

Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) 2021 Grant Proposal
Application Deadline – November 6, 2020
Grant Contract Period March 1, 2021 – September 1, 2022 (18 months)

Project Name

Tour of an historic farmstead in the Honey Creek SNA for individuals with limited mobility

Project Overview [limit: 800 characters]

The project will develop a tour for physically-challenged individuals at the Doeppenschmidt-Weidner farmstead in the Honey Creek State Natural Area. The tour will present the cultural and environmental history of the area, describing ranch life in the mid-late 19th and early 20th centuries and emphasizing conservation of natural and historical resources in the 21st century. It addresses the needs of individuals who cannot participate in the current two-mile nature walk in Honey Creek due to limited mobility, including those in wheelchairs, who use canes or walkers, or who may require frequent stops and shorter distances. The program will use iPads to present historical materials and views of remote sites and will have a hands-on activity with era-appropriate farm and kitchen items.

SMART Goals

- Develop an historical tour of the Doeppenschmidt-Weidner farmstead in the Honey Creek State Natural Area for 5-8 physically-challenged individuals of limited mobility with their companions/caregivers.
- Train 6 volunteers to lead the historical tour of the Doeppenschmidt-Weidner farmstead in the Honey Creek State Natural Area for physically-challenged individuals of limited mobility and their companions/caregivers.
- Conduct one historical tour per month in the Honey Creek State Natural Area for 5-8 physically-challenged individuals of limited mobility with their companions/caregivers.

Project Narrative [limit: 20,000 characters]

The Friends of GRHC have offered a weekly two-mile, interpretive nature walk in Honey Creek State Natural Area for over 25 years. The current director for these hikes, Nancy Gray, has often been asked if there are opportunities to visit Honey Creek that are accessible by physically-challenged individuals and she has had to say no. The tour being developed will fill that need and will increase the opportunities for physically-challenged individuals to enjoy the outdoors at Guadalupe River State Park/Honey Creek State Natural Area. The tour will be repeated once a month beginning in September 2021 for 5-8 physically-challenged individuals themselves with their companion/caregivers who are helping with wheelchairs, transportation, etc. The tour will include four stops on the Doeppenschmidt-Weidner ranchland in the Honey Creek State Natural Area. Registration will be required for the tour, including submission of demographic information and mobility limitations. Participants will also be requested to complete a survey at the end of the tour for use in modifying and improving the activities. As with the current nature walks in the Honey Creek State Natural Area, there are a few participants who repeat the hike. We anticipate that some individuals with limited mobility will repeat the tour, perhaps once a year or return with friends. Registration will allow us to monitor repeat participation.

The tour will be three-to-four hours in length, including a lunch break. The Doeppenschmidts were among the first settlers in what is now the Honey Creek State Natural Area. Jacob and his wife Maria immigrated from Germany in 1854 with their five children. By 1869 Jacob and his family, including the two youngest sons, Adam and Peter, moved to the Honey Creek area and started farming. The farmstead was sold to Otto Weidner in 1910 and was an active ranch for several decades. The four stops will include a visit to the grave of Jacob Doeppenschmidt (d.1872); the Adam Doeppenschmidt farmstead; the Peter Doeppenschmidt farm site; and the Honey Creek overlook. Many photos and stories from this time period have been shared with the Friends of GRHC by the descendants of the Weidner family. At each stop, presentations and discussion will include stories of the early settlers' lives and the importance of conservation of natural resources, then and now, such as water and grasslands. Presentation at the Adam Doeppenschmidt farmstead will also include a hands-on activity examining era-appropriate farm items describing what the items are and how they were used. Examples of such items include a glass jar butter churn, butter mold, snuff bottle, coffee mill, cotton hand carders, wooden nutcracker, sock stretcher, shoe button hook, and various barn tools. We will need folding tables and pop-up canopy tents to display these items, since there are no shade trees in the accessible areas. A lunch break will be included in the program with lunches and drinks to be brought by participants and guides. Since there are no restrooms in this part of the state natural area, two ADA-compliant porta-potties will be provided.

Risk management plans will follow the general guidelines for Guadalupe River State Park, the guidelines established for the current Honey Creek nature hikes, and specific guidelines for ADA-compliant activities. Coronavirus restrictions will be followed, if applicable. Primary and rain dates will be set for each monthly tour. Liability Release Forms will be adapted to fit the specific activities on the tour. Members of the Friends of GRHC are developing the presentations and risk management plans.

A significant amount of worn-out or discarded items has been left at the farm sites over the past few years, long after the property was no longer an active ranch. These items are unsightly and are of sufficient size to require removal by bobcat and dumpster, including broken deer blinds and a damaged porta-potty on a trailer. Before the tours begin, clearance of these items will be completed. Park staff will direct use of the bobcat and removal of designated items.

Internet access in Honey Creek SNA is limited or nonexistent. The requested iPads will allow use of pdfs, images, and short videos to enhance the experiences during the tour. Examples are given in the Project Itinerary. For individuals with limited mobility, we must keep stops to a minimum. Each stop adds time to get in and out of cars, set up wheelchairs, etc., and is tiring for participants. For those individuals who use canes or walkers or have other physical disabilities that limit the distances that they can walk, the area that can be covered is small. Benches will be available for these individuals at convenient stops. Using the iPads, we can use these rest periods to discuss farm life and environmental concerns. Examples of materials to be uploaded to the iPads include aerial maps of the ranch showing the agricultural use in various areas, close-up details of buildings, remote sites not readily accessible, and videos demonstrating the use of some of the farm equipment still on the farmstead, for example, a goat-cattle-sheep dip. As another example, we have pictures of an old molasses oven on the ranch, near what was once a sugar-cane field that is now difficult to reach even by able-bodied people as the area is overrun with cedar. We have videos showing how old molasses ovens were used. In addition, we have many photographs from the early 20th century when the area was actively farmed, including pictures of the windmill of which only the blades remain, lying on the ground several yards from the ranch house. (See Project Itinerary for images of such examples.) Preparation of materials for presentation and loading/maintenance of iPads will be performed by members of the Friends of GRHC.

Direct Relationship with TPWD

The Park Superintendent, Barrett Durst, is extremely interested in and very supportive of this project. He has assured the Board of the Friends of GRHC that he will utilize his staff and other resources to make this a successful project. He will be lending staff, for instance, to help clear trash from the areas around the ranch buildings and will provide assistance, such as parking directors, when tours are being conducted. He will also help with advertising the tours within the Park. In general, the tour is being developed so it will be low maintenance for personnel, with only a minimum of ongoing Park staff needed to sustain the tours.

Letter from Barrett Durst. [See below.]

Project Key Personnel

Name (First and Last), Title, Summary of grant-related duties AND qualifications

C Mackenzie Brown

Secretary of the Board of the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc.

Brown will oversee and manage the project as a whole. He has served as secretary of the Board for one year, has been a member of the Board and served as co-historian for the Friends for three, has led hikes into the Honey Creek SNA as a certified guide, and has frequently visited the new tour area and conversed with descendants of the Weidner family ranchers. He is also a Texas Master Naturalist and member of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter.

Charleen Moore

Director of the Board of the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc.

Moore will help develop the tour program and presentations and serve as one of the guides. She has been a Board member and co-historian for three years. She has also led hikes into the Honey Creek SNA for two years as a certified guide, as well as researching the history of the Doeppenschmidt-Weidner families. She is also a Texas Master Naturalist and member of the Texas Master Naturalist Hill Country Chapter.

Nancy Gray

Director of the Board of the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc.

N. Gray will help develop the tour program and presentations and serve as one of the guides. She has been a Board member for approximately fifteen years and served as President of the Friends for two years. She is the current leader of the public hikes into the Honey Creek SNA. She is also a Texas Master Naturalist and member of the Texas Master Naturalist Lindheimer Chapter.

Robert Gray

Director of the Board of the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc.

R. Gray will help develop the tour program and presentations and serve as one of the guides. He has been a Board member for approximately fifteen years and served as Secretary of the Friends for a number of years. He is also a certified water monitor for the Texas Stream Team at Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek and a Texas Master Naturalist and member of the Texas Master Naturalist Lindheimer Chapter.

Barrett Durst

Superintendent of Guadalupe River State Park

Durst has been a TPWD employee since 2007, and Park Superintendent at Guadalupe River State Park since 2017. He will supervise park staff as they assist the project.

Future Plans to continue similar activities and use of supplies after grant ends

While we will continue to conduct the tours for physically-challenged individuals, future plans include development of a similar tour for individuals who are not physically challenged, with expanded walks at the various stops and closer examination of certain areas of the ranch. We also intend to expand these tours to include school children. iPads will still be used to enhance the understanding of farm life, such as use of various buildings and remote areas that are not easily accessed even with good mobility. This will allow a larger audience to appreciate the Honey Creek State Natural Area and to build concern for the environment and ways to help preserve our natural and cultural resources.

The iPads may also be used by the guides during the current nature walks in the Honey Creek State Natural Area that begin at the Rust House. Pertinent images, aerial maps, etc. will be uploaded to enhance the presentations about the Rust House and the various stops along the trail. The ADA-compliant porta-potties, era-appropriate items, display tents and tables may also be used at the Rust House and at other sites for special presentations.

Project Timeline

March 2021—August 2021

Develop historical tour of the Doeppenschmidt-Weidner farmstead in the Honey Creek State Natural Area

- 1) development of talking points at each stop
- 2) collection of era-appropriate items for a hands-on activity
- 3) preparation of maps, photographs, videos and uploading to iPads

Train 6 volunteers to lead the historical tour of the Doeppenschmidt-Weidner farmstead in the Honey Creek State Natural Area

Develop historical tour of the Doeppenschmidt-Weidner farmstead and train 6 volunteers to lead tour

September 2021—February 2022

Conduct 1 tour per month for 5 physically-challenged individuals plus up to 5 companions/caregivers and 4-6 guides per tour

March 2022—August 2022

Conduct 1 tour per month for 8 physically-challenged individuals plus up to 8 companions/caregivers and 4-6 guides per tour

Project Itinerary (optional but recommended)

See separate file.

Project participants: Total Participants Served

We will keep a list of requests and number of individuals who register and attend.

Project participants: Participant Demographics

For the September 2021-February 2022 time period, we expect a total of 50 participants: 10 individuals (5 physically-challenged individuals plus up to 5 companions/caregivers) per month. Limiting participants to 10 total during this first phase will allow us to adjust the program as experience dictates.

For the March 2022-August 2022 time period, we expect a total of 96 participants: 16 individuals (8 physically-challenged individuals plus up to 8 companions/caregivers) per month as the activity gains more exposure and we gain experience in managing a larger number of cars and people. Additional tours can be arranged if the requests exceed our estimates.

Total Individuals Served for Grant Period: 146

Project Demographics

This project develops a tour specifically designed for physically-challenged individuals, including those in wheelchairs, those who use canes or walkers, or those who may require frequent stops and shorter distances. An estimated 30% of the participants will be companions/caregivers who are assisting the physically-challenged individuals by pushing wheelchairs and other supportive activities.

Project participants: Demographic Tracking

Registration forms and surveys will include demographic data for tracking purposes. Excel sheets with the demographic data will be completed after each hike. We will also keep a record of requests and the number of individuals who attend.

Project participants: Recruitment of Demographic Groups

Recruitment for the program will be through the GRSP events page on the Park website, the calendar on the Friends of GRHC website, flyers at the local libraries, and announcements in local newspapers. Reporters will be invited to cover the program and write articles about it. We will also contact local agencies used by individuals with physical challenges and senior living/assisted living complexes in the surrounding counties.

PROJECT BUDGET DETAILS

Each participant will pay the day-use fee to the Park. There is no additional fee for the hike, but donations will be gratefully accepted.

Itemized Budget

Item	Project Activity	Items to purchase	Amount
1.	Removal of 21 st century trash at farm sites	Rental of one bobcat and dumpster	\$800.00
2.	Apple iPads with carry case and shoulder strap	Purchase 20 iPads, approx. \$375.00 each	\$7,500.00
3.	ADA-compliant porta-potties	Purchase of two ADA compliant porta-potties, approx. \$2,500.00 each	\$5,000.00
4.	Hands-on display of era-appropriate farm items	Purchase of 20 era-appropriate items, approx. \$40.00 each	\$800.00
5.	Hands-on display of farm items	Purchase of two 10'x20' folding canopy tents, approx. \$250.00 each Purchase of two 4' folding tables approx. \$50.00 each	\$600.00
	TOTAL		\$14,700.00

Budget Justification

Removal of 21st century trash at farm sites:

We will rent a bobcat and dumpster for one week to remove large discarded items that have been left at the farm sites over the past few years, including broken deer blinds and a damaged porta-potty on a trailer. Park staff will direct use of the bobcat and removal of designated items.

Apple iPads with carry case and shoulder strap:

We will purchase 20 iPads that we will load with files, images and videos to be used at various stops on the tour. We plan for a maximum of 16 individuals on the tour and four guides, with each using a separate iPad. Preparation of maps, photographs, videos and uploading to iPads will be done by members of the Friends of GRHC. Cleaning and maintenance of the iPads will follow coronavirus guidelines, if applicable.

ADA-compliant porta-potties:

Purchase of two ADA compliant porta-potties: Since there are no restrooms in this part of the state natural area, two ADA-compliant porta-potties will be provided to accommodate 20 participants in a timely manner. Park staff will oversee maintenance of the toilets.

Hands-on display of era-appropriate farm items:

Purchase of 20 era-appropriate items. These will be authentic items that represent common tasks on an early Hill Country settler's farm. Examples include a glass jar butter churn, butter molds, snuff bottle, coffee mill, cotton hand carders, wooden nutcracker, sock stretcher, shoe button hook, and various barn tools. Display, cleaning and maintenance of the items will follow coronavirus guidelines, if applicable.

Hands-on display of farm items:

Purchase of two 10'x20' folding canopy tents and two 4' folding tables. With a maximum of 16 participants, including the physically-challenged individuals and their companions/caregivers, plus 4 guides, we will need a large table area to display the farm items. Since there is no shady place at the farmstead, canopy tents will be used to cover the display tables for comfortable viewing. Cleaning and maintenance of the items will follow coronavirus guidelines, if applicable.

[Letter from Barrett Durst regarding **Direct Relationship with TPWD / TPWD Personnel Commitment Letter**. Letter to be uploaded on Park Letterhead as a PDF file by Mackenzie Brown on the **PRELIMINARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ELIGIBILITY CONFIRMATION, LEGAL INFORMATION** page of the CO-OP online application.]

October 20, 2020

C. Mackenzie Brown, Secretary
Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc.

Dear Mackenzie:

Guadalupe River State Park is pleased to partner with you on your outreach program for physically-challenged individuals. We are very excited about the opportunity to support your tour of the historic farmstead located in the Honey Creek State Natural Area for individuals of limited mobility. I understand that you are applying for a TPWD Community Outdoor Outreach Program grant to assist you in funding the project.

If the proposal is funded, on behalf of the TPWD I agree to:

1. Provide Park staff to assist in clearing rubbish away from the historic farmstead and ranch, where participants will be touring, and to maintain the relevant areas to ensure wheelchair, walker, and cane-assisted access.
2. Provide Park staff to assist in setting up any needed equipment for participants, such as benches, portable canopies, and ADA-compliant porta-potties.
3. Provide Park staff to assist with parking and traffic control, if needed.
4. Provide Park assistance in registering participants for the tour.

I am very enthusiastic about the opportunity to work with you to expand opportunities for physically-challenged individuals in the surrounding communities to take advantage of the natural and cultural resources our Park has to offer. Please let me know if you need additional assistance.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Barrett Durst
Guadalupe River State Park and Honey Creek State Natural Area

[Authorizing Resolution from Thea Platz, President of the Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc. Letter on Friends Letterhead to be uploaded as a PDF file by Mackenzie Brown on the **PRELIMINARY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS, ELIGIBILITY CONFIRMATION, LEGAL INFORMATION** page of the CO-OP online application.]

Authorizing Resolution

As the President and senior official of the Board of The Friends of Guadalupe River/Honey Creek, Inc., I provide this authorizing resolution on behalf of the Board of the Friends, as we unanimously approved the project and the pending application at our Board meeting (by ZOOM) on October 1, 2020.

I authorize C. Mackenzie Brown to submit this application for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Community Outdoor Outreach Program (CO-OP) grant in the amount of \$14,700.00.

I also authorize C. Mackenzie Brown to act for and on behalf of the Board to administer, manage, and implement the grant project.

Thea Platz, President

Date