THE PARK PAVILIONS OF DALLAS

PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT
DALLAS, TEXAS
Dallas Park and Recreation Department
The Park Pavilions of Dallas

Definition: ‘pa-vil-ion: noun
A large often sumptuous tent
From Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Introduction

In 2002, there were 107 pavilions distributed throughout Dallas’ 365 parks. The inventory included historic pavilions from the 1920s and 1930s, the prototypical concrete “T” beam pavilions built during the 1960s, and site-adapted catalog pavilions.

The Dallas Park and Recreation Department completed a long-range strategic plan—A Renaissance Plan—in 2002, followed by the successful passage of a bond referendum in 2003 that provided the largest single amount for park capital development in the city’s history – over $100 million. This bond program also included a generous allocation for 23 replacement or new picnic pavilions throughout the city. Each of these was assigned to an architect with a record of design excellence, who was given a straightforward program: the pavilion should be durable and easy to maintain; it should be contextual within the surrounding community and embraced by the neighborhood; it should be functional; and most importantly, it should be safe. The replacement program was so successful that another nine pavilions were included in the 2006 bond referendum.

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Typical Concrete “T” Beam Pavilion, 1963-1970

Originally located at 42 parks

The 1960s saw Dallas’ population grow by 20 percent, along with a similar increase in the number of new parks built in new subdivisions to serve the increased demand for recreational facilities. This concrete “T” beam pavilion, built at 42 park sites, was composed of four precast concrete beams supported on steel pipe columns. These utilitarian structures provided inexpensive basic shelter to park users and were easy to erect. They are now in deteriorated condition and no longer are considered an asset in many of the city’s neighborhood parks.
Hamilton Park Pavilion, 1965
12100 Windowdell Drive
Jack Corgan & Associates, Dallas
2011 Preservation Architect: GSR Andrade Architects, Dallas

This pavilion was the exception to the 1960s-era standardized concrete “T” beam pavilion design. Corgan utilized the same durable concrete material of the prototypical pavilion, but crafted the material into an elegant roof structure.
J. W. Ray Park Pavilion, 1996
2010 N. Washington Avenue
Talley Associates, Dallas

The pavilion is located in a small inner-city park in the shadow of Aldo Cossutta’s Cityplace Tower. This elegant and diminutive shelter was designed by landscape architect Coy Talley as a part of a larger site re-development project.
Lindsley Park Pavilion, 1998
7100 Lindsley Avenue
Brown Reynolds Watford Architects, Dallas

The pavilion represented a conscientious effort to incorporate the forms, details and materials prevalent in the surrounding neighborhood, a 1920s subdivision of brick and stone-veneered Tudor cottages.
Deerpath Park Pavilion, 2001
1800 E. Kiest Boulevard
Brown Reynolds Watford Architects, Dallas

Similar to the pavilion at Lindsley Park, this one was designed to fit into the surrounding neighborhood.
The pavilion at Tipton initiated the custom pavilion program in 2003. The overall design included a grouping of three pavilions of different sizes. The cantilevered roof and strong vertical columns created a bold design that set the stage for the future of the pavilion program.
Dallas Arboretum Pavilion, 2003
8525 Garland Road
Lake / Flato Architects, San Antonio
Oglesby-Greene Architects, Associate Architects, Dallas

Situated near the Dining Terrace of the Visitor Education Pavilion, this pavilion offers unparalleled views of White Rock Lake and to the downtown Dallas skyline.
Ridgewood Park Pavilion, 2006
6818 Fisher Road
Ed Baum, FAIA, Dallas
Kimley Horn, Associate Landscape Architect, Dallas

Baum’s elegant design for the pavilion incorporates a graceful folded-plane roof that recalls a modernist chaise lounge – an appropriate image given its adjacency to the sprayground.
Randall Park Pavilion, 2007
100 S. Glasgow Drive
Willis C. Winters, FAIA of Dallas Park and Recreation Department

The shade structure is the centerpiece of the new athletic complex in Randall Park. Will’s Place provides a memorable gathering space for the community and the school.
Churchill Park Pavilion, 2007
7025 Churchill Way
Welch Architecture, Dallas
T. Howard and Associates Architects, Inc., Associate Architect, Dallas

Cliff Welch adopted a sustainable approach with the Churchill Park pavilion by refurbishing the existing 1960s pre-cast concrete “T” pavilion and cladding the columns with materials that are architecturally compatible to the nearby recreation center.
Casa View Park Pavilion, 2007
11000 Itasca Drive
Sharon Odum and Ron Wommack, FAIA, Dallas

The pavilion sits within the center of the “precinct” mediating between the “tot lot” and a sculpture garden of floating concrete slabs which double as picnic tables, sunning pads, or perches for children. The pavilion’s ceiling plane is created with galvanized tubes suspended beneath steel beams and a translucent fiberglass skylight. At night, up-lights transform the pavilion into a lantern for the neighborhood.
Opportunity Park Pavilion, 2007
3105 Pine Street
Elliot and Associates Architects, Oklahoma City

Inspired by a butterfly on his first visit to the park, Rand Elliott created a brilliant piece of red and silver origami – a folded aluminum plane that floats above the ground plane and is situated amongst a magnificent grove of stately pecan trees. The pavilion serves as a dual-purpose structure – as a shelter for picnics and as a performance shell for festivals and events.
Bob Meckfessel engaged the adjacent pool building in his design of the replacement pavilion, while simultaneously coping with a stream that meanders through the site. The pavilion utilizes similar materials to those on the pool building, with a plaza between the two structures that embraces the visitor as they enter from the nearby bridge.
Bel-Aire Park Pavilion, 2008  
10807 Lake Highlands Drive  
Buchanan Architecture, Dallas  
Kimley-Horn, Associate Landscape Architect, Dallas

Russell Buchanan sited and shaped the pavilion to work seamlessly with the playground. The pavilion is a simple, elegant, cantilevered structure that provides shade for picnics and for parents keeping a watchful eye on their children at the playground.
Valley View Park Pavilion, 2008
7000 Valley View Road
Shipley Architects, Dallas

The pavilion incorporates a more traditional architectural form reminiscent of the open-air structures found at church revival campgrounds throughout East Texas during the nineteenth century. The shelter’s truncated hipped roof – made of corrugated Cor-Ten steel – is capped by a flat, open-sided monitor that both ventilates the structure and admits natural light.
St. Augustine Park Pavilion, 2008
1500 N. St. Augustine Drive
Laguarda-Low Architects, Dallas

The side walls, roof and floor of this elegant pavilion form a thin concrete shell that frames stunning views “through” the shelter from one side of the park to the other. The pavilion is a piece of sculpture that adorns the park. It was the recipient of the American Institute of Architects, Dallas Chapter, 2009 “Best of Show” Design Honor Award.
Trinity Overlook Pavilion, 2008
110 W. Commerce Street
Wallace Roberts & Todd, LLC, Dallas
CH2M Hill, Project Manager, Dallas

Built to provide a viewing opportunity for the Trinity River Corridor construction and the nearby signature bridge designed by Santiago Calatrava, the Trinity Overlook is a metaphor for the birds that glide above the river. Binoculars are provided and signage tells the story of the Trinity Lakes area and the signature Santiago Calatrava bridge which will be rising to the north of the overlook.
Lake Highlands North Park Pavilion, 2009
9344 Church Road
Frank Welch and Associates, Inc., Dallas
Kimley-Horn, Associate Landscape Architect, Dallas

Frank Welch utilized modern materials with a conventional form for this distinguished pavilion, which fits within the neighborhood and is embraced by the community.
Hattie Rankin Moore Park Pavilion, 2009
3212 N. Winnetka Avenue
Laguarda-Low Architects, Dallas

Situated in a park with very few trees, this pavilion takes a metaphorical approach by featuring two rows of gigantic folded-plane “leaves” supported by structural “twigs” and “branches.”
Ferguson Park Pavilion, 2009

1900 Gross Road

Willis C. Winters, FAIA, of Dallas Park and Recreation Department
Kimley-Horn, Associate Landscape Architect, Dallas

Winters formed a composition that engaged the arrival sequence, the pavilion, the sprayground and the mechanical equipment building. The pavilion frames one end of the sprayground. A seating wall connects the equipment building to the pavilion in this composition and the color scheme unifies the elements.
Pecan Grove Park Pavilion, 2009
3443 W. Kiest Boulevard
Good, Fulton & Farrell Architects, Dallas

Jonathan Rollins designed a pavilion that consists of a series of structural frames and roof panels that transform through multiple planes of motion, varying in sequence from flat to steeply pitched, thereby creating a directional focus on an adjacent meadow.
The contemporary sculpted geometry draws expression from the Arts and Crafts movement common to the Great Depression era and CCC and WPA park development projects. A residential brick typical to this neighborhood is rendered with steel and timber as organic and metaphorical to tree trunks and limbs. A colored glass roof extends the metaphor with light dappled as through a tree canopy.
Main Street Garden Shelters, 2010
1920 Main Street
Thomas Balsley Associates, New York
Public Art: Leni Schwendinger Light Projects LTD., New York

The shade structures are sleek and elegant with green glass-wrapped facades. A public art component was included consisting of a LED light and art glass band with changing colors and patterns wrapping the top of the garden shelters.
Byron Mouton designed the pavilion to connect to the activities in the park. Perforated metal allows for both transparency for security purposes and privacy for users. The pavilion is divided to accommodate separate groups.
Brownwood Park Pavilion, 2011
3400 Walnut Hill Lane
Oglesby-Greene Architects, Dallas

Joe McCall created a gathering of three pyramidal elements, each with its own subtle attitude, that huddle together in a common circle allowing for use by separate groups or one large group. Each unit varies in height, width and pitch. Painted steel plates enclose the pavilions and allow ventilation. A stained concrete pad in decomposed granite form the base plane. This project received the Texas Society of Architects 2012 Design Award.
Lakewood Park Pavilion, 2011
7000 Williamson Road
W Architecture, New York

Columns that turn into beams give the pavilion a spider-like organic appearance in keeping with its close proximity to the wooded creek.
Cotillion Park Pavilion, 2011
3600 Barnes Bridge Road
Mell Lawrence Architects, Austin
Kimley-Horn, Associate Landscape Architect, Dallas

The pavilion captures space while creating a sense of playfulness through the use of shape, pattern and shadows. The structure is composed of eight steel columns supporting a steel framework above a concrete slab. A glass and steel roof provides rain protection and views to the sky, while a hanging, pivoting bright red-orange ellipse acts as a beacon. This project received the Texas Society of Architects 2012 Design Award.
Royal Park Pavilion, 2011
3461 Royal Lane
HOK Architects, Dallas

The pavilions’ strong horizontal lines echo the park’s long and narrow proportions and the low scale of the adjacent neighborhood. The pavilion’s horizontality is emphasized by the tension created between the roof’s thin profile and the extensive cantilevers.
Danieldale Park Pavilion, 2011
300 W. Wheatland Road
Wayne Troyer, New Orleans
BCI Architects, Associate Architect, Dallas

Analysis of the park revealed a need to establish an identifiable image for the park in a way that connects all of the activities and encourages active participation. The resulting design is an “outdoor room”, to serve as a viewing platform, gathering place, performance venue and promenade connection system between various park activities.
College Park Pavilion, 2013
3300 Highland Woods Drive
Snøhetta, Oslo, Norway, Design Architect
ArchiTexas, Associate Architect, Dallas

Inspired by the idea of a billboard turned in on itself – this new pavilion at College Park is positioned to frame views towards a quiet meadow in the site. This pavilion received the American Institute of Architects, Dallas Chapter, 2013 Honor Award.
Umphress Park Pavilion, 2012
7700 Umphress Road
Oglesby-Greene Architects, Dallas

Situated on the crest of a dramatic downward slope, the pavilion’s roof opens up towards the edge of the hill offering expansive views and natural breezes. Glass slots in the cable supported roof create patterned light on the ground.
Rick Del Monte took the minimalist approach in the structural design of this pavilion by asking the question, “How lightly can you tread?” The answer is a pavilion that features solid steel columns and roof beams that allow for minimal structural profiles, giving the roof the appearance that it is floating.
Webb Chapel Park Pavilion, 2012
11428 Cromwell Drive
Cooper-Joseph, New York
Quimby McCoy, Associate Architect, Dallas

This small pavilion located between a playground and a soccer field offers an opportunity for the neighborhood to gather in a cool, shady place. The design embraces a passive, natural cooling system that becomes one with the dynamic spatial configuration. With a few simple geometric gestures, the architecture maintains a timeless quality. This pavilion received a number of design awards, including the National American Institute of Architects 2013 Small Project Award.
Lakeland Hills Park Pavilion, (Construction Pending)
2600 St. Francis Avenue
Overland Partners, San Antonio
Johnson McKibben, Associate Architect, Dallas

Sited between an existing playground, skate park, and recreation fields, the pavilion unites the separate users under one continuous covered yet light-filled trellis. Picnic tables accommodating various groups are protected by a sloped polycarbonate roof and steel tube structure growing from a raised planter that creates grandstands for skate park viewing.
Kidd Springs Park Pavilion, (Under Construction) 2014
700 West Canty Street
Rhotenberry Wellen Architects, Midland
Shipley Architects, Associate Architect, Dallas

The pavilion is located on a path that circles a pond and offers a shady place to pass through and to sit and view the water. The pavilion is oriented to an Asian Garden on the opposite bank. It also serves as a focal point from all points around the pond. Iron grating suspended overhead on cables provides shade.
Westmoreland Park Pavilion, 2012
3600 W. Illinois Avenue
LZT Architects, Austin
Johnson McKibben, Associate Architect, Dallas

The pavilion is based on the primary form of shading: cloud cover. A welcome sight on a hot sunny day, clouds offer a range of diffused and filtered light which changes throughout the day. Like cloud formations, the pavilion will appear striking against the blue Texas sky.
McCree Park Pavilion, (Under Construction) 2014
9016 Plano Road
Shipley Architects, Dallas

The pavilion is a wing-like shelter of rusted corrugated metal and iron framing supported by two cast-in place concrete columns which frame a view to the tree-lined creek beyond. The pavilion is oriented to a grassy open field and provides shade for the playground. The simple roof form of rusted metal serves as a distinctive focal point for traffic on Plano Road.
**Moore Park Pavilion, 2013**

*1900 E. Eighth Street
MESA Design Group, Dallas*

This “gateway” pavilion is envisioned to be one of several portal elements that celebrate primary access points into the greater Trinity River Park system. The structure is designed to engage and connect park visitors with the river. The vertical tower and angular concrete walls form a geometric expression that creates an amphitheater and gathering space for the community.
**Casa Linda Park Pavilion**, (In Design)
*1500 San Saba Drive*
Kevin Sloan Studio, Dallas

The reuse of the double row of existing columns allowed for the twin pavilion approach that will accommodate multiple groups in a way that each will not feel like it is intruding on the other. The perimeter wind-screens include porous concrete masonry units and galvanized fencing mesh. In opposition to the existing horizontal pavilion structure, the new pavilions accentuate the vertical proportions, which make the buildings civic in their presentation and open and airy to enjoy.
Glencoe Park Pavilion, (In Design)
5300 Martel Avenue
Della Valle Bernheimer, Brooklyn, New York
Kimley Horn, Associate Landscape Architect, Dallas

Bees and sunlight are necessary for human life, so this pavilion celebrates both of these elements. The honeycomb effect on the roof, suggestive of a bee hive, is created by cutting and reassembling corrugated metal pieces and installing them at 45 degree angles. The dome shape carved into the roof panels provides interest and a variety to the quality of diffused sunlight through the “bee hive”.

![Glencoe Park Pavilion Diagram]
Historic Pavilions

The City of Dallas’ park system includes a significant number of historic assets, including Works Progress Administration (WPA) and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) architecture. When the Department’s Renaissance Plan was being formulated in 2002, particular emphasis was placed on researching the historic parks. One of the goals outlined in the Renaissance Plan was to “Preserve and showcase the city’s historic park facilities for citizen education, appreciation and enjoyment.” Due to the plan’s emphasis on the importance of the system’s historic resources, funding for these pavilion restoration projects was placed in the 2003 and 2006 Park bond propositions.
Randall Park Pavilion, 1925  I Restoration, 2000
100 S. Glasgow Drive
Architect: Flint & Broad, Dallas
Preservation Architects: MESA Design Group, Dallas

A stucco-covered Doric tempietto, this is the oldest pavilion in Dallas' park system.
Cole Park Pavilion, 1925  l  Restoration, 2010
4000 Cole Avenue
Architects: Fooshee and Cheek, Dallas
Preservation Architects: GSR Andrade Architects, Inc., Dallas

Cole Park was one of Dallas’ earliest parks. The pavilion was one of the city’s first and also was one of the earliest structures in Dallas constructed in the Spanish-Revival style. The pavilion’s architects, Fooshee and Cheek, were responsible for popularizing this style in Dallas during the 1920s – through their many residences in Highland Park and their design of the Highland Park Village Shopping Center.
White Rock Lake Park Pavilion, Stone Tables, 1931
711 E. Lawther Drive
Architect: Unknown

Using funds from the Civil Works Administration, one of President Roosevelt’s New Deal public works agencies, the city constructed this picnic pavilion at the “Stone Tables” area of White Rock Lake. The pavilion was built with native Texas stone.
Kiest Park Pavilion, 1934
3080 S. Hampton Road
Architects: M.C. Kleuser and Geo. E. Christensen, Dallas

The original pavilion is a Works Progress Administration rustic-style structure.
The picnic pavilion was originally constructed in 1934 of load-bearing walls of Palo Pinto stone, designed in the Works Progress Administration (WPA) rustic style. A later addition included a concession building.
Stevens Park Pavilion, 1934 | Relocation/Restoration, 2013
1726 W. Colorado Boulevard
Architects: M.C. Kleuser and Geo. E. Christensen, Dallas
Preservation Architects: ArchiTexas, Dallas

The pavilion is a Works Progress Administration rustic style structure. Restoration includes disassembling the existing pavilion and reconstructing it about 25 feet from the original location, utilizing the same stone layout, due to erosion of the adjacent creek bank.
Lake Cliff Park Pavilions, 1938 - 1940s | Restoration, 2009
300 E. Colorado Boulevard
Stone Shelter Architects: M. C. Kleuser and George Christensen, Dallas
Preservation Architects: ArchiTexas, Dallas

The site, originally developed in 1906 as an amusement park, received additional improvements as part of New Deal work programs of the 1930s, including the stone picnic shelter, constructed in 1938. The prominent planning and landscape architecture firm of Hare and Hare prepared the plan for additional improvements to the grounds in 1940, which included the Rose Garden pavilion.
Flag Pole Hill Park Pavilion, 1935 | Restoration, 2007
8015 Doran Circle
Architect: National Park Service
Preservation Architects: ArchiTexas, Dallas

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) pavilion and overlook were originally constructed in 1935. The pavilion is a formalized version of the rustic style, popularized by the National Park Service during the 1930s and 1940s, while the overlook represents a more pure form of this style.
Bachman Lake Park Pavilion, 1939  I  Restoration, 2006
3500 W. Northwest Highway
Architect: National Park Service
Preservation Architects: Dallas Park and Recreation Department

Originally constructed through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the pavilion takes advantage of beautiful views of the lake. The plan includes a central assembly area and two separate smaller open parlors, each with a fireplace. The pavilion is nestled amongst a thicket of mature Pin Oak trees and includes terraces on four sides.
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