



HANA AND ARTHUR GINZBURG

nature discovery center

YEAR IN REVIEW

Fiscal Year 2021

(October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021)



Meet
DeAndra Ramsey,
Executive Director

Nature Discovery Center welcomed a new executive director in February 2021. DeAndra came to the Center from the Houston Zoo where she won a national award for her work developing wildlife education programs for K-12 schools. DeAndra also volunteers as a bat educator with Bat Conservation International.

"We LOVE this place! It's seriously a hidden gem. Couldn't have gotten through the pandemic without it. There is so much to see and do for every age. When we started going, Hugo was two and just starting to really explore. Now he's four and can spend hours in the sandbox or jumping from one log to another. We always stop to see the animals on our way back to the car. Living in Houston, it can be hard to escape into nature. I love the paths - they provide an oasis from the city grind."

— Coty Meibeyer, mom to Hugo

Programs & COVID-19

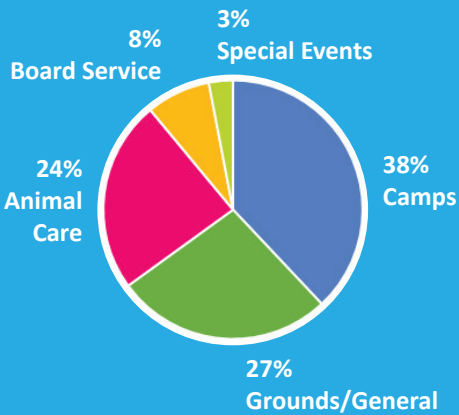
Like so many organizations that offer in-person education, NDC had to get creative during the ongoing pandemic. COVID-safe programs began in April 2020 and continued through Fiscal Year 2021. In total, NDC served:

234 participants through virtual programs and camps

91 participants through take-home program kits



Our Volunteers



Total hours contributed: **2,252**

NDC's gratitude: **endless**



Meet
Kat White,
Development
Director

Kat joined NDC as development director in April 2021. She has worked in education nonprofits for more than a decade in development, communications, operations, and teaching roles.

Who lives in Russ Pitman Park?

During our Spring 2021 BioBlitz we documented:

- 4 species of mammal
- 74 species of birds
- 9 species reptiles/amphibians
- 171 species of invertebrates
- 40 species of fungi
- Hundreds of plant species



Petite Pumpkin Patch in the Park

In 2020, we offered a COVID-safe version of our annual Pumpkin Patch Fall Festival. This ticketed, socially distanced, and "petite" outdoor festival included:

73 families

150 jack-o-lantern pumpkins

\$7,900 raised

Our Supporters

Thanks to these corporations and foundations who supported us in FY2021:

ACME Party & Tent
Bellaire Young Mothers
George & Mary Hamman Foundation
Ginzburg Family Fund
H-E-B
Harris Cty Commissioner, Pct 3
John P. McGovern Foundation
Junior League of Houston
River Oaks Garden Club
Stephen M. Seay Foundation
Susan Vaughan Foundation
The Brown Foundation, Inc.
The West Endowment



"My 8-year-old twins attended NDC's summer camp this year and it was one of their favorite camps ever. They loved having Mr. Eric as their teacher because he 'just explained everything more fun!' I love that they still talk about the wide variety of activities that they did, and I love that going outside and learning about nature are at the top of that list. We are excited for next year!"

– Glenna Mathews, mom to Winston and Wesley



Remembering
Clay Lilenstern

Clay Lilenstern was a longtime friend to NDC and current board member when he passed after a brief illness in January 2021. The Lilenstern Learning Tree in the park's Pecan Grove was dedicated to his memory in May.

A Twilight Picnic in the Park

After taking a break in 2020, NDC's annual Twilight Gala made a comeback in spring 2021 as two socially-distanced picnics in the park featuring wine, charcuterie, live music, and an auction.

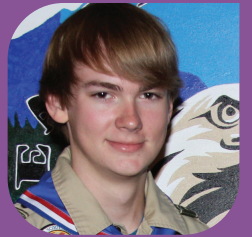
109 attendees
\$45,264 raised

Summer 2021

We adjusted our Summer Science Camps to meet safety protocols set during the pandemic, and our modified camps were very popular!

216 campers and 30 volunteers
~300% more demand than capacity
10 weeks of camp with 2 new mini-camps

Additionally, we reached **91 kids** and their adult caregivers with **Sneak-a-Peek** and **Mess Makers**.



Critter Classroom
Renamed for
Dean Neubek

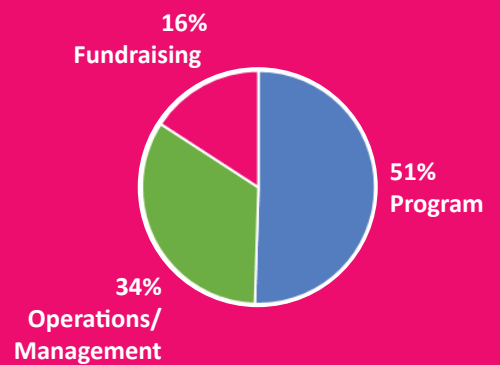
The small courtyard that houses our animal enclosures was revitalized with a new "bunny throne" sculpture and an outdoor whiteboard. The newly renamed Dean Neubek Critter Classroom honors a young man who loved animals - especially rabbits - and dedicated hours of service to the park as a Boy Scout. This space perpetuates Dean's legacy by encouraging kindness, love, and respect.



Thank you,
Mary Ann
Beauchemin!

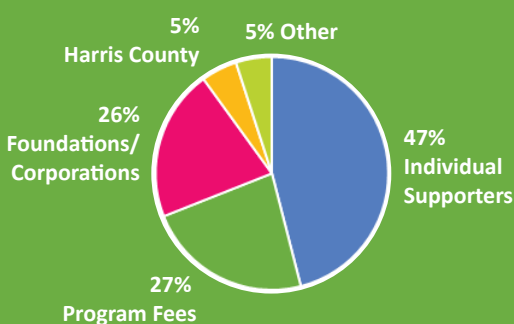
The Center celebrated Mary Ann Beauchemin's retirement after 32 years of service as a naturalist and steward. Generations of park visitors benefited from her expertise and dedication to education. Mary Ann remains an active volunteer leading birding programs, maintaining bird feeders, and serving on committees.

Expenses



Percentages are approximate as year-end financials have not been finalized by a financial professional.

Income



Program registrations typically make up more than half of the Center's budget. We are deeply grateful to the individuals, foundations and businesses that supported us while programming was limited by COVID.

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