

# Baylor University McLane Stadium

Waco, TX

*In Spring of 2012, Baylor University announced that they would retire the 60-year-old off-campus stadium and build a new on-campus facility. The 93-acre site selected for the new stadium sits along the Brazos River, developing the centerpiece of Baylor's sports programs along the riverfront.*

A seeping pedestrian bridge spanning the river connects the stadium site to the university campus. The location creates a stronger connection to the main campus giving students the opportunity to walk from classrooms and dorms to sporting events and offers visitors a unique game day and tailgating experience.

OJB provided planting and irrigation design for the landscape around the stadium, including planting beds, turf, native grasses, seeded areas, and indigenous plants. The irrigation design reduces water consumption and waste associated with typical irrigation practices for the conservation of natural resources.

OJB introduced a new planting palette, including ornamental grasses and wildflowers, which is atypical of what has been done traditionally at Baylor. Geotextiles and native plantings were used for erosion control around the river and also served to foster habitat creation and biodiversity. A double row of heritage live oaks was incorporated into the design as the key pedestrian shading and scaling feature for the stadium. This promenade included special planting and seating areas for students, fans and alumni.

The large sweeps of planting were influenced by the curvature of the bridge and the river's edge. This new planting palette, along with the live oak "ring" around the stadium and tailgating areas, distinguishes the stadium side of the campus.

OJB designed the walks and spaces around the stadium, creating better pedestrian circulation and allowing for programmed spaces. These spaces included the stadium promenade and a landscaped plaza designed with trees, ornamental planting and shaded courtyard areas to accommodate the high volume of pedestrian traffic during sporting events.

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## Client

Baylor University

## Dates

2012-2015

## Team

Populous

## Awards

ASLA Texas Chapter Merit Award 2017

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# Sustainability

*The landscape design for McLane stadium improves the ecological and social potentials of the site. The new stadium increases property value in Waco, Texas and has provided a social environment for visitors.*



## LAND

The project restores a partially degraded site. Located on the Brazos riverfront, the landscape design for the McLane stadium improves the ecological and social potentials of the site.

The design accommodates flood plain function, conserving an aquatic ecosystem.

The project redevelops a degraded site and restores ecological conditions.

Geotextiles and native plants are used for erosion control.

A predesign site assessment was conducted allowing for the conservation of healthy soils and the amendment of others.



## ECONOMICS

Since the project's implementation, property values have increased. The Brazos River in Waco, Texas has become a recreational destination.

By using the Brazos River as an amenity, fans can purchase a seasonal boat slip for \$3,000 a season.



## SOCIAL

The project offers optimum accessibility, safety and wayfinding for guests.

On game day, the site has upwards of 55,000 visitors.

The project includes 475 on-site tailgating spaces and 18 boat slips.

A new tradition, called "sailgating" or tailgating on boats at the edge of the stadium, has created a playful and fun new way to prepare for a football game.



## PLANTING

Invasive species were controlled and managed on site. Native plant species were chosen and planted with consideration to reference communities and water usage. This fostered habitat creation and biodiversity.

Plants are allowed to go to seed/flower life.

Annual planting was avoided.

855 trees were planted on site.



## CARBON, ENERGY & AIR

The project sources regional materials.

The trees sequester 102,000 pounds of carbon annually, which offsets 12.5 cars per year \*\*

The Brazos River is optimized as a cooling device for the outdoor space which can reach temperatures of 104 degrees Fahrenheit. People seeking respite from the heat can jump in the water.



## WATER

The site mitigates run off while allowing storm water to be featured as an amenity.

Trees' potential for intercepting water equals 425,000 gallons, which is equal to the water used by 425 American residents in one day. \*

Outdoor water usage is reduced.

The quality of existing water bodies was improved.

The project will respond exceptionally to a major flood.

\*The tree average for water interception is 500 gallons. American's use an average of 100 gallons of water per day (EPA's water trivia facts).

\*\*120 pounds of CO2 per tree annually (This number is based on an average from the National Tree Benefits Calculator) One car produces an average of 8,320 pounds of CO2 per year (The Code of Federal Regulations - 40 CFR 600.113).