

PARKS

Charro Ranch Park:

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.

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



The Ranch Park had strong start to the new year with some fun events like the Alamo Dog Obedience Agility Trials. This event was held in the new expansion and were such a success, they have booked several additional dates. The word spread fast in the dog agility community. Since this event, our DSRP coordinator has toured several other dog clubs interested in this space. The Hays County 4-H Horse Point Show was held in the main arena followed by Hays County Livestock Show (HCLE). This event hosted over 356 children in our community and exhibited over 1228 projects. This partnership event facilitated thousands of dollars of scholarships to our Hays County Students. With a speedy response, the DSRP staff was able to mobilize and be a host site for distribution of the COVID-19 vaccination. Over 400 vaccinations were amazingly distributed over 2 days to our community. While HCLE was happening, the DSRP staff was able to break away from the event center and focus on the park. Between much needed trail & building maintenance, round pen repairs and organization of the event center's tables/chairs sets, the staff was able to get organized for an upcoming season of events for 2021.

2021 - HCLE Images



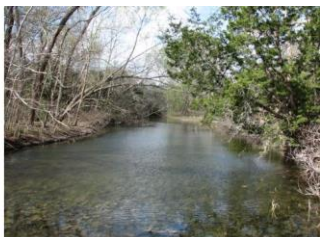
Founders Memorial Park & Pool:



Cactus Garden Memorial Monument project was completed and installed in January. Site clean-up and landscaping improvements in the cactus beds are still underway.

Rathgeber Natural Resource Park:

On December 24, 2020 Austin American Statesman ran an article featuring the donation of Rathgeber's 300 acres to the City of Dripping Springs. Since its publication, the PCS department has been receiving weekly calls from would be project contract suiters. Currently, the City is not able to pursue park development of Rathgeber. Steps toward development include: Securing funding sources (still awaiting award notice from the Hays County Open Space Bond Measure, identifying scope and design and then construction. All of which will be precluded by environmental impact studies and inventory.



The property that Austin philanthropist Dick Rathgeber has donated to the city of Dripping Springs is where Barton Creek and Little Barton Creek converge. CONTRIBUTED



Austin philanthropist Dick Rathgeber has donated 300 acres to the city of Dripping Springs to be used as park land. CONTRIBUTED



BUSINESS

Donor gives Dripping Springs 300 acres to create park

Shonda Novak, Austin American-Statesman
Published 5:01 a.m. CT Dec. 24, 2020



Austin philanthropist Dick Rathgeber has donated 300 acres to the city of Dripping Springs to be used as park land. CONTRIBUTED

It's not every day that a city gets a \$5.7 million parkland donation.

The city of Dripping Springs just did — specifically, 300 acres to create a park that will be almost 30 acres bigger than Austin's beloved Zilker Park.

Earlier this month, Dripping Springs City Council accepted a donation deed for the 300 acres from Austin developer and philanthropist Dick Rathgeber and Rathgeber Investment Company LTD.

The property is at the confluence of Barton Creek and Little Barton Creek, and is adjacent to the Headwaters subdivision.

The land will be dedicated to the city as Rathgeber Natural Resource Park.

Sports & Recreation Park

On January 21, the Dripping Springs Sports and Recreation Lighting upgrade project received a grade of PASS by the International Dark Sky Association and has received the designation of IDA Community Friendly Outdoor Sports Lighting. This a huge accomplishment for the City of Dripping Springs! Onward toward Phase 1 and project budget development and allocating funds as well as developing an estimated timeline while working with DSYSA and DSASA on construction plan.

IDA Community Friendly Outdoor Sports Lighting

Lighting Performance Summary

Project: Dripping Springs Sports & Recreation Park Relight
Location: Dripping Springs, TX
Curfew: 11:00pm
Submitted: 21 January 21 - 9:03 AM PST

Field: All Fields for Dripping Springs Musco Project 179809R8			
Field type: Baseball - Class III			
Environmental Zone: E2			
Applicable Lighting Standard			
Meets IES or HS Standard	Standard	Measured	Result
	—	Yes	PASS
Applied BUG Analysis			
Total Fixture Lumens	Standard	Measured	Result
	—	29,292,175 lumens	—
Backlight: Lumens	15% or less	0.2%	PASS
Backlight: Spill	2.0 lux or less	0.27 lux	PASS
Uplight: Lumens	8% or less	5%	PASS
Glare: Max Candela	1000 candela or less	903 candela	PASS
Glare: 80° - 90°	250 lumens	142 lumens	PASS
Application Efficiency			
Total Fixture Watts	Standard	Measured	Result
	—	241,374 watts	—
Applied Lumens	—	26,955,003 lumens	—
Application Efficiency	70+ (lumens per watt)	112	PASS

Lighting Performance Result

PASS

Veterans Memorial Park & Triangle
Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

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



Bird City:

The Parks Department is awaiting a response from the Bird City Texas

Designation Committee. In the meantime, the Bird City Application Committee has begun planning the Festival of Flight for 2021 that is scheduled for Saturday, May 8th. The Festival of Flight is one of the major components that is helping us receive and maintain our Bird City Designation. The council approved annual event in 2021 is proposed to be primarily virtual with small additional in person, socially distanced events such as a bird walk at Charro Park hosted by one of our own Parks Commissioners, Paul Fushille. The Festival of Flight will be a jump off point for our newest program: The Junior Birding Club! The Junior Birding Club has been created to foster the next generation of Dripping Springs aviary enthusiasts creating a group for our young aspiring birders to learn the growing art of bird watching! The Junior Birding Club will be a feature of the Coyote Kids Nature Camp as well.

Founders Day:

As approved at the City Council meeting held on 1/19, the Founders Day Festival Commission has decided to cancel the 2021 Founders Day Festival due to rising numbers and an inability to effectively control population. Founders Day is the largest City celebration drawing tourists from surrounding cities at 14,000 participants per day. The Commission struggled with the call and entertained ideas of a modified event over the course of the last monthly meetings and felt this was the most effective way to keep our community safe. We expect to see Founders Day return in 2022 in all its glory!



Its Time Texas:

The Parks and Community Services has decided to re-allocate the resources used participating in It's Time Texas to our Bird City programming. We will no longer be participating in It's Time Texas as a city, however, community members are still encouraged to participate on their own!

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 in April. We have interest from community members to initiate a task force to assist in maintaining the program. The Great American Clean Up will focus on Ranch Road 12, starting at Dripping Springs Ranch Park toward the 290 intersection.



Coyote Kids Day Camp:

**Registration opens
March 1st!**



**Coyote Kids Nature Camp
It's a Howlin' Good Time!**



www.CityOfDrippingSprings.com | (512) 894-2400

The Parks and Community Services Department is gearing up for a nature packed summer! We are preparing our programming with COVID-19 industry standard precautionary measures in place. Measures include maintaining cohort groups and sanitary guidelines. We expect to have 50 campers per session for 11 weeks at DSRP with weekly themes all about nature! Registration will open March 1 and camp will be offered from Tuesday, June 1 till Friday, August 13, 2021, 7:30am-6:00pm daily. Counselor to camper ratios are small; 2:10 and a limit of 50 campers per session. We expect to sell out.





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



December ended with a cold, rainy Wednesday that all but closed market for the day. Only Johnson’s Backyard Garden set up a booth – and reported they had good sales with a dedicated group of local shoppers.

The ensuing month of January saw an unseasonable number of fair-weather markets, with excellent attendance by both vendors and shoppers. Several new vendors have already signed up for the 2021 market season: Oovay’s Wunder Bars, Fired Pizza, Three-Legged Crow Kimchi, Metcalf Barbeque, Mother Shipton Candles, and Shipps Lake Ranch. Manager Robertson is also in conversation with several more potential vendors that have expressed interest in joining market for the year.

New market volunteer Lovie Lavoie is now helping Manager Robertson and Board member/market volunteer Nikki Dahlin set up market day. As we launch our incipient Friends of the Market campaign in the next few months, we expect to expand the roles and scope of market volunteers.

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 applications that includes banners at the triangle requests
- Filming Permit (which tend to be last minute in nature – less than 48hrs notice)