



Dallas Park & Recreation

Cedar Ridge Preserve Annual Report

Park and Recreation Board

February 16, 2017



About Cedar Ridge Preserve

- Physical Characteristics
 - 633 Acres (0.995 sq. mi)
 - Topology is a plateau/escarpment with 180-foot elevation change
 - Ecosystem comprised mostly of forest with some prairie
 - Roughly half of the area is untouched
- Amenities
 - 10 miles of hiking trails
 - Refurbished restrooms
 - Education building with classroom
 - Native plant butterfly garden and five-sense gardens
 - Amphitheater-style stage and benches
 - A free 'Things to Do' on Park & Recreation Department website



CRP and Audubon Dallas

Partners for Nearly 15 Years

2002

Established as Cedar Ridge Preserve (CRP); half owned by the City, half leased from the County

2003

Dallas Park Board contracted Dallas County Audubon Society for CRP management

2012

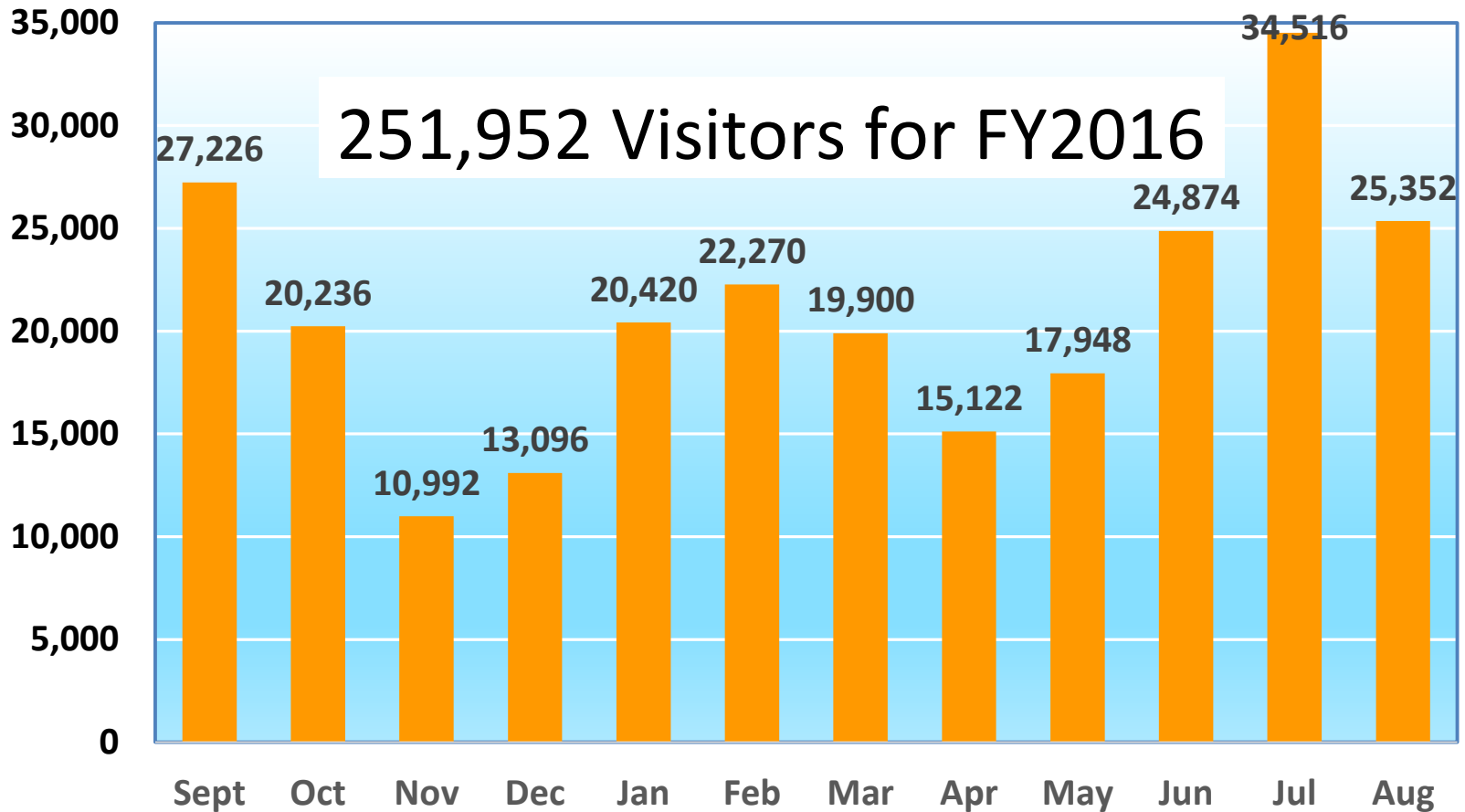
Most recent renewal of management contract with Audubon Dallas

Praise For CRP

“Above all the others, I like **Cedar Ridge Preserve**, an area near Joe Pool Lake that is managed by Audubon Dallas. The first time I hiked there, I carried my 2-year-old son Will in a backpack. I wouldn’t try that now. He’s 26. Both my boys eventually walked trails here. Cedar Ridge is hilly and provides several spots with great vistas. The intermittent creeks are places to wade and explore. Perhaps my favorite spot is on the Cattail Pond Trail, where a bench sits in the shade of a juniper. After a rain, the creek comes alive with the gentle sound of falling water. Cedar Ridge is a habitat for our most colorful bird, the painted bunting. I love walking down the hill to the pond and listening for its intricate song.”

Bill Holston, “The 6 Best Hikes in Dallas”
D Magazine, April 2015

Who Visits CRP?



- Visitors match county diversity
- 2.0 visitors per car

- 36% City of Dallas
- 73% Dallas County
- 96% Dallas & adjoining counties



Educational Offerings

- Education is Freedom
- School/Recreation Center field trips
 - 11 Dallas CBDG groups
 - Cedar Hill Action Team (28)
 - Founders Academy Freshman Class (75)
 - Alcuin Middle School (28)
- REI Map & Compass, hiking, running classes
- Plant/bird walks guided by Master Naturalists
- Research
 - 13 year ongoing Orchid study
 - iNaturalist Biodiversity of CRP Project Page
 - Monarch watch



Volunteer Engagement

- Conservation in Action: Workday 3rd Saturday of each month
- North Texas Master Naturalist Fall Big Chapter Project
- Scout Projects
 - Nine Eagle Scout projects (4 complete, 5 in process)
 - Multiple Philmont conditioning hikes every week through the spring and summer
- Community Service
 - Education
 - Scouts
 - Court-Supervised
- Roughly 75 volunteer visits totaling 260 Hours each month
- Partnership with REI to promote volunteer activities



Founder's Centennial

- Memorial held March 26 for Dr. Stanford's 100th birthday
- Biomedical research scientist, surgeon in British Army and expert in resource and recovery planning
- Founded Greenhills Environmental Center in 1976 with 1,000 acres "loaned" by Dave Fox (Fox & Jacobs)
- Became Dallas Nature Center in 1987
- Became Cedar Ridge Preserve 2002



Dr. Geoffry Stanford
1916 - 2000

Domingo Mendez, The Only Constant

- Mingo has worked at the property since 1981!
- He is the groundskeeper, mechanic, naturalist, arborist, Hispanic Ambassador, and heart of Cedar Ridge Preserve
- Through changing managers and property names, there has always been Mingo



Policies Developed

by Audubon Board and Advisory Committee

- **Community Service**
 - Established screening procedures, acceptable violations
- **Rain/Mud**
 - Close trail if hikers go off trail for mud
 - Close preserve if hikers go off most popular trail
- **Parking**
 - For efficiency and safety, areas designated for no parking, large vehicle only, large vehicle restricted, small vehicles only, and appropriate use of grass areas
- **Heat alerts**
 - Criteria for extraordinary action, preserve closure
- **UTV usage**
 - Allow use by Fire/Rescue
 - Restrict drivers, allow recall for emergency use



Cedar Ridge Preserve Income

Category	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Budget
Income		
CRP Contributions	\$4,175	\$4,000
Donation Box	\$26,985	\$24,000
Education Revenue	\$4,879	\$0
Field Trips/Races	\$2,034	\$4,000
Friends of CRP	\$4,508	\$5,000
Grants	\$5,650	\$6,000
Hike-a-thon	\$1,287	\$1,500
Payment for Services	\$58,949	\$58,949
Merchandise Sales	\$427	\$500
Parking	\$678	
Total Income	\$109,571	\$103,949



Cedar Ridge Preserve Expenses

	Category	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Budget
Expenses			
	Conservation	\$0	\$1,000
	Friends Program	\$88	\$200
	Grant Expenditures	\$7,400	\$6,000
	Habitat Management	\$38,554	\$39,000
	Improvements	\$5,223	\$5,000
	Insurance	\$2,500	\$2,500
	Maintenance & Repairs	\$9,593	\$12,000
	Merchandise	\$1,740	\$1,800
	Security	\$9,050	\$11,000
	Supplies	\$17,144	\$9,000
	Telephone/Internet	\$1,444	\$1,500
	Tools	\$2,257	\$2,500
	Total Expenses	\$94,991	\$91,500



FY16 Major New Expenditures

Non-Recurring

- Utility Task Vehicle (UTV) \$7,040
- Electrical Renovation \$4,650
- Transportation container \$2,300
- 56 tons of crushed concrete, granite \$2,200
- “Brush Hog” attachment for tractor \$1,250
- Wood chipper \$ 900
- Weather station \$ 750
- Riding mower repair \$ 700
- Knox Box, Lock \$ 400

New Recurring

- Weekly Restroom Service \$3,100



Budget Comments

Category	FY2016 Actual	FY2017 Budget
CRP Total Income	\$109,571	\$103,949
CRP Total Expenses	\$94,991	\$91,500
Net Income	\$14,579	\$12,449

- 2016 Payment for Services was received in March, while FY2016 ended August 31
- Prior four years, net income was on the order of -\$10,000 each year, pulling from Audubon funds
- Per our bylaws, the financials are audited only at the end of the Treasurer's 2-year term, this coming May
- CRP benefits from unallocated Treasurer and Communication expenses (~\$11,000/year) not shown
- We have substantial deferred maintenance not mentioned

Budget Expectations

- As a non-profit group relying upon volunteers for services, including operation of CRP and tracking of CRP revenue and expenses, Audubon Dallas stands behind the total dollar amounts listed in the Budgets
- Assignment of income and expenses to specific categories does not necessarily comply with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
- Audubon Dallas makes good faith efforts to properly allocate all income and expenses
- Audubon Dallas's full books will be audited this year, and we will do our best to conform the CRP budget to GAAP as interpreted by our auditors

Progress on FY16 Forecast Projects

- Water fountain installation completed
 - Serves people, pets, and bottles
- Protect trails from over-use in inclement weather
 - Water diversions, rock fill, mulch in abundance applied to problem trails
 - Policy established for closing a trail or for closing the preserve
 - Trail conditions, closures posted on web site
- Weather Station
 - Rain varies dramatically with specific location in the area due to the escarpment
 - Station provides temperature, rainfall and wind within the preserve
 - Online at Weather Underground (www.wunderground.com)
 - Station Name = **Cedar Ridge Preserve**, Station ID = **KTXDALLA342**
 - Mobil app allows access to current conditions, last 2 days, forecasts
 - Web site allows access to all data since we went on-line July 21



Infrastructure Status

- Buildings: Education, Rest Rooms and Work Shed
 - Lighting, electrical updated; all fluorescent tubes eliminated
 - Need minor leak fixes
- Secure storage: three transportation containers (one new)
 - Containers primed, art work planned to blend with surroundings
 - Nine bridges
 - Two largest bridges have limited service life due to erosion of footings
 - Replacement cost around \$5,000 each if done commercially
- Two 10-foot tall observation towers
 - One renovated 2014: stair structure updated
 - Other has numerous structural issues; engineer recommends full replacement
 - Fixes identified and performed to extend life
- Observation Deck at the pond
 - Pilings tipping; keeping watch
- Parking
 - Recovered spaces lost to road expansion by better marking, utilizing grass areas
 - Overflow diverted to Recreation Center next door



Looking to the Future for FY2017



- Educational initiatives
- UTV Trailer
- Stripe fire lanes, handicap parking
- Bog Bridge (half)
- Tower Renovation
- Scientific signage
- Name entrance road
- Container art project
- Monitor structures
- Entrance fence
- Management contract
- Wildlife cameras
- Contract compliance



Bret Schubauer

 CEDAR RIDGE
PRESERVE



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