

Applying Anthropology to Nature, Identity, and Texas State Parks



My Anthropology Program Journey

Pre-program:

B.A. Fine Arts: Studio Art and Art History

Interest: Design, digital cultures, and user experience.

2016 - Program Start

🔍 Water and Energy Nexus Project. Client: North Texas Municipal Water District.

🔍 Computational Resource for South Asian Languages. Client: Dr. Shobana Chelliah, Professor of Linguistics.

📄 Paper presented at SfAA, 2017 annual meeting, Sant Fe, NM.

📖 Journal article published in Journal of Business Anthropology, 2018.

2017

👤 Americorps: VISTA – TPWD – Ray Roberts Lake State Park – Johnson Branch

2018

🔍 “Evaluation of Career Connect Platform.” Client: University of North Texas’s Career Connect Service

🔍 “How Road Users Experience Other People’s Driving Behaviors.” Client: Nissan.

📄 Paper presented at SfAA, 2019 annual meeting, Portland, OR.

📖 Journal Article published in Journal of Business Anthropology, 2020

2019

👤 Society of Applied Anthropology Podcast Team - Chair

2022

📖 Deliverable/Thesis: Understanding Nature and the Texas State Park Visitor’s Experience.

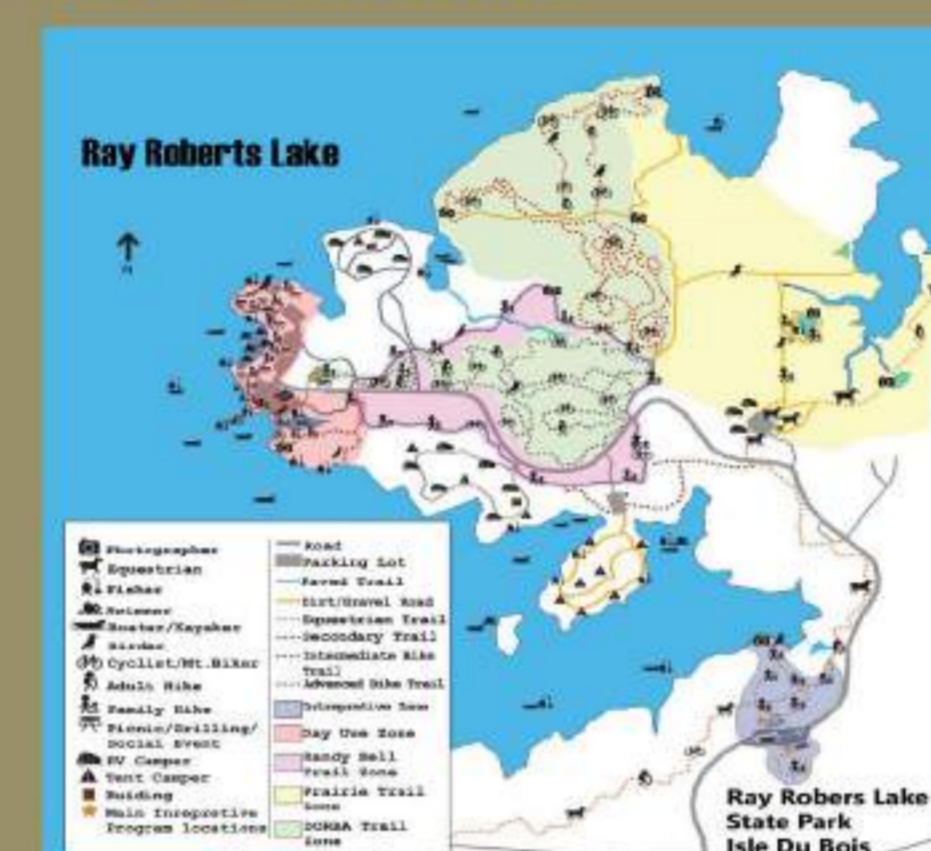
Thesis Research Project

Topic: An investigation into individuals relate to nature and gain a better understanding of visitor use and perspectives regarding Texas State Parks and park educational programming.

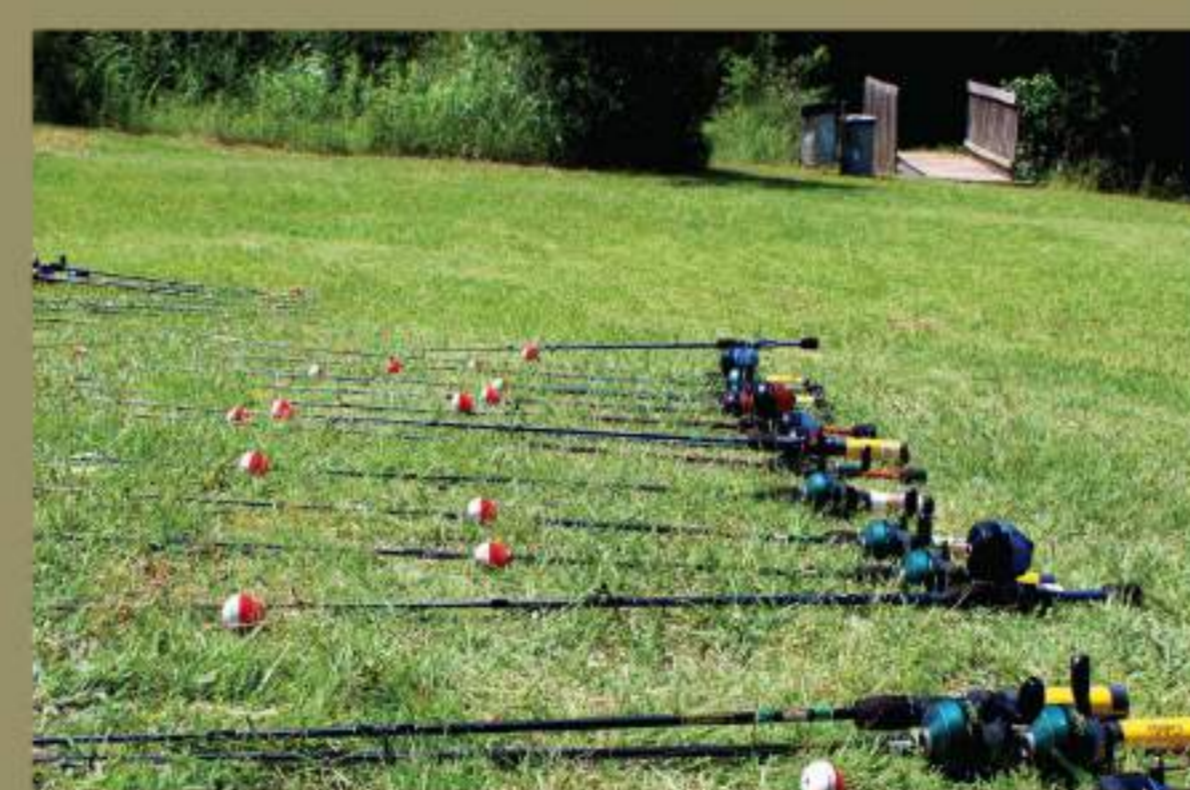
Client: Texas Park and Wildlife Department – State Parks - Director of Interpretation and Exhibits.

Methods:

- Semi-structured interviews
- Participant observation
- Surveys
- Social media user behavior observation
- Apply Theory: social construction of reality, communities of practice, biophilia, experience economy, placemaking, identity



Ray Roberts Lake State Park communities of practice



Findings:

- Early life exposure and social experience support positive nature relationships.
- Visitor barriers to parks and programs: economic, cultural, relatable content, access to information, etc.
- Visitor information access strategies



Applicable Skills and Experience

Skills:

- Quantitative and qualitative research design and analysis.
- Working on team-based projects and environments.
- Academic writing and creating resources for varied audiences.
- Interpersonal communication and rapport building.
- Delivering actionable results for clients and stakeholders.
- Project and time management skills.
- Critical thinking and holistic problem solving.
- Ethical perspective and advocacy.



Why Anthropology?

Studying and practicing anthropology allows me to:

- Continue to engage my curiosity.
- Help uncover and solve real issues. Making the world a better place.
- Work interdisciplinary (w/people, topics, apply theory).
- Use multiple research techniques to explore a problem.

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LinkedIn profile link

