



STAFF REPORT
City of Dripping Springs
PO Box 384
511 Mercer Street
Dripping Springs, TX 78602

Submitted By: Kelly Schmidt, Parks & Community Services Director

Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting Date: December 6, 2021

Agenda Item Wording: Discuss and consider recommendation regarding a Letter of Support related to the City's Hays County Master Naturalist Firefly Project Grant Funding application and for costs associated with upgrading Charro Ranch Park's native plant demonstration garden.

Agenda Item Requestor: Sue Harding, Hays County Master Naturalist – Former Charro Ranch Park Lead

Summary/Background: The master naturalists of Hays County would like to request a 'Letter of Support' for an upgrade to the native plant demonstration garden at Charro Ranch Park. We will be submitting a grant application to the master naturalists 'Firefly Project' for \$1500.00. Attached you will find four documents that will accompany the grant application.

The upgrade is needed as part of the educational mission of the park to give citizens a clear vision of how native and well adapted plants can provide value to wildlife, as well as ornamental value to properties, all the while using low to very low water, once established. All the plants will be native or well adapted to the Texas Hill Country (Edwards Plateau) ecosystem.

The labor to install the plan will be done by the master naturalists on their normal monthly workday over several months in the spring, 2022. The rainwater collection tank (currently full) will be the source of water that we will use for the initial planting and subsequent weekly to monthly watering's. If and/or the 2500 gallons is used up located in the tank, and it is not replenished enough by rainwater, the grant would cover the cost of one delivery of 2000 gallons of bulk water.

Once the plants are established within 1 1/2 years, watering can and will be scaled back appropriately to seasonal rainfall. General maintenance of the plants will be done as part of the regular monthly workdays.

Staff Recommendation: Recommend approval.

Attachments:

- 1) Project Grant Application - word doc
- 2) Line Item Budget Summary - PDF
- 3) Plant Schedule and Costs from two wholesale nurseries - PDF
- 4) Graphic Plan of the Garden Upgrade, scale of 1/16" = 1' -0" - PDF

Next Steps/Schedule: Place on City Council December 7 as a Consent agenda item.