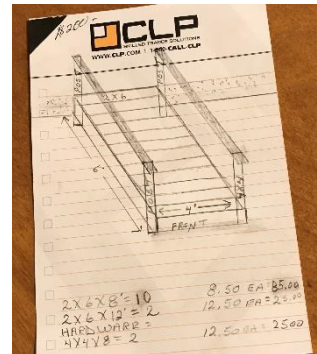


PARKS

Charro Ranch Park

Programs & Events Specialist Maggie Martin is working on updating the bird identification kiosk and interpretive trailhead kiosk as a part of her programs support scope. A schematic has been created for the new ADA ramp to the pavilion and is slated for construction in August by the DS Maintenance Crew.

Hays County Master Naturalists lead by Sue Harding have returned to Charro Park and are again hosting their monthly volunteer work groups.



Dripping Springs Ranch Park

Improvements continue to occur at DSRP and the Master Naturalists & Gardeners have returned to continue their much needed and treasured partnership.

Founders Memorial Park & Pool – Emily Long, Pool Manager

The month of July was a month of polishing lifeguard skills. Both during in services and during shifts, the lifeguards at Founders Pool worked hard to improve on their skills. In-services consisted of practicing rescues with social distancing protocols. These protocols included hands only CPR as well as the use of a BVM. Head Lifeguard, Mick Bailey led an in-service this month where he instructed scenarios involving sudden illnesses. Mick has ample experience with sudden illnesses because he is certified in Wilderness First Aid and Epinephrine. Mick embraced the opportunity to gain some additional leadership and teaching experience. Mick is studying Outdoor Recreation and Tourism at the University of Wyoming and is hoping to become a Rock-Climbing Guide after graduation. The lifeguards found his sudden illness training to be extremely helpful. Mick also brought the Hays County Fire Department out to the pool once again. With the help of the fire department, we preformed extractions from the water with and without a spinal injury. Each scenario also consisted of practicing CPR with a BVM and an AED out of the water. The lifeguards learned the importance of teamwork and urgency in a life-threatening situation. Huge thank you to Mick Bailey and the Hays County Fire Department!



Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (Pending)

Rathgeber Natural Resource Park was chosen as one of Hays County's Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission's Tier 1 projects for funding by the future November Parks and Open Space Bond Measure. Next steps consist of receiving the Rathgeber tract of land into the CODS Park System. Developing a conceptual operating budget that will reflect costs associated with bringing the park on-line and operating the park in phases. Important to begin the conversation around the park development plan and public input-process.

PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION (POSAC) RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMISSIONERS COURT

The following recommendations are respectfully submitted by members of the Hays County Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) on July 28, 2020.

This document is a synthesis of the Powerpoint presentation to be made to the Court on above date and is meant to provide an easy visual overview of the projects submitted by various entities which were evaluated by the POSAC through the lens of the 2012 Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan.

These project recommendations demonstrate a substantial need for additional resources available for parks and open space within Hays County.

The named projects below are presented by category and ranked within the tiers showing highest ratings from top down within each category. Included also are project sponsor and funding request. The numbering of projects relates to the attached project map.

TIER ONE PROJECTS ("very best"; highly recommend to fund at some level)	Amount Requested
Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat	
1. Coleman's Canyon Preserve (WVWA)	\$ 2,600,000
2. Sentinel Peak Park & Preserve (Hays County)	10,000,000
3. San Marcos River Recharge Lands (SMRF)	4,380,000
4. Regional Park, water quality/trails, 1200 acres (Hays County/COA via HCC) ¹	10,000,000
5. Purgatory Creek: habitat, clean water preserve (HCC)	17,717,500
6. Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (City of Dripping Springs)	7,500,000

TIER TWO PROJECTS ("very good"; strong recommendation to fund at some level)	Amount Requested
Urban Parks	
9. Dripping Springs Regional Skate Park (DS Skate Park, Inc, non-profit)	\$ 550,000
10. Dripping Springs Town Center (City of Dripping Springs)	4,480,600
11. Patriot's Hall, near Dripping Springs (PatriotsHall.org; non-profit)	1,500,000
12. Nature Center at Blue Hole Park (City of Wimberley)	3,136,425
Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat	
13. John Knox Ranch Preserve (John Knox Ranch/HCC)	2,500,000
14. Presa Grande, Sink Creek Watershed (Great Springs Project)	8,500,000
Connectivity	
15. Old Fitzhugh Road Trail (City of Dripping Springs)	1,305,000
16. Kyle Fajita Fields (City of Kyle)	14,520,000
TOTAL Tier Two Project Requests	\$ 36,472,025

TOTAL TIER ONE & TWO PROJECT REQUESTS	\$ 94,969,525
--	----------------------

Sports & Recreation Park

DSYSA and DSASA resumed practices and games. Both DSYSA's Baseball and Soccer are utilizing the park 7 days a week to catch up from lost spring seasons.

The survey of Sports and Recreation Park was completed for the Sports & Recreation Park lighting project. EMA meeting to be held in August to detail the project at 75% planning completion.

Veteran's Memorial Park & Triangle

At this time Council has decided to not take any further applications for renting the Triangle to the public in the traditional sense. The Mayor and Council are reflecting on the park space west of the low water crossing and entertaining a use that could perhaps service multiple local business owners and the Dripping Springs Community at large in a greater capacity. The Farmers Market's location will not be impacted, and it will continue to be hosted at the northeast side of the park on Wednesdays. That side of the park and location will still be available for regular rentals.

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 insure 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: On going. Nothing to report.

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 July. 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

-Master Gardeners requested Co-Sponsorship for banner to be displayed at Triangle advertising their annual plant sale
-Empty Bowls 2020 requested Co-Sponsorship to advertise their virtual fundraiser.

Community Events & Programs – Maggie Martin, Programs and Events Specialist

Our COVID- friendly camp, Coyote Kids in a Crate, wrapped up last week July 31st that included five weeks of thematic activities delivered to our camp families. The themes included: All Things Wings, Big Sky Fun, Outdoor Adventures, Rock-N-Roll, and Sun and Stars. The bags cost campers \$25 for residents and \$30 for non residents and cost about \$8 to produce brining the cost of each project to less than \$1.60. Each week contained at least five activities for 42 total campers and families to complete on their own with a guided zoom meeting held daily to discuss the activity and get them started. Zoom meetings were also a space for campers to get a dose of camp fun as we played games and shared our experiences. We had a group of 4 campers that returned weekly and have even committed to next year's traditional style camp. On the last day of camp awards were given out to campers and we received praise and gratitude for hosting a successful program.

Farmers Market – Laurel Robertson, Market Manager

Following orders from Mayor Foulds, the DS Farmers Market returned to May's Phase II COVID restrictions on July 8: three-foot spacing between booths, eliminating all non-food vendors and live music at market, with picnic tables roped off to discourage shoppers from lingering at market.



Shoppers are now required by state law to wear face coverings while at market, unless they are under the age of two or have a medical condition. Farmers Market staff has been on the alert to spot people entering market without masks and offer them one from market supplies. This strategy has worked well most of the time.

Shopper numbers are still up (though not as high as during March and April); vendor attendance has remained steady at about 30 booths per market. The Salt Lick continues to be a contributing market member from their remote location on the southwest corner of the Triangle; Thai Gourmet pays the regular booth fee each Wednesday to deliver pre-ordered dinners from a designated spot in the parking lot.

In mid-July, PCS director Kelly Schmidt received unexpected news from City Administrators that Manager Robertson had worked nearly 1000 hours during the 2020 fiscal year and couldn't work more hours without paying into the Texas Municipal Employees Retirement system. (The City would be required to match those funds, also.) Their instructions were to immediately cut Laurel's hours to below the retirement trigger until the new fiscal year began in October.

Laurel worked the prescribed 19 hours for one week, then worked with Kelly to find a way to stay within the year's budget, while still devoting 25 hours per week to managing the market. She will maintain the 25-hour per week schedule through August, to be reviewed in September. (Laurel had previously requested, and will take, a two-week unpaid leave from Aug 10-21.)

In late July, the PCS team attempted to launch online vendor booth registration (instead of cancellation) using the City's ActiveNet software. Although the software had performed well in test runs, attempts at using it for online registration by vendors turned up many bugs in the system, so we have delayed its launch until we resolve the problems.

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