



SUSPENSION BRIDGE

WACO, TEXAS

GREAT PUBLIC SPACE DESIGNEE—2018

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places - the Waco Suspension Bridge opened in 1870, spanning 475 feet across the Brazos River. The bridge, located in Downtown Waco, connects Indian Spring Park - the location of the origin of the town of Waco - with the Doris Miller Park. Its span made it the first major suspension bridge in Texas – and the longest west of the Mississippi River.

In 1866, a Charter was received from the State of Texas to construct the bridge due to the location of Waco on the growing Chisolm Trail. The twin double-towers that anchored the span were considered to be a marvel of engineering at the time, containing nearly 3 million locally-produced bricks. By 1971, the bridge had seen over 100 years of traffic. What started out as a cattle bridge had become a vehicular bridge, and today the bridge is open to foot traffic only.

The Waco Suspension bridge is the most iconic landmark in the city, serving as host to community celebrations, recreational events, and even fun Baylor University traditions. The bridge has been the catalyst to much of the active transportation and recreation improvements in Downtown Waco and along the Brazos River. In February 2018, the Waco City Council approved \$5.5 million in TIF funds to rehabilitate the 148-year-old icon. Downtown Waco is also designated as a Texas Cultural District by the Texas Commission of the Arts.

