



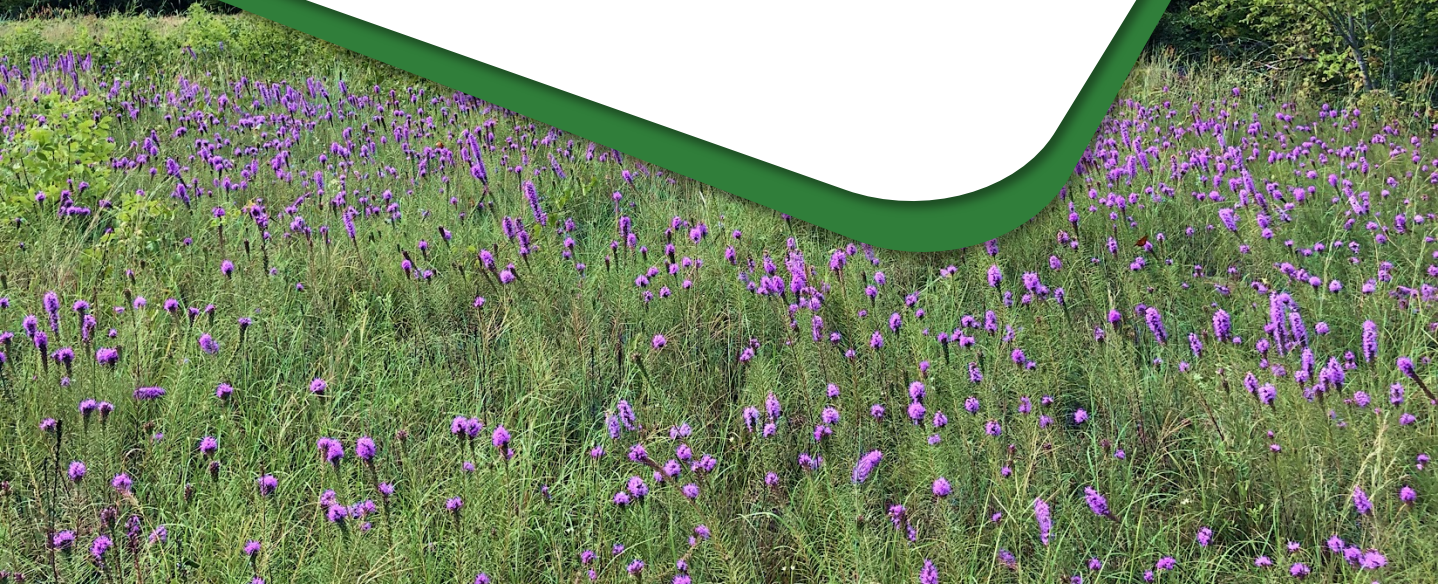
CEDAR RIDGE
PRESERVE

Managed by Audubon Dallas



Dallas Park & Recreation

Annual Report, 2020-2021



ABOUT CEDAR RIDGE PRESERVE



PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Operated under Open Space Use Agreement with Dallas County
- 633 Acres (0.995 sq. mi)
- Mostly wooded with 5% prairie, 0.5% aquatic
- Topology is a plateau and escarpment with 180-foot elevation change
- Roughly half of the area is untouched

AMENITIES

- About 9 miles of hiking trails
- Education building/classroom
- Restrooms
- Native plant pollinator/five-senses gardens
- 84 trail benches, 2 lookout towers, 2 bird blinds
- Amphitheater-style stage with lighting, and bench seating for 70
- 10-15 Picnic tables
- 250 internal parking spaces
- Internet-accessible Weather Station
- Bottle refilling/pet drinker water fountain

OVERVIEW

THIS WAS A GOOD YEAR

THE VERY GOOD

- Excellent results on all Performance Measures
- The Preserve remains very popular
- Transitioned part-time manager to full-time
- Continued operations throughout the COVID-19 epidemic
- We began internal strategic planning discussions
- We “grew” some of our programs

WE'RE NOT SURE

- Attendance remained quite high
- Lots and lots of dogs
- We saw some slowing in attendance when COVID mandates were relaxed
- We still have large proportions of visitors that are new to CRP

AND, WHAT WE LEARNED

- School groups are starting to return
- It pays to be present
- We are a preserve



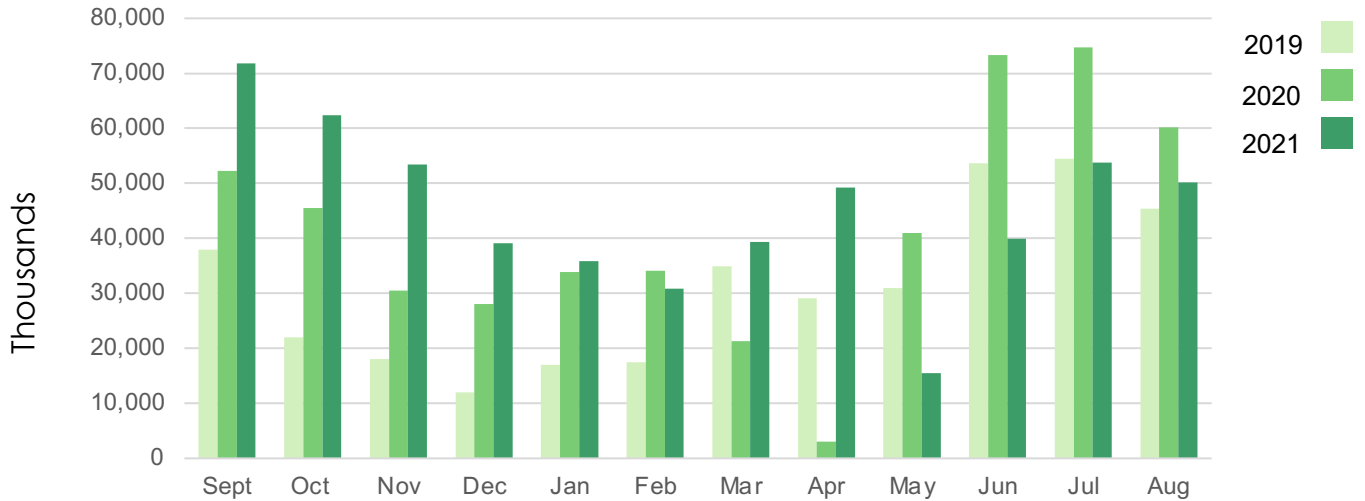
VISITORS

FY2021

FY2019: 372,000

FY2020: 498,000

FY2021: 541,000



Three Year Comparison of Attendance

OUR VISITORS

Our visitors represent a diverse cross-section of the DFW area population. Although attendance remained high, we noted that the COVID-19 virus and restrictions continued to impacted attendance.

Formal organized events: **Remained low**

Individuals, families, and small informal local groups: **Increased, and . . .**



So did dogs. . . Our counts resulted in an average of 864 dogs a week being walked in the preserve on a regular basis.*

*This is an underestimate because we cannot count dogs that enter through the pedestrian entrances or are brought in after 6 pm.

PARKING



With more than 541,000 visitors this year, parking remained an issue. Although overall attendance was very high, once public venues reopened, the patterns of use returned to pre-covid patterns. We needed to manage only morning and evening traffic and we haven't had a return of illegal parking in the Oncor right-of-way.

Assistance from the Park Rangers, City Police, and paid parking staff has helped. During weekends, we still have long lines – even in December.



VOLUNTEERISM



Volunteers do all kinds of tasks. They weed, plant native plants, remove invasive plants, give "mini" classes to visitors, build/repair trails, paint, build benches/picnic tables, put mulch and crushed concrete on the trails, pick up branches and trash, conduct tours, park cars and much, much more.

They also lead some important initiatives such as prairie restoration, conservation research, and liaising with conservation and service organizations.

We were thrilled to see the return of our High-School Volunteers this year.

We expect to have over 4,500 volunteer hours by the end of the year.

Over 50% of these hours have been completed by five amazing long-time volunteers.

**Wood Cantrell
Frank Hazzard
Brett Schubauer
Gary Underwood
Tom Willard**

ACCOMPLISHMENTS



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL



HABITAT RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE



REINTRODUCTION OF NATIVE PLANTS



TRAIL MAINTENANCE



PAID STAFF SUPPORT



LONG-TERM SCIENCE PROJECTS



STRATEGIC PLANNING



NATIVE PLANT PROPAGATION



DIRECTIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC SIGNAGE



- PERFORMANCE MEASURES



- DONE/SATISFACTORY



- PROGRESS



- NO ACTION



CITY REPAIR OF BUILDINGS



AQUATIC RESTORATION



REINTRODUCING NATIVE PLANTS

- **Goal for CY2021:** 200-300 plants
- Our plantings focus on the prairies, where we also remove invasive species.
- This year, we propagated over 300 of the plants from seed collected in and near the preserve.

Progress: Through August, we **planted 121** and have, at least, **another 1,000** prepared for the annual November planting.



PRAIRIE RESTORATION AND MAINTENANCE

- **Goal for the CY2021:**
Restoration - 2.0-4.0 acres
Maintenance - 300-500 hrs.
- **Progress:** Through August, **2.5 acres** have been restored and **360** hrs. were spent on maintenance.



INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

- **Goal for CY 2021:** 400-600 volunteer hours.
- **Progress:** Through August, **650 hrs.** were devoted to invasive species removal.

(Primary, invasive plants are privet, hedge parsley and Johnson grass)

EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

PROGRAMS	WHO	NATURALIST GROUPS
Bird walks	Home Schools	North Texas Master Naturalists
Prairie walks	Primary Schools	Native Prairies Association of Texas
Junior Ranger Program	High Schools	Native Plant Society of Texas
Full moon hikes	Colleges	
One-on-one engagement	Visitors, Scouts, Athletic groups	

- **Goal for CY 2021:** 40-50 educational events.
- We did things differently:
 - ✓ Actively solicited educational interactions through the CRP Ambassador program
 - ✓ Actively engaged scout, home schoolers, athletic groups visiting the Preserve
 - ✓ Began developing more in-depth relationships with some schools.
- **Progress:** We have had **70 education events** through August

TRAIL/INFRASTRUCTURE

- Improve weather resistance and erosion control of vulnerable trails
- Over two miles of trail upgraded
- Handicapped accessible trail re-surfaced
- Improved trail way-finding system installed
- **Progress:** 820 volunteer hours on trails through August WOW!

IMPROVEMENTS TO THE FACILITY

Progress:

- Improvements to parking and walkways along the entrance road
- Improved entrance to the pollinator garden
- Painted 10 picnic tables
- Repaired memorial swing
- Added additional benches
- Constructed a new bird blind
- Started a plant demonstration garden



STRATEGIC PLANNING

Progress:

- On June 2nd Pariveda hosted and facilitated a Strategic Planning Workshop for CRP.
- Members of the Audubon Board, Friends of CRP, Associated agencies, and staff attended.
- They helped us to define, refine, and prioritize our strategic objectives.

NATIVE PLANT PROPAGATION

Progress:

- We will have over 300 plants grown from seed collected in and around the preserve to plant throughout the Preserve and give away.



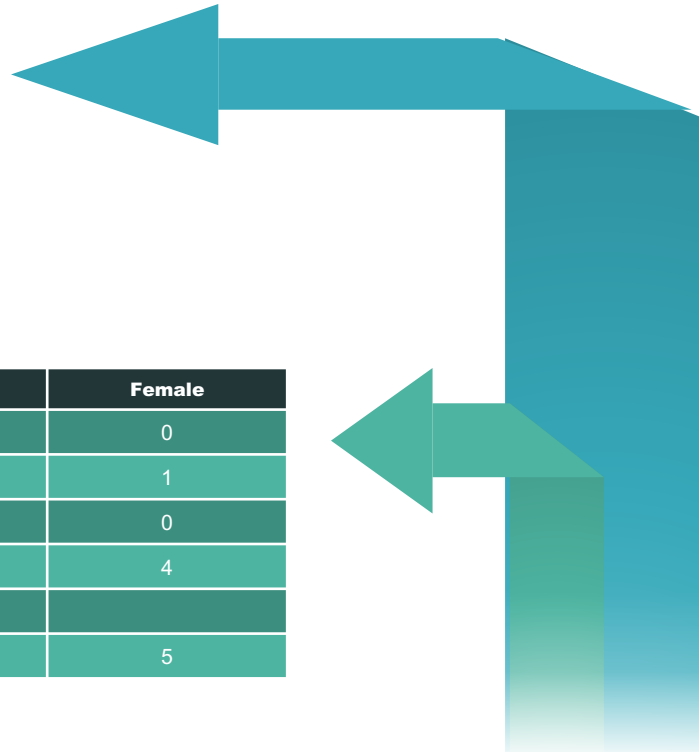
FY2020 Budget Summary (ended 8/31/2021)

Revenue	\$269,069
Expenses	\$287,090
Net	* (18,021)

*Deficit off-set through Audubon Dallas reserves

Board Summary

Race/Ethnicity	Male	Female
Hispanic	1	0
Black	0	1
Asian	1	0
Non-Hispanic White	3	4
Totals	5	5



OUR GOALS FY2021-22



CRP MASTERPLAN



FOCUS ON
BUSINESS/FINANCE
PLAN



LONG-TERM
SCIENCE PLAN



EDUCATION
PLAN



UPDATE HABITAT
CONSERVATION/
RESTORATION
PLAN



CONSIDER PUBLIC,
PRIVATE, ACADEMIC
CONSERVATION
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP



IMPROVE
NATIVE PLANT
NURSERY



ENHANCE INVASIVE
SPECIES REMOVAL



EDUCATIONAL
SIGNS/DISPLAYS



TARGETED
EDUCATIONAL
EVENTS



CONTINUE
TRAIL
MAINTENANCE



CONTINUE
PRAIRIE
RESTORATION



EXPLORE UNDER
AND UNUSED
AREAS IN THE
PRESERVE

IN CLOSING...



This has been another remarkable year at the Preserve. We have watched the plants follow their individual cycles, reveled in the very rainy months, and watched the monarchs arrive and then depart - only to arrive again. We were also overjoyed by the appearance of a female bobcat with her two kittens. None of this is rare or unusual, but there is something very right and reassuring about processes that still happen, naturally.



Some processes could not happen without us. Not only did we meet or exceed our performance goals; we started planning for the future. This year's strategic planning session, hosted by a Friend-of-the-Preserve, helped us develop a vision of what we need to do if we hope to remain viable, to grow, and to meet our mission. It prepared us well for the coming year as we start developing a comprehensive masterplan.



And then. . . there are things that happen to us. Attendance at the Preserve was higher than ever and as diverse. On most days, most people are kind, in most ways. On some days, the place really rocks! We have watched Cedar Ridge Preserve secure its own "sense of place" for so many of our visitors.

We are grateful for the continued support of the City of Dallas Park and Recreation Department as we strive to keep Cedar Ridge Preserve a safe, welcoming, and enduring place for people, and all the other living things that call it home.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO AN EXCITING 2022!

