PRINT CO. AUSTIN, TEX.
MADE
OFF

construction, and the pre-construction planning.[2]

The entry of the Federal Government into the State in the establishment of four national forests in East Texas gives Texas four potential recreation grounds in a long-range park program for the future. The basis for parks has been laid here by the already setting aside of the land.

One of the main objectives of the national forests is the development of recreational areas for public use and enjoyment. An example of a national forest in which it is proposed by the State to establish a wildlife preserve and a park is the Big Thicket. This forest is in Southeast Texas. The total area of the Big Thicket is about 2,000,000 acres, and in this area is to be found such growth as rare orchids, water lilies, wandering Jew, and many other vines that give it the name of thicket. Trees in this area are water oak, black gum, willow, magnolia, and cypress. Wildlife includes the black bear, deer, bobcat, turkey, beaver, and otter. The Alabama-Coushatta Indian reservation is in the northern part of the Big Thicket.

This is one example of why Texas must include in her future program for State parks a plan whereby these forests and their many flora and fauna and other items of interest may be presented to the public.

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2. Map from War Department, Galveston District, Corps of Engineers, Galveston, Texas

Proposed Areas

The location of State parks in Texas, up to the present time, has been purely by chance. Parks are located in the various sections of the State simply because someone has donated land in that section for a park site. No plan or scheme has been devised for the location of parks according to population need or ideal physical location.

This is not the fault of the State Parks Board, but rather is an unavoidable circumstance due to the fact that no appropriations have been made for the planning of a complete parks system for the entire State as a whole or for the purchasing of needed sites which would make for a well planned parks system.

Many of the State parks have nothing to offer the visitor other than rest and quiet from the noise of the city. Too few have such attractions as fishing, boating, swimming, and even camping facilities. This is due largely to the fact that many of the donated areas are not near any of the lakes or wooded areas of the State.

Many densely populated areas of the State have been neglected entirely. The Houston area is a good example of a section that is not adequately served by the parks system. It is true that the San Jacinto Monument is near this industrial center, but the monument and its grounds offer little inducement to the family that enjoys and desires participation in out-of-door sports and activities. A crowded indus-

trial area such as this one needs recreational parks within easy access to them.

There is a plan at present to establish a park on Burnet Bayou, across from San Jacinto Monument, and to make this plot of land a recreational park. This land has been offered to the State Parks Board by an individual for a recreational park. The Board is now investigating the value and potentialities of the area.

As can be seen on the map which is inserted after page 93 there is a possibility of acquiring a park site in the Sabine-Neches-Angelina area adjacent to the proposed reservoir. This is a much needed area and would care for the population in East Texas.

Another much neglected area is the section around San Angelo. There is a possibility of securing lands from the Federal Government on the Concho River adjacent to the San Angelo Reservoir which is now under construction. This acquisition of land for a park area would take care of the population around and in the city of San Angelo, which at the present time has very little to offer her residents in the way of recreation.

The State Parks Board should act promptly on the acquisition of these lands that are adjacent to constructed lakes and dams before some other non-profit organization seizes the opportunity of securing the land from the Federal Government. Improvements to the land can come gradually.

In fact, improvements should be spread over a period of years and should be enlarged upon as population increases and demands change. Minor facilities would make these areas available for swimming, boating, and fishing.

At the present time the State Parks Board has four prospective new park areas. The State Parks Board is authorized to accept gifts of land near Fredericksburg in Gillespie County for the purpose of establishing an Admiral Nimitz State Park. An area has been tendered to the Board, but no action has been taken in regard to its acceptance.

The State Parks Board is authorized to accept gifts of land near Lake Texoma in Grayson County, for the purpose of establishing a General Eisenhower State Park, but no area has been tendered to the Board.

In the town of Port Isabel, Cameron County, the Parks Board is authorized to accept title to the Port Isabel Lighthouse and the site on which it is located. The title has not as yet been given the Board.

A resolution designating a fifty acre tract on Lake Bridgeport in Wise County to be known as General Wainwright State Park, has been passed by the State Parks Board. Its becoming a park is subject to the working out of specific arrangements with the Tarrant County Water Board, owners of the land. There has been no deed of conveyance from the Water Board to the Parks Board.

Parks and Education

Texas educators are seriously considering the advisability of adopting the twelve months school plan. The adoption of such a plan would offer a tremendous opportunity for the parks to play a major role in the educational setup for the State.

This twelve months school plan does not entail the formal classroom instruction for twelve months; rather, it seeks to supervise the activities of the three months that children are not in school. With this idea in mind, the Texas State Parks Board has asked for an extra appropriation from the Legislature whereby seven parks can be prepared to offer facilities for these summer group activities.[3]

The seven parks selected by the Board are Bastrop State Park, Brownwood State Park, Garner State Park, Bonham State Park, Caddo Lake State Park, Cleburne State Park, and Lake Corpus Christi State Park. These seven areas were chosen because they fit into the plan, that is, they are large areas, well located, and easily accessable to the schools of the State.

In order to make these parks usable for the proposed group activities, the construction of several buildings will be necessary. The chief equipment needed in all of the parks are mess halls and kitchens and housing facilities for large groups. Several smaller sleeping quarters rather than one

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3. Chapter I, page 15

large room are desirable in order to simplify the matter of discipline.

Three youth groups come within the structure of the plan; the Future Farmers of America, the 4 H Group, and the Future Home Makers. In Texas there are 27,000 Future Farmers of America members (5,000 colored); 130,000 Four H Club members; and 32,000 Future Home Makers members.[4] At the present time the Future Home Makers have from $10,000 to $12,000 in its treasury for the purpose of building a summer camp.

The National Recreation Association in California is doing the biggest job in the West in planning for its summer group activities. The legislature has established a State Recreation Commission composed of five men. These men correlate the work of the various State agencies and also work with private agencies such as the Boy Scouts.

Oklahoma at the present time has six camps that are used for group activities, three of which are at Lake Texoma. The State is now building six more throughout the State.

Should not Texas also look to the future in education and plan for such group activities? The State Parks Board must make its plans now because much time is needed after legislative appropriation of funds are made to construct buildings and to prepare the park area adequately for such use.

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4. Minutes of State Inter-Agency Committee, Austin, Texas

Schools and colleges can help the parks system by giving courses against vandalism as well as courses in conservation.

The Game Department now cooprates with the Department of Education on conservation programs by holding teachers workshops. In these workshops teachers are prepared to pass information gained along to the children. This form of teachers workshop comes under the title of Resource-Use Education and has as one of its aims to help each participant increase his subject matter background on regional and community resources. It aims to develop a point of view on the part of the teacher as to the value of resources and to teach how to integrate a study of resources with the regular curriculum. Resources, in this course, covers soils, waters, forest, minerals, wildlife, and marine resources. A similar course worked into the college curriculum would be a great asset to teachers who will supervise this summer group activities program and to the classroom teacher who will be responsible for the preparation of the child for the summer activity.

Conservation of natural resources, whenever taught to children in the public schools of Texas, is taught as a part of an elementary science course; however,there is no suggested course of study placed in the hands of the teachers by the State Department of Education, nor is there a State adopted text for this science course. Thus a qualified and interested

teacher may go far in the field, yet many teachers never cover the subject. In some schools the subject of conservation is introduced and discussed only in connection with elementary geography, and whenever it is found in a supplementary reader. In 1944 Indiana completed its first text on conservation and introduced the teaching of this subject in the public schools.[5]

Financing a Parks Program

In discussing postwar plans and potential development of park facilities Mr. Lathrop, who was in 1945 the director of Minnesota State Parks, made the following statement to the National Conference on State Parks:

> There is a Federal aid bill for State parks ready for presentation to Congress. The essence of it means that we want Congress to provide Federal funds to help develop State parks because we feel that State recreational parks are just as essential to good morale and good health as schools are essential for education . . . .Outdoor recreation has become a part of everyone's daily life. The war brought out the fact that State parks are as important a function of the State government as are the schools.[6]

Texas must be ready with postwar plans so that it will be able to use any Federal funds wisely, and in order to keep step with state developments throughout the country. Aid from the Federal Government has always been the largest appropriation that Texas State parks has had.

Although the Federal Government may be counted on as

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5. Appendix II, page 125
6. Sparks: September, 1945

one source of revenue in the future of State parks, yet Texas cannot expect the Federal Government to supply it with enough funds to establish and maintain an adequate parks system. At the present time a Federal excise tax of ten per cent upon sporting arms and ammunition provides an annual revenue of $3,000,000. This money is distributed to the states as to area and total sale of hunting licenses. This revenue should be placed, at least partially, in the hands of the State Parks Board for parks that will help conserve our wildlife. Federal legislation is now pending which provides for a similar excise tax to be placed upon fishing tackle. These funds will be pro-rated to the respective states upon the basis of total area and the number of fishing licenses sold. It is logical to estimate that Texas will benefit greatly from this source.

The distribution of funds from such sources presents the question as to whether or not the State parks should be placed under the Texas Game, Fish and Oyster Commission. Fishing and hunting are a big item in any recreational area and thus the parks system could logically fall under the supervision of the commission. There is a move by the Texas Chamber of Commerce to put it there.

It is true that large appropriations are made to this commission each year, and the parks would benefit from this financially. They would also benefit by having the trained

biologists of the commission at their disposal. In Chapter VI a grouping is suggested under the main title of Department of Conservation. This plan would preserve the titles of the individual divisions yet would make them function as a unit.

The various states have many different means of financing their State parks such as fees from the sale of hunting and fishing licenses, automobile licenses, etc. There are no present instances where a permanent special tax is imposed for State park purposes. The closest approach to this was when in 1919 and again in 1937, Indiana authorized a State tax to be levied on all taxable property for a stated number of years for the purpose of acquiring lands for the establishment of a State park.[7]

Appropriations are made each year by the Texas Legislature for the financing of the parks system, but proper maintenance of the parks of Texas means adequate operating forces, adequate equipment and supplies which, in turn, means an adequate budget. Enough money should be appropriated by the Texas Legislature to insure the proper operation of all Texas State Parks. The appropriation should be made in blanket form and not delegated to individual parks as is now done, so that in case of an emergency funds can be

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7. United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1837 Yearbook, page 16

shifted from one park to another.

State parks should not be expected to be self-supporting. The charging of excessive fees would defeat the purpose of the parks. Michigan, a state with a postwar program well worth study, receives revenues from concessions, electric service to campers, and charges for group camping. In addition, the Legislature of Michigan has appropriated $125,000 for State park improvements. This sum will be used chiefly to complete projects started under W.P.A. and C.C.C. programs.

The charging of fees, however, is essential. People who visit a park expect to pay a minimum fee for camping, concessions and the like. The paying of a fee in many cases causes added respect for public property. But fees must be kept at a minimum so that the parks will serve all classes of the State and not merely the privileged.

The Texas State Parks Board should not have to rely entirely upon donations to increase the needed lands or funds. It should not be placed in the position of having to accept sites that are unsuitable in location and lacking in natural facilities simply because it has no other means of acquiring sites. The Board should have a fund set up for, and the authority to, purchase such sites as are deemed necessary and valuable to the system. To finance such purchases the Legislature could initiate a long term

program by appropriating a set sum of money each year for a period of ten years to be used in the acquiring of new park sites. In this way the funds would be available when needed for the purchase of land as it becomes available.

CHAPTER VI

PROPOSED PLAN FOR ADMINISTRATION OF PUBLIC PARKS SYSTEM

Introduction

State parks serve a combination of purposes. Some are established for the purpose of providing open spaces for public recreation, some for the preservation of national beauty and geologic conditions, and some for their historic association.

Whatever the program within our State, it can best be operated and the purposes of its parks can best be fulfilled when this park system works in cooperation with all of the related departments of the State. Thus this study proposes the creation of a Department of Conservation of which the Texas State Parks Board would be one cooperative unit in a broad program of recreation, conservation, and rehabilitation. This coordination of the various related departments would enable each division to benefit from the knowledge and experience of the workers in each other division. It would also aid financially the whole State as there would be no overlapping of workers. For example, the Division of Engineering would take care of all surveying in all of the sections of the Department of Conservation, thus eliminating the necessity of having a separate corps of engineers in the State Parks Division whose salaries would have to be paid out of the money appropriated for State

parks.

A survey of State parks made by the United States Department of Interior in June, 1945, shows that of the thirty-four states reporting, only six states follow the Texas plan of maintaining a parks program completely segregated from all other phases of conservation and recreation. Fifteen states have a Department of Conservation with the parks as a division of the department, and nineteen have the State parks in combination with State Forests or Natural Resources division. This shows that the Division of Conservation has been used successfully in a large percentage of states. Many states originally had a separate parks commission and later combined it with a Conservation Commission.[1]

The State of Michigan may be cited as a good illustration of a coordinated program of recreation and conservation. In 1921 the Michigan Legislature created the Department of Conservation and the State Parks Commission was dissolved and its responsibilities transferred to the new Conservation Department. This department was made by combining a number of commissions such as fish and game, land, geological survey, etc.

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1. Appendix II, page 125.

A Proposed Department of Conservation

The Conservation Commission of Texas should consist of six members for a term of five years, appointed by the governor. Remuneration should be limited to travel expenses. The commission should select its own chairman to serve for the year. Regular monthly meetings should be held, and a secretary should be paid to look after the affairs of the commission between meetings. The chairman, or director, of the department should carry out the orders of the commission and work through the heads of the various divisions.

The divisions of the Department of Conservation, as it would be organized in Texas, should be as follows:

Department of Conservation

No. of Divisions	Title
1	Division of Game and Fish
2	Division of Forestry
3	Division of State Parks
4	Division of Engineering
5	Division of Public Relations
6	Division of Geology and Entomology

Divisions as Cooperative Units

The chief purpose in such a combination of divisions is toppromote cooperation among the various state departments

that are vitally concerned with all phases of conservation and recreation.

The Division of Game and Fish has the responsibility of maintaining and perpetuating those natural resources which provide recreation in the out-of-doors. It should be the duty of the division to sponsor the artificial propagation of game and fish and the continuation of wildlife and game habitat development. Certain state owned lands should be made parks and public hunting grounds. Display ponds could be maintained by the department at State parks where many species of Texas fish could be kept on display. These ponds would attract many visitors who are not familiar with Texas species and who are interested in identifying various species.

The Division of Forestry should supply the parks with trees from its nurseries. It should supervise the trimming, cutting, and transplanting of trees. The division should train forest fighters who should work within wooded park areas. Much loss is registered each year in the parks by forest fires.

Conservation of Texas forests has been grossly neglected. The forests have been one of Texas' greatest natural resources. Through a cooperative plan, parts of the forests could be designated as recreational areas and the parks system would aid the State in the prevention of fire and waste.

The Division of Geology and Entomology should, through

their research and supervision, aid the parks in protecting trees from insects and also by making geological maps of the parks.

The Division of Engineering should give expert advice on the landscaping of park areas. The beauty of many parks lies in proper landscaping. It should supervise the construction of terraces and terrace walls, make detailed drawings for bath houses, lunchrooms, etc. This division should also furnish master plans for new and proposed park areas.

Through the Division of Public Relations the work of the Department of Conservation, and thus the State parks, should be disseminated to the public in news releases, perhaps the publishing of a monthly magazine, and through an organized educational program. Speakers would appear before Scout troops, women's organizations, civic clubs, and in schools in order to bring the parks program before the public.

Under this plan all divisions would have use of a common engineering staff and other technical experts.

Division of State Parks

Since this is a study of State parks, that section of the Department of Conservation will be taken and divided into its many sections. It is to be understood that many

of the officials listed under this division, such as the landscape architect, the engineer, etc., will come from the various other divisions provided for by the Department of Conservation and will not be employed solely by the Division of State Parks.

In order to secure unity of purpose and plan, it is necessary for all of the State parks to be under one board. The fact that part of the parks of Texas are under the supervision of the State Parks Board and part are under the control of the State Board of Control makes for weakness in the system. At present there is no clear division, since it cannot be said that the recreational parks have been given to the State Parks Board while the State Board of Control governs the historical parks. The fact is that the State Board of Control has retained control over those parks that were in operation before the State Parks Board was created. All new park sites have been given to the State Parks Board.

The Board, made up of six members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, should be under the Department of Conservation. Members should have six-year over-lapping terms. Meetings should be at a regular time and transportation should be furnished and all expenses paid. In the selection of these Board members, care should be taken to choose citizens who are not only

interested in the development of a good park system, but also citizens who are capable and farsighted enough to see the possibilities and necessities of new park areas. They should be familiar with the history and geography of the State.

Executive Secretary Director

The Board would be responsible for the selection of the Executive Secretary Director. Under the present system he is chosen for a term of two years. It would be advisable to assure him of a term of at least four years so that he would be better able to make long term plans.

The Executive Secretary Director should be fundamentally a park administrator. It is essential that he should have had broad experience and aptitude in administration of an organization and a minimum of five years experience in planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of parks. His duties should be in line with the policies set up by the State Parks Board, to direct the development, operation, and maintenance of all State parks to the best advantage of the State of Texas. He should have the authority to make investigations and suggestions to the State Parks Board and the Division of Conservation on the acquisition or deletion of park areas. He should direct activities of his subordinates, see that necessary records are kept, and that plans are made.

Assistant Secretary Director

The Assistant Secretary Director should be chosen by the Executive Secretary Director and should be directly responsible to him. He would act in the Director's capacity in the absence of the Director. His training should be in business administration, and he should have had a minimum of five years experience in this field. It should be his duty to keep all records of the office, to audit all accounts, and to act as legal advisor in all procedures.

Director of History

The Director of History under this plan should not only be the historian, responsible for the keeping of records and items of interest for the system, but he should also be an advisor to the Executive Secretary Director in matters pertaining to the acquisition of historical parks. He should be aided by the Division of Engineering in the surveying and mapping of areas for parks.

Texas has a colorful background, and the person selected to fill this position should be very familiar with all phases in the development of the State. He would have to be a scholar of Texas history as well as a business executive. It should be his duty to investigate possible park sites with the idea in mind as to their value historically

and their interest to Texans and out-of-state visitors.

Director of Sanitation

Water and sanitation are the prime requisites in the development of any park area. It should be the duty of the Director of Sanitation to survey and supervise the public water systems of all the parks. He should work in cooperation with the State Health Department in having periodic biological analysis of the drinking water in the parks. He should also be responsible for the maintaining of sanitary conditions of public rest rooms, bath houses, picnic and camping areas, and cabins and see that they conform to the rules set forth by the State Department of Health. The Division of Engineering should assist this director by supervising the building of wells and other public health facilities.

Director of Tourist Bureau

This director would of necessity have to be trained in advertising. It should be his duty to interest Texans and visitors in the recreational and historical parks of the State. It should be his duty to inform the public on what Texas has to offer through her park system.

Planned trips showing best routes by marking highways, giving approximate time to go from place to place, and

suggested over-night stops should be published by this director in conjunction with the Division of Public Relations. Visitors should be able to contact this department for information as to accommodations, entertainment, and rules and regulations of the parks. Much advertising can be done in cooperation with the Division of Public Relations.

Director of Resources

The Director of Resources should work in cooperation with the Division of Game and Fish and the Division of Forestry. The person selected as this director would have to be familiar with all State laws governing hunting, fishing, preservation of wild life, and protection of plant life.

Since all State parks are game sanctuaries, it should be the duty of this division to post notices in the parks that the carrying of firearms is illegal. The division should have to supervise the carrying out of all rules with regard to fishing in cooperation with local authorities. The building of bird sanctuaries and the encouraging of wild animals to live naturally within the parks would be a worthwhile project for this department.

It should be the duty of the department, with the aid of the Division of Forestry, to preserve the natural forests of the State and to replant whenever necessary. The planting and preservation of native flowers should be

encouraged, thus the department would require the assistance of the Division of Entomology. The marking of geological formations should be done by this department.

Director of Recreation and Education

A Director of Recreation and Education should necessitate the hiring of a person trained in playground supervision and one who has had a minimum of five years of experience in this line of work.

The director should be general supervisor over the recreation in all parks, however, his special emphasis should be on recreational areas. He should formulate recreational programs for those areas in which they are practical. He should supervise the purchasing and maintenance of all playground equipment. All rules governing bathing, canoeing, and other forms of entertainment envolving personal risk would come from this division.

This department should work in cooperation with the public school system of Texas in a program of educating the youth on the many uses of the park. Valuable health lessons can be taught in connection with the parks. Areas should be set aside for youth camps and group activities as discussed in Chapter V.

During the regular school term nature study can be taught most effectively in park areas where birds and

animals live in their natural state. Here children may learn to identify and classify wild flowers and native trees. Geological formations can be studied by children of almost any age if the formations have been carefully marked within the parks. Trips for these purposes should be encouraged by the parks.

Historic tours are especially interesting and attractive to children in the intermediate grades. One can find no better way to teach Texas history than through a visit to historical shrines and battle fields. These tours could be made at a minimum cost to the school and child if they were operated through the cooperation of the educational system and the parks system.

All this is possible only if the two systems cooperate. A trip through any park is of no great value unless the child has been properly instructed on what he is to observe. It would also be necessary for the schools to teach the children a course in conservation and respect for public property.

Administrative Assistants

The administrative work should be carried on in the proper manner with the help of trained stenographers, clerks, file clerks, and secretaries.

District Supervisors

Because of the size of Texas, it would be advisable to divide its supervision as to maintenance and care into five geographical sections. Each section should be under the direct supervision of a district supervisor. The five supervisors should be directly responsible to the Executive Secretary and the Assistant Director.

Each supervisor should be trained in the field of engineering or architecture and should have had at least five years of experience in park development or operation. The duties of each should be to supervise the development of his area, the maintenance of all parks in his area, and to aid in research in needs and the correlation of inter-park activities.

Possible divisions for the State would be: District I for the northern part with headquarters in Breckenridge, District II for the eastern section of the State with headquarters in Tyler, District III to supervise the southern part of the State with headquarters in Corpus Christi, District IV for the western part of the State with its headquarters in Alpine, and District V for central Texas with headquarters in Bastrop.

Landscape Architect and Engineer

These positions should be filled by trained men with experience who should be directly responsible to the Executive Director for the design and study in their respective fields. They should work in cooperation with the District Supervisors and the Division of Engineering of the Department of Conservation.

Superintendents and Aids

The park superintendents should be directly responsible to the supervisor of their district. They should be trained in park operation and should have had at least three years of experience in the operation, construction, and maintenance of parks. They should be qualified to direct construction within a park, to meet the public,keep records, and to handle operating crews efficiently. It should be their duty to see that their parks are efficient units.

In addition to a superintendent, each park needs, in proportion to its size, such aids as a foreman, ranger, guides, and refectory help. All of these would be directly responsible to the superintendent of the park. The foreman should direct small construction within the park and should be called upon to do manual labor during periods of small attendance in the park. It would not be essential that each park have a

ranger; one could serve two or more parks if the parks were close together. Duties of the ranger would be general law supervision. The refectory help would have such duties as are necessary to carry on the refectory in an orderly and business manner.

A chart showing how these main divisions would fit into the scheme of making a well-operating Division of State Parks is found on page 121.

Any well-balanced system of states parks of varied character and other recreational areas, including national forests, needs to be supplemented not only by parks and playgrounds supplied by other public agencies, but also by well considered programs or plans for their best use. By "best use" is meant that use which results in the greatest possible variety of recreation with the greatest cultural and physical benefits to the users, without destruction of original scenic, natural, scientific, or historical values. This chapter has outlined a plan whereby such a comprehensive state parks system may be attained. It is hoped that the people of Texas will undertake the necessary processes which will lead to its realization in a progressive, orderly manner.

DIVISION OF STATE PARKS

State Parks Board

Executive Secretary Director

Director of History | Director of Sanitation | Assistant Secretary Director | Director of Tourist Bureau | Director of Resources of Recreation and Education

Secretary, stenographers, clerks

District Supervisors

Area I | Area II | Area III | Area IV | Area V

Landscape Architect
Engineer
Engineer Aids

Superintendents

Foreman
Ranger
Guide
Refectory help

Superintendents

Foreman
Ranger
Guide
Refectory help

APPENDIX I

ACT CREATING TEXAS PARKS BOARD

Article 6067, Acts 2nd. C. S., 1923, page 58:

There is hereby created a State Parks Board of five members to be appointed by the Governor, whose term shall be six years from date of appointment, but in appointing the first board he shall appoint one member for two years, two for four years and two for six years. They shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary traveling expenses and hotel bills out of State funds except where localities pay such expenses.

Amended Acts 1937, 45th Legislature, page 687, chapter 345, to read:

There is hereby created a State Parks Board of six members to be appointed by the Governor, whose term shall be six years from date of appointment, but in appointing the first Board he shall appoint two members for two years, two members for four years, and two members for six years. They shall serve without compensation, but shall be reimbursed for necessary traveling expenses and hotel bills out of State funds, except where localities pay such expenses.

ACT OF CONGRESS PROVIDING FOR LEASING OF FEDERAL LANDS

Public Law 526, 79th Congress, Section 4. That section 4 of the Act approved December 22, 1944 (Public, Numbered 534, Seventy-eighth Congress), is amended to read as follows:

The Chief of Engineers, under the supervision of the Secretary of War, is authorized to construct, maintain, and operate public park and recreational facilities in reservoir areas under the control of the War Department, and to permit the construction, maintenance, and operation of such

facilities. The Secretary of War is authorized to grant leases of lands, including structures of facilities thereon, in reservoir areas for such periods and upon such terms as he may deem reasonable: Provided, That leases to nonprofit organizations may be granted at reduced or nominal rentals in recognition of the public service to be rendered in utilizing the leased premises: Provided further, That preference shall be given to Federal, State, or local governmental agencies, and licenses may be granted without monetary considerations, to such agencies for the use of all or any portion of a reservoir area, when the Secretary of War determines such action to be in public interest, and for such periods of time and upon such conditions as he may find advisable. The water areas of all such reservoirs shall be open to public use generally, without charge, for boating, swimming, bathing, fishing, and other recreational purposes, and ready access to and exit from such water areas along the shores of such reservoirs shall be maintained for general public use, when such use is determined by the Secretary of War not to be contrary to the public interest, all under such rules and regulations as the Secretary of War may deem necessary. No use of any area to which this section applies shall be permitted which is inconsistent with the laws for the protection of fish and game of the State in which such area is situated. All moneys received for leases or privileges shall be deposited in the Treasury of the United States as miscellaneous receipts.

APPENDIX II

ILLUSTRATIVE PUBLIC PARK LAWS AND REGULATIONS OF OTHER STATES

CABIN RENT APPLICATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS
BUREAU OF PARKS

CABIN RENTAL APPLICATION _____ 19__
(Date)

Subject to the rules and regulations of the Department of Forests and Waters, I hereby enclose reservation fee of $5.00 (certified check or Post Office money order made payable to the Department of Forests and Waters through Postmaster at Harrisburg, but either check or money order is to be sent to District Forester where reservation is made), and apply for rental of a _____room cabin with standard sleeping accommodations at _____State Forest Park, from Saturday Noon _____19__ to Saturday Noon _____19___.

Number in Group--Adults ____ Children under 12 yrs. ____

References:
Name _____Address _____

Name _____Address _____

If cabin of desired size is not available, my second choice would be a _____ room cabin.
Remarks:_____
_____

I understand that the reservation fee will be applied to cabin rental. I will pay the balance of the rent for the entire period before occupying the cabin. If reservation is not made, my deposit of $5.00 will be returned, but if the reservation is made and the cabin not occupied within twenty-four hours after the date of reservation, it will be forfeited and retained by the Department of Forests and Waters. I understand that I will be responsible for any damage, loss or breakage to cabin, fixtures or equipment,

ordinary wear and tear excepted.

Signed _____ Phone _____

Address _____
(Print Post Office, Street, Number and State)

TEXT FOR CONSERVATION FOR INDIANA

Twenty-sixth Annual Report of the Department of Conservation of the State of Indiana; June 30, 1944:

Probably the biggest step forward made in many years in conservation work was the preparation for the teaching of conservation in the public schools. After many months of study, research and writing, our staff with the aid of Purdue University instructors, has finished its first school text book and placed it in the hands of the Department of Public Instruction for printing. It is planned to have this subject introduced at the next semester of the public schools. A second book is now nearing completion, and a third, fourth and fifth will be produced in order. When these are in the hands of grade and high school students then conservation will become a regular subject to be taught in every school in the State.

CREATION OF MICHIGAN CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Act 17, 1921, page 25; Imd. Eff. March 30:

An act to provide for the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the state; to provide and develop facilities for outdoor recreation; to create a conservation department; to define the powers and duties thereof; to provide rules and regulations concerning the use and occupancy of lands and property under its control and penalties for the violation thereof; to provide for the transfer to said department of the powers and duties now vested by law in certain boards, commissions and offices of the state; and for the abolishing of the boards, commissions and

offices the powers and duties of which are hereby transferred.

5654 Section 1:

There is hereby created a department of conservation for the state of Michigan which shall possess the powers and perform the duties hereby granted and imposed. The general administration of said powers and duties shall be vested in a commission of conservation which shall be composed of seven (7) members appointed by the governor, subject to confirmation by the senate. Themembers of the commission shall receive no compensation hereunder, but each such member, and the other officers and employees of the department, shall be entitled to reasonable expenses while traveling in the performance of any of the duties hereby imposed.

5655 Section 2:

The powers and duties now vested by law in the public domain commission; the state game, fish and forest fire commissioner, the state board of fish commissioners, the geological survey; and the Michigan state park commission are hereby transferred to and invested in the conservation department. On the taking effect of this act the public domain commission, the state board of fish commissioners, the geological survey, the Michigan state park commission, and the office of state game, fish and forest fire commissioner shall be abolished; and all records, files, and papers of every nature pertaining to the functions thereof shall be turned over to the conservation department, to be preserved as a part of the records and files of the department hereby created.

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