

PARKS

CHARRO RANCH PARK – Submitted by Sue Harding, Lead Volunteer

Saturday, November 14, 2021, five master naturalist volunteers worked three hours loading many wheelbarrows-full of mulch, transporting, and spreading it on the trail leading to the bird blind, and spreading mulch at the bird blind (see photos). We also blocked unofficial cut-thru trails (made unwittingly by a landscape mowing crew) with fallen juniper branches.

The bird feeders were re-stocked at the bird blind and a few critical plants were watered at the native plant demo garden.

Note: the water pressure from the water storage tank was very low and the battery charge indicator showed “LOW” despite many sunny days which the solar panel should have had ample time to fully charge the batteries. Once again, this points to problem with either the batteries or the solar panel. I believe the batteries were replaced within the last year. The solar panel should probably be replaced. I don't believe it has ever been checked out or serviced since it was originally installed in 2008 (?).

Photos show master naturalists Mike Meves, Becky Reynolds, Irene Bondi, and Dick McBride; behind the camera is Dick Barham.



DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK – Submitted by Emily Nelson

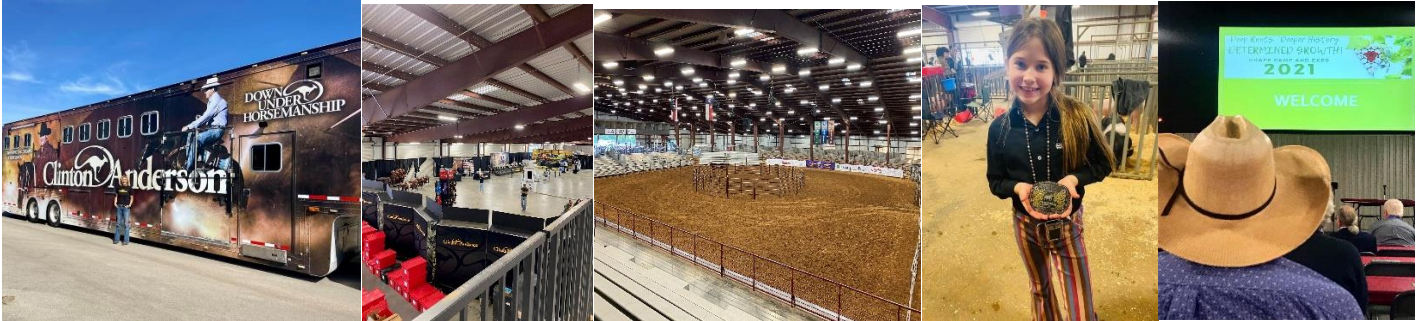


Such an amazing month at the Ranch Park! We hosted our first Texas Wine Grape Growers Grape Camp Trade Show, and our highest attended event, Clinton Anderson's Down Under Tour. Grape Camp really enjoyed our facility and has already booked dates to return next year. Clinton Anderson had over 1000 people attend. The attendees spanned over 25 different states and an international attendee for a weekend event. There were numerous compliments on the facility and staff. In addition to Grape Camp and Clinton Anderson, DSRP hosted 2 banquets, a dog show, and the livestock show, Fall Classic. Staff have not stopped turning spaces and prepping for incoming events.

We are still down a Full Time Ranch Hand and a Part Time Facility Specialist. Hiring has proven very difficult. We renamed the Ranch Hand position to Maintenance Worker to see if we can draw a wider pool of applicants. Applicants have been

taking higher paying positions over ours. We just opened our Part Time Customer Service positions. Hopefully, we can fill all our positions soon.

The Ranch Park Manager has been meeting with the Maintenance Director to create a long-range plan for facility maintenance. Hopefully, this will really help us during the yearly budget planning.



FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PARK

Nothing to report.

RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK

Nothing to report.

PROGRAMS & AQUATICS – *Submitted by Mack Rusick*



This month has been busy working on winter projects. We have just finished up contracts for our improvement projects at the pool including our custom thermal blankets, finishing the cool decking around the pool deck, and a new filtration system. Through some research and good connections, we have been able to keep these improvement projects under budget for now. This has been a particular success because of the supply delays and inflated supply costs. Now we just must wait and see if we can get these projects wrapped up before the season starts or if

we must wait until the fall.

We have been chipping away at plans for camp next year and are excited to offer some great activities. Each week campers will get to go to Founders Park to swim at the pool. We were able to partner with a local shuttle company to provide daily transportation for us at a discounted rate! Additionally, we are excited to offer archery each week at camp. We will be certifying some of our counselors as archery instructors through an educational program offered by TPWD. We are excited to provide some of these new activities at camp this year.

We met with volunteers from the adult softball program including Coach Waits who ran the program as a volunteer for over 40 years. They had some great insight on how the program has been run in the past and potential challenges that we may face moving forward. The fields are loved and used well by the players but are sadly in disrepair. Lack of equipment, funding, and care has taken a toll on the fields, and we are hoping to bring

that back to life. We are faced with some major challenges moving forward but we are hopeful that the players will step up to help keep Coach Waits legacy going.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

EVENTS

UPCOMMING EVENTS

- December 3 ELF the movie at Stephenson Bldg Field
- December 4 Christmas on Mercer
- April 22-24 Founders Day Festival
- May 7 Festival of Flight –
World Migratory Bird Day

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

Nothing to report.

COMMUNITY SERVICE PERMITS + PARK RENTALS + CO-SPONSORSHIPS

Permits & Rentals	Qty
Co-Sponsorship Requests	4
Commerical Activity in Park Permits	4
Filming Permits	0
Itinerant Vendor Permits	10
Park Rentals	3
Pavilion Rentals	8
Pool Rentals	0
Triangle Banner Displays	10

FARMERS MARKET – Submitted by Charlie Reed, Farmers Market Manager



The month was full of ups and downs weather-wise, starting out with a heavy rain event that kept vendors and customers away, then leading to two markets with high wind conditions. The time change shortened the market's hours as

well, leading to an earlier closing time as the market explores options for parking lot lights.

Despite these conditions, vendors reported their highest average sales of the year, averaging \$535+ each per market, an increase of more than \$200 since we started counting in July. The number of vendors at each market hovered near capacity – and with vendors reporting high averages, the market saw its highest average sales per week of the year, setting a yearly high on November 10.

Date	Vendors	Customers	Music
11/03/21	8	n/a	n/a (rain)
11/10/21	45	550	Jerry River
11/17/21	45	450	Bob Slaughter
11/24/21	36	425	Jerry Kirk

Totals and Averages by Month					
	July	August	September	October	November
# Markets	4	4	5	4	3
Vendors	161	148	191	165	126
Vendors Reporting	159	148	190	165	124
Total Sales	\$52,387	\$51,519	\$73,933	\$76,769	\$59,596
Avg. per Market	\$13,097	\$12,880	\$14,787	\$19,192	\$19,865
Average per Vendor	\$329.48	\$348.10	\$389.12	\$465.27	\$535.09
Customers	2107	1634	2187	2250	1425
Per Market	527	409	437	563	475
Sales per Customer	\$24.86	\$31.53	\$33.81	\$28.08	\$41.82