
DRIPPING SPRINGS PARK SYSTEM UPDATE

CHARRO RANCH PARK

Submitted by- Sue Harding, Lead Volunteer

Saturday, June 12, 2021 –

5 volunteers participated in the workday. Volunteers mainly worked on trimming or removing tall grasses and weeds along the following areas:

- paths of the outer loop aka cross-country trail aka roadrunner trail (eek! there goes that problem of the multiple names for the same trail issue at Charro!).
- two spur trails on the west side of the park
- the path and around plants of the demonstration garden that a mower can't get to.
- the path to the bird blind
- the path leading up to the foot bridge in the middle of the park

Considering the heat, chiggers, and the long distance one has to carry a string trimmer, I think the five master naturalists did an AWESOME job 😊.

DRIPPING SPRINGS RANCH PARK & EVENT CENTER

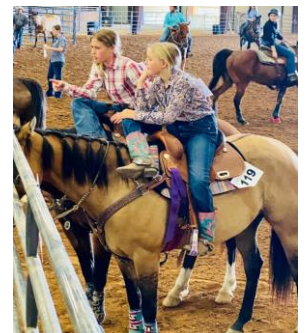
Submitted by - Emily Nelson, DSRP Manager



June has shown the Ranch Park how diverse our programs and events can be. We hosted Kenny Reed, an Olympic skateboard coach, for two sessions of a skateboard camp that was amazing to watch the kids grow throughout the week. Our own camp, Coyote Kids, has been an amazing success. It is sold out with waitlists! This summer brought us a new program on Thursday nights called Tween Scene. It is a fun, safe spot for kids ages 9-14 to come and skate, play kickball and close the evening out with an epic dodgeball battle. The first Tween Scene had 24 kids. Last week, we had 93 kids attend. I think the secret is out on this fun evening!

Even with all this activity, we hosted 2 successful horse shows back-to-back. We hosted the district's 4H Horse Show which was a 2 day show for 4H kids in our District. They had an amazing turn out. Then, staff had to work fast to clear the stalls for a huge Fences Over Bee Cave Hunter/Jumper Show. It was an amazing team effort to turn the facility over with less than 24 hours.

Adding in some meeting rentals and portable bleacher rentals really rounded out our month. The Ranch Park calendar is almost booked out for the year. Ranch Hands are completing some facility projects over the next couple of hot months so that we are fully ready for our upcoming packed schedule. Stay tuned for all the exciting events!





Kickball @ Tween Scene, Thursday Nights during summer 2021 – An instant hit!!!

DSRP RANCH HOUSE RENOVATION PROJECT - COMPLETED



PROGRAMS & AQUATICS

Submitted by - Mack Rusick, Programs & Aquatics Manager



The season is in full swing at Founders Pool. After a long rainy spring we had some wonderfully hot days that brought many people out to the pool to cool off. We have had a steady stream of pass holders, daily admission, and many people from out of town enjoying the pool. Lately we have seen an increased number of regular lap swimmers in the morning, even on cool and rainy mornings.

Our calendar has finally begun to fill up with private parties and events. The Community Services Coordinator, Melanie Blakely and I have been working on two events for the pool in July and August. One will be a "Family Float Flick" featuring *JAWS* where families and friends watch the movie while lounging on floatation devices in the pool. Additionally, we are working on a "Bark in the Park" dog friendly event at the very end of the summer season where pets and their owners will get to splash around in the pool!

We have begun running our Swim Club program for kids ages 9-14. Our first two sessions have been great! We have had a good group of kids that want to improve their swimming skills and have fun. We purchased a few fun supplies including diving rings, and hoops to swim through, additionally Tiger Splash has allowed us to use their kickboards and other supplies to aid in our class.

We have had two lifeguard Inservice trainings since the start of the season. We reviewed rescues skills, proper rotating and scanning, rules enforcement and injury prevention. For our next Inservice we have scheduled local EMS to come and run through emergency scenarios with staff and are looking forward to their help in preparing for real world scenarios. I want to recognize our staff for their hard work in keeping Founders Pool a fun and safe place for families to come. Recently I was impressed by two lifeguards (Alexa McGilvray & Thomas Carroll) who immediately reacted and dealt with a man who had entered the facility without paying and began to snap photos. After politely being asked to leave the facility, the man returned to confront staff again for being "unwelcoming," and I was able to step in at that point. Needless to say, the man did not return to the facility.

Construction has begun on the Skateboard Park parking lot at Founders Park. The project is slated to take 3-4 weeks depending on weather, to complete.

Looking forward to more sunny days!



New TS mural at the pool by Emily Long

RATHGEBER NATURAL RESOURCE PARK

June 11, 2021 – Hays County’s Parks and Open Space Commission 2.0 sent the following email to named potential recipients:

Dear Project Sponsor:

As you know, the Hays County Commissioners Court formed the Parks & Open Space Advisory Commission (POSAC) in March of 2020, which worked tirelessly for several months and delivered a report to the Commissioners Court in August that ultimately resulted in the passage of Proposition A in November 2020 for \$75 million in bond funding. The POSAC has been re-formed in order to review additional project funding requests and provide the Commissioners Court with a recommendation on funding for projects.

Halff Associates, Inc. and its project team (Halff Team) have been selected as the Hays County Park Bond Program Manager to assist the County with administration and completion of the park bond program. In its role as Program Manager, Halff Team will be assisting Hays County staff with facilitation of the POSAC’s review and ranking of potential projects to be submitted to the Hays County Commissioners Court for funding.

At this time, the POSAC is requesting a status update on the project(s) that your organization submitted for funding. Please provide any updates to the Project Information Form(s) (PIF’s) that are substantive in nature. These changes could be to any of the following:

- Design Program
- Size of the Project (acreage, length, square feet)
- Funding availability (Potential Match increased or decreased)
- Updated Cost Estimates
- Anticipated Schedule (especially if there are established Deadlines)
- Addition/Deletion of Project Partners
- Any other you feel affects the project

Please provide your response to the Halff Team’s Project Manager, James Hemenes via email, HaysParkBondPM-43105@halff.com, no later than **Friday, June 25, 2021**. Any questions that you may have may be submitted to the same address.

Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Staff met the deadline and shared the following significant project updates:

Updates to the formerly submitted PIF include:

- 1) Design Program (unchanged as submitted)
- 2) Size & Scope of Project (unchanged as submitted)
- 3) Funding Availability (unchanged as submitted)
 - September 22, 2020 - Formal Appraisal report obtained that estimated the market value of the 300-acre parcel at 5,690,000.
- 4) Updated Cost Estimates (unchanged as submitted)
- 5) Anticipated Schedule (Project schedule deliverables updated below). Timeline remains the same for the most part.
 - December 10, 2020 - Rathgeber Natural Resource Park 300-acre parcel was deeded to and accepted by the City of Dripping Springs.
 - June 18, 2021 - Primary arterial road gaining access to the parkland was at 90% completion.
- 6) Project Partners (unchanged as submitted, will most likely increase as park is developed)
- 7) Other changes affecting the project:
 - March 3, 2021 – The termination of the existing Capital Metro Boy Scout Lease Agreement attached to 300-acre parcel was fully executed.
 - March 3, 2021 - New City of Dripping Springs and Capital Metro Area Boys Scouts of America Maintenance and Use Agreement was fully executed.
- 8) Other Questions for POSAC and Hays County Parks Bond Program Managers:
 - a) What is the final award notification timeline?
 - b) Will assistance still be available to award recipients from Hays County for project guidance?

June 22, 2021 – Hays Trinity Groundwater Conservation District’s Philip Websiter (Hydrogeologist) and other team members have been given permission to access Rathgeber. Their ask for access to the property was to have a better understanding of Barton Creek watershed and to map out the rock formations that are exposed on the surface throughout the property. This involved walking close to Little Barton and Barton Creek and identifying all exposed

rocks. Until now it has been challenging for the HTGCD to gain access to the creeks because most frontage is located on private property.

SPORTS & RECREATION PARK

June 26, 2021, Dripping Springs saw its first private event celebrating Pride month. The event was held at Road Runners and reserved 5 of the south soccer fields to utilize Sports and Recreation Park’s parking lots for event overflow parking. This brought in great revenue and exposure for the park. The event is to have estimated having more than 1500 attendees throughout the course of the day and evening.

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

June 10, 2021 – Eagle Scout, JJ Guerrero completed his proposed project of improving the archways at Veterans Memorial park.



June 14, 2021- Daughters of the American Revolution – Sarah Pound Chapter completed their Veterans Memorial Park improvement project with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Flag Day. The improvement project led by Diane Thompson facilitated the removal of dying and overgrown shrubs to make way for a landscaped bed of native Texas plants framed by engraved pavers and accented by a dedicated memorial. In addition to approximately fifty spectators, City staff were invited to attend. Those present included Aaron Reed - Public Works Coordinator, Craig Rice- Maintenance Director, Shane Pevehouse, and Kelly Schmidt- Parks and Community Services Director.



COMMUNITY SERVICES

COYOTE KIDS NATURE CAMP - PROGRAM



June 1 - July 2, 2021, What can we say about June except- WE DID IT!!!! Finally, the concept that began in November/December of 2019 has finally come to fruition. With six counselors, one director, and 200 kids (~50 each week, just in June), we are living and breathing Coyote Kids Nature Camp and it's a hit! Weekly these kids leave electronics devices at home and come to DSRP for daily hikes, nature-themed activities, socializing, guest speakers and fun! From tie-dying to campfires with roasting s'mores, to 4-square and camp songs. It is Dripping Springs' Parks and Community Services first day camp that is delivering not only fun but a residential camp experience.

EVENTS PERMITS + PARK RENTALS

Submitted by- Melanie Blakely, Community Services Coordinator



Early in the month, the City of Dripping Springs passed a proclamation declaring June as "Pride Month". As a result, a non-profit formed and approached the city about hosting a event celebrating the achievement. Assisting the event coordinators with their Pride of Dripping Springs event facilitated my training and learning as it pertains to issuing private event permits within the city limits on private property, which is a responsibility of my position.

June 24, 2021, the permit was approved by City Administrator, Michelle Fischer submitted to me exactly 30 days (as required for the minimum amount of time for a permit application review by the organizer) prior to the event date. The whole team worked tirelessly to overcome the constant issues that arose as we tried to confirm the information that was provided and ensure public safety. Not only did I learn how to make sure that the applications were properly filled out, I also learned about the need for police presence during an event of this magnitude as well as the difference between directional and on-site safety pay variances for the off-duty officers that are working the event.

| Permits & Rentals for June | Qty |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Itinerant Vendor Permits | 11 |
| Park Rentals | 1 |
| Pavilion/Pool Rentals | 5 |
| Triangle Banner Display | 1 |

EVENT - COMMUNITY MICRO EVENTS - Sponsors secured - July 24, Float Flick & August 15, Bark in the Park

EVENT - CHRISTMAS ON MERCER – Nothing to report

EVENT - FOUNDERS DAY FESTIVAL – June 14 - Commission meeting attended

EVENT - TWEEN SCENE **June 3** - 23 Attendees | **June 10** - 48 Attendees | **June 17** - 54 Attendees | **June 24** - 98 Attendees

Sponsorships and volunteers obtained to assist with event support of this wildy successful youth program.

EVENT - WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY – Nothing to report for June.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE - KEEP DRIP (TEXAS) BEAUTIFUL – Annual report completed.

COMMUNITY INITIATIVE – BIRD CITY – Nothing to report for June.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER INITIATIVE – Coordination of interested volunteers has begun. Several volunteers to programs within the Parks and Community Services Department that are a good fit and the volunteers have really enjoyed helping. Meetings with the Boy Scouts have begun about their volunteer clean up commitment to our parks.

OTHER NOTABLES FOR THE MONTH – Heavily assisted with Coyote Kids Camp administration and staffing coverage.

FARMERS MARKET



Submitted by - Charlie Reed, Farmers Market Manager
 June was an outstanding month, with post-pandemic excitement colliding with peak growing season to create a robust market, with vendors and customers reaching all-time highs. June started with the market featuring a truly unique entertainer in Movin’ Melvin Brown, who brought tap-dancing and singing to deliver an engaging experience for all ages. New vendors included farmers, artisanal foods, and just in time for summer heat, a delicious seltzer seller. The market’s Instagram continued to draw new followers from all over the region. As grows Dripping Springs, so grows its Farmers Market!



| Date | Vendors | Customers | Music |
|-------------|---------|-----------|--------------|
| 6/2/21 | 44 | 550 | Melvin Brown |
| 6/9/21 | 49 | 650 | Jerry Kirk |
| 6/16/21 | 46 | 600 | None |
| 6/23/21 | 50 | 525 | Jerry Rivers |
| 6/30/21 | 41 | t/k | Melvin Brown |
| 2020 | | | |
| 6/3/20 | 29 | ? | None |
| 6/10/20 | 30 | ? | Jerry Rivers |
| 6/17/20 | 32 | ? | Jerry Rivers |
| 6/24/20 | 25 | ? | Jerry Kirk |

The new Farmers Market duo is really moving the meter and receiving accolades like the email below, weekly.

“Hi, Just a quick note to let you know that your newsletter is so improved and impressive. I served on the DSFM Board a while a few years ago and have recently (in January) moved to East Texas... but I like to stay connected to Dripping Springs. I was looking through your newsletter this morning and was delighted to see all the links to vendors and the beautiful photography. Just thought I would tell you... Nice job!!! Please tell everyone I said hello!

*Have a great day,
 Diana Black”*

**DRIPPING SPRINGS FARMERS MARKET
 WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

Wednesday, June 30, 2021
 3-6pm | Veterans Memorial Park | 160 E. Mercer Street | DSTX

Best Little Market in Texas

The **America's Farmers Market Celebration** is an annual showcase of the best farmers markets across the country, helping raise public awareness of the importance of local, healthy food. Each year, one market is crowned with the "People's Choice" award, and YOUR Dripping Springs Farmers Market is in the running!

Support your favorite neighborhood farmers, ranchers, and other artisans by voting today and spreading the word!



It's that time of year again to VOTE for our special Farmers Market!!!!

Note from FM Manager Charlie Reed: Speaking of contests, the Olympics are coming up! Did you know I worked at the Olympics in Athens and Beijing? Don't ask me about it because I'll never shut up. Anyway, I brought back lots of stuff from Beijing that I never gave away, and I'm using it to throw a gauntlet here. Whoever leaves the best comment on [the DSFM page](#) will win a collectors item from Beijing's Opening Ceremony in 2008, to be awarded at the July 21st market.

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| OTHER PCS BUSINESS & PROJECTS | |
| June 30, 2021 - Park System Signage Plan - Update | |