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(Please email or call for photos, videos, advance interviews, etc.)

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**Washington on the Brazos State Park Association**

The oldest support group for any TPWD park, [Washington on the Brazos State Park Association](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/park-association/) was created in 1955 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to initiate and fund preservation projects, celebrations and educational programming at [Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org), its four attractions and Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site.

There are many reasons to join the Washington on the Brazos State Park Association as a member and explore this Texas treasure. Besides the irreplaceable satisfaction of helping to uphold Texas history through the Association’s preservation projects, celebrations and programming, spending time at the park is an easy, inexpensive, educational and fun way to entertain families and visitors. Park Association [membership](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/support-us/association-member-benefits/) levels are available for individuals, families and businesses and include free admission to the site’s attractions (Independence Hall, Barrington Living History Farm, Star of the Republic Museum, Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site and the Visitors Center) for a year, and—for some levels—private parties during the park’s special celebrations.

“The Park Association is launching a renewal project in 2018 to greatly improve the experience for visitors with enhanced visuals, landscaping and signage that this venerable landmark deserves,” says Park Association President Cyndee Smith. “An award-winning design firm has created a vision for our 293-acre park, including a new Revolution Plaza on the path to Independence Hall, to tell visitors about the individuals who put their lives on the line to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence. Other improvements include a new eye-catching entrance to the park and much-needed signage within the park, so visitors know they are experiencing a very special place.”

**Accomplishments of the Park Association**

* Longest running support group in the Texas Parks and Wildlife system.
* Sponsors and secures funding for the annual Texas Independence Day Celebration.
* Assisted in the reconstruction of Independence Hall.
* In concert with the Barrington Society, purchased, relocated to the park, and restored the home of Dr. Anson Jones, the last president of the Republic of Texas.
* Assisted in securing public and private funds to build the Star of the Republic Museum in 1969, and its subsequent expansion in 1992.
* Spearheaded funding for the Visitor Center and its educational displays
* Assisted in the reconstruction of Independence Hall
* Funds the genealogical research which traces the lineage of the 59 signers of the Texas Declaration of Independence, and continually supports the Descendants of the Signers by assisting with organization and outreach of this integral group
* Continues to fund the acquisition of interpretive artifacts and provides financial support for education programs presented by the park, farm, and museum.
* Assists in promoting the site through a litany of marketing, PR and social media campaigns
* Raise funds for the necessary improvements needed to maintain a safe, enriching, and educational environment for visitors.
* Installed new playground equipment in the picnic area
* Cultivates bluebonnets and wildflowers throughout the park.
* Funded state-of-the-art teaching website www.txindependence.org to show details about the Convention of 1836 and the drafting of the Texas Declaration of Independence.
* Funded a new cell phone app to allow visitors to stroll park grounds and tour a “virtual” town site of Old Washington.
* Assisted in funding of the Six Flags Over Texas monument in Navasota to inform visitors of the area history, and direct tourists to the historic site.
* Provided the Texas Forestry Service with research to have the La Bahia Pecan Tree designated a “Famous Tree of Texas.”
* Raises funds and awareness of Washington on the Brazos through the sale of “For the Love of Texas” books and prints.

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site is found on the Brazos River at the original townsite of Washington, Texas, a major political and commercial center in early Texas. It is located at 23400 Park Road 12, Washington, TX, 77880—approximately halfway between Brenham and Navasota, off of State Hwy. 105. From Hwy. 105, follow either FM 912 or FM 1155 to Park Road 12. For additional information, call (936) 878-2214 or visit the site’s website at [www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org).