



# 2025 Annual Report

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# Introduction

# History

- The Friends of Oak Cliff Parks Garden Club (FOCP) was organized in 2002 by David Klempin and Nola Rae Smith, with the support of John Jenkins, Regional Manager of the Dallas Parks and Recreation Department, for the purpose of restoring horticulture in and preserving the historic parks of Oak Cliff.
- FOCP is proud to be a member of the Oak Cliff Garden Forum, District X Council of Garden Clubs, Texas Garden Club and the National Garden Club. We strive to reflect in our projects the objectives of both parent organizations.



**CELEBRATING 22 YEARS OF GARDENING IN OUR OAK CLIFF PARKS**

# Mission Statement

“ Our mission is to maintain and restore horticulture in the four historic parks of Oak Cliff, to provide educational and social activities that promote the love of gardening, to advocate for conservation and a greater appreciation of the environment, and to back public policies that support our goals. ”

# Leadership Team

# Board Members



Ellen Fitzsimmons  
- President



Birte Fehse  
Pereira - Vice  
President



JD Jasso -  
Treasurer



Barbara Barbee -  
Secretary



Jon Papp - Past  
President



Carol Rybarski



Wendy Fenn



Mark Lindenmayer



Judi Glazer



Timothy Clarke  
Jones



Amy Rae Mathis

# Honorary Board Members

The Friends of Oak Cliff Parks have been fortunate and forever grateful to have benefited by the following individuals who have served on our board. We are very grateful to these friends who have donated their time and energy in helping us make the parks in Oak Cliff a better place for all to enjoy.

- Nina Worthy
- Riley Wilson
- Steve Williams
- Becky Trevino
- Nola Rae Smith
- Cylena Smith
- Joe Revelle
- Diane Presley
- Camilla Pottinger
- Rob Nicol
- Caryl Neff
- Cynthia Mulcahy
- Bill McCain
- Helene McKinney
- Christine Massey
- Robert Mason
- Bobbie Mason
- Rosie Manzo
- Tony Maniche
- Susan Lee
- David Klempin
- Marie Jenkins
- Brian Halsell
- Frances Gonzalez
- John Mark Ellis
- Ron Blancq
- Darryl Baker
- Annemarie Bristow
- Roger Bolen



# Park Highlights

# 2025 Volunteer Groups

A Big Thank You to:

- Boy Scout Troop 2012
- L'Oreal
- Clarion Partners
- PMG (April and December)
- Young Men's Service League
- Dallas County Master Naturalists
- Dallas County Master Gardeners
- Greenspace Dallas
- Tru Tech Wildlife Service
- Texas Conservation Alliance
- Irma Rangel Young Women's Leadership School
- Methodist Health System
- Village Tech School

## 2025 in Numbers

- Number of workday volunteers who participated: **98**
- Total volunteer hours worked in the parks: **1533**
  - Lake Cliff **-485**
  - Kiest Memorial - **659**
  - Kiest Conservation-**224**
  - Kidd Springs - **165**
- Number of new plants planted:
  - **168** in Kiest
  - **114** in Lake Cliff
- **1000** tons of weeds removed (estimated based on what it felt like)

# 2025 Donors

A big thank you to all **North Texas Giving Day Donors** - we raised **\$2,714** in total!



COMMUNITIES FOUNDATION *of* TEXAS

SPONSORED BY **amazon**

## Coneflowers (\$5000+)

- Ellen Fitzsimmons

## Milkweeds (\$500-\$2000)

- John Ellis

## Spiderworts (\$2000 - \$5000)

- Carol Rybarski Family Foundation

## Shadekeepers (\$100-\$500)

- Gil Glover
- Monica Paranath
- Ellen Fitzsimmons
- Ryan Griffin
- Nancy McCoy
- Wendy Fenn
- JD Jasso
- Birte Fehse

# Lake Cliff

## 2025 Highlights

- The upper level of the pavilion has been replanted on both sides with great success
- Worked closely with the city of Dallas Police department and social services to address the continuing challenges of homeless individuals in the park
- Continuing involvement in Lake Cliff/Founders Park Visioning Committee

## 2025 Plans

- Maintenance and upkeep of existing planting
- Restoration of the “pineapple” fountain (really a rosebud)
- Installation of educational signage in two locations





# Lake Cliff in Pictures



# Kidd Springs

## 2025 Highlights

- Prepped meditation garden beds and began planting shade perennials
- Expanded beds near the lake were planted with pink muhly grass and dwarf yaupon hollies
- Dallas County Road and Bridge installed 2nd second reproduction lantern donated by the Crow Museum
- Missing shrubs were replaced in several areas throughout the Japanese garden.
- Work began on rainwater mitigation project at the big hill near the south entrance to the Japanese garden.

## 2026 Plans

- Design and install perennials in the bed with the new reproduction Japanese lantern & near the wooden boardwalk.
- Continue work on rainwater mitigation project.





# Kidd Springs in Pictures





# Kiest Memorial

## 2025 Highlights

- Two large L-shaped beds were planted with 20 different native plants (168 plugs in total)
- Worked with the City of Dallas Parks & Recreation team to remove several dead magnolia trees

## 2026 Plans

- Re-plant at least two of the upper beds to add more layers and groundcover where there currently is only hibiscus and mulch.
- Work with the City to improve water & irrigation management in the park, incl installation of overflow tank so we no longer lose 20K gallons of water daily



# Kiest Memorial in Pictures





# Kiest Conservation Area

## 2024 Highlights

- Prairie restoration by removal of invasive plants
- We had numerous nature walks, including wildflower walks, bug walks, tree ID walks, foraging walks, birding walks and walks with pooches

## 2025 Plans

- Continued focus on prairies restoration and trail maintenance



# Kiest Conservation Area in Pictures



# Special Thanks



Dallas  
Park & Recreation

Thank you!