

PARKS

Charro Ranch Park: - Sue Harding – Hays County Master Naturalist and Charro Ranch Park Volunteer

February- Charro Ranch Park had a total of nine volunteers at its monthly workday seven Master Naturalists and two members of the public. Many Cedar saplings were lopped off, and volunteers removed many rocks from the outer trail that were trip hazards. Tree roots across the outer trail and near the Solstice Circle were cut and removed, the oak wilt trenches were smoothed out, and at least four bags of trash were filled with litter from the shoulder of the road fronting FM150 along the Charro property line. We also replaced a broken horizontal fence post at the entrance to the park.

March – At the March's monthly workday the Charro Ranch Committee members and Hays County Master Naturalists were able to accomplish a great deal of work. They separated 2 Texas sotol plants that were growing together; now we have 3. Ten tree saplings: 3 Eve's necklace, 1 American beauty berry, 2 Huisache, 2 Texas persimmon, and 2 Texas mountain laurels were planted. The pavilion was swept & cleaned up as well as the solstice circle and bird blind. The last remaining trench area (from oak wilt trenching of summer, 2020) was covered up with juniper branches. Existing perennials were trimmed back in native demo garden and juniper thicket trimming was done in the area west of the bridge.

Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center -Submitted by: *Tina Adams – Event Center Manager*



March was an incredible month at the Dripping Springs Ranch Park. We successfully recovered from the February "Snow Apocalypse" and jumped straight into Spring with an array of shopping events, horse shows, movie filming and a community trail ride. We kicked off our 1st Annual Poker Trail Ride for members, guests and equestrian riders from the all over central Texas joined in the fun. It was a huge hit and show cased our amazing Ranch Park and its many amenities. The event center will continue to be a host site for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccination. The DSRP team is looking forward to blossoming bluebonnets, wildlife babies and a very busy schedule that upcoming April is bringing.



Founders Memorial Park & Pool:



Mackenzie Rusick has been hired as our new Programs and Aquatics Manager. Her first day is April 5. She will manage all aspects of hiring, training, scheduling aquatics staff as well as Founders Memorial Pool operations. Her office will be at the Founders Pool administrative office and she will serve as a key customer service interface and resource for Founders Memorial Park and pool guests. Mackenzie comes to us from Utah with an extensive background in municipal aquatics. Her scope will also include starting adult sports leagues through the Parks & Community Services department beginning with taking over the coordination and offering of Dripping Springs Adult Softball League in October.

Phase I pool deck expansion completed. Cool Deck will be budgeted and applied in the FY22 cycle to match the existing deck color and texture. For now, the substrate is brushed concrete. Luckily, the project timeline was not gravely impacted by the winter storm in February.



Rathgeber Natural Resource Park:

This excerpt taken from the newly published information introducing the POSAC 2.0 is concerning. It appears that perhaps there may be some uncertainty around the projects that had been recommended and supposedly were going to be funded by the passing bond measure. In light of this statement, it would be prudent to begin seeking alternative funding methods to support and develop Rathgeber Natural Resource Park. Staff will begin diving into and researching TPWD options for funding support and perhaps a capital campaign to achieve the objects set forth in the proposal.

Proposed Projects

Projects submitted to Hays County should be consistent with the goals and priorities set forth in the 2012 Hays County Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas MASTER PLAN. Applicants are highly encouraged to review the Master Plan and understand how your project fits within it.



**Hays County 2012
Parks Master Plan**

The County currently has 16 recommended projects by the first Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) formed prior to the proposition passing. Additional project submissions are to be expected. This will require an in-depth reevaluation of the existing recommended projects, with this newly formed POSAC 2.0, so that all projects receiving funding from either the general bond sales or the CWSRF are vetted appropriately. The value of these projects ranges from \$75 million to \$150 million (and potentially in excess of that amount) with entities providing matching funds.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

BUDGET AND PHASING

PHASE I (2020-2022)

COMMITTED PRIVATE CONTRIBUTION IS ACCEPTED BY THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

- Value \$3,750,000 - \$5,250,000 – 300 acres of pristine Barton and Little Barton Creek riparian area and watershed have been committed via signed agreement by Dick Rathgeber.

PROPOSED CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS CONTRIBUTION

- \$50,000 - Master Plan & Public Input Process
- \$80,000 – \$125,000 – Engineering/Environmental studies

PHASE II (2022 – 2024)

- \$500k – 1m - Trailheads, Parking lots & Park Entrances w/ Signage & ADA compliant (Three access points, One may require additional easement or land acquisition)
- \$1.5 - \$2.5m - Connectivity. A mixture of rustic/primitive (DG) & ADA Compliant Trails
Existing dilapidated low water crossing (dam) redesigned into pedestrian bridge

PHASE III (2024- 2026)

- \$300,000 - \$500,000 - Interpretive Master Plan & Installation.
Interpretive Kiosks, trailside Interpretive panels, wildflower & pollinator meadows, wayfinding signage throughout park and interactive exhibits
- \$300,000- \$500,000 – Boy & Girl Scout / Youth & Family Group Campground.
Platforms, gathering pavilion, water spickets, firepits, pit toilets or restrooms

**PHASE IV (2026 - 2028)

- \$3-\$4m - Dripping Springs Natural Resource & Outdoor Recreation Center.
Restrooms, classrooms, meeting space, staff offices, night sky viewing center, outdoor recreation amenities and features (example climbing wall, high element challenge course, hiking, etc.)

*TOTAL PROJECT COSTS RANGE – \$6,210,500 - \$7,675,000

(without Interpretive/Outdoor Rec Center – project costs \$3,210,500 - \$4,675,000)

*This rough budget estimate was compiled from consultation with RVI Planning and established from nearby similar projects.

** If not awarded funding by the POSAC opportunity, for PHASE IV, our goal is to partner with other potential funding sources for the Natural Resource & Outdoor Recreation Center project – DSISD, TPWD, Private Donations, In-Kind, City funding, etc.)

Sports & Recreation Park

Before sport court stripped of paint, cracks being filled.



After refurbished beautiful multi-sport court.



The Sports and Recreation Park basketball court refurbishment was completed on 3.24.2021

Veterans Memorial Park & Triangle
Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Community Events & Programs – Submitted by: *Maggie Peterson, Programs and Events Coordinator*



Bird City:

Festival of Flight (AKA World Migratory Bird Day) is being held at Charro Ranch Park on Saturday, May 8 from 7am-4pm. We will have a variety of educational birding activities for all age groups. Families and novice birders are encouraged to participate! We will have scheduled bird walks with a biologist and birding expert to ID and guide. To participate in Festival of Flight you must pre-register for your bird walk time slot that is limited to 10 people per walk. Registrations are available on the Dripping Springs Parks and Community Services page under events.



Founders Day:

Nothing to report.

Keep Dripping Springs Beautiful:

The next Keep Dripping Springs Beautiful event, The Great American Clean Up, has been added to the calendar and will be held April 17th from 10am-3pm. We will meet at DSRP to get your clean up tools such as; masks, gloves, pick up tool, and trash bags. Participants will work their way from DSRP to the intersection of Ranch Road 12 and Highway 290. As bags become full they will be dropped along Ranch Road 12 for our handy maintenance staff to swing by and pick up! Registrations are required for this event and can be done on the Dripping Springs Parks and Community Services Page under Keep Dripping Springs Beautiful.



Coyote Kids Day Camp:

Registration for the Coyote Kids Nature Camp has officially opened! Roll out of camp has been successful in its efforts and have many campers signing up every day! We highly encourage anyone who wants to join us for camp this summer register as soon as possible as we are expected to fill! We have 11 weeks of nature packed educational sessions with a limit of 50 campers per session to maintain safety and sanitary guidelines. Camp will run from 7am-6pm Monday through Friday beginning June 1- August 13th. Staff is being currently being hired!





Farmers Market –

The Farmers Market continues to be extremely successful and new vendors reach out weekly to participate by submitting applications! The Farmers Market has launched its new Friends of Dripping Springs Farmers Market program. This provides an avenue for the public to support the market even when not shopping there regularly. Please see attached brochure for more information and below for more information.

Farmers Market has added two new employees and a new Assistant position has been filled among the add. The new FM Manager is Charlie Reed + the new FM Assistant is Johnna Krantz.

PCS staff has been covering operations during the transition. We are very excited to have found such a great duo to lead the market into continued success.



To register for the Friends of Dripping Springs Farmers Market Program, please visit the Farmers Market section of the Dripping Springs website: cityofdrippingsprings.com/page/fm.home

Sign up online today for your 2021 membership!

Annual Individual Membership
\$30 | Program #5140

Annual Family Membership
\$55 | Program #5141

Annual Corporate Membership
\$250 | Program #5142

Farmers Market Vendor Applications for February & March, 2021:

- 4 Beans Jewelry – Board Approved
- Dog’s Love it – Board Approved
- Dripping in Petals – Board Approved
- Mother Shipton Candles – Board Approved
- Pure Luck Farm & Dairy – Staff Approved
- Rolling Stone Ranch +Studio – Board Approved
- Steinhardt Pottery – Board Approved
- Tejas Hemp – Board Approved
- Jake & Blue’s Raw Dog Food (Incomplete, does not meet requirements)

WELCOME TO THE NEW FARMERS MARKET TEAM - CHARLIE & JOHNNNA!!!



Charlie Reed, FM Manager



Johnna Krantz, FM Specialist

Marketing, Website, Social Media, Branding & Communications

The PCS department continues to expand its website pages to encompass the resource as a tool to provide the full scope of services within the department's span of responsibility. Currently, the "Community Services" aspect of the department is lacking in web presence and ease of service access. Staff is in the process of creating an easier application process and information dissemination platform.

- Road closure requests
- Itinerant Vendor Permits
- Event Permit for events held on city property and events held within City Limits
- Co-Sponsorship applications that includes banners at the triangle requests
- Filming Permit (which tend to be last minute in nature – less than 48hrs notice)

It is a goal of the department to streamline operations and scope of the Programs & Events Coordinator position through renaming the position to serve comprehensively in the coordination of all aspects of community services and not just events and programming. The title change will be to that of Community Services Coordinator and the scope will expand to include the coordination of all such services in addition to events and programs will fall under the Programs & Aquatics Manager's scope entirely.