

## PARKS

### **Charro Ranch Park**

The monthly volunteer work day at Charro Ranch Park was held on Saturday, September 5, 2020. The group assisted with mitigating some of the scarring that occurred from the Oak Wilt mitigation trenching.

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



September was an exciting month for DSRP with several successful weddings, large horse shows and preparing for the Upcoming Rodeo in October.

In preparation for the fall show season, the local Hays County 4-H club has started meeting again on Monday nights at DSRP.

The Dripping Springs Fair & Rodeo was postponed until October 16-17<sup>th</sup>. With the current Covid-19 safety precautions, this event has downsized considerably and will operate at 50% capacity. The DSRP board and CODS city council approved the amended fee schedule for the 2020-2021 DSRP budget. Also 2 major repairs to the Event Center have been completed (NE Corner of new addition door and Warm Up Arena roll up door). The management team is currently revamping the DSRP riding series for this next season/series. The management team is gaining a new member for October. Lily has an extensive background in livestock and equine fields, event planning and customer service. With the event center starting to ramp back up, she will be a welcome addition.

### **Founders Memorial Park & Pool –**

New trail segment has been completed as previously reported. Discussions and plans are being formulated for moving forward on the additional proposed parking area adjacent to future skateboard park.

### **Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (Pending)**

Use agreement still being drafted with Capitol Area BSA for Rathgeber. Awaiting the results of the November election. Staff has begun developing a preliminary operations budget for the park with a plan for bringing it on-line in 2022.

### **Sports & Recreation Park**

2020 DSYS Fall youth sports program has resumed. Engineering portion and phased implementation plan of the Sports Lighting replacement while implementing dark sky compliance certification is wrapping up.

### **Veterans Memorial Park & Triangle**

Community rental capabilities of the portion of the Triangle west of the low water crossing are no longer permitted.

## COMMUNITY SERVICES

### **Community Initiatives**

- **Bird City Texas:**

Applications for the 2021 Texas Bird City designation process opened June 15, 2020 with a deadline of December 4, 2020. An application committee was formed and consists of the following partners:

Hope Boatright – Destination Dripping Springs, Visitors Bureau  
Maggie Martin – CODS Programs & Events Specialist  
Paul Fushille – CODS Parks & Recreation Commissioner  
Kelly Schmidt – CODS Parks & Community Services Director  
Lisa Sullivan – CODS Communications Director  
Amanda Pena Bustillos – Wild Birds Unlimited

Connie Boltz – Hays County Master Naturalists  
Anne Forish – Hays County Master Gardeners

The committee divided up the extensive application requirements and will be meeting on several occasions during the next several months to support each other through the process of completing the application with the best information. The objective is to ensure that our 2021 application accurately assesses and shares the past, current and future work that reflects Dripping Springs' dedication to the preservation and conservation of birds.

- **International Dark Sky Association:** Lights Out! Campaign being driven by Maggie Martin, Communications Coordinator Lisa Sullivan & City Administrator Michelle Fischer. Proclamation to be presented at the next City Council meeting detailing the importance of a night sky and how artificial lighting negatively impacts migratory bird patterns. This acknowledgement aids in achieving Bird City requirements as well as celebrate our designation as an International Dark Sky city.
- **It's Time Texas:** On Going- prepping for next year.
- **Keep Dripping Springs Beautiful:** On Going - Nothing to report>
- **Scenic City:** On Going - Nothing to report.

### **Community Outreach Volunteer Services**

Nothing to report for August. Covid still continues to impact normal operations. Beginning our planning for the 2021 volunteer season and creating organizational structure for on-going opportunities for recruitment of community volunteers.

### **Banner Requests & Co-Sponsorships**

- Run by the Creek
- Empty Bowls

### **Community Events & Programs – Submitted by: Maggie Martin, Programs and Events Specialist**



Bird City:  
We are continuing our efforts for earning the Bird City Designation. Planning meetings with the Bird City Texas Committee have continued and the team is working hard on their designated items to meet our December deadline.



The 'Lights Out' Proclamation passed on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Throughout September and October, you can show your support for protecting Dripping Springs bird species by signing the pledge on the Dripping Springs Bird City webpage. The program has been well received by the public with approximately 100 pledges so far.

In September, the Night Sky Month Proclamation passed, recognizing the month of October Night Sky Month. We are discussing possible events or programs to support IDA and Night Sky Month.

The Charro Ranch Park Bird Interpretive signage has been completed! The Bird guide is currently being printed and will be available for use in October! Head over to the Charro Ranch Birding station to check it out! Thank you to Tom Hausler, a DS Birding Club member and bird photographer, for donating photos to be used in the guide. The project would not have been a success without his generosity.

In other news, Charro is getting love and attention from our fellow Girl Scouts! We have one Silver Award Candidate applying to work with the City on restoring the Charro Ranch Park kiosk! She will spend approximately 50 hours working to make the kiosk more inclusive and relevant. She will be leading the project, and working closely with staff to tackle the project.



Christmas on Mercer:



Continued planning of Christmas on Mercer 2020- sponsorship is open and supporters have already begun submitting their sponsorships. Vendor applications are open as well and are at 60% capacity. We are continuing our efforts of gaining more sponsors and vendors! The PCS department has teamed up with other city entities to update the Traffic control plans, our health and safety protocol, and event site plan to work towards creating a safer event for our community. This year the tree lighting will be held virtually. Movie in the Park:

Continued planning of the Halloween special movie in the park! We have received sponsorship from Austin Realty who have donated to the expense of the event. Sponsors will get a special shout out at the event with their logo (or chosen piece of marketing) will be shown on the screen before the show begins as well as any banners and posts from the City! It will be held at Ranch Park and will adhere to COVID regulations by limiting the number of guests, spacing out parking spots, and using an online, touchless reservation system. Signups will begin at the end of September. We will be showing the new Addams Family (2019)!

**Farmers Market – Submitted by: Laurel Robertson, Market Manager**



In September, the Farmers Market was able to accomplish a long-term goal of moving weekly booth reservations and payments online. It took several weeks, and plenty of backup support from PCS Team Kelly Schmidt and Maggie Martin, but the new system is operational and vendors are successfully using it. Ongoing tweaks and improvements are expected during the coming months.



Manager Robertson continues to be in conversation with Mayor Foulds about re-opening the market to live music, craft vendors, and public seating as COVID restrictions are lifted. The Mayor okayed increasing craft vendors at this time, with the promise of revisiting the entertainment and seating options soon.

At their September meeting, the Farmers Market Association Board approved offering reduced joining fees for Holiday Vendors (November and December markets) and moving the market indoors at DSRP Event Center during January, February, and the first part of March. Market Manager Robertson will coordinate with the DSRP Event Center Staff on logistics for the temporary move.

### **Marketing, Website, Social Media, Branding & Communications**

The PCS department continues to expand their 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 Requests and banners at the triangle requests