

**JULY PARKS ACTIVITY**

**CHARRO RANCH PARK**

*Submitted by- Sue Harding, Lead Volunteer*

Nothing to report.

**DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK**

*Submitted by - Emily Nelson, DSRP Manager*



Summer is burned through so fast! So many great things happened in July at the Ranch Park. We are so excited to have been selected as the location for Alexander Seshan to build his Chimney Swift Tower for his Eagle Scout project. He and his volunteers worked so hard to add such an amazing bird amenity to our park. It is perfectly placed by the pond so that our Bird Watchers can enjoy the show. Thank you, Alexander! Tween Scene continued to grow throughout July. The Ranch Park is the spot to be on Thursday nights for Dripping Springs tweens. We enjoy all the energy they bring! The Summer Sizzle 1 Dressage Show sold out and had quite a waitlist. We added tables in the event room for participants to cool down at between rides. The Ranch Park received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Hays County Sheriff's Office thanking us for hosting the Hays County Junior Deputy Academy in July. We truly enjoyed hosting

them and seeing their excitement learning about all the different aspects of being a Sheriff. Between our amazing Coyote Kids Summer Camp, Junior Deputy Academy, and Tween Scene, Ranch Park is hosting hundreds of youths this summer and providing them educational opportunities all while having fun!

The Ranch Hands were very excited when a brand-new fleet truck arrived at the Ranch Park. It is a much-needed acquisition that was immediately put to work. Craig Rice, City of Dripping Springs Maintenance Director, worked tirelessly to locate us the perfect vehicle to suit our needs. We can't thank Craig enough. Ranch Hands have been busy moving equipment and panels around and knocking out jobs that allow them to use the new truck and trailer to move things with ease. It is looking great up here!

<b>TWEEN SCENE DSRP WEEKLY EVENT</b>	<b>July 1 - 68 Attendees   July 8 - 82 Attendees   July 15 - 110 Attendees July 22 - 95 Attendees   July 29 - 114 Attendees</b>
<b>COYOTE KIDS NATURE CAMP DSRP PROGRAM - July 5 - July 31, 2021</b>	Rock-N-Roll - Week 6 Enrollment = 49 All Things Wings II - Week 7 Enrollment = 38 Wet-N-Wild - Week 8 Enrollment = 50 Sun & Stars - Week 9 Enrollment = 44

**FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PARK**



Founders Memorial Park –  
Parking lot addition is complete.



## PROGRAMS & AQUATICS OVERVIEW

Submitted by - Mack Rusick, Programs & Aquatics Manager



Total sales in pool admissions + Season Passes to date = \$23,479

2021 Season Passes Sold	121 Total = 583 people
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The month of July was smooth for the Founders Pool team. We have an awesome team of guards who take pride in their jobs and help to keep the pool a wonderful place for families to enjoy. I'm grateful for the spirit they bring to the pool every day.

As the weather has continued to throw curve-balls we have still had consistent visitors to the pool. Our morning swimmers have become a solid group that shows up right as we open to get their laps in and many of our family pass holders show up right around 10am to beat the heat. We have seen less lulls mid-morning but continue to see peak times between 2pm-6pm with around 30 - 50 people on average. Additionally, our peak days are Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, with Saturday being the highest visited day every week.

I do want to add that I seem to have the same conversation repeatedly with people who wander in saying that they have lived in the area for 5+ years and never knew that Founders Pool existed! I think with the new signage, better advertising, and more programming we could really put Founders Pool back on the map for this community.

We have had some awesome staff in-service trainings lately including a special training in conjunction with local Hays County EMS. The EMT's were serious business and helped staff to understand the real-life consequences of being unprepared for a real-life emergency. We were able to work side by side to run through different scenarios and received great feedback from the team. Our subsequent in-service was spent reviewing in detail some of the weak points in our Emergency Action Plan and skills practice. I was pleased to see a greater overall confidence in the staff as they ran through various scenarios.

We held a special Float & Flick event at the pool on July 24 and had many people in the community come out to enjoy. We watched the movie JAWS on a huge outdoor screen that really made it an immersive experience. Overall, the event was success although next year we might pick a shorter movie that's a bit more family friendly!

Jim and I have been working to keep systems running smoothly. We have had continued issues with faulty UV system, broken filters, electrical issues, and various other breakdowns. We have also continued to have trouble with our ADA chairlift even after replacing nearly every part except the seat itself! Jim and the maintenance crew have been amazing at responding to these issues quickly and staying on top of our to-do list rather than letting things fall by the wayside.


We are on our last push to the end of the season!






# RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK

July 13, 2021 – 2<sup>nd</sup> POSAC presentation delivered.



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**RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK UPDATE**

Kelly Schmidt  
Parks & Community Services Director




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**RATHGEBER NRP OVERVIEW**





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**RATHGEBER NRP LOCATION**





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**RATHGEBER NRP VISION**



- PROTECT + IMPROVE WATER QUALITY -**
  - Restore the stream bank and riparian forest
  - Reconnect riparian habitat
  - Manage water and non-water riparian habitat
  - Install riparian habitat structures to stabilize stream banks
- PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION -**
  - Install interpretive panels
  - Install interpretive panels
  - Install interpretive panels
  - Install interpretive panels
- PROMOTE CONSERVATION -**
  - Install riparian habitat structures to stabilize stream banks
  - Install riparian habitat structures to stabilize stream banks
  - Install riparian habitat structures to stabilize stream banks
  - Install riparian habitat structures to stabilize stream banks
- PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE RECREATION -**
  - Install riparian habitat structures to stabilize stream banks
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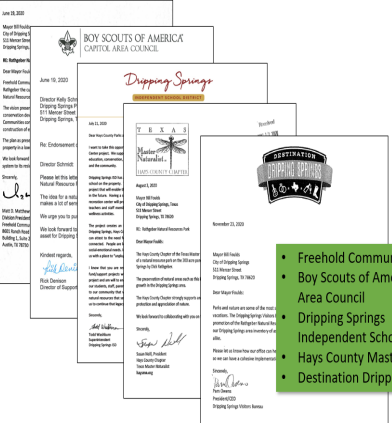


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**RATHGEBER NRP SUPPORTERS**



- Freehold Communities
- Boy Scouts of America – Capital Area Council
- Dripping Springs Independent School District
- Hays County Master Naturalists
- Destination Dripping Springs



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**PROJECT OVERVIEW**  
BUDGET AND PHASING

## BUDGET & 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
- \$60,000 - \$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, traiside 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 spigots, trepits, 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.)




# RATHGEBER NRP UPDATES



- ➔ May 2020 – Presentation Hays County Parks Recreation & Open Space Commission
- ➔ June 2020 – April 2021 – *Multiple Stakeholder Site Tours Given*  
POSAC, DS Officials, PCS Staff, BSA, HTGCD, Hays County Staff
- ➔ July 2020 – Rathgeber Natural Resource Park Named as Tier 1 Project by POSAC.
- ➔ September 2020 – Formal Appraisal obtained valuing Rathgeber parcel at 5,600,000.
- ➔ December 2020 – RNP 300-acre parcel was deeded to and accepted by the City of DS.
- ➔ June 2021 – RNP Access road through Headwaters at 90% completion.
- ➔ March 2021 – BSA Lease Agreement replaced with BSA Maintenance & Use Agreement.



## SPORTS & RECREATION PARK

Nothing to report.

## VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

On July 21, concerns were submitted from the Farmers Market board chair in the form of an email and the photos below about the condition of the parking lot at Veterans Memorial Park. Workorders and discussions had been underway between PCS and the Maintenance department prior to receipt of the email to address the conditions in Veterans Memorial Park as well as system-wide that had formed. The degradation of the parking lot at Veterans Memorial Park is an annual occurrence. It appears to be at its worst following several concurrent rain events. Because Veterans Memorial Park is in a designated floodplain, this will continue to be an ongoing struggle. Each week the park hosts the Dripping Springs Farmers Market which has doubled in size and popularity since the start of the pandemic in 2020 and as a result the vehicular traffic and impact on the park and the Triangle have also greatly increased. Addressing the issue annually will remain on the radar of the maintenance department but the ability to address the issue in a timely manner, however, will depend on the resources available to staff at the time the need arises each year. It has been noted that this spring and summer were unseasonably wet, and the conditions of the park remain below ideal as a result.





## JULY COMMUNITY SERVICES ACTIVITY

### CITY-WIDE EVENTS & INITIATIVES + PARK RENTALS + COMMUNITY OUTREACH + VOLUNTEER COORDINATION

*Submitted by- Melanie Blakely, Community Services Coordinator*



In July of 2021 we had 6 itinerant vendors. 6 pool/pavilion rentals and 3 triangle banners. We held a community night of Flick and Float. I joined the first kick off meeting of Christmas on Mercer and the Lions Club has asked me to spearhead the sponsorship collection. Learning ordinances and integrating the Parks and Community Services Mission into my everyday working style is one of my biggest passions.

Permits & Rentals for July	Qty
Itinerant Vendor Permits	6
Pavilion/Park Rentals	5
Pool & Pool Party Package Rentals	6
Triangle Banner Display	3

**EVENT - COMMUNITY MICRO EVENTS** - July 24, Float Flick (Jaws)

**EVENT - CHRISTMAS ON MERCER** – Nothing to report

**EVENT - FOUNDERS DAY FESTIVAL** – Nothing to report

**EVENT - WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY** – Nothing to report for July.

**COMMUNITY INITIATIVE - KEEP DRIP (TEXAS) BEAUTIFUL** – Annual report completed.

**COMMUNITY INITIATIVE – BIRD CITY** – Nothing to report for July.

**COMMUNITY INITIATIVE – VOLUNTEER OUTREACH** - Coordination of interested volunteers has begun. Several volunteers to programs within the Parks and Community Services Department that are a good fit and the volunteers have really enjoyed helping. Meetings with the Boy Scouts have begun about their volunteer clean up commitment to our parks.

**OTHER NOTABLES FOR THE MONTH** – Heavily assisted with Coyote Kids Camp administration and staffing coverage for Tween Night.

### FARMERS MARKET

*Submitted by - Charlie Reed, Farmers Market Manager*



July brought a return to the market's old layout, making it friendlier for people looking to sit and enjoy food, drink, and music in the shade beneath the trees – and just in time, as spring-like temperatures endured through most of July. Local Peaches remain in peak form, and the ground has remained soft and green from all the sweet-tart juice that been dripped.

It's vacation season for residents, but that also means we're getting lots of stops from folks vacationing from elsewhere – we've had people from Seattle and Maine stopping by. With four new vendors approved in each of the last two months – bringing gardeners, beverages, microgreens, spreads, and crafts – the market is prepared to take on seasonal changes as certain vendors reach the end of their growing periods.



Date	Vendors	Customers	Music
6/30/21	41	537	Melvin Brown
7/7/21	42	517	Jerry Rivers
7/14/21	43	564	Bob Slaughter
7/21/21	35	509	Anna Rose
7/28/21	t/k	t/k	
7/1/20	33	n/a	Alex Dormont
7/8/20	27	n/a	None (Covid)
7/15/20	29	n/a	None (Covid)
7/22/20	27	n/a	None (Covid)
7/29/20	32	n/a	None

*It's that time of year again to VOTE for our special Farmers Market!!!! As of August 17, 2021 - we have reached 500 votes!!!!*



# American Farmland Trust



## Not Mushroom for Competition

Did we just get a heavy rain? Because your endorsements are popping up like mushrooms! Your customers are loving your market and are giving you some more! support. Your market is quite the find – just like the precious truffle!

Congratulations on your 500th endorsement!

### OTHER PCS BUSINESS & PROJECTS

#### July 19, 2021 - Park System Signage Plan - Update

A Park System Signage Plan Committee has been formed. It consists of City Administrator, Michelle Fischer, Communications and Marketing Director, Lisa Sullivan, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Paul Fuschille, Lead Charro Ranch Volunteer, Sue Harding, and Parks and Community Services Director, Kelly Schmidt. Their first meeting with Studio 16:19 was an orientation meeting of sorts and reviewed the first set of conceptual signage themes proposed. Following that meeting the Committee unanimously agreed that the concepts presented did not align with collective vision and the Committee asked that the firm produce additional concepts to review and choose from.