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BRACKENRIDGE PARK
CONSERVANCY

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2022 Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival to Take Flight from Brackenridge Park October 8

June 21, 2022, San Antonio, Texas – The seventh annual Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival finds a new roost at San Antonio’s historic Brackenridge Park this fall.

The signature event of the month-long festival will take place Saturday, October 8, 2022, 10 AM - 2 PM, at the Pecan Grove near the San Antonio River’s historic low water crossing and train depot.

Plans call for a People for Pollinators Procession to kick off the family friendly festivities, followed by monarch butterfly tagging demos, native plant sales and giveaways, art installations, a Forever Journey altar honoring those who have died, music, food trucks, nature outings, and engaging educational activities by 20+ education partners and others.

“The Brackenridge Park Conservancy could not be happier about hosting the 2022 Monarch Butterfly & Pollinator Festival,” said Tim Swan of the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, the Festival’s title sponsor and nonprofit partner. Swan added that the conservancy’s executive committee voted unanimously to support the public-private partnership.

Swan said that everything about the festival supports the Conservancy’s mission to offer educational and recreational resources for the community. “And what a more appropriate setting to do it in than San Antonio’s *grande dame* of public parks.”

BPC executive director Joe Turner said the Festival’s mission is a “natural fit” with its mission of providing FREE nature programming to the community. “We look forward to a successful 2022 Festival and many future Festivals,” Turner said.

Brackenridge Park is a premier municipally owned urban park with documented human habitation dating back 12,000 years. As San Antonio’s second oldest park, Brackenridge Park’s 343 acres includes 2.2 miles of the San Antonio River, several pollinator gardens and pocket parks, the Japanese Tea Garden, the Witte Museum, the San Antonio Zoo, the Brackenridge Park Golf Course, Sunken Garden Theater, walking and biking trails, and plenty of habitat. It is beloved in the Alamo City as a family destination for weekend barbecues and family gatherings.

"Given its amazing history, I can just imagine Brackenridge Park as the site of multiple monarch butterfly roosts along the river banks in earlier days," said Monika Maeckle, Festival founder and director.

The annual Festival was born in 2016 after San Antonio became the first Monarch Butterfly Champion City in the country. The initiative launched by the National Wildlife Federation required San Antonio to implement 24 action items to improve pollinator habitat and awareness, associated with the city taking the Mayor's Monarch Pledge. One of those requirements was to stage a Festival.

The annual Festival celebrates science, community science, art, and education surrounding the monarch butterfly and other pollinators during peak monarch migration season in San Antonio, Texas.

About the [Brackenridge Park Conservancy](#)

Incorporated in September 2008, the Brackenridge Park Conservancy's formation was the result of advocacy on the part of the Conservation Society of San Antonio, which played an active role in the Park's preservation for nearly 100 years. In 2007, the Conservation Society's Brackenridge Park committee and Board of Directors initiated the formation of the Brackenridge Park Conservancy, providing seed money for the new organization. The Society also engaged Elizabeth Barlow Rogers, the founder of the Central Park Conservancy in New York and a San Antonian, to prepare a "White Paper" about the creation of an organization dedicated solely to the protection of Brackenridge Park. The founding board of the Brackenridge Park Conservancy was elected in February 2009.

Since then, the Brackenridge Park Conservancy has listened to and been a voice for those who use this cherished San Antonio park and its facilities. The organization operates under a long-term Management Agreement with the City that is administered by the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department. The only organization dedicated solely to protecting Brackenridge Park, the Conservancy raises funds for projects that benefit the Park, implements park-based programs and projects, advises City staff and elected officials, supports the evolution and implementation of plans for the Park, and acts as a forum for users to address common issues and build consensus.

The Conservancy exists to work with everyone who has an interest in Brackenridge Park so that, together, we can make progress toward common goals, such as implementing existing plans and developing new programming for the Park. A key component in maintaining and improving the facilities and property of Brackenridge Park is the continued participation of volunteers, sponsors, and advocates. For this reason, the Brackenridge Park Conservancy seeks to increase its network of passionate volunteers, experienced consultants, and enthusiastic donors and sponsors for the Park through programming, special events, board and committee activities, and long-term planning in partnership with the San Antonio Parks and Recreation Department.

About the [Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival](#)

The Monarch Butterfly and Pollinator Festival is a community wide collaboration of private sector companies, government and nonprofit

agencies, and devoted volunteers organized by the [Texas Butterfly Ranch](#), a website devoted to pollinator advocacy.

For each of the past six years, the Festival has drawn thousands of attendees to live and virtual events. Goals of the Festival: raise awareness and appreciation of the insect pollinators that make one of every three bites of our food possible, underscore our inherent interconnectedness, encourage the use of native nectar and host plants in gardens and landscapes, and reinforce San Antonio's strategic role in the monarchs' annual migration as the First Monarch Butterfly Champion City in the nation.

CONTACT: Claudia Kuchar, kucharclaudia@gmail.com, 505.362.3832