

RECREATIONAL PARKS

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE *HANDBOOK OF TEXAS ONLINE*

The following guidelines are intended to apply to articles about state, national, and other parks whose principal purpose is to provide recreation rather than to preserve natural or historical features. It is understood that these categories overlap, that parks existing to preserve natural beauty also have historic features, that historic structures and artifacts have always been determined in part by their natural contexts, and that both nature and history have recreational value. Nevertheless, the emphases of the different types of park are different enough that the *Handbook* editors deem separate guidelines necessary. We do not, however, wish by our categories to oversimplify the objective features of a subject. Although the principal purpose of a park may be to provide recreation, its historic associations and natural attractions will be important to a well-balanced treatment. With these qualifications made, it should further be realized that not every specification below applies to every park, though all of those that do apply should be discussed.

The *Handbook* is meant to serve as the principal reference work for all significant aspects of Texas studies and is encyclopedic in scope. All entries should be concise, factual, informative, authoritative, and fully documented.

1. Location with relation to natural features (e.g., rivers) and man-made features (e.g., highways, cities)
2. Size (land/water) in acres; shape
3. Origin, significance, and changes of name
4. History of ownership
5. Principal movers in setting aside the land and establishing the park; date of establishment; purpose of establishment
6. Natural features: land, water, flora, fauna; geological features, age, method of formation
7. Archeological features*
8. Historic (and prehistoric) association; artifacts
9. Facilities and recreation available: museums, nature trails, printed matter, campsites, stores, motels, restaurants; fishing, hiking, biking, etc.
10. Seasonal and other information for users of the park (e.g., when the Lost Maples change color, when surf fishing is best, etc.)
11. Development and growth of the park
12. Users of the park: numbers, activities pursued
13. Area principally served
14. Nearby points of interest—metropolitan, historic, natural
15. Any outstanding feature or attraction not suggested by the above

*If a site is to be discussed principally in terms of its archeology, a writer should use our archeological sites guidelines.

Each entry in the *Handbook* appears over the author's name. We believe that every article will be considered a standard source of information for decades. Because we know that our contributors share our desire to adhere to the most rigorous scholarly standards, we have adopted the policy of checking all factual material to be printed in the new edition. This means that we need specific footnotes, with complete publication information, for all of the facts in an article. We regret the inconvenience which this causes, but only by this double check can we be assured that each entry will be the credit to its author that we wish it to be. Furthermore, the extra effort will ultimately save our small staff hundreds of hours and will earn the heartfelt gratitude of our research assistants.

A brief bibliography should be included with each article. We encourage contributors to list primary as well as secondary sources. The list of works should be highly selective; if possible, it should include recent publications as well as the location of major archival collections.

Please send 2 DOUBLE-SPACED copies of each manuscript. We would prefer to have the entries submitted by email to brett.derbes@tshaonline.org or by mail to the address below on a CD or flash drive in one of the following formats: Word 97 or later (.doc) or for MAC users, Rich Text Format (.rtf).

All articles become the copyrighted property of the Texas State Historical Association when they are received. They will be edited. The association retains the right of disposition of all manuscripts.

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