

Zedler Mill Museum and Park Tours

The city park and museum grounds are open to the public daily. The restored scale house serves as a hub for the complex. Visitors can walk the historic mill site, see the museum artifacts showing the ingenuity of the early Texans, read the historical interpretive panels throughout the campus, or use our audio cell phone tour that describes the early mill functions. While touring, visitors will learn of the complexities of the rural lifestyle and the mechanical developments associated with the turn of the century industrial revolution.

The museum grounds are landscaped with walking paths, pocket butterfly gardens and native shrubs. The manicured grassy lawn is shaded by native pecan trees that enhance the natural beauty of the mill's setting along the river. The river bank is home to a natural diverse population of wildlife. The park area is enhanced with picnic tables, ADA restroom facilities, and trash receptacles to be used by those who wish to bring their own picnic basket. Free WI-FI is available on site. Gas, food, and lodging are available in Luling proper. No camping or glass is allowed in the Zedler Park grounds. Pets must be on a leash and their litter removed.

Handicap Information

The parking, pedestrian bridge, pavilion, and the restrooms are all handicapped accessible. Other ADA adjustments in the museum and park are currently being pursued.



ZEDLER MILL MUSEUM & PARK

1170 SOUTH LAUREL
LULING, TX 78648

Luling is conveniently located in the heart of Texas at the crossroads of US 90 & 183, Texas 80 & 86, and Interstate 10, less than an hour from San Antonio and Austin.

Directions: From I-10, take exit 628, head north; S. Laurel will be the first street past the river on the left. - From downtown Luling, take Highway 80 S (S Magnolia) to S. Laurel which will be on the right.



FEES & OTHER INFORMATION:

Fee: The Zedler park and its parking are FREE to the public daily. Donations are appreciated when visiting the Zedler Mill Museum.

Group Tours: To reserve a guided group tour of the museum and site, please call in advance: (512) 227-1724

Hours of Operation: The Zedler Museum is open during daylight hours but occasionally schedules may vary. The Zedler Park follows the Luling public park hours that are posted at:



www.cityofluling.net

ZEDLER MILL FOUNDATION

PRESENTS

Zedler Mill Museum & Park

A T E X A S H I S T O R I C
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A TRANQUIL PLACE TO
EXPERIENCE THE GOOD LIFE!

THE HISTORY OF THE ZEDLER MILL AND GIN SITE

It is hard to imagine life today without electricity and oil to power our lifestyle and industry, but not that long ago the only power available was from water, steam or draft animals. Water power has been used for more than 2000 years to grind grain, pump water and perform many other functions. It is not surprising, therefore, that early Texans harnessed the power of our rivers.

Several mills were built along the San Marcos River during the late 1800's. The Zedler Mill, which is the only remaining example, was established in 1874 as the Luling community's grist mill. A simple stone dam was built by Leonidas Hardeman and two brothers, John and James Merriweather - all three from Tennessee. They added a cotton gin to the site in 1883 and installed a water wheel at the dam to produce power for their machine shop. It was known as the Merriweather Mill at that time.

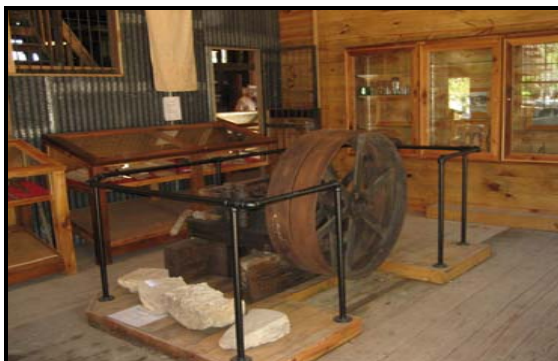
In 1885, Bob Innes, John Orchard, J.K. Walker, and a German immigrant mill expert named Fritz Zedler purchased the site and mill equipment naming it the 'Luling Water Power Company'.



Soon the partners added a lumber sawmill and Fritz Zedler replaced the existing stone dam with a wooden dam and penstocks that could generate more power. Buying out his three partners within a few years, Fritz Zedler became sole owner in 1888 and invited his oldest son, Berthold, to be his partner. Not long after the acquisition, the entire three story factory caught fire in Oct. 1888 and was totally destroyed. The citizens of Luling promised to hold the sale of their cotton crops for the Zedlers to rebuild. Devastated but not giving up, the Zedler family rebuilt the mill factory and within seven weeks it was operational.

Over three generations the Zedler family continued to improve the cotton-grist-lumber mill factory. Steam engines, a concrete dam, mule barns, and a blacksmith shop were added. In 1894, sons Herman and Carl Zedler installed a generator to supply the town of Luling with electric power and the mill remained the only power and water supplier for Luling until the 1920's. The old grinding stones for the grist mills were replaced with more modern roller mills and the Zedlers added flour milling to the business along with animal sweet and chop feed products. In the 1950's they were still marketing a chicken feed product called Henscratch and grinding fine cornmeal for Luling's dinner tables.

The unique 80 year history of the Zedler Mill is a true cultural story of how the local settlers adapted and profited during the turn of the century, but by the late 1950's the mill slowly fell into disrepair



Learn about Luling's earliest citizens, their cultural heritage, hardships and endeavors.

and sadly relinquished itself to modern ways of industry. In the fate of private hands all of the mill equipment and power apparatus, with the exception of the turbines, was sold off for scrap.

In 2002 the Luling Economic Development Corporation purchased the property for the City of Luling. The Zedler Mill Foundation, a non-profit foundation, was formed in 2007 for the purpose of restoring and developing the mill site. Over the past five years, the Zedler Mill Foundation and the City has invested more than \$1.5 million in improving and restoring the mill buildings and site. The property is now a city park and a proud Luling historical landmark for all to enjoy.

Current Facts

The combined Zedler Mill complex and the city park is located on a 9.32 acre campus which includes the main mill factory and six other ancillary industrial site buildings that were required for the operation of the business through the years. These seven structures are the main mill factory, corn sheller building, corn crib building, mule barn, scale house, smokehouse, and office. Other points of interest in the Zedler Mill public park include the riverbank frontage, outdoor amphitheater with a stage, canoe dock, and a large event pavilion. The 1900 Fritz Zedler home located across the street from the Mill complex is not included in the city park

THE PARK IS A BEAUTIFUL MERGING POINT FOR PAST AND PRESENT CULTURES. THE AMBIANCE OF THE PARK HIGHLIGHTS THE GENTLE SAN MARCOS RIVER'S ECO-SYSTEM AND THE HISTORICAL RURAL LIFE THAT WAS SO MUCH A PART OF TEXAS HISTORY.

The Zedler Mill Foundation is always striving to improve the museum. To donate historical items to the museum or to make financial gifts to the Zedler Mill Foundation contact : The Zedler Mill Foundation; 509 E. Crockett ; Luling, TX 78648

