Landa Park
Design Principles

Parks & Recreation Department
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Section 1.0

Introduction
1.0 Introduction

The purpose of the Landa Park Design Principles is to summarize guidelines for the planning and design of renovations, amenities, buildings, and landscaping within the park. The principles provide parameters that will preserve the beauty of Landa Park for generations to come. These principles were developed through the work of a citizens committee and Parks and Recreation staff.

There are four primary principles including:

1. Craftsmanship
2. Blending with the natural environment
3. Restore before replacing
4. Sustainability

Staff and planners providing professional services to the City of New Braunfels should refer to these principles in the development of plans for Landa Park.
Mission Statements & Core Values

1.1 City of New Braunfels Mission Statement & Core Values

Mission Statement
The City of New Braunfels will add value to our community by planning for the future, providing quality services, encouraging community involvement and being responsive to those we serve.

Integrity
We operate with integrity, holding ourselves to the highest standards of performance, transparency, accountability and ethical conduct.

Service
We are responsive and respectful to those we serve with an attitude that everything is worth our best effort.

Visionary Leadership
We anticipate needs, look to our community’s future and execute to achieve our goals.

Stewardship of Local Resources
We use our resources responsibly. We treasure our unique heritage and natural environment and wish to preserve it for future generations.

Fiscal Responsibility
Our decisions reflect sound fiscal management and prudence.

1.2 City of New Braunfels Parks & Recreation Department Mission Statement & Vision

Mission Statement
Our mission is to afford diverse opportunities and access for all residents and visitors through innovative programs and facilities, open space preservation, and economic enhancement.

Vision
Our vision is to enhance the well being of our community through laughter, play, conservation and discovery.
Section 2.0

Definitions
2.0 Definitions

Craftsmanship: A technique, style and quality of work (for example, the Philippine Gazebo).

Design Principles: Includes items such as materials, textures, colors, specifications of finishes, signage, lighting, vegetation etc. These principles will be applied according to the design area the item pertains to as well as availability and sustainability of that product.

Invasive Species: Invasive plants are introduced species that can thrive in areas beyond their natural range of dispersal. These plants are characteristically adaptable, aggressive, and have a high reproductive capacity. Their vigor combined with a lack of natural enemies often leads to outbreak populations. (Agriculture, 2011)

Low Maintenance: Not requiring a lot of work or attention to maintain, a system which retains proper functionality over long periods of time despite little or no maintenance.

Obtrusive Design: Undesirably noticeable and undesirably prominent feature which does not complement the setting of the area defined.

Preservation: The act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and material of a historic property. Preservation includes stabilization work, as well as ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features. (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, 1983)

Reconstruction: The act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location. (Secretary of the Interior’s Standards and Guidelines, 1983)

Restoration: The act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by removing features from other periods in its history and reconstructing missing features from the restoration period. (Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines, 1983)

Riparian Zone: Critical to the health of every stream and its surrounding environment, the riparian zone connects the upland zone to the aquatic zone, controlling the flow of water, sediment, nutrients, and organisms between the two. Without a proper functioning riparian zone, the other zones suffer. (Extension, 2011)

Setting in Landa Park: The surrounding influence and tone found in areas of Landa Park that appeal to users through its atmosphere.

Sustainable Products: Products composed of renewable, rather than nonrenewable resources. These materials provide reduced maintenance, energy conservation, lower costs and improved user health. They can be recycled and or recyclable.

Hardscape: Those nonliving, hard materials which make up structures, retaining walls, pathways, paved areas and statues.
Section 3.0, 4.0, 5.0

Goal & Intent, Application of Principles, Design Implementation Process
3.0 Goal & Intent

The goal of these principles is to provide a framework that the Parks and Recreation Department will use to guide aesthetic design. These design principles will produce a harmonious palette of different types of textures, colors, and materials that are encouraged to be used.

One consideration that will be taken into account is consistency of historic design and use of materials and colors in the park. The design principles combine historically referenced and new designs along with implementation of practical and sustainable materials.

In recognition of growing demands that an ever increasing population places on Landa Park, this document is intended to provide design principles that will guide future development using a consistent theme.

4.0 Application of Principles

In order to facilitate timely completion of the design process, the steps below should be followed.

1. Proposed Improvement to be Made
2. Refer to Location on Design Area Map: section 8.1
3. Refer to Specification for Improvement
5.0  **Design Implementation Process**

1. Staff develops design according to adopted principles
2. Recommendations are made to the Parks Advisory Board and public feedback is invited
3. Staff refines the design based on all recommendations

In Addition:
- All capital projects require approval by City Council.
- Restoration, preservation, or reconstruction of any Historical Landmarks requires a separate and additional process of approval.
- Other regulatory steps may be necessary such as the Texas Historic Commission, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, City of New Braunfels codes and ordinances, Texas Accessibility Standards
Section 6.0

Cultural Landscape of Landa Park
6.0 Cultural Landscape of Landa Park

The Cultural Landscape of Landa Park gives a brief view of what Landa Park has been in the past, how it has been used throughout the years and what the park represents today.

6.1 Landa’s Park in Years Past 1896-1930

Landa Park has been a place of respite, providing passive activities and relaxation for decades. Landa Park was at one time a significant geographical site for Native Americans. Later, the Spanish explorers inhabited the area in 1691. From 1756 to 1758 the springs were the site of a Spanish mission, Nuestra Senora de Guadalupe. Later, in 1860 the Comal springs were purchased by merchant Joseph Landa and used for its waterways as a grist mill and cotton gin. In 1898 Joseph Landa’s park was established and people came to the park for recreational activities and tranquility. In the early 1920s Camp Placid opened in the park and provided a spring-fed pool, bathhouse, hotel and baseball playing field with grandstands. The riparian zones of the park along with the springs and Landa Lake make Landa Park valuable, unique and beautiful.

Figure 6-1. Lovers Retreat Bridge 1896

This cedar bridge is an example of craftsmanship, detail and the use of native materials. The bridge was built by William Hartman, a local cabinet maker.

Figure 6-2. Landa Lake 1915

Landa Lake was a place of respite and light recreational activities. The picture portrays the boat house, steamboat and paddle boats.
Landa Park in Years Past 1896-1930

Figure 6-3. Dance Slab 1920-1930
The dance slab depicted ornate architecture, vertical fencing, and repetition of native stone masonry. A globe lamp shade is atop an obelisk native stone masonry feature found on the far left.

Figure 6-4. Comal River 1925
This postcard depicts the lush vegetation that was planted by Harry Landa to provide a romantic, idyllic atmosphere. The bridge appears to be wood material with horizontal panels.

Figure 6-5. Venetian Style Boat Parades 1920s-1930s
The boat parades brought crowds of spectators to Landa Lake.
6.2 Landa Park Through the Years 1936-2010

In 1936, the park was purchased by the City of New Braunfels as public property. Once publically owned, Landa Park became a park for all the people. By 1938 there was a boathouse built along Landa Lake and the Works Progress Administration built what later became known as the Landa Haus. In 1968, there was a bond passed which provided the addition of the olympic pool, bathhouse, and the first miniature train installation, along with additions to the spring-fed pool. By 1981 there was an arboretum of over 54 species of trees created by the Guada Coma Garden Club. Park visitors could enjoy such activities as an archery range, several swimming pools, a glass bottom boat ride and miniature golf, among other activities.

Figure 6-6. Spring-Fed Pool 1971

The spring-fed pool attracted all types of people. Not only did the pool become a place of recreation but also attracted those on military leave. Seen in the background are the native stone masonry pathways, walls and obelisk monuments.

Figure 6-7. Boating along Landa Lake

Ladies of leisure are seen here boating on Landa Lake. At the time, row boats and canoes were offered for rent. Notice the large wood columned boathouse built in 1937.
Figure 6-8. Archery Range

The archery range was a unique attraction at Landa Park.

Figure 6-9. Spring-Fed Pool

The aqua girls excelled in synchronized swimming. They are seen here at the spring-fed pool. Notice the native stone masonry pathways and walls.

Figure 6-10. Playground Slide

Children have always been attracted to Landa Park’s playgrounds. This slide has since been replaced.
6.3 Landa Park Today 2011

Landa Park today has become a park loved not only by New Braunfels but also the surrounding communities. Some things have stayed the same through the years such as sensitive, natural and preserved areas. Those areas with high environmental sensitivity have always been used for passive activities. There are areas in the park which still have the same uses, but the volume and demand of visitors has grown. Transportation and circulation in the park are very important but have become strained. Uses and activities in the park have made the park sectionalized according to the needs of users. There are a wide variety of people that enjoy activities such as: paddle boating, an arboretum tour, nature trails and picnicking, among additional recreational opportunities. An excerpt taken from the ‘Intensive-Level Historic Resources Survey Report, Landa Park’ in October 2003 describes Landa Park as, “The current park is an amalgamation of historic and non-historic elements from several building periods with a continuing policy of improvement, growth and maintenance.” (HHM & Eisenhour CRM, 2003) Landa Park is always changing. Keeping a balance of historical aspects while still blending with the needs of users today and in the future is the goal.

Figure 6-11. Metal Bridge 2011

This green metal bridge has the ‘criss-cross’ pattern along with wood decking.

Figure 6-12. Philippine Gazebo 2011

The Philippine Gazebo is timeless as it stands amidst Bald Cypress trees, surrounded by Landa Lake. The Gazebo is a fantastic example of craftsmanship, detail and natural materials including the ‘criss-cross’ pattern.
Figure 6-13. Founders Oak Tree 2011

Founders Oak is protected with black steel fencing atop native stone masonry. The live oak is supported with native stone masonry.

Figure 6-14. Playground 2011

The playground provides an atmosphere of fun with natural-looking elements and bolder colors.

Figure 6-15. Spring-Fed Pool 2011

The spring-fed pool remains natural looking with its native stone masonry and obelisk monuments. Some new additions are the mushroom water feature and the wet willy water slide.
The miniature train is a treasured feature of Landa Park. The first train track was originally built in 1968. It was expanded by 40 percent in 1985 after it was bought by David Shoenvogel in 1982. Today, the train still runs on its original engine.

The park administration office mimics the natural environment with its native stone masonry and wooden panel façade.
Section 7.0

Landa Park Design Principles
7.0 Landa Park Design Principles

The four equally important principles are the overarching concepts for Landa Park. These principles help maintain the distinct character of Landa Park, as they preserve historic features while blending with future development.

These principles should be referred to for every major preservation, restoration, reconstruction or new construction done in Landa Park with consideration to safety, economics and availability.

The principles include:

1. **Craftsmanship**

The character of the park focuses on the implementation of local cultural design aspects which include:

- Use of regional materials
- Use of distinctive features, finishes, materials and construction techniques
- Reference to existing craftsmanship that characterizes the park
- Preservation of that which is historical is the highest goal

2. **Blending With the Existing Environment**

Landa Park has been divided into six distinctive Design Areas, each having its unique character. Any preservation, restoration, reconstruction or new construction should reflect the distinctive characteristics where it is located.

3. **Restore Before Replacing**

Restore before replacing is a principle which should be initiated when:

- It is financially possible
- The structure is physically able to withstand restoration
- Enhancements do not hinder safety
- Enhancements preserve the historic character of the structure

It is hoped that when change is needed, historic features will be retained and or restored to their original state. When replacement of a certain feature becomes necessary, the new feature should match in color, design, texture, and when possible, materials. The restorations should not create a false sense of history.

4. **Sustainability**

The principle of sustainability would include the use of low maintenance, long-lasting materials. Designs should encompass materials that are easily maintained and will last for years to come. Sustainability also would include the use of native plants, energy-saving lighting and the use of regional materials.
Section 8.0

Design Elements
8.0 Design Elements

Design elements enhance the setting of Landa Park. Each element may slightly differ from one Design Area to another. All elements should join as a common thread throughout the park, providing repetition and consistency. Some elements may be overarching throughout the park, while others will be found within specific design areas.

8.1 Lighting

Lighting should provide safety, aesthetic appeal and be placed in the most conducive locations.

Existing Features

- Utility Lighting

General Guidelines

To Avoid

- Light pollution
- Overhead utility lines

Historical Reference of Lighting

Historical reference of lighting is found below. The hope is that any additional, decorative lighting that is implemented in Landa Park should complement (not imitate) past historical lighting and styles.
Lighting

To Encourage
- Ornamental/Craftsmanship design
- Historical reference
- Energy efficient/LED lighting

It was found most advantageous to choose a light standard which was ‘design neutral,’ therefore the light was not reminiscent of one period in history.

A light standard like the Sternberg - model Revere 1335 LED is encouraged. It has down-lighting optics, is environmentally friendly and is vandal resistant.
8.2 Pathways

Pathways should provide a visual and sensory experience as they are a link between the Design Areas. They provide not only safe travel, but also a sense of intrigue.

Existing Features

- Gravel
- Crushed Granite
- Engineered Wood Fiber
- Rubber
- Concrete Paving
- Brick
- Asphalt

General Guidelines

To Avoid

- Material that is not reflective of the natural environment

Figure 8-6. This pathway is an example of crushed granite, a material that is not stabilized and without a border (2011).
Pathways

To Encourage

- Native stone masonry edging or concrete edging: around paving that is not stabilized (e.g. mulch, gravel, crushed granite, rubber)
- Sustainable, long-lasting materials
- Low maintenance material
- Blending with surrounding features
- Pedestrian pathways should be wide enough to accommodate opposing flows of traffic (5’-10’ wide)
- Pedestrian pathways should comply with Texas Accessibility Standards

Figure 8-7. Example of aggregate, concrete and rubber paving (2011).

Figure 8-8. Example of crushed granite paving with native stone masonry edging (2011).

Figure 8-9. Example of aggregate, a concrete border and engineered wood fiber (2011).

Figure 8-10. Concrete pathway (2011).

Figure 8-11. This detail shows the composition of color and sustainable pathway and seating materials (2011).
8.3 Wayfinding

Wayfinding provides valuable information, making Landa Park user friendly. Signage should be visually interesting and informational.

Existing Features

- Wood: unpainted
- Native stone masonry
- Interpretive/Integrated graphics
- TXDOT designated signage

General Guidelines

To Avoid

- Use of obtrusive features
- Sign pollution/overuse
- High maintenance material

To Encourage

- Consider how signage affects police enforcement
- Craftsmanship and detail
- Uniformity in sign design
- Low maintenance material

Figure 8-12. Example of sign pollution: not a unifying design with many different colors (San Antonio, TX).

Figure 8-13. Example of effective signage (2011).
8.4 Parking Lots

Parking lots not only provide a safe place for vehicles and pedestrians but they also provide direct ease of access. They are usually the first space a visitor experiences.

Existing Features
- No irrigation
- Difficult to maneuver

General Guidelines
To Avoid
- Little use of vegetation
- Encroaching tree protection zone
- Lack of vegetative buffers

Figure 8-14. Not a welcoming parking lot: little to no vegetation, narrow medians, no irrigation, staggered parking does not provide ease of movement or convenience (2011).
Parking Lots

Figures 8-15. The pictures below are parking lot designs which are to be encouraged. Details such as wide medians for healthy tree growth, lighting, various types of vegetation and pedestrian circulation provided within the parking lots are to be encouraged (Waco, TX).

To Encourage

- Supply irrigation to all medians
- Vegetation
- Appropriate sized medians to provide adequate shade and pedestrian circulation
- Pedestrian centered circulation
- Lighting
8.5 Color Palette

The color palette would include colors of the natural setting, but can differ from one Design Area to another. Specific paint color choices specified and should be used for features such as structures, infrastructure and design elements.

Existing Features
- Colors found in the park differ one from the other, there is not a consistent color for things like structures, trash cans, etc. In addition, many of these items are purchased after they have been painted.

General Guidelines
To Avoid
- Colors which do not match or blend with specified color palette

To Encourage
- Colors chosen should be based on Design Area Specifications
- Colors chosen should be found in the natural setting

Specification

These specific Design Areas have unique design palette specifications
- Playground & Picnic Area – page 52
- Aquatic Area – page 55
- Maintenance & Recreation Area – page 58
Paint Color Specifications:

- **Behr Paint & Sherwin-Williams Paint**
  
  **Primary:** Classic Taupe 290E-3  
  Color Mix: See Appendix C (page 73-74)
  
  **Secondary:** Cottage White 1813  
  Color Mix: See Appendix C (page 73-74)
  
  Wooden Cabin 290F-7  
  Color Mix: See Appendix C (page 73-74)
  
  Cliff Rock 290F-4  
  Color Mix: See Appendix C (page 73-74)

Figures 8-16. These pictures are examples of the current color palette being used on park elements (2011).
8.6 Buffering

Buffers serve a functional purpose and include items such as fences, bollards and gates.

**Existing Features**
- Bollards: concrete, native stone masonry, metal, wood
- Fences: chain link, PVC coated chain link fence, wrought iron fencing

**General Guidelines**

**To Avoid**
- Use of obtrusive features
- Non-coated, chain link fencing

*Figure 8-17. It is encouraged to avoid chain link fencing for aesthetic purposes (Unknown).*
Buffering

To Encourage

- Bollards: uniform throughout the park, durable construction, ease of removal (if applicable)
- Fences & Gates: uniform throughout the park, durable construction
- Preferred color of black
- Natural looking elements, blending with surrounding features
- Low maintenance material
- Vegetation incorporated into buffering such as vines on a fence or shade structure, where appropriate
- Mow strip along fencing

Figure 8-18. Example of a concrete mow strip and wrought iron fence, Prince Solms Park (2011).

Figure 8-19. Example of wrought iron gate, Prince Solms Park (2011).
8.7 Site Features/Infrastructure

Site features and infrastructure items can add character to the park and serve a functional purpose. Some site features differ from one Design Area to another.

**Existing Features**

- Drinking fountains: uniform, material of exposed aggregate
- Benches: green vertical & ‘criss-cross’ pattern, green horizontal metal slats & ornate legs, brown with soft edges
- Picnic Tables: wooden, U frame
- Trash Cans: vary
- Barbeque Pits: black metal
- Bicycle Racks: tubular brushed aluminum
- Utilities: above ground

**General Guidelines**

**To Avoid**

- Use of obtrusive features

**To Encourage**

- Benches & Picnic Tables: Placement of concrete pads, refer to the specific design area
- Placement of underground utilities during preservation, restoration and reconstruction and new construction
- Placement of concrete pads for benches and tables to reduce maintenance and erosion
- Uniform & accessible
- Durable
- Blend with surrounding features
- Natural looking elements
- Use of the ‘criss-cross’ pattern
- Low maintenance material

![Figure 8-20. Exposed aggregate water fountain is durable, accessible, natural looking, low maintenance and blends with surrounding features (2011).](image-url)
Site Features/Infrastructure

Bench specifications are found within Design Areas

- Gazebo Circle Area – page 46
- Founders Area – page 49
- Playground & Picnic Area – page 52

**Figure 8-21.** A memorial bench is depicted by the green horizontal metal slats and ornamental legs (2011).

**Figure 8-22.** A playground bench is depicted by its brown color and soft edges (2011).

**Figure 8-23.** This bench provides sustainability of material, native stone masonry, a concrete pad and handicap accessibility (Waco, TX).

**Specification**
8.8 Planter Beds

Planter beds serve an aesthetic as well as functional purpose. The beds are primarily surrounded by native horizontal stone detail.

Existing Features
- Wood
- Native stone masonry
- Concrete borders

General Guidelines
To Avoid
- Use of metal or wood edging

To Encourage
- Natural looking elements
- Refer to Vegetation Specifications 8.9- page 37
- Low maintenance material

Figures 8-24. Pictures above depict native stone masonry planter beds which are natural looking, low maintenance and blend with surrounding features (2011).
8.9 Vegetation

The use of non-invasive plants which contribute to the park by their low water usage, hardy growth, benefits to riparian zones, and the health of visitors should be used. It is highly encouraged to plant native Texas plants.

Existing

- The William and Dolores Schumann Arboretum Trail which has a large variety of tree species provides a wealth of education, aesthetics and enjoyment within the park.
- Xeriscape demonstration beds (planted by local civic groups)

General Guidelines

To Avoid

- Invasive Plants
  Introduction of invasive plants can cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health

To Encourage

- Plants native to Texas
- Low water usage
- Hardy (i.e, withstands high heat, drought conditions and avoidance by deer)
- Plants that provide health benefits
- Non-invasive plants
- Do not implement planting without existing irrigation and/or irrigation sleeves
- Mulching
- Continued preservation and development of the arboretum
- Ensure planting is in the most desirable space according to factors such as type of plant, shade or sun needs, height and spread, plants chosen to fulfill needs of the space
- Where appropriate, riparian zones should be established. See Figures 8-25. through 8-28.
- Preservation of existing trees and vegetation with particular attention to heritage trees
Riparian Zones

Critical to the health of every stream and its surrounding environment, the riparian zone connects the upland zone to the aquatic zone, controlling the flow of water, sediment, nutrients, and organisms between the two. Without a proper functioning riparian zone, the other zones suffer. (Extension, 2011)

Riparian Buffer Zones Illustrated

Figure 8-25. Riparian buffer zones

http://semircd.org/buffers/guide/basics.php

Figure 8-26. A riparian zone at the Landa Park Golf Course. (2011)
Riparian Zones

Figure 8-27. The riparian zone at the Landa Park Golf Course is defined by its zones of unmanaged natural area and mature trees. (2011).

Figure 8-28. This riparian zone has many levels. More levels of zones provide more filtration of harmful chemicals entering the water way, as well as diminishing erosion along the banks. (unknown).
Incorporating a low visual-profile, buildings should be non-intrusive in the environment. They should not compete with nature but rather blend in with surrounding features.

**Existing Features**

- Bridges: painted steel, corten steel, brushed steel, wood, ‘criss-cross’ pattern, obelisk features
- Kiosk: wood material
- Restrooms: native stone masonry, stucco, composite shingles & metal standing seam roofing
- Buildings: native stone masonry, brick, wood siding, composite shingles & metal standing seam
- Pavilions: native stone masonry, obelisk features, composite shingles & metal standing seam roofing

**General Guidelines**

**To Avoid**

- Use of obtrusive features
- Flat roofs
- Corrugated tin roofs

**To Encourage**

- Craftsmanship
- Use of the ‘criss-cross’ pattern
- Natural looking elements
- Native stone masonry
- Low maintenance material
- Galvanized metal roof
- Buildings require 80% masonry for code compliance
Structures

Figure 8-30. Effective kiosk design (Waco, TX).

Figure 8-31. Philippine Gazebo encompasses craftsmanship and natural features (2011).

Figure 8-32. Effective kiosk design (2011).

Figure 8-33. Effective restroom design (2011).

Figure 8-34. Example of effective standing seam roof (2011).

Figure 8-35. Example of bridge with 'criss-cross' detail and wood decking (2011).
Masonry in the park is made of native stone. Masonry adds texture, warmth, history and color to all Design Areas.

**Existing Features**
- Native stone masonry
- Brick
- Obelisk design
- Concrete

**General Guidelines**

**To Avoid**
- Exposed CMU blocks
- Mortar color which accents the stone color

**To Encourage**
- **Stone**: Native stone masonry, brick, exposed aggregate
- **Cut**: Saw cut blocks
- **Color/Mortar**: Light colored mortar to blend, not accent the stone

- Low maintenance material
- Sustainable material
- Natural looking elements
- Mortar tooling to match Landa Haus
- Stone color similar to existing materials such as Landa Haus and the Dance Slab

![Figure 8-36. This is an example of mortar to avoid. It is not encouraged to choose mortar which will accentuate the stone’s color, but should instead blend with the stone (unknown).]
Figure 8-37. This wall is the original masonry curb around the Gazebo Circle Natural Area (2011).

Figure 8-38. The masonry of this vehicular bridge displays craftsmanship and detail (2011).

Figure 8-39. Landa Haus native stone masonry detail (2011).

Figure 8-40. Native stone masonry obelisk at the Dance Slab (2011).
Section 9.0

Landa Park Design Areas Defined
9.0 Landa Park Design Areas Defined

The Design Areas are locations in Landa Park which were found to have boundaries not only from a visual perspective but also by their uses. Each area serves a different use or purpose in the park. The areas are defined individually by their different setting, elements, existing materials and those unique points which are to be encouraged and avoided.

9.1 Design Areas Map

![Design Areas Map](image)

**KEY**

1. Gazebo Circle Natural Area
2. Founders Area
3. Playground & Picnic Area
4. Aquatic Area
5. Maintenance & Recreation Area
9.2 Gazebo Circle Natural Area

Section 1

The Setting: This area is defined by its historical features, complementing the nostalgic memories, atmosphere & appearance of detailed craftsmanship and history. Also, the environmentally sensitive area provides for a pristine experience with an atmosphere of solitude and beauty of the natural environment.
Gazebo Circle Natural Area

Area Elements

- Philippine Gazebo
- Native stone masonry curbing
- Environmentally sensitive area
- Panther Canyon Nature Trail entrance
- Historical monuments
- Pedestrian bridges, wildlife viewing area, fishing dock
- Planter beds
- Shaded areas, lush plantings
- Memorial benches

Existing Materials

- Use of native stone masonry (e.g. limestone)
- Walkway materials: gravel, crushed granite, concrete paving

To Avoid

- Use of ‘obtrusive’ design
- Picnic tables

To Encourage

- Restore before replacing
- Passive user activities
- A natural setting

Specifications

Bench Specifications

- Benches should resemble the pictured examples and be of durable design and long lasting materials. Benches should blend with the surrounding environment.
9.3 Founders Area

Section 2

The Setting: This area is defined by craftsmanship and historical features, with the ability to welcome large crowds. Details have the appearance of craftsmanship with modern ingenuity.
Section 9. Design Areas Defined
Founders Area

Area Elements
• Founders Oak
• Historical monuments
• Dance slab, paddle boats, pedestrian bridges, wading pool
• Planter beds
• Shaded areas, open areas for crowds
• Memorial benches

Existing Materials
• Use of native stone masonry (e.g. limestone)
• Walkway materials: gravel, crushed granite, concrete paving

To Avoid
• Use of ‘obtrusive’ design

To Encourage
• The preservation of historical features
• Enhance sense of community/gathering areas

Specifications

• Bench Specification
  • Benches should resemble the pictured examples and be of durable design and long lasting materials. Benches should blend with the surrounding environment.
9.4 Playground & Picnic Area

Section 3

The Setting: This area is defined by active areas accented with bolder colors, designed for younger generations. The playground area provides modern features, an atmosphere of fun and makes a simple transition with ease of access to all areas. This area has the highest volume of picnicking within the park and is user friendly.
Section 9. Design Areas Defined
Playground & Picnic Area

Area Elements
- Pavilions, playgrounds and picnic tables
- High use, high volume areas
- Planter beds
- Interactive play elements for all ages
- Shaded and open areas for playing

Existing Materials
- Use of native stone masonry (e.g. limestone)
- Walkway materials: gravel, crushed granite, engineered wood fiber, rubber, concrete paving
- Use of vibrant colors limited to play structures & shade structures

To Avoid
- Use of wood or other splintering material for play structures
- Sharp or abrupt objects

To Encourage
- Interactive play features which include natural elements
- Retain open space

Specifications

1. Bench Specification
   - Benches should resemble the pictured examples and be of durable design and long lasting materials. Benches should blend with the surrounding environment.

2. Color Specification
   - Colors which provide interest and intrigue are encouraged
9.5 Aquatic Area

Section 4

The Setting: This area is defined by a contrast of one of the oldest buildings, the Landa Haus and one of the newer buildings, the Bath Haus. It also includes the miniature train depot and swimming pools. The area provides different types of active recreation, contains high volumes of people, and is full of fun and interaction.

Design Areas Map
Landa Park Design Principles

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<tr>
<td>1. Gazebo Circle Natural Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Aquatic Area</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Maintenance &amp; Recreation Area</td>
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</table>
Aquatic Area

Area Elements

• Landa Haus
• Landa Park Aquatics Complex
• Train depot
• Parking lot
• Planter beds
• Form follows function
• Diversity of activities & uses

Existing Materials

• Use of native stone masonry (e.g. limestone)
• Walkway materials: gravel, crushed granite, concrete paving
• Materials which are sustainable and also blend in with the park

To Avoid

• Use of ‘obtrusive’ features

To Encourage

• Ease of access for handling large groups
• Promoting walkability by the separation of pedestrian, vehicular and train traffic
• Hardscape areas should complement the park and provide a softness in appearance
• Buffering

Specifications

• **Color Specification**
  • Colors which provide interest and intrigue are encouraged
9.6 Maintenance & Recreation Area

Section 5

The Setting: This area is defined by its active recreation and high use areas. There is blending of colors and uses. The diversity of the elements grab your attention such as the historic maintenance building, the vibrant recreation center mural and the miniature golf course.

Design Areas Map
Landa Park Design Principles

KEY

1. Gazebo Circle Natural Area
2. Founders Area
3. Playground & Picnic Area
4. Aquatic Area
5. Maintenance & Recreation Area

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Section 9. Design Areas Defined
Section 9. Design Areas Defined

Maintenance & Recreation Area (2011)
Maintenance & Recreation Area

Area Elements
- Administration office
- Gazebo
- Historical monument
- Maintenance building
- Miniature golf
- Recreation Center
- Planter beds
- Shaded areas
- Form follows function
- High vehicular traffic

Existing Materials
- Use of native stone masonry (e.g., limestone)
- Walkway materials: gravel, crushed granite, mulch, concrete paving
- Materials which are sustainable and also blend in with the park

To Avoid
- Use of ‘obtrusive’ structures
- Picnicking (this does not include benches)

To Encourage
- Easy access and way finding
- Plan hardscapes to complement the park’s atmosphere

Specifications

- **Color Specification**
  - Colors which provide interest and intrigue are encouraged
9.7 Gateways

The Setting: The gateways are defined by their eye-catching details including historic features. They give the entrance a sense of pride, place and arrival. There must be an impression of a defined entrance into Landa Park, therefore providing placemaking, which immediately tells the visitor they have arrived.

Design Areas Map
Landa Park Design Principles

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Section 9. Design Areas Defined
Gateways

Section 9. Design Areas Defined
Gateways

Area Elements
• Landa Park signs, landmark identifiers, high circulation areas
• Aesthetically pleasing
• Accurate and direct details
• Planter beds

Existing Materials
• Use of native stone masonry (e.g., limestone)
• Materials which are sustainable and blend in with the park

To Avoid
• Use of ‘obtrusive’ features
• Sign pollution/overuse
• Use of wood material for signage

To Encourage
• Park name
• Landscaping of seasonal interest
• Native stone masonry
• Illumination
• Restore before replacing
• Consider how signage affects police enforcement
• Craftsmanship and detail
Section 10.0

Conclusion
The Landa Park Design Principles are a response to the need for consistency and harmonious design throughout the park. The principles are a design supplement for the Parks & Recreation Department to provide safe, aesthetic, long-lasting and sustainable spaces. Although these principles are recommendations, it is hoped that they will be followed. The principles are a guide for beneficial preservation, restoration, and reconstruction within Landa Park.


Appendix A: Personal Historic Reflections

Some memorable Reflections of Landa Park over the years:

My fondest memory of Landa Park is: “The bridge that connected the slab dance hall and the island, [this is where] my husband asked me to marry him in 1946.”

-Loraine Kraft

Some of my fondest memories of Landa Park were: “[after] the Kindermaskenball Parade [we] went to the wooden pavilion overlooking Landa Lake for a dance. There was a band playing and we danced the Mexican Hat Dance, Hokey Pokey, Herr Schmidt and of course the Bunny Hop. The finale was the grand march and by then we were exhausted.”

-Karen Boyd

Some of my fondest memories of Landa Park were: “I would meet other moms at the wooden playground, and watch the kids play. In the summer the kids would go to swim lessons and then afterwards we would swim in the pools. But some of the most special memories of Landa Park are the pictures we've taken there of the kids from the time they were small to family pictures and Christmas pictures and now senior pictures.”

-Sherrie Abrahamsen

My fondest memory of Landa Park is “swimming in the spring-fed pool, going on picnics just because and dancing at the drink stand as a teenager to the music of the “Trackers.”

“I miss the platforms in the spring-fed pool, the old stone bath house and the wooden baseball grandstands where I watched my brother play ball.

“The greatest joy is the unbelievable beauty you are surrounded by while being in the park. I can’t imagine my childhood without Landa Park.”

- Barbara Ludwig Cobb

Some of my fondest memories of Landa Park were: “The ‘dances in the park’ at the rock and cedar pavilion built in the 1930’s overlooking the lake and spring-fed pool during high school years. I am sad that kids do not get to experience this today. It was such fun to listen to ‘rock bands’ and dance the night away under the stars, watching the moon reflect off of Landa Lake during the 1960’s!”

-Carola Schumann Davis

My fondest memory of Landa Park: “was swimming in the spring-fed pool, [it was] cold as ice. [That was when I] would come home to visit [my] parents beginning in 1962 when they returned to New Braunfels.”

-Sami Devillier

My fondest memory of Landa Park: “The spring-fed pool was my hangout as a teenager and my dad, Marcus Adams, was the Landa Park Manager during WWII and so I would go with him in the morning and leave with him in the evening.”

-Myra Lee Goff

My fondest memory of Landa Park is: “Teaching swimming in the summers at the spring-fed pool through the Jaycees. In the summer of 1965, I drew the older class for one of the sessions and in that class was Mike Dietert, who I married on August 8, 1969.”

-Linda Dietert
Appendix B: Pictures of Inspiration
Pictures of Inspiration
Appendix C: Paint Color Mix Swatches

These paint mixes are designated for semi-gloss, 1 gallon paint. Any changes to the specifications will change the color mix. These changes should be noted and modified according to need.

Insert A: Behr Paint Mix Swatches
- Insert A page 73

Insert B: Sherwin-Williams Paint Mix Swatches
- Insert B page 74