

PARKS

CHARRO RANCH PARK – Submitted by Sue Harding, Lead Volunteer

September 11, 2021, workday at Charro Ranch Park: 8 volunteers spent 3 hours pulling weeds and string trimming the area in the demonstration gardens and on the trails.

October 7 & 9, 2021. Sue Harding secured a donation of 20 cubic yards of mulch to replenish the trails from the parking lot down to the bird blind and around the demonstration garden. 6 volunteers spent 3+ hours distributing donated hardwood mulch to all trails around the demonstration gardens and the trail heads leading from the parking lot. The workday's main objective was to remove the big weeds in the paths and cover with the mulch. The trails usually look great once finished and surprisingly stay that way for many months.

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



Springs Ranch Park has seen its busiest event schedule post covid. Every weekend has brought a unique event(s) into our facility. From dogs to horses, September really saw a lot of new faces from our community coming to enjoy the different types of events. We hosted our first dog conformation and rally show with the Southeast Texas American Eskimo Dog Club. They were delighted with the turnout and are looking forward to hosting more events with us. Our roping club, Texas Beef Initiative, ran an amazing team roping over Labor Day Weekend. We loved working alongside them and supporting their efforts. We were even able to squeeze a dog agility show into

September. We were lucky that the weather brought moderate temps which kept everyone comfortable. Our October only picked up even more speed.

We opened October with Buda Buckle Bash, a lamb and goat show. Our long time show host, Texas Market Guide, ran a well-attended shopping fair. This is her 9th year hosting events at DSRP. Dripping Springs Ranch Park was so excited to host Rodeo this year. Ticket sales really picked up and we are excited to watch it continue to grow. We wrap up October with a

final hoorah. We have a co-sponsored Haunted House, a DSRP Hunter/Jumper Show, and a free community Halloween movie. WOW!

The staff at Ranch Park have really pulled together through this time. Even though we are short-handed, we have been hitting our marks and delivering excellent service to our users. We hired a new Ranch Hand, Heather Newman. She has already become an asset to the team. We are in the process of 2nd round interviews for our final open position. I have been focusing on the improvement projects that we would like to complete at the Ranch Park. Our calendar is so full that it will require some creative scheduling to complete these improvements. The Ranch Park team is dedicated to becoming known for excellent customer service and great entertainment opportunities for our community. It was such a delight to get smiles and waves from our community tweens that attended Tween Scene this summer while we were out working Rodeo. That's the kind of community we want to foster.

FOUNDERS MEMORIAL PARK

September and October have breathed life into Founders Memorial Park. The hot days of summer are subsiding and the return to school DSYSA athletic activities, park pavilion rentals, and Pound House's wildly successful Dripping Springs Pumpkin Festival are driving people into the park in numbers unparalleled to previous years.



RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK

Wildlife Management has begun at Rathgeber Natural Resource Park. To that end, a Volunteer Wildlife Manager position was created and is being filled by Robert Ellis who is Dick Rathgeber's grandson. Ellis has been serving as the registered Hays County Wildlife Manager on property for over a decade.





PROGRAMS & AQUATICS – *Submitted by Mack Rusick*

The end of summer swim season went well! Even though our Head Guards all left for school mid-August we were able to keep the pool open on the weekends until Labor Day weekend. I was glad to see many families coming out to enjoy the pool during the heat of the day. Many expressed that they were both glad that the pool had stayed open a bit longer but also wished that we could remain open on weekdays or even later into the fall.

The last day of the season we had the Bark in the Park event, where all the pups in the community came out to take a dip in the pool! The puppy plunge was a huge success especially when accounting for the fact that the event had been rescheduled from its original date on Aug. 15th because of poor weather. We had dogs of all breeds and sizes. Some of them LOVED the water and some were content to avoid it. Wading pools were set up on the pool deck and one was filled with ice which a few dogs absolutely loved! So much fun to watch. Lots of laughter and wet dogs.

While the puppy plunge portion of the event went smoothly there were several hiccups on the park side of the event. Because the event had been rescheduled a lot of the vendors that had agreed to attend and provide free goods/services dropped out last minute or simply didn't show. This was disappointing but we simply had to roll with the punches. At the end of the night a few families stayed for the outdoor movie but ultimately an incoming storm sent everyone home for the night. Altogether it was a great event and so many people expressed how much they enjoyed the puppy plunge and looked forward to attending next year.

Now that the pool has been put into hibernation, I have been working on organizing and recording camp supplies and inventory as well as researching and beginning the development of the structure for Spring and Summer adult softball 2022 season. Jason Cones has agreed to be our point of contact for the Adult Softball Program going forward. He contacted staff at the end of the 2021 season and offered his services in place of Coach Waits.

Pool improvement projects have been our number one priority to initiate since the beginning of our new fiscal year (October 1). We don't want to underestimate the possibility of another potentially harsh February and the setback weather can bring for improvement projects. Thermal blankets, a blanket reel, and reel cover have been ordered. Custom thermal blankets take a minimum of 6 weeks to produce, and we have no way of knowing how supply chain impacts will delay the equipment ordered. to cover and enable the most efficient operation of the pool. Professional connections were made at the World Waterpark Trade Show on October 20 and staff explored several options for the new pool filtration and finishing the pool deck expansion project with a surface layer of cool decking.

A partnership offering with the YMCA of our Adult Softball Program was explored during the months of September and October. Mutually the PCS team and the YMCA team agreed that it would be best for the first trial year to hold on exploring a partnership. I have been working on gathering information from nearby cities and making connections through local reps of USA Softball. They have been helpful resources to get the program started.

We have been working on the vision for Coyote Kids Camp 2022. Two brainstorming meetings produced themes and our general schedule for next year to include weekly trips to Founders Pool to cool off our Coyotes on those hot summer days. After being turned down by DSISD to use their school buses for transportation we were able to find a shuttle service in town that happily agreed to provide service for us. We also had our first camp counselor interview! We are hoping for an awesome staff this year to sustain and grow our incredible Coyote Kids Nature Camp Program!

COMMUNITY SERVICES

EVENTS

September 5 Bark in the Park @
Founders Memorial Park & Pool



October 8 Star Party @ DSRP
Celebrated Dark Sky Month



October 9 – Big Day @ DSRP
Celebrated our efforts to become a certified Bird City!



October 28 – 31 – Dead Hill Ranch @ DSRP

UPCOMING EVENTS

- December 4 Christmas on Mercer
- April 22-24 Founders Day Festival
- May 7 Festival of Flight –
World Migratory Bird Day



COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

International Dark Sky Community – October was proclaimed Dark Sky Month and we held a star party at DSRP to celebrate the occasion! Lots of other wonderful Dark Sky initiatives happening through the efforts of Hays County Friends of the Night Sky

Texas Bird City – Bird City Committee met in September and October. Application activities were assigned.



Keep Drip Beautiful – Keep Texas Beautiful Affiliate

October 22 – Fall Sweep w/ Sky Bridge Academy

Sky Bridge Academy Park Clean Up Volunteer Day was organized and facilitated by Programs and Aquatics Manager Mack Rusick. Teen and adult volunteers picked up litter in both Founders Memorial Park and then on to Sports & Recreation park. The weather proved to remain beautiful for a day filled of civic engagement and support for our parks



COMMUNITY SERVICE PERMITS + PARK RENTALS + CO-SPONSORSHIPS

Permits & Rentals	Qty
Co-Sponsorship Requests	4
Commerical Activity in Park Permits	1
Filming Permits	0
Itinerant Vendor Permits	10
Park Rentals	4
Pavilion Rentals	8
Pool Rentals	0
Triangle Banner Displays	10

FARMERS MARKET – Submitted by Charlie Reed, Farmers Market Manager



For the third time in four years, Dripping Springs has the title of best Farmers Market in Texas and the Southwest Region. The three-month-long vote, held by American Farmland Trust, helps to raise visibility of Farmers Markets and the issues their providers face. It's a marathon of a celebration, and we're all thrilled to have regained the top spot.

In the better-late-than-never category, we welcomed an ice cream vendor to the market after a summer-long search. Bésame Ice Cream delivers a truly decadent selection of flavors and has been an instant hit among the after-school crowd. All in all, we're heading into the fall season with a full house, and perhaps the widest range of shopping options the market has seen.

Totals and Averages by Month				
	July	August	September	October
# Markets	4	4	5	2
Vendors	161	148	191	80
Vendors Reporting	159	148	190	80
Total Sales	\$52,387	\$51,519	\$73,933	\$33,692
Average per Vendor	\$329.48	\$348.10	\$389.12	\$421.15
Customers	2107	1634	2187	1200
Per Market	527	409	437	600
Sales per Customer	\$24.86	\$31.53	\$33.81	\$28.08

Date	Vendors	Customers	Music
9/1/21	38	376	Jerry Kirk
9/8/21	38	392	Bob Slaughter
9/15/21	39	453	Jerry Rivers
9/22/21	40	503	Jerry Kirk
9/29/21	36	463	Bob Slaughter
10/6/21	42	625	Bob Slaughter
10/13/21	38	575	Jerry Rivers

Farmers Market Weekly Newsletters are a hit! If you haven't yet you must sign up for them. Charlie + Johnna never disappoint with their humor, highlights and weekly content!



DRIPPING SPRINGS FARMERS MARKET WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

3-6pm | Veterans Memorial Park | 160 E. Mercer Street | DSTX

We're in the Kale House Now

Fall is here, and for a lot of folks that means sweaters, spiced ciders, and pumpkin-flavored everything, but for me it means it's time to warm the house with soups, stews, and chilis. As an amateur chef, it's the time I come into my own. After all, at its most basic, soup is the easiest thing in the world. All you need is broth and whatever else you want to throw in.



This time of year, we're also starting to see some of the tougher vegetables come into season. Kale may be stubborn as a salad base, but it is wonderful in soups. While lettuce and spinach break down instantly in heat, kale cooks beautifully, softening and losing some of its strong flavor, but retaining its fiber and nutrients. And if you keep the crispy stem, you can even add a little crunch.

As we get deeper into the colder months, I hope to feature lots of soups and stews using the produce and meats you find at our market, but since kale has started showing up, I'm going to kick off with one of my favorites – scroll down for the recipe.

OUR MISSION

To provide a community gathering place where local food producers, artisans and community organizations educate and sell directly to consumers.

The City of Dripping Springs believes that local agriculture is essential to the region's economy, and is committed to making economic and educational connections between residents and local agricultural producers through the Dripping Springs Farmers Market.

