

PARKS

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

On April 10, the Charro Ranch Park work group had 20 volunteers working at Charro (9 master naturalists, 3 members of public, 7 scouts & parents, and 1 high school student). The work completed included the following:

- Non-slip tread was applied to ramps at the bridge
 - Weeding in demo garden
 - Sweeping pavilion & solstice circle
 - Watering native plants with water we hauled from our homes
 - Applied insecticidal soap to beaked yucca in demo garden
 - Blocked a new path with juniper cuttings that someone created at the bird blind
 - Picked up 2 large bags of trash along frontage road of RR 150
 - New juniper piles were created on the west side of the bridge to prevent soil erosion and to thin juniper thicket
- The maintenance crew has begun the process of replacing PVC pipe broken during the freeze in February.

Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center –



Tina Adams has resigned from her position as DSRP Event Center Manager. Emily Nelson has been named as interim Manager to begin May 7 in the role. Emily has been working at the Event Center for just over a year in the capacity of Event Center Coordinator working hand in hand with Tina and developing great relationships with all the Park and Event Center's internal and external stakeholders.

Tina was in her role as Event Center Manager for a year and accomplished an incredible amount for such a short tenure. Some of her accomplishments include safely hosting several large-scale community events (such as the rodeo + Market Days) during the pandemic, elevating the aesthetic standards of the park and attention to safety standards. She has done an incredible job at bringing the Event Center up to compliance and best practices, improving many operational inefficiencies and adding a private sector flare to operations.

The DSRP Master Plan update process is wrapping up with the internal and external stakeholder input sessions and survey completed in the month of April.



April brought us the Good Ground Barrel Racing Clinic lead by world-renowned clinician, Dena Kirkpatrick. The participants gave rave reviews after the weekend. Kathy Slack hosted her 2nd Fences Over Bee Cave series show. Participation was even higher than her first. Both events were very happy with the DSRP team.



Have you looked at our amazing garden? The Master Naturalist have been hard at work repairing all the freeze damaged plants. We truly appreciate all their hard work and



knowledge. Several members of the Dripping Springs Birding Club have been utilizing the bird blind and posting pictures online. We have enjoyed seeing Dusty the Duck featured.

Let there be life! May is such an exciting month for DSRP. From two DSRP Riding Series shows to our new RetroMania Collections show, we will host a diverse month of events this May. We are also excited to host the Shorty Scott Memorial

Team Roping with Ag Boosters this month. Early RV and Stall reservations are pointing to a thrilling Roping weekend. It is an excellent opportunity for the entire DSRP team to stretch their muscles and conquer a busy month before the inevitable hot summer slowdown. We are excited for our new team members to experience a fully booked month because September begins our almost fully booked Fall run of events. Exciting times at the Ranch Park!



Dusty, the DSRP Duck!

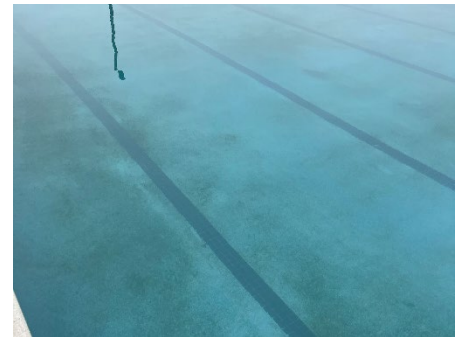
Founders Memorial Park & Pool: - Submitted by Mack Rusick, Programs & Aquatics Manager



Founders Memorial Pool is off and running!

- **New Commerical Heater installed and will be hooked up by Friday, April 29, 2021.**
- **New thermal blankets and storage reel are being ordered.**
- **New UV sanitization has been installed to assist with providing the safest water for our swimmers!**
- **Chlorination system has been converted from liquid to dry.**

This last month has been busy getting the pool prepped and ready for the summer. Jim, Kelly, and I have been met with some challenges in getting plumbing repaired and the new heater up and running. We were able to hire outside help to turn the pond back into a pool but once the water cleared it revealed embedded algae on our new pool surface from sitting stagnant after the winter storm, yikes! We've been spending some extra time and effort to brush, filter, and vacuum the pool regularly to hopefully remedy the issue.



Additionally, were able to pull some volunteers together to wash down the deck, chairs, and bathrooms. Many hands make light work!

Arriving to the pool I got right into work reviewing applications for returning and new guards. Most of our hires were enrolled in the Red Cross Lifeguard Certification Course that was held this month which allowed me to spend many hours training and getting to know each of them. We have a great team this year with strong swimmers and I was really impressed by their willingness to learn and their ability to pick up new skills and help teach each other. I am confident that our guards will be prepared for whatever the season may bring and will help our community be safe in the water.



After taking last season off because of Covid, Tiger Splash swim team has returned and begun their swim season. I have enjoyed working with their coaches, board members, and swimmers on their pre-season trainings and evaluations. Everyone has been pleased to see the improvements that were made to the pool in the last year and are excited to see how those changes will help in their upcoming practices and meets!

I have had positive reactions regarding Adult Sports Programming in the Fall. One woman gasped and literally jumped for joy at the mention of this endeavor. So glad to hear that there is a desire and need for these programs within the community and looking forward to getting things started.

Things are coming together, and we hope to see many happy faces at Founders Pool this Summer!



Sports & Recreation Park

Adult softball season has begun once more with 2 leagues playing for the spring season and 3 leagues slated for the summer. Leagues include the Monday night women’s league, the Tuesday night men’s League, and the Thursday night men’s League. The program is currently coordinated and comprised of community volunteers, but the PCS department will be taking over and formally offering the program to the Dripping Springs community in October, 2021.

Rathgeber Natural Resource Park:

April 19, 2021 - Robert Ellis graciously once again served as our park guide when a site visit was requested by Hays County. We took the opportunity to introduce some of the PCS team and friends of the city to the future park as well. Construction of the arterial roads leading to the park appears to be ahead of schedule and there will be a need for more “hands on” management of the property very soon.



Veterans Memorial Park & Triangle
Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY SERVICES



Community Services Coordinator, Melanie Blakely

Bird City:

Festival of Flight (AKA World Migratory Bird Day) is being held at Charro Ranch Park and Twisted X on Saturday, May 8 from 7am-9:30pm. We will have a variety of educational birding guided walks. A kid's craft at noon and a movie "Big Day" will be shown that evening at Twisted X just down the road from Charro Ranch Park in celebration of the momentous day.



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:

Keep Dripping Springs Beautiful event,



The Great American Clean Up, took place April 24 from 10am-2pm. We met volunteers at DSRP and handed out clean up tools such as; masks, gloves, pick up tool, and trash bags. Participants worked their way from DSRP to the intersection of Ranch Road 12 and Highway 290. Registrations were required for this event. The event was not well attended. Next time we will do a heavier push on social media and begin our marketing campaign for the event at least 12 weeks out.



Hanna Gregory , Camp Director - Coyote Kids Day Camp:

Registration for the Coyote Kids Nature Camp has officially opened, and the camp is a hit! To date we have 280 kids registered for summer camp. Max enrollment is 40 per camp right now at 440. If we expand our counselor team by one more counselor, we will be able to extend enrollment to 50 campers per session. We have 11 weeks of nature-packed educational sessions with a limit of 50 campers per session to maintain safety guidelines. Camp will run from 7:30am-6pm, Monday through Friday, beginning June 1- August 13th. Staff has been hired and is completing the finishing touches. Spread the word!

Name	Type	Number	Status	Open	Enr	W/L
Coyote Kids - Wk 1 - All Things Wings I	Youth Programs	X88.2020	Open	14	<u>26</u>	0
Coyote Kids - Wk 2 - Outdoor Survival I	Youth Programs	X89.2020	Open	0	<u>40</u>	5
Coyote Kids - Wk 3 - Big Sky Fun	Youth Programs	X90.2020	Open	7	<u>33</u>	0
Coyote Kids - Wk 4 - Ways of the Wild	Youth Programs	X91.2020	Open	8	<u>32</u>	0
Coyote Kids - Wk 5 - Outdoor Adventures	Youth Programs	X92.2020	Open	1	<u>39</u>	7
Coyote Kids - Wk 6 - Rock-N-Roll I	Youth Programs	X93.2020	Open	11	<u>29</u>	0
Coyote Kids - Wk 7 - All Things Wings II	Youth Programs	X94.2020	Open	23	<u>17</u>	0
Coyote Kids - Wk 8 - Wet-N-Wild	Youth Programs	X95.2020	Open	10	<u>30</u>	0
Coyote Kids - Wk 9 - Sun & Stars	Youth Programs	X96.2020	Open	10	<u>30</u>	0
Coyote Kids - Wk-10 Outdoor Survival II	Youth Programs	X97.2020	Open	0	<u>40</u>	0
Coyote Kids - Wk-11 - Rock-N-Roll II	Youth Programs	X98.2020	Open	9	<u>31</u>	0

Farmers Market –



The Farmers Market continues to be extremely successful and new vendors reach out weekly to participate by submitting applications! The application process can be challenging and is in need of an overhaul but the new team is navigating it as is, at the moment. The Farmers Market has averaged 40 vendors per market for the month of April.



Charlie Reed, Farmers Market Manager



Johnna, has claimed the Market’s Instagram account and is excited to bring it back to life. The last post to the account was many years ago. This effort will reach a whole new segment of future Friends of the Market, potential vendors and customers.

Johnna Krantz, Farmers Market 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 include banners at the triangle requests
- Filming Permits (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.