

## PARKS

### Charro Ranch Park

ADA Ramp has been completed (Budget \$200). Charro Ranch Park was closed for 3.5 days to facilitate the budgeted and planned Oak Wilt mitigation. It took place the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of August and has been completed under budget.



**Plan**



**Finished Product**

### Dripping Springs Ranch Park



Tina Adams, Event Center Mngr

DSRP now has a sanctioned Advisory Board in place. Its members consist of Chair-Todd Purcell, Vice-Chair -Penny Reeves, Secretary- Pam Owens and members Mike Carroll and Terry Polk. Event Center Manager Tina Adams gave birth to a beautiful baby boy and has now returned to her post at the helm of the Event Center. In her absence Director Schmidt and the DSRP team managed to keep things on a solid improved trajectory. To that end, a new Event Center Coordinator was also hired-Emily Nelson.

The Event Center Coordinator vacancy was posted for two weeks from July 31, 2020 - August 14, 2020. The City received 30 applicants with a total of 6 invited to interview. Emily had been serving as the Dripping Springs Ranch Park Event Center's temporary Customer Service Specialist. She was the only internal candidate that applied.



**Emily Nelson , Event Center Coordinator**

**Founders Memorial Park & Pool – Emily Long, Pool Manager**

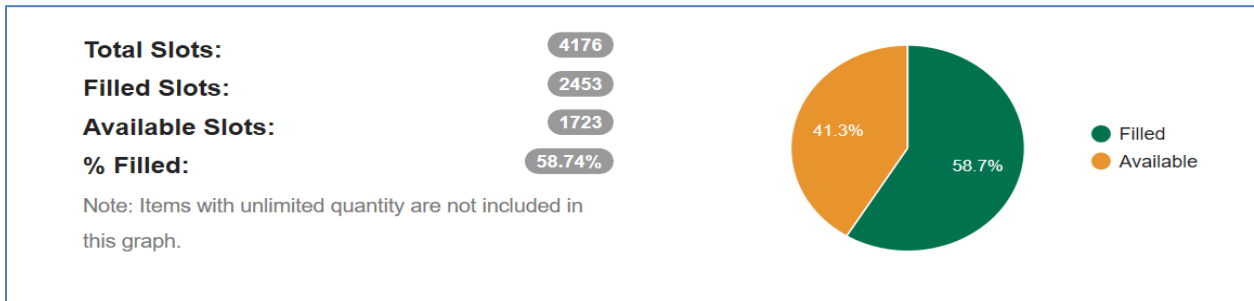


All in, the pool was open for 6 weeks this summer which was quite a short season compared to the normal summer season of May – September (which usually encompasses a month of just swim team usage). The month of August was met with Pool Manager Emily Long and her staff slowly returning to school throughout the last two weeks the pool was open. The pool closed on Sunday, August 16, 2020.

There was interest expressed by several lap swimmers toward continuing pool operations during the end of the summer and even year-round. Of the 4176 total available swim slots this summer, 2453 were filled meeting 58.74% of possible usage.

Emily Long, Pool Manager

A contactless admission policy was used this summer which took the burden of point of sale and daily cash reconciliations off the aquatics staff. Swimmers pre-registered for their swim slots and paid with credit card on-line. Staff thoroughly appreciated the operational format as it allowed them to know the bather load ahead of each swim session and that capacity would never exceed 25 swimmers.



Pavilion improvements included affixing the picnic tables to the slab base as well as ensuring an access aisle through the pavilion from the playground to the restrooms.



### **Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (Pending)**

Director Schmidt will be working with the City Administrator, City Treasurer and City Maintenance Director to develop a preliminary operations budget to present to the Parks and Recreation Commission and City Council soon. The park is anticipated to impact the 2022 budget.

Letters of support that have been received include the following:

- Hays County Master Naturalists
- Dripping Springs Independent School District
- Capital Area Boy Scout Council
- Dick Rathgeber & Freehold Communities

The following content is repeat from the July Director's Report.

## **PARKS AND OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMISSION (POSAC) RECOMMENDATIONS TO COMMISSIONERS COURT**

The following recommendations are respectfully submitted by members of the Hays County Parks and Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) on July 28, 2020.

This document is a synthesis of the Powerpoint presentation to be made to the Court on above date and is meant to provide an easy visual overview of the projects submitted by various entities which were evaluated by the POSAC through the lens of the 2012 Parks, Open Space and Natural Areas Master Plan.

These project recommendations demonstrate a substantial need for additional resources available for parks and open space within Hays County.

The named projects below are presented by category and ranked within the tiers showing highest ratings from top down within each category. Included also are project sponsor and funding request. The numbering of projects relates to the attached project map.

<b>TIER ONE PROJECTS ("very best"; highly recommend to fund at some level)</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
<b>Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat</b>	
1. Coleman's Canyon Preserve (WVWA)	\$ 2,600,000
2. Sentinel Peak Park & Preserve (Hays County)	10,000,000
3. San Marcos River Recharge Lands (SMRF)	4,380,000
4. Regional Park, water quality/trails, 1200 acres (Hays County/COA via HCC) <sup>1</sup>	10,000,000
5. Purgatory Creek: habitat, clean water preserve (HCC)	17,717,500
6. Rathgeber Natural Resource Park (City of Dripping Springs)	7,500,000

<b>TIER TWO PROJECTS ("very good"; strong recommendation to fund at some level)</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>
<b>Urban Parks</b>	
9. Dripping Springs Regional Skate Park (DS Skate Park, Inc, non-profit)	\$ 550,000
10. Dripping Springs Town Center (City of Dripping Springs)	4,480,600
11. Patriot's Hall, near Dripping Springs (PatriotsHall.org; non-profit)	1,500,000
12. Nature Center at Blue Hole Park (City of Wimberley)	3,136,425
<b>Open Space/Natural Areas/Trails/Water Quality/Habitat</b>	
13. John Knox Ranch Preserve (John Knox Ranch/HCC)	2,500,000
14. Presa Grande, Sink Creek Watershed (Great Springs Project)	8,500,000
<b>Connectivity</b>	
15. Old Fitzhugh Road Trail (City of Dripping Springs)	1,305,000
16. Kyle Fajita Fields (City of Kyle)	14,520,000
<b>TOTAL Tier Two Project Requests</b>	<b>\$ 36,472,025</b>

<b>TOTAL TIER ONE &amp; TWO PROJECT REQUESTS</b>	<b>\$ 94,969,525</b>
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### **Sports & Recreation Park**

DSYSA and DSASA resumed practices and games. Both DSYSA's Baseball and Soccer are utilizing the park 7 days a week to catch up from lost spring seasons.

The survey of Sports and Recreation Park was completed for the Sports & Recreation Park lighting project. EMA meeting to be held in August to detail the project at 75% planning completion.

### **Veteran's Memorial Park & Triangle**

Handwashing stations and an ADA port-a-potty has been added to the park.

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## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **Community Initiatives**

#### **Bird City Texas:**

Applications for the 2021 Texas Bird City designation process opened June 15, 2020 with a deadline of December 4, 2020 . An application committee was formed and consists of the following partners:

Hope Boatright – Destination Dripping Springs, Visitors Bureau  
Maggie Martin – CODS Programs & Events Specialist  
Paul Fushille – CODS Parks & Recreation Commissioner  
Kelly Schmidt – CODS Parks & Community Services Director  
Lisa Sullivan – CODS Communications Director  
Amanda Pena Bustillos – Wild Birds Unlimited  
Connie Boltz – Hays County Master Naturalists  
Anne Forish – Hays County Master Gardeners

The committee divided up the extensive application requirements and will be meeting on several occasions during the next several months to support each other through the process of completing the application with the best information. The objective is to insure that our 2021 application accurately assesses and shares the past, current and future work that reflects Dripping Springs' dedication to the preservation and conservation of birds.

**International Dark Sky Association:** Lights Out! Campaign being driven by Maggie Martin & City Administrator Michelle Fischer. Proclamation to be presented at the next City Council meeting detailing the importance of a night sky and how artificial lighting negatively impacts migratory bird patterns. This acknowledgement aids in achieving Bird City requirements as well as celebrate our designation as an International Dark Sky city.

**It's Time Texas:** On Going- prepping for next year.

**Keep Dripping Springs Beautiful:** On Going - Nothing to report.

**Scenic City:** On Going - Nothing to report.

### **Community Outreach Volunteer Services**

Nothing to report for August. Covid still continues to impact normal operations. Beginning our planning for the 2021 volunteer season and creating organizational structure for on-going opportunities for recruitment of community volunteers.

### **Banner Requests & Co-Sponsorships**

-Nothing to report

**Community Events & Programs – Submitted by: Maggie Martin, Programs and Events Specialist**



**Bird City:**

In August, we have begun the planning of the Lights Out Initiative to support our Bird City efforts with the Chamber of Commerce. This program will be an online landing page as well as a PDF printout for our council members and community members to participate in. This is a pledge to turn off all exterior lights from 11pm-6am to decrease light pollution so birds can safely migrate during migratory months (August-October & March-May). When the pledge is signed participants will include their email giving us the opportunity to promote

*Maggie Martin, Programs and Events Specialist*

future birding events and programs. The proposed proclamation has been created and will be presented at the September 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting and is sponsored by Taline Manassian.

Other Bird City requirements include: Native Plant Sale (second week of September at the Farmers Market), modify and improve existing habitats, program to leave dead trees where they lie, promoting the use of native plants,

I am currently working with the building department and Keenan Smith, the city Consulting Architect and commercial code enforcer to incorporate bird friendly language to Dripping Springs commercial building requirements as one of the requirements for Bird City.

We are continuing our work on the Charro Ranch birding station field guide. We have requested the help of the Dripping Springs Birding Club and Travis Audubon to help supply local photos and marketing materials to enhance the quality of the bird blind as well as support our local birders and photographers. We also have a volunteer girl scout who has requested to help work on the Charro Kiosk to earn her Silver Award! She will begin working on her project following the September 8<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting where she will present her project plan!

**Drip Drive In:**

The planning for the drive in is well underway. The event will be solely sponsored by Realty Austin. The event is set for Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup> and will be Halloween themed! At the drive in, you can expect all covid regulations to be taken seriously- social distancing will be enforced by required online registration and spacing designed to group people together. Location and movie selection have yet to be determined. We will be using Ultimate Outdoor Entertainment for our rental equipment and Swank for our movie licensing.

**Christmas on Mercer:**

We are so excited to be planning Christmas on Mercer 2020! Sponsorship letters have been constructed and are scheduled to be released the last week of August. The planning for COM has been different this year due to COVID and we have plans in place to uphold CDC recommendations: No live music, ½ of the usual number of vendors, no in person Santa, and virtual tree lighting. No refunds will be offered if the event cannot take place.

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

During August, Market Manager Laurel Robertson took a two-week (unpaid) break from market, leaving market operations in the capable hands of Market Assistant Maggie Martin and experienced volunteer Nikki Dahlin.



Market operated on its new COVID normal (no musicians, extra spacing between booths, no craft and service vendors). As in past years, numbers of shoppers and vendors were smaller than during springtime and early summer but remained viable for both vendors and market operations.



*Laurel Robertson, Market Manager*

The market team is gearing up to launch the online vendor booth registration (instead of cancellation) system in early September. After trial runs, several kinks in the software have been ironed out and good results are expected. It is expected that the new system will save hours off the manager's time each month and streamline the market signup system for vendors.

**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 Requests and banners at the triangle requests