

de Stolfe
Journal ★★★
Broadsheets

Short Visit to Waco, Texas

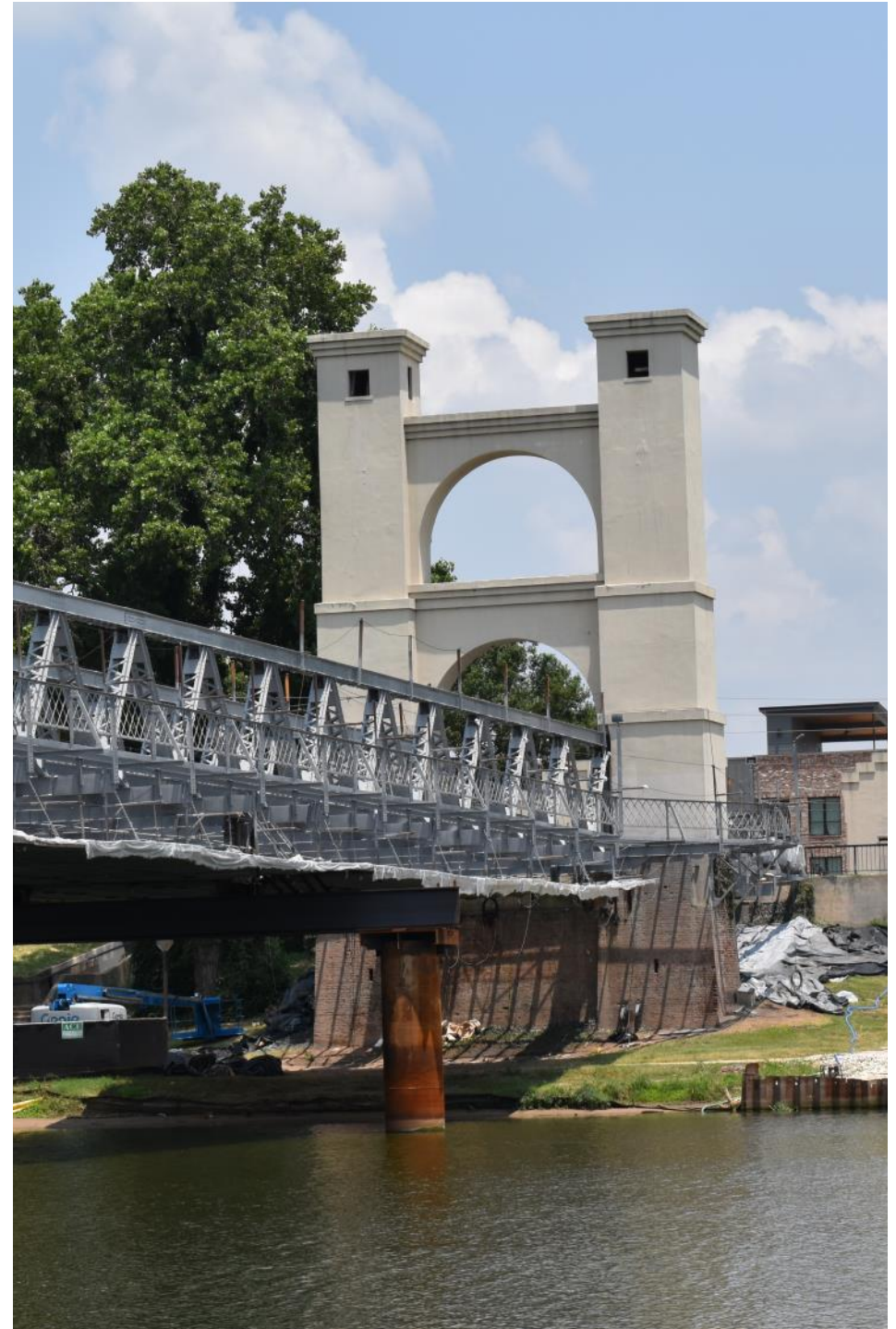
All photos are by RG de Stolfe, except where noted.

Visited on July 30, 2021



My main purpose of going to Waco after first going to Fort Worth was specifically to go to the Magnolia complex! But while I was in Waco, I wanted to go see the bridge and do other things if I had time. Turned out that I did not really have enough time to visit anything else besides the Silos and the other Magnolia stuff, I did squeeze in about 30 minutes to go to the river and see the bridge.

After being stuffed from breakfast at Magnolia Table, I went over to Indian Spring Park. That is one park on the south side of the river by the suspension bridge while the Doris D. Miller Park/Martin Luther King Jr. Park is on the north side of the river by the bridge. The Waco suspension bridge was completed in 1870. The city of Waco states the following on their website. “For years, the bridge served as a Chisholm Trail crossing, and at the time of its completion, it was the longest single-span suspension bridge west of the Mississippi. The bridge was built with cable supplied by the John Roebling Company, who built the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City.” Along the University Parks Drive side of the park where I parked, there were a series of bronze sculptures. In keeping with the Chisholm Trail theme, This series of longhorn sculptures and riders, called *Branding the Brazos* by Robert Summers and installed in 2008, stretches from the bridge entrance down the side of the street. I looked around the sculptures a little and walked a little of the park down to the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk is on both sides of the river and goes under the bridge. However, the bridge itself and the underneath walks were closed for an extensive overhaul restoration of the bridge, of which it looked like it was right smack in the middle of. The Riverwalk was nice and had access to by a bunch of steps from the park. There were a bunch of ducks and a few geese further down the path.







WACO SUSPENSION BRIDGE

Maintaining a Legacy

Since its initial construction in 1870, Waco's historic Suspension Bridge has been widely recognized as an engineering marvel of its time and a significant landmark.

As the first permanent bridge over the Brazos River, the structure was crucial to traders and travelers for well over a century and played a major role in Waco's economy and growth.

The 475-foot bridge was constructed using the latest suspension bridge technology and cables manufactured by John Roebling & Son, a firm that later became known for the Brooklyn Bridge and other landmarks.

Notably, the Waco Suspension Bridge also represents one of the first community-driven civic improvement projects Wacoans became known for. In the 1860s, the local residents of what was then a frontier community put up the initial funding. They had a vision that Waco could grow into a thriving economic hub centered on this vital crossing, and they succeeded.

Today our citizens share a similar vision: that Waco's strength and vitality continue to be driven by the connectivity and unity of its communities. Over the past 150 years, this landmark and its surroundings have become a cultural center for Waco's public gatherings and recreation activities.

It is an exceptional legacy that the initial vision and investment of Waco's early founders has lived on to become a broader symbol of how we represent our identity and culture.

Bridge Rehabilitation Project at a Glance

Each generation of Wacoans have done their part to reinvest in and preserve this iconic structure. Most notably, the bridge was rebuilt in 1914 for improved structural capacity and to take on its signature art deco stylings. The cabling and anchors dating to that era have reached a point where replacement is necessary, setting the stage for the \$12.4 million rehabilitation effort before you.

While it is a sacrifice to go without the public enjoyment of this space for the time being, we are honored to be the stewards of a renovation which will secure this landmark's place in the community for the next hundred years.

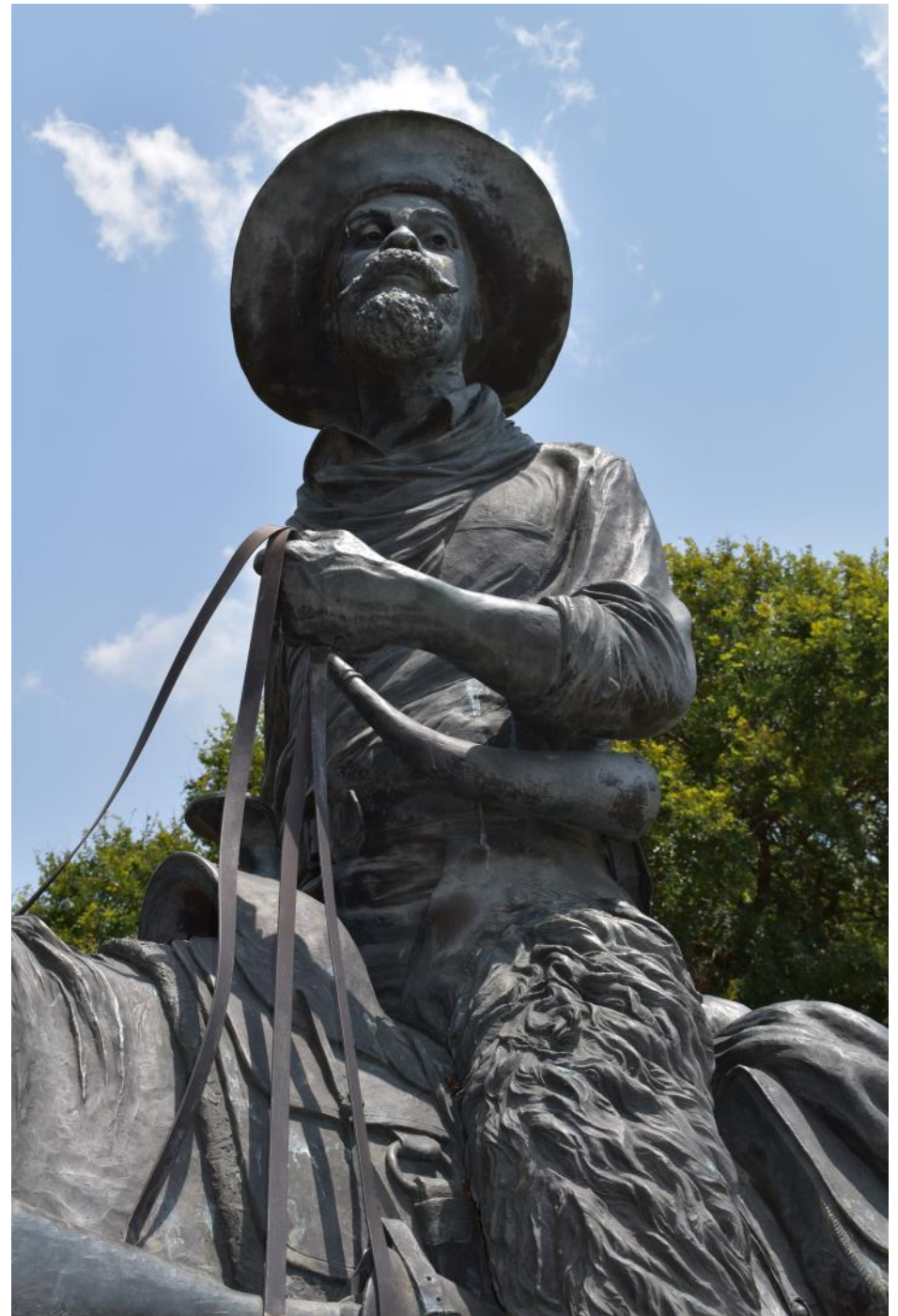
Project Timeline

- Virtual groundbreaking held on October 22, 2020 to commemorate the start of the project and 150th anniversary of the bridge
- Project contractor Gibson and Associates to complete the project over 18-24 months
- Completion anticipated in 2022
- Renovations include the bridge foundations, towers, decking and railings
- Full closure of the Suspension Bridge and work area anticipated throughout the duration of the project to assure public safety
- For project updates, visit waco-texas.com



Waco-Texas.com

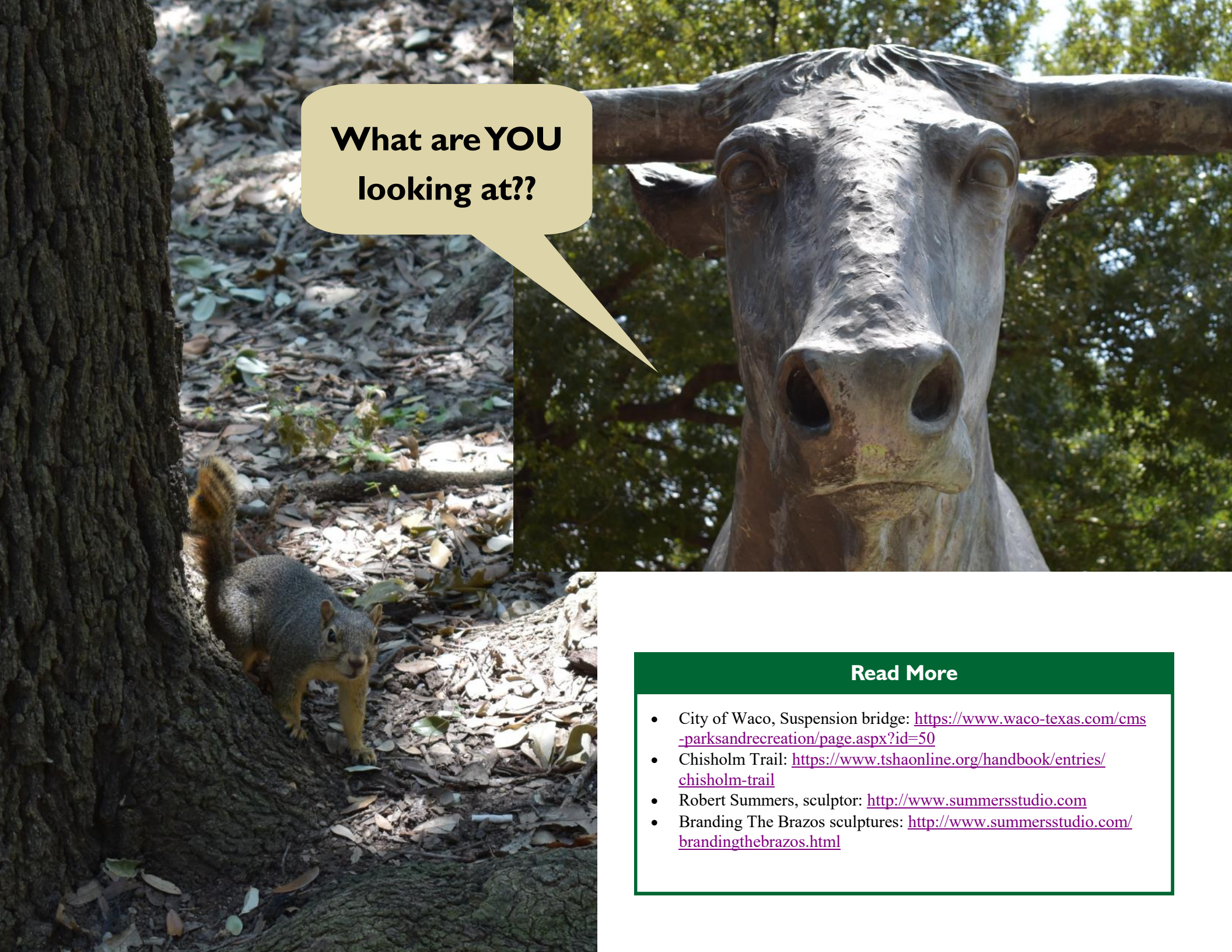












**What are YOU
looking at??**

Read More

- City of Waco, Suspension bridge: <https://www.waco-texas.com/cms-parksandrecreation/page.aspx?id=50>
- Chisholm Trail: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/chisholm-trail>
- Robert Summers, sculptor: <http://www.summersstudio.com>
- Branding The Brazos sculptures: <http://www.summersstudio.com/brandingthebrazos.html>

de Stolfe Journal ★★★ Broadsheets

I hope you enjoy these de Stolfe Journal Broadsheets!

I started these broadsheets as a means to reduce the number of pages for the regular journal issues. (And let's face it, you don't have time to read 50+ pages of the regular journal when not every topic in them might be of interest to you!) My broadsheets are single topics of special interest in a horizontal page format and restricted to ten pages or less (usually).



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de Stolfe Journal.....

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