

GEAA

Greater
Edwards
Aquifer
Alliance



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Friends of Castroville Regional Park



Friends of Castroville Board of Directors 2026

Mission Statement

- Preserve, enhance, promote, and protect the Castroville Regional Park as a unique ecological, recreational, educational, historical, and cultural resource.
- Protect the park ecological integrity through educational awareness.
- Further research, understanding and appreciation of the park environment.
- Provide public events to increase local involvement.
- Engage in fundraisers to help implement and support park projects, programs, facilities, and services.
- Assist with the maintenance of grounds, trails, and onsite facilities.
- Promote the use of the park's natural resources for recreation and tourism.
- Support, sustain, improve, and promote a system of hiking/nature trails.
- Help develop year-round recreational and educational programs for all ages, interests, and abilities.

The Friends of the Castroville Regional Park (FCRP) is the essence of a totally volunteer public service organization. FCRP is the organization of leaders, path foragers, friends, and volunteers that are responsible for the development of the beautiful trails, many park amenities, and natural resource education programs for people of all ages, that exist within the Castroville Regional Park.

History

Citizen support to create Castroville Regional Park began in 1968. The City of Castroville, in partnership with Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPWD), purchased 126 acres from the Joe Hoog family, creating a Regional Park of 113 acres. This Regional Park serves Medina, Bexar, Bandera, Uvalde, Atascosa, Frio, and Zavala Counties. The park officially opened in 1974 with amenities such as a swimming pool, bathhouse, park office, pavilions, and two restrooms.

The series of historic flood events in July 2002 was a pivotal moment that galvanized the community into a volunteer effort to repair the park. The local volunteers, along with American Youth Works and Texas Conservation Corps, provided the bulk of the physical labor for the restoration work done in the park.

During this time, a core group of volunteers that consistently showed up to work decided to form the FCRP non-profit 501(c)3 in 2007. Their first general meeting was held in 2008.

Park Programs and Events:

The FCRP sponsors and assists with public events. The park has hosted a variety of public entertainment events throughout the years. These include; the Tour D Castroville, 5k "Run To The Cross", Summer Movie Series, Freedom Fun Run, Halloween Boo Bash, Heart of Alsace Bike Race, Ride to Benefit the Lion's Park and Dark Sky Parties. The FCRP also hosts educational programs, such as SA Texas Audubon Society Guided Bird Watching Hikes, Texas Master Naturalist Volunteer events, and assistance with Boy Scout Merit Badge Programs.

Beyond public programming, the FCRP also raises funds, plans, constructs park infrastructure, and aids with park maintenance. Since 2007, the FCRP has raised over \$80,000 for construction and maintenance. These funds went towards constructing an amphitheater, butterfly garden, botanical garden trail, bridge repairs, and parking projects. The FCRP is also responsible for the labor to construct and maintain the park hiking trails, river clean-ups, park signage, and tree planting projects. Since 2007, the FCRP has hosted 530 Volunteer Workdays, amounting to over 10,500 volunteer hours.

In collaboration with the City of Castroville and Friends of Castroville Regional Park (FCRP), the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance (GEAA) will raise funds, design, and build a series of artificial wetlands to treat sewage effluent from the Castroville Wastewater Treatment Plant prior to its point of discharge into the Medina River. The project will improve the quality of the effluent discharges while serving as an attractive amenity to the Park.

The FCRP is also in collaboration with the City of Castroville Parks Dept, Texas Water Resources Institute, TX A&M Agri-life, TX State Soil & Water Conservation Board, and San Antonio River Authority to install a Riparian Restoration Demonstration Project on a segment of the Medina River within the Park.

If you want to learn more about the Friends of Castroville Regional Park and how you can get involved, visit their website [here](#). You can also explore [this storymap](#) detailing the history & context of the organization, current projects and programming, regional information, as well as an interesting park site analysis and aerial overview.