



**ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2020**

**City of Dripping Springs Parks & Community Services**

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Physical Address: 1042 Event Center Dr. – Ranch House  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 384, Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
 Phone: 512-894-2400 | parks@cityofdrippingsprings.com



## PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES – 2020

### REFLECTING – A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR



*Kelly Schmidt*

What can we say about 2020? The year began for the Dripping Springs Parks and Community Services department with such big plans and aspirations. While Covid-19 was a setback for most of our programming goals, community-wide beloved events and department firsts, it was amazing to see what a little creativity, adaptability and ‘stick-to-it-ness’ achieved, despite the obstacles!

Transition, transition, transition! The Parks and Community Services department (PCS) transitioned many staff personnel at the wrap of 2019 and throughout 2020. The department replaced its Director, the Event Center Manager, the Event Center Coordinator and two full-time Ranch Hands. There was also new position creation with the addition of five (f) positions: DSRP Lead Ranch Hand (FT), DSRP Ranch Hand (FT), DSRP Ranch Hand (PT), DSRP Guest Services Coordinator (FT) and the Parks and Community Services Events and Programs Specialist now Coordinator (FT). All told, staff marketed for, screened and interviewed for six (6) new City of Dripping Springs employees as well as 15 seasonal summer Aquatics team members. Whew!

The increase in city personnel and limited office space to house said employees within City Hall motivated and inspired a relocation of the Parks and Community Services Administrative team to the vacant Harrison Ranch House. The house’s interior was cleaned, lightly renovated, and painted. This location is spacious and graciously provides the benefit of direct community access to the PCS team. It is a great opportunity to be out in one of the City’s most popular parks. While not the easiest location to find or access now, the PCS team is motivated (once the pandemic subsides) to broadcast widely their new location and availability to the Dripping Springs community.

In March, amidst the throes of pandemic uncertainty and budget authoring priorities, Hays County established a Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) and announced a call for projects. Staff was given less than thirty (30) days to produce and present projects with funding needs that would align with and achieve the prioritized objectives for the Dripping Springs area outlined in the 2012 Hays County Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan. The charge of the Commission was to receive project proposals and score them based on a predetermined measurement matrix. The highest-ranking projects would be named in a November Bond measure. Dripping Springs had such a project on hold for nearly a decade due to lack of access, monetary and staff resources. Rathgeber Natural Resource Park, a dedicated 300-acre parcel of land and component of the Headwaters master planned neighborhood development had been static, awaiting a funding opportunity.

Staff partnered with Dripping Springs Skate Park organizers and co-presented their respective projects to POSAC on May 13, 2020 along with several other municipalities and non-profit organizations. On July 28, 2020 the Hays County POSAC presented their project recommendations to the Hays County Commissioners Court. Both Rathgeber Natural Resource Park and the Dripping Springs Skate Park were named as worthy of funding. Rathgeber was Tier 1 (defined as Very Best; highly recommend funding at some level) and Skate Park Tier 2 (defined as Very good; strong recommendation to fund at some level). The bond measure passed by an unprecedented 70%. At the December 8, 2020, City Council meeting, Rathgeber Natural Resource Park was deeded to the City of Dripping Springs.

Coyote Kids Nature Day Camp was slated to be introduced to the Dripping Springs Community in all its glory. However, out of an abundance of caution staff changed the format from in-person to virtual. While not the ideal first summer for what is certain to become a treasured annual experience for our Dripping Springs kiddos, it was extremely well delivered by Camp Director Maggie Peterson and well received by her campers and parents.

The Dripping Springs Park System was improved by a myriad of budgeted capital improvements. Many multi-year projects such as the sports field lighting upgrades at Sports and Recreation Park and drainage issues at Dripping Springs Ranch Park made great progress. Many other projects and accomplishments are detailed further in this report.

The PCS team would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mayor Bill Foulds, Mayor Pro Tem Taline Manassian, and Councilmembers Todd Purcell, Wade King, Travis Crow and April Harris Allison for their support and leadership throughout the year. A special thank you to City Administrator, Michelle Fischer for her unwavering consistent guidance and unparalleled public service-centric leadership! Also, a SHOUT OUT to all other city departments for their continued support, teamwork and collaboration - we couldn’t do it without you!

## MISSION, COMMISSIONS, & BOARDS

### DEPARTMENT MISSION & BACKGROUND

In 2017 the City of Dripping Springs Parks, Recreation & Open Space department was changed to Parks and Community Services and the scope expanded. However, the mission statement and logo remained reflective of the former department directive and scope. In an effort to define the department so that branding and mission aligned with scope, the Parks and Recreation Commission voted unanimously on January 6, 2020 to adopt a new mission statement and department logo.

#### Former Department Mission Statement & Logo - 2007-2019

*"Preserving Texas Hill Country for its people and their recreation and leisure, for its history and sense of place, and for its beauty and open spaces."*



#### New Department Mission Statement & Logo - 2020

*"It is our mission to foster community by preserving parks and open space, by connecting people to our natural resources and cultural history and by offering engaging programs and events."*



*"It is our mission to foster community by preserving parks and open space, by connecting people to our natural resources and cultural history and by offering engaging programs and events."*

### *Parks & Community Services Commission & Board Members 2020*

#### PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

Robbie Zamora, Chair  
Eric Russell, Vice Chair  
Amber Ballman  
Matthew Fougerat  
Eric Henline  
Wade King  
Matthew Zarbough

#### FOUNDERS DAY COMMISSION

Jake Adams, Vice Chair  
Susan Warwick, Secretary  
Darrell Debish  
Brian Daniel  
Martin Garza  
Sharon Goss  
Clinton Holtzendorf  
Dee Marsh  
Michael Monaghan  
Jeff Shindler  
Brad Thomas  
Brian Varnell

#### DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK BOARD

Terry Polk, Vice Chair  
Pam Owens, Secretary  
Mike Carroll  
Penny Reeves

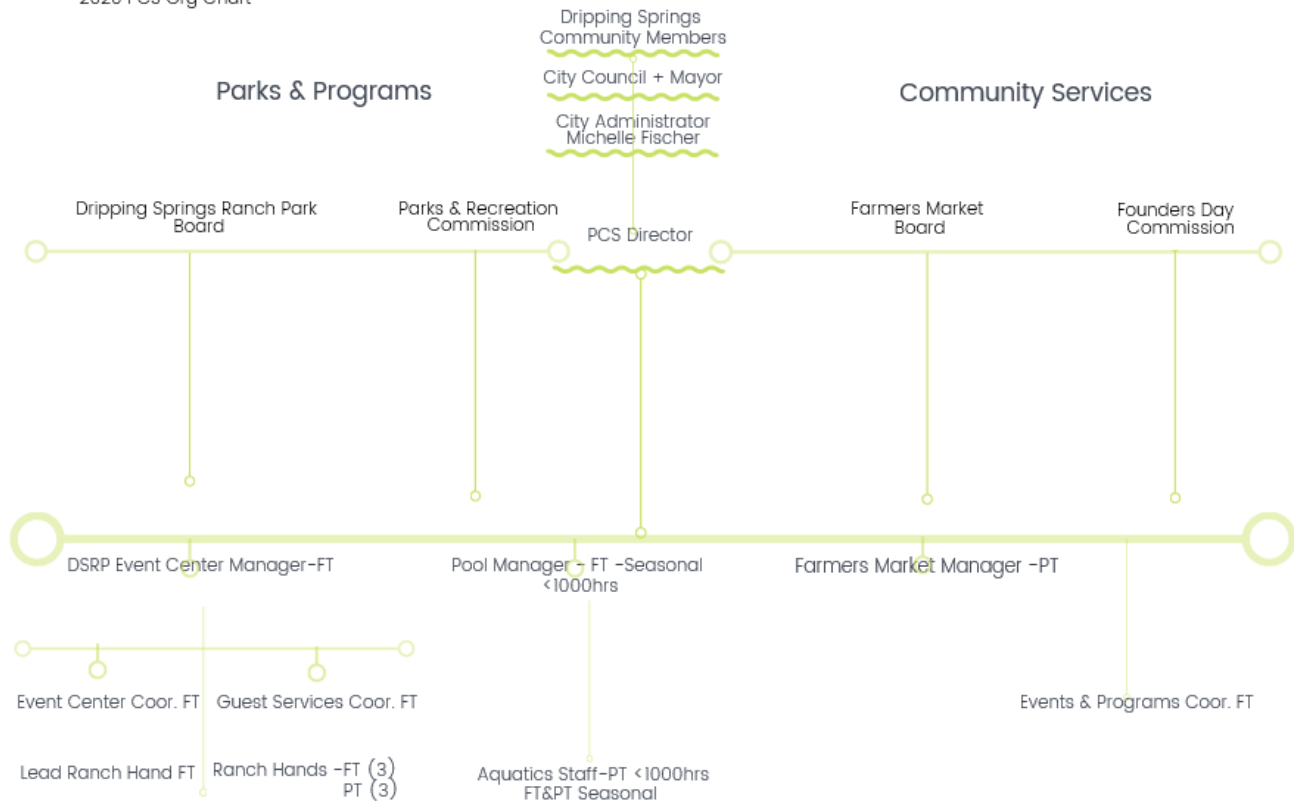
#### FARMERS MARKET BOARD

Marianne Simmons, VC  
Teresa Strube, Secretary  
Nikki Dahlin  
Janet Musgrove  
Teresa Strube  
David Vincent  
Claudia Oney  
Vacant



# PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES TEAM

2020 PCS Org Chart



Director, Parks & Community Services Department – Kelly Schmidt (FT)

Manager, DSRP Event Center – Tina Adams (FT)  
 Manager, Farmers Market – Laurel Robinson (PT)  
 Manager, Pool – Emily Long (FT - Seasonal)  
 Coordinator, DSRP Event Center - Emily Nelson (FT)  
 Coordinator, DSRP Guest Services – Lily Sellers (FT)  
 Coordinator, Programs & Events – Maggie Peterson (FT)  
 Ranch Hand, Lead – Nick Spillar (FT)  
 Ranch Hand, Sheri Kapanka (FT)  
 Ranch Hand, Noah Tresselt (FT)  
 Ranch Hand, Riley Sublett (FT)  
 Ranch Hand, Thomas Carroll (PT)  
 Lifeguard, Head - Mick Bailey (PT, Seasonal)  
 Lifeguard, Head - Emma Cunningham (PT, Seasonal)  
 Lifeguard, Clayton Appleman (PT, Seasonal)  
 Lifeguard, Gwen Bailey (PT, Seasonal)  
 Lifeguard, Thomas Carroll (PT, Seasonal)  
 Lifeguard, Oscar Del Castillo (PT, Seasonal)  
 Lifeguard, Ryan Kethley (PT, Seasonal)  
 Lifeguard, Alexa McGilvry (PT, Seasonal)  
 Lifeguard, Abby Wingrin (PT, Seasonal)

## COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS & BUSINESSES

It takes a village...Throughout the year the Parks and Community Services department relies heavily on partnerships with community non-profits and businesses to assist us with fulfilling our mission. Together we are successful in our collaborative efforts to serve the Dripping Springs Community. Depicted below are partners that helped to elevate the PCS department's services in 2020. We are so thankful for their support.



### Destination Dripping Springs Visitors Bureau

Destination Dripping Springs partnered with the Parks and Community Services Department by serving on the Bird City Application Committee. The Visitors Bureau assists PCS in achieving our mission by dedicating staff to serve on the DSRP Board, serving as a liaison for the City's Film Friendly City designation, and working toward obtaining our Music Friendly designation.



### Dripping Springs Ag Boosters

Dripping Springs Ag Boosters is an essential partner of Dripping Springs Event Center. This organization is the key co-sponsor for the City of Dripping Springs' Annual Rodeo. Its mission is to preserve the cultural heritage of the Dripping Springs Community through our youth.



### Dripping Springs Lions Club

Christmas on Mercer is an annual event that was successfully held in 2020. The partnership between Lions Club and the City of Dripping Springs evolves each year to produce an even better event than the year prior and 2020 was no exception. While extra precautions were taken to adhere to CDC guidelines toward preventing the spread of Covid-19, the level of joy and Christmas spirit that the event created was not hindered this year.



### Dripping Springs Mountain Bike Club

Dripping Springs Ranch Park (DSRP) is training home to the Dripping Springs Youth Mountain Bike Club. Through a park use agreement, the club provides an outlet for the youth of Dripping Springs to learn how to mountain bike and become passionate about the sport. They also learn the importance of trail etiquette as the DSRP park trails are utilized by hikers and horseback riders alike. Over the year the team practices every Tuesday & Thursday on the trails at DSRP and donate volunteer hours to the upkeep and care of the trails.



### Dripping Springs Skate Park Initiative

Fundraising for community skate park and partnering with PCS for POSAC presentation and to host weekly skate night at Dripping Springs Ranch Park Event Center.



### Dripping Springs Youth Sports Association

Partners with the Parks and Community Services Department by using city parks to provide a competitive youth sports recreation program. Their offerings include youth baseball, football, flag football, cheerleading, volleyball, softball, lacrosse, basketball, and soccer.



### Hays County Livestock Board

Each year the Dripping Springs Ranch Park Event Center is home to the Hays County Livestock Show. This show and the Hays County Livestock Board is an essential partner for the Parks and Community Services Department. Not only does the event assist in the facilitation of the Department's mission for the Dripping Springs Community it improves the quality of life for many families throughout Central Texas. The Hays County Livestock show educates Texas youth on how to responsibly raise market-ready animals. This process instills important life and business values that participants will have for a lifetime.

### The Melissa & Amy Team



#### Melissa & Amy Team

Our 2020 Activity Guide and the Drive-in Movie in the Park were sponsored by the Dripping Springs based Melissa & Amy Team of Realty Austin. Their generous sponsorship made both key service delivery components possible. While most were unaware of our inaugural parks and programs guide (due to Covid -19), fifty (50) families attended our drive-in movie at Dripping Springs Ranch Park on October 30, 2020.



#### The Pound House Farmstead

The Pound House Farmstead operates out of Founders Memorial Park and elevates the PCS mission by providing a glimpse back in time to slower days in Dripping Springs. While 2020 did not allow for many days of operation, the Pound House continues to “connect people to our cultural history.”



#### Studio Balcones

Studio Balcones is an Austin based firm that partnered with PCS staff to produce the vision plan for Rathgeber Natural Resource Park. They sponsored this plan at no expense to the City. Their team produced a high-quality visual aid that aligned directly with the future mission of the park and allowed for the Hays County POSAC to score the project as a Tier 1 funded project from the 2020 approved Open Space Bond measure.



#### Texas Master Naturalists (TMN) & Texas Master Gardeners (TMG)

Even during the first summer of Covid-19, TMN & TMG continued to devote much relied upon expertise and “boots on the ground” dedication to our parks and programs. TMN & TMG representatives served on the Bird City Application Committee and provided invaluable contributions. TMN held monthly workdays (when appropriate and restrictions permitted) at both Dripping Springs Ranch Park and at Charro Ranch Park. Site coordinator began providing monthly reports that allow the PCS Director to better record the volunteer hours being contributed each year and approve/track the work being done.



#### Tiger Splash

Partners with PCS department to provide a Texas Amateur Athletic Federation Summer Recreational Swim Team program at Founders Memorial Pool. This program was canceled in 2020 due to Covid -19.



**Wild Birds Unlimited** Wild Bird Unlimited partnered with the PCS team on the Bird City Application Committee and dedicated several hours throughout the year toward meetings that produced an incredible collaborative application submittal.



## PARKS & COMPLETED PROJECTS

### CHARRO RANCH PARK – 64 Acres

- ADA ramp added to the pavilion.
- Trail rerouting to mitigate erosion completed.
- Kiosk updated and painted.
- Bird identification exhibit updated (still in production).
- Oak wilt mitigated with trenching and herbicide.
- Completed Trail Map – Planning Department collaboration.

### DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK – 130 Acres

- Engineered Dam improvement project completed.
- Trees planted on ridge between Harrison Hills and DSRP.
- Engineered drawings completed for Ranch Park Road improvements and phased implementation budget authored.
- Ranch House interior renovation.
- Gaga ball pit acquired and installed.
- Wooden picnic tables painted white and placed throughout park.
- 10 additional RV hookups installed.
- Electrical upgrades and additional outlets installed at the Event Center.
- Event Center addition completed and opened for business.
- Split pipe fencing painted black and cable restrung. Half completed.

### FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PARK – 40 Acres

- Founders pool complex chain-link fencing replaced with Commercial grade black iron picket fencing. Expanded pool deck interior with fencing to include a gathering area for pool parties. Installed new picnic tables inside the pool complex.
- Founders pool was re-plastered.
- New picnic tables installed in Founders Pavilion.
- Wifi installed at Founders pool complex.
- First Dedication Bench installed along new pedestrian trail connecting park to surrounding neighborhoods.
- Pool house septic system decommissioned, and facility is now hooked up to sewer.

### SPORTS AND RECREATION PARK – 40 Acres

- Sports field lighting replacement project engineered drawings completed and proposed phased implementation budget created by EMA Engineering and Musco Lighting. Lighting plan submitted to International Dark Sky Association for certification.
- Perimeter trail extension completed, and runoff/puddling/erosion mitigated with concrete at naturally occurring low water crossing trail.

### RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK – 300 Acres

- Sourced a firm (Studio Balcones) to author and create a vision plan for Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (pro-bono). Developed a vision plan and preliminary phased budget to serve as key supplemental material submission that lead to being named by Hays County POSAC as a Tier 1 project with possible funding of up 7.6 million for park development.
- Co-lead with Robert Ellis (Dick Rathgeber's grandson) several stakeholder tours of Rathgeber Natural Resource park.
- Obtained letters of support from Capital Area Boy Scouts, Free Hold Communities, Dripping Springs Independent School District, Destination Dripping Springs and Hays County Master Naturalists

### VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK – 1.947 Acres

- No updates to Veterans Memorial Park

# COMMUNITY RECREATION PROGRAMS

## Coyote Kids Nature Camp - Virtual - (Fee Based)

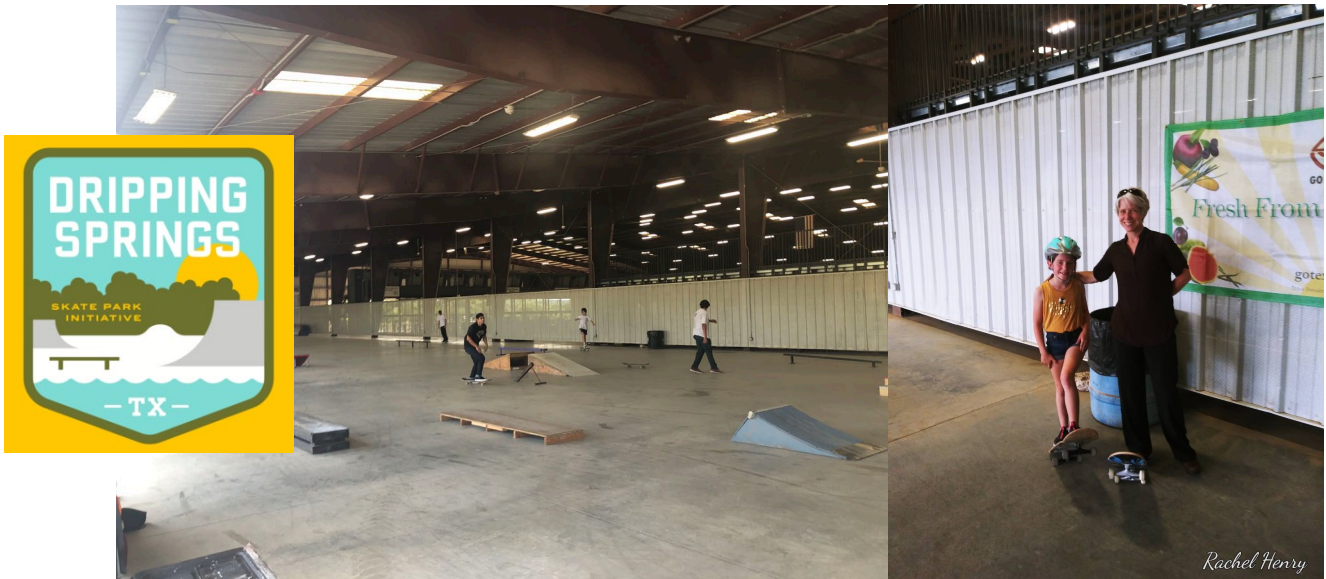


Camp Director/Program & Events Coordinator- Maggie Peterson

While Coyote Kids was not able to happen in-person in 2020 Maggie, did an incredible job stepping up to the challenge of putting together a virtual program, within a short amount of time. The program consisted of 5 thematic weeks of zoom calls and guided activities. Maggie personally delivered camper activity bags to their homes each week of camp. The program provided nature-based activities for 42 kids over the summer.



## DSRP Skate Night – Wednesdays in 2020, 5pm-7pm Drop-in (Free)



Skate night sees on average of twenty (20) participants each week and is completely run by adult volunteers. The program provides approximately 2080 hours of recreational activity annually.

# DSRP EVENT CENTER



Categories	Budgeted	Actual
Annual Memberships Sold	80	
Total Day Passes & Fees Collected	\$1000	Qty 128   \$1,135
Stall Rentals	\$22,000	Qty 514   \$19,886
RV Site Rentals <i>(actual includes RV Dump fees Qty 76)</i>	\$22,500	Qty 200   \$12,090
Total Facility Rentals	\$165,000	\$43,456

# FOUNDERS MEMORIAL POOL



Due to Covid-19 the Founders Memorial Pool season was restricted to June 29, 2020 - August 16, 2020. No events or Tiger Splash recreational swim team were permitted.

Total Pool Rentals	5
Total Pavilion Rentals	5
Total Summer Public Swim Sign-Ups	<p><b>Sign Up Activity</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>Total Slots:</b> 4176</p> <p><b>Filled Slots:</b> 2453</p> <p><b>Available Slots:</b> 1723</p> <p><b>% Filled:</b> 58.74%</p> <p>Note: Items with unlimited quantity are not included in this graph.</p> <p>Legend: ● Filled ● Available</p>

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, all pool business operations were managed through Sign-up Genius internet platform and was contactless. The concession stand was converted into an administrative office for Founders Park and Pool customer service and business operations.



# COMMUNITY SERVICES – CITY WIDE EVENTS

## Dripping Springs Farmers Market – Year-round Weekly Event



During 2020 the Dripping Springs Farmers Market was declared an essential city service by the Mayor of Dripping Springs. The Market served the community as a direct lifeline to locally sourced fresh produce, baked goods, and meats. The success of the market and its declaration was a direct result of the Farmers Market Manager’s tenacity, dedication, and determination.



Total Number of Vendor Booths	
Budgeted Revenue	\$71,912
Actual Revenue	\$65,822
Budgeted Expenses	\$71,912
Actual Expenses	\$59,864



## Founders Day Festival – Co-Sponsorship with DS Lions Club – Spring event



Founders Day was scheduled for April 24-26, 2020. However, with the Covid-19 pandemic in full escalation at the time, the Commission unanimously voted to cancel the event for the 2020 year.

## Dripping Springs Fair & Rodeo – Co-Sponsorship with DS Ag Boosters – Spring Event moved to October



Estimated Total Number of Attendants	1200
Number of Vendors	N/a
Event Expenses	\$28,000
Event Revenue Sponsorship \$40,000 Ticket Sales \$12,000	\$52,000
City Revenue	\$7,900



## Christmas on Mercer - Co-Sponsorship with Dripping Springs Lions Club



Estimated Total Number of Attendants	2000
Number of Vendors	47
Event Revenue – Sponsorships \$4750 Booths \$4750	\$9500
Event Expenses	\$6064
Lions Club Revenue	\$3386
City Revenue – 25% of Booth revenue	\$1175



## CITY INITIATIVES & VOLUNTEER PROGRAM



On December 3, 2020, the City of Dripping Springs and its collaborative Bird City Application Committee applied to become a designated Texas Bird City. The application process was arduous. To successfully complete the application, it took a team of eight (8). The Bird City committee was comprised of city staff, DS Visitors Bureau staff, a Hays County Master Naturalist, a Hays County Master Gardener, and a PRC Commissioner. The team met monthly for over a five (5) month period while tackling all activities to meet or exceed the various requirements of the application.

Fall Sweep, a requirement to maintain our Keep Texas Beautiful affiliation was held on December 22, 2020. Maggie Peterson, Events & Programs Coordinator was able to draw a small group of 25 participants to assist with beautifying the downtown area while employing social distancing and adhering to Covid-19 safety precaution measures.



International Dark Sky Association designation initiative was extremely prolific this year with passionate involvement from not only city staff but the City Administrator and Mayor as well. The Parks and Community Services team played the primary role of support, and created components such as a proclamation designating a community “Lights Out” campaign that supported migratory birding seasons and night sky preservation as well as met a requirement of the Bird City application process.

### VOLUNTEER HOURS

In addition to our monthly volunteer Hays County Master Naturalist work groups at Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Charro Ranch Park, on March 11-12, 2020, the Parks and Community Services Team hosted youth volunteer work groups at the parks. We worked with over 150 Junior High and High School youth from Dripping Springs and the surrounding area to beautify park grounds and amenities. The PCS department also benefited from the completion of 1 Eagle Scout project (Entrance Sign to Sports and Recreation Park), 1 Silver Award Girl Scout project (renovated kiosk at Charro Ranch Park), and 1 Junior Girl Scout troop habitat improvement project at Dripping Springs Ranch Park.

## COMMUNITY SERVICE – CO-SPONSORSHIPS & PERMITS

The Community Services component of the department focuses on event co-sponsorship/Triangle banner displays (located at the intersection of RR12 & HWY 290) and various permits.

### Co-Sponsorships

Cancelled due to Covid -19 precautions  
Held prior to Covid precautions in place, or in a modified way

Event Date & Name	Co-Sponsorships	Event Date & Name	Co-Sponsorships
2.15.2020 - Washer Tournament	DSHS Baseball Boosters	4.4.2020 - Rainwater Revival & Hill Country Living moved to October virtual event	Hill Country Alliance
Multiple Dates - Dripping with Taste	DS Visitors Bureau	4.24-4.26,2020 – Founders Day	Founders Day Commission
3.5.2020 - An Evening of Jazz	DSHS Band Boosters	5.1 – 5.2.2020 -Red Arena Round-up	Red Arena
3.7.2020 - YMCA Resource Fair	Springs Family YMCA	2020 DSRP Riding Series	City of Dripping Springs
3.13 &4.10 - Fish Fry	Knights of Columbus Council	9.4.2020 – Enrollment Banner	DS Christian Academy
3.21.2020 - From the Hills with Love	Plum Creek Sound Events, LLC	11.1.2020 – Virtual Empty Bowls	Helping Hands
3.28&3.29.2020 – Spring Wildflower Mkt	Texas Market Guide	12.5.2020 – Christmas on Mercer	Lions Club

### Banner Displays

January	Hays County Livestock Show   DS Chamber Star Awards   DSHS Baseball Booster Club Washer Tournament
February	Central Texas Arabian Horse Association Show   Evening of Jazz   From the Hills with Love  YMCA Community Resource Fair   Knights of Columbus Fish Fry
March	
April	
May	DSVB Drippin' with Support all in Y'all
June	
July	Central Texas Arabian Horse Association Show   Census Banner   Shop Local
August	Buy Local DS Chamber   Census Banner   Shop Local   Buy Local DS Chamber  Hill Country Harvest Market   Destination Dripping Springs
September	
October	Hill Country Harvest Market   DS Christian Academy Enrollment   Chili/Salsa Cook-off – DS Cook-Off Club   Destination Dripping Springs   PCS Drive-in Movie Banner   Pumpkin Patch Moved banner
November	23 <sup>rd</sup> Annual Virtual Empty Bowls   Christmas on Mercer   Shop Small Saturday – DS Chamber   Shop Local
December	Buy Local DS Chamber   Shop Local - CoDS

### Permits

Most of the permits the PCS department issues are related to events within city limits or activities in the parks. The following reflects permits issued in 2020.

Type of Permit	QTY
Business Operations in City Park Permits	0
Events on City Property or within City Limits Permits	2
Filming Permits	7
Itinerant Vendor Licenses	4
Road Closure Permits	3



# PROCLAMATIONS & RESOLUTIONS

## Proclamations

MAY 12 - Lynne Dickenson Day

JULY - Parks & Recreation Month

MARCH – MAY Lights Out Migratory Months

OCTOBER - Hill Country Night Sky Month

## Resolutions

May 8 - World Migratory Bird Day



### PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS PROCLAIMING JULY 2020 AS

#### "Parks and Recreation Month"

- WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs are an integral part of communities throughout this country, including the city of Dripping Springs and
- WHEREAS**, our parks and recreation are vitally important to establishing and maintaining the quality of life in our communities, ensuring the health of all citizens, and contributing to the economic and environmental well-being of a community and region; and
- WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs build healthy, active communities that aid in the prevention of chronic disease, provide therapeutic recreation services for those who are mentally or physically disabled, and also improve the mental and emotional health of all citizens; and
- WHEREAS**, parks and recreation programs increase a community's economic prosperity through increased property values, expansion of the local tax base, increased tourism, the attraction and retention of businesses, and crime reduction; and
- WHEREAS**, parks and recreation areas are fundamental to the environmental well-being of our community; and
- WHEREAS**, parks and natural recreation and resource areas improve water quality, protect groundwater, prevent flooding, improve the quality of the air we breathe, provide vegetative buffers to development, and produce habitat for wildlife; and
- WHEREAS**, our parks and natural recreation and resource areas ensure the ecological beauty of our community and provide a place for children and adults to connect with nature and recreate outdoors; and
- WHEREAS**, the U.S. House of Representatives has designated July as Parks and Recreation Month; and
- WHEREAS**, the City of Dripping Springs recognizes the benefits derived from parks and recreation resources

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the City Council of Dripping Springs, Texas:

1. That the Dripping Springs City Council proclaims July 2020 as "Parks and Recreation Month" in the City of Dripping Springs.
2. That the Dripping Springs City Council encourages citizens to visit City Parks and Amenities and to enjoy all they have to offer.



### PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS PROCLAIMING OCTOBER 2020 AS

#### "Hill Country Night Sky Month"

- WHEREAS**, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of star-filled skies are the heritage of all humankind and locally to the inhabitants of Dripping Springs and are therefore worthy of celebration; and
- WHEREAS**, the experience of standing beneath a star-filled night sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe, and may encourage interest in science and nature especially among young people; and
- WHEREAS**, the opportunity to view star-filled skies attracts tourists to our region and therefore economic benefit to Dripping Springs; and
- WHEREAS**, preserving the rich historic heritage and starry night skies of Dripping Springs is important to its citizens; and
- WHEREAS**, "light pollution," which is wasted light that performs no function or task and artificial light that goes where it is not supposed to go, is created by glare, light trespass, sky glow, and overlighting; and
- WHEREAS**, light pollution wastes natural resources amounting to at least \$2 billion per year and contributes to diminished American energy independence; and
- WHEREAS**, the historical view of the night skies has been eroding in many nearby areas and generations are growing up with limited, if any, view of the wonders of the universe; and
- WHEREAS**, the influx of people into the Texas Hill Country region and the accompanying light pollution from area lighting fixtures has been steadily on the rise; and
- WHEREAS**, solving the problem of light pollution involves making better use of outdoor lighting to direct light down to where it is needed instead of upward into the sky, putting outdoor lights on timers and using outdoor lighting only where necessary; and
- WHEREAS**, Hill Country communities are increasingly dedicated to the preservation of the region's night skies, as evidenced by the frequent educational activities conducted in our region and by the increasing number of places in our region recognized as International Dark-Sky Places by the International Dark-Sky Association, including Enchanted Rock State Natural Area, South Llano State Park, the City of Dripping Springs, the Wimberley Valley, the City of Fredericksburg, the City of Horseshoe Bay, U. Bar, U. Camp, & Retreat Center, River Hills Neighborhood of Travis County, and Lost Creek Neighborhood of Travis County; and
- WHEREAS**, this regional effort and the preservation and celebration of our night skies is worthy of a month-long celebration.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the City Council of Dripping Springs, Texas:

1. October 2020 shall hereafter be known as "Hill Country Night Sky Month" in Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas.
2. That the City Council encourages citizens to enjoy the night sky and to participate in the Dripping Springs and the Hill Country region's events and programs celebrating the night sky and promoting the ways in which communities are working to preserve it.



### PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS PROCLAIMING AUGUST – OCTOBER 2020 AND MARCH – MAY 2021 AS

#### "Lights Out Migratory Months"

- WHEREAS**, the Audubon National Lights Out Program was established in 1999 in Chicago, Illinois and was organized to protect birds from light pollution; and
- WHEREAS**, the Lights Out Program encourages businesses and community members to turn off exterior lights within a designated timeframe during migratory months to reduce light pollution, provide safe, natural migration routes for birds; and
- WHEREAS**, Audubon is a nonprofit organization partnering with cities nationwide to protect their unique bird species, foster a healthier environment and shared quality of life for all; and
- WHEREAS**, 1 of every 3 birds migrating through the U.S. in spring passes through Texas, meaning approximately one billion birds travel through the state annually; and
- WHEREAS**, Audubon also helps support local economies in places such as the Rio Grande Valley where Nature Tourism, which is dominated by birding, contributes \$300 million to the local economy and supports 4,407 full time and part time jobs annually; and
- WHEREAS**, the Lights Out program will support other city initiatives such as the International Dark Sky Community designation, its Starling Club and Bird City designation that will help us qualify for grants to support Nature Tourism in Dripping Springs benefit our local economy; and
- WHEREAS**, the Dripping Springs Lights Out program will offer a pledge to be signed by community members, business owners, and government officials to participate by turning off their lights during the migration periods bi-annually; and
- WHEREAS**, the lights Out Program, once proclaimed, will be listed as an official partner program on the Audubon website alongside other cities offering the program.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the City Council of Dripping Springs, Texas:

1. August through October and March through May shall hereafter be known as "Lights Out Migratory Months" in Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas.
2. Community members, business owners, and government officials are encouraged to sign the pledge stating you will extinguish exterior lights during the specified time frame during Lights Out migratory months.



### PROCLAMATION OF THE CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS PROCLAIMING MAY 12, 2020 AS

#### "Lynne Dickenson Day"

- WHEREAS**, Lynne Dickenson has dedicated XX years to the City of Dripping Springs exhibited Public Service Excellence in Leadership and Customer Service; and
- WHEREAS**, Lynne Dickenson served as an instrumental voice in the creation and development of the Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center; and
- WHEREAS**, Lynne Dickenson has overseen the successful management of the Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event center from XX – May 2020; and
- WHEREAS**, Lynne Dickenson has exhibited Excellence in Customer Service to the community of Dripping Springs and patrons of the Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center; and
- WHEREAS**, Lynne Dickenson has exhibited Excellence Leadership that is reflective in the admiration and respect of her fellow co-workers, and elected and appointed officials; and
- WHEREAS**, Lynne Dickenson has been recognized by the Dripping Springs Community for her Community Service award for Best of Customer Services Dripping Springs XX – XX and XX; and
- WHEREAS**, the City Council of Dripping Springs recognizes Lynne Dickenson for her time and dedication to the community and commend her Excellence Public Service in Leadership and Customer Service.
- NOW THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED** by the City Council of Dripping Springs, Texas:
1. May 12, 2020 shall hereafter be known as "Lynne Dickenson Day" in Dripping Springs, Hays County, Texas; and
  2. The City Council calls upon all residents of Dripping Springs to recognize Lynne's contribution to the community and Excellence in Public Service.

## CITY OF DRIPPING SPRINGS

### RESOLUTION No. 2020-R52

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF DRIPPING SPRINGS, TEXAS, RECOGNIZING THE SECOND SATURDAY IN MAY EACH YEAR AS WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY AND AUTHORIZING THE BIRD CITY COALITION AND APPROPRIATE CITY STAFF TO CONTINUE PURSUIT OF CERTIFICATION IN THE TEXAS "BIRD CITY" PROGRAM; PROVIDING FOR A REPEALING CLAUSE; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

**WHEREAS**, migratory birds are some of the most beautiful and easily observed wildlife that share our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, these migrant species also play an important economic role in our community, controlling insect pests and generating millions in recreational dollars statewide; and

**WHEREAS**, migratory birds and their habitats are declining throughout the Americas, facing a growing number of threats on their migration routes and in both their summer and winter homes; and

**WHEREAS**, public awareness and concern are crucial components of migratory bird conservation; and

**WHEREAS**, citizens enthusiastic about birds, informed about the threats they face, and empowered to help address those threats can directly contribute to maintaining healthy bird populations; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1993 World Migratory Bird Day (formerly International Migratory Bird Day) has become a primary vehicle for focusing public attention on the nearly 350 species that travel between nesting habitats in our communities and throughout North America and their wintering grounds in South and Central American, Mexico, the Caribbean, and the southern U.S.; and

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of thousands of people will observe WMBD, gathering in town squares, community centers, schools, parks, nature centers, and wildlife refuges to learn about birds, take action to conserve them, and simply to have fun; and

**WHEREAS**, while WMBD is annually recognized on a single day, its encouraged that planners and city staff schedule activities and events on dates throughout the year best suited to the presence of both migratory bird conservation, but also a call to action; and

**WHEREAS**, the City parks and Recreation Commission voted on November 2, 2020 to recommend the City Council recognize the annual celebration of World Migratory Bird Day by Resolution.

# MARKETING & OUTREACH

## Print

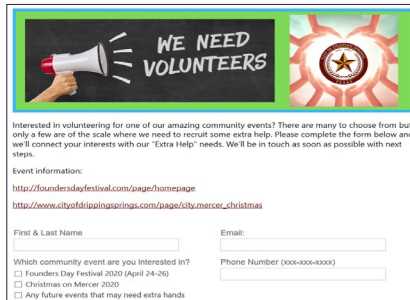
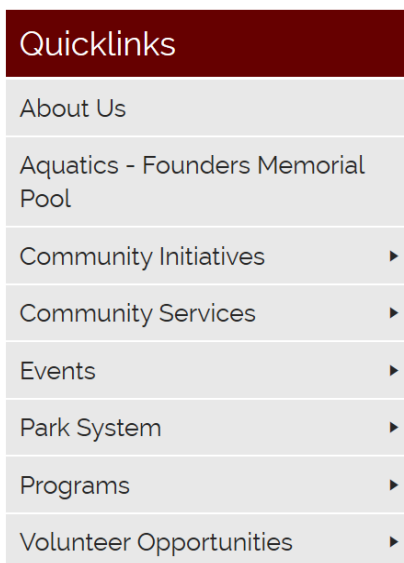
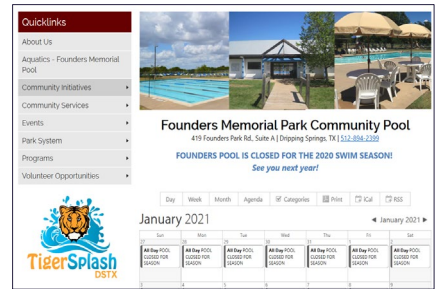


## Parks & Community Services 2020 Spring/Summer Activity Guide

The Parks and Community Services department published and direct mailed its first activity guide. This publication serves as incredible branding for the department, a resource for community members and a reference tool for staff located in one comprehensive catalog. Unfortunately, much of its content was altered or canceled because of Covid-19, but it was a good first run and is surely to become a treasured on-going publication.

## Website

The Parks & Community Services department's primary on-line presence in 2019 - 2020 was through the City's website & social media platforms such as Facebook. Shortly after the department's logo was created staff also created a primary PCS department Facebook page and a City LinkedIn page as well. Staff is continually developing the website presence to present a more professional and functional community resource. Originally, the PCS portion of the City's website consisted of 2 pages, it now offers an expansive variety of pages and serves as a viable resource of information for community members and visitors.



The website pages are a work in-progress. The full build-out and service functionality are at 75% completion. We anticipate this dynamic service delivery tool to evolve as the needs of the community are made more evident over time.



## Social Media

The department currently has 6 Facebook pages. Facebook pages aid in featuring department operations, programs, facilities, and events. These information dissemination outlets are instrumental branding tools the department relies upon daily. They are managed in collaboration with the City's Communications Director. The LinkedIn page was primarily created to serve as a recruitment platform and solidify the city and its various departments as competitive and equal in sophistication and organization among other local governments. A 2021 goal is to create and manage a PCS Instagram account in addition to current platforms.



2019-2020



2020



2021



**City of Dripping Springs  
Parks and Community  
Services**

@DrippingSpringsParksandCommunity · Community

Edit Learn More

Likes - 497  
Followers - 582



**Dripping Springs Ranch Park  
& Event Center**

@DSRPEventCenter · Park

Edit Learn More

Likes - 5066  
Followers - 5405  
Check-in - 13,840



**Dripping Springs Farmers  
Market - Official**

@DSFarmersMarket · Farmers Market

Edit Call Now

Likes - 4770  
Followers - 5333  
Check-in - 561



**Christmas on Mercer Street**

@christmasonmercerstreet · Event

Edit Contact Us

Likes - 2166  
Followers - 2270



**Founders Day Festival**

@foundersdayfestival · Event

Edit Send Message

Likes - 4244  
Followers - 4473



**Dripping Springs Fair and  
Rodeo**

@drippingspringsfairandrodeo · Community

Send Message

Likes - 103  
Followers - 105



## PCS DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

The PCS Department worked closely with the Finance Department throughout the year to complete budgeted improvement projects and remain fiscally responsible while adhering to the Council-approved FY2020 budget. Although 2020 was an unusual year due to Covid-19 and operations were not business as usual, the staff managed to provide services for the Dripping Springs Community as safely as possible and stay within fiscal parameters set for them. The department is responsible for the oversight of 5 (five) funds within the PCS Budget: General Fund (PCS Administrative Operations, Parks, Founders Pool, Community Services, Events, Seasonal Staff Payroll), Dripping Springs Ranch Park & Event Center, Dripping Springs Farmers Market Fund, Parkland Dedication Fund, and the Ag Facility Fund. The department has access to a Landscaping Fund (when applicable),

<b>*General Fund 2020</b>		
General Fund	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$285,100	\$218,026
Expenditures	\$500,545	\$297,469

<b>Dripping Springs Ranch Park &amp; Event Center Fund 2020</b>		
DSRP	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$532,573	\$417,466
Expenditures	\$514,475	\$403,591

<b>*Farmers Market Fund 2020</b>		
Farmers Market	Budget	Actual
Revenue	\$33,970	\$65,822
Expenditures	\$39,949	\$59,864

<b>Parkland Dedication Fund 2020</b>		
Revenue		\$281,262
Expenditures		\$147,727

<b>Ag Facility Fund 2020</b>		
Revenue		\$17,605
Expenditures		\$12,180

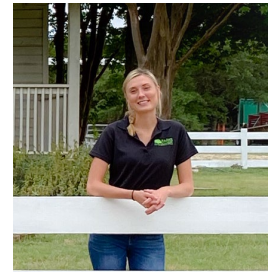
*\*These funds include seasonal and part-time employee payroll. Seasonal Aquatics Staff – Budgeted at \$72,308.00 | Actual at \$28,179. Part-time Farmers Market Manager Budgeted at \$29,900 | Actual at \$23,485.*

## NOTABLE MENTIONS | PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS



Farmers Market Manager Laurel Robertson was named Texas Recreation & Park Society’s Part-time Employee of the Year – Central Texas Region. She was selected above numerous other submissions across Central Texas for her outstanding work and dedication to the Farmers Market. Laurel navigated obtaining a designation of “Essential City Service” during the original acceleration of Covid-19 Pandemic in March and managed an extremely elevated shopping environment.

In January Maggie Peterson, Programs and Events Coordinator attended a special training held by Bat Conservation International at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. This specialized training will permit the PCS department to eventually hold special programs related specifically to bats. This training provided a networking opportunity to meet bat conservationist professionals that the department may eventually partner with to offer bat conservation community educational programs.



In November, PCS Director Kelly Schmidt was named to the National Association of Park Foundations’ Board of Directors. Very preliminary conversations have begun with the Dripping Springs Parks & Recreation Commission around exploring the creation of a Friends of Dripping Springs Parks Foundation to benefit the Dripping Springs Park System.

The Dripping Springs Parks and Community Services department employs industry best practices by operating under the goal of continual professional development and striving to be best in industry. The staff achieve this by staying involved with industry specific professional organizations and their educational opportunities and certifications. Listed below are professional organizations the department holds memberships in and are professionally associated with. It’s also important to note certifications achieved by staff and educational opportunities obtained in 2020.

International Dark Sky Association	Texas Recreation and Parks Society	National Recreation & Parks Association
The National Association of Park Foundations	Texas Public Pool Council	American Camp Association
Texas Festivals and Events Association	The League of Agricultural & Equine Centers	American Red Cross Authorized Provider

- DSRP Ranch Hands – Certifications/Trainings – Skid Steer Loader Training & Ag Safety Cert
- DSRP Ranch Hands & Event Center Manager – Attended TRAPS Annual Maintenance Rodeo
- PCS Staff – Required FEMA Trainings
- PCS Director – Attended NRPA Annual Virtual Conference | (Earned CEU credits to maintain CPRP certification)
- PCS Director – Attended TRAPS Annual Institute and Expo | (Earned CEU credits to maintain CPRP certification)
- Programs & Events Coordinator – Attended NRPA Virtual Conference
- Programs & Events Coordinator – Attended regional American Camp Association workshop



# 2020 MOMENTS IN PARKS







Physical Address: 1042 Event Center Dr. – Ranch House  
Mailing Address: PO Box 384, Dripping Springs, TX 78620  
Phone: 512-894-2400 | [parks@cityofdrippingsprings.com](mailto:parks@cityofdrippingsprings.com)