



# Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



## 2020 - What a Year it Was!

Keep Irving Beautiful made 2020 a year of new experiences and great successes, thanks to partnerships, collaborations, and lots of creative thinking. Here is a snapshot of what KIB and our volunteers accomplished in 2020:

- **Litter Prevention/Recycling** - The 29th Annual Trash Bash went virtual and became the #IrvingTrashBash, with volunteers posting photos and reporting results on their own social media pages. We finished the year with 7,890 pounds trash and 3,717 pounds recyclables collected in 8 cleanups and from our 86 Adopt-a-Spot teams who cleaned throughout the year
- **Community Greening** - By partnering with the Parks Urban Forestry Team, 89 trees were planted, making 2020 the "Year of the Tree." Plantings were made possible by donations or grants from BAPS Charities, UPS, Fluor, Verizon and Northrop Grumman, and the hard work of the Urban Forestry Team and KIB volunteers. Another major new event was the revitalization of the butterfly garden at Bird's Fort Trail by an enthusiastic group of grassroots volunteers who gave more than 200 hours to this project, including clearing weeds, tilling the soil, and adding plants, flowers, and a tree that will attract butterflies and other pollinators.
- **Recycling** - America Recycles Day also went virtual, with volunteers showing us how they recycle via social media posts. Some even made projects and art from recycled materials.

## End of Year Events

The Young Men's Service League (YMSL) of Cistercian Preparatory continued to demonstrate their school's commitment to service by making 570 "blessing bags" which they brought to KIB to be distributed to organizations that serve the homeless. These bags, made by the young men and their mothers, were filled with things like personal hygiene items, snacks, socks, T-shirts and much more.

Irving-based Girl Scouts continued to be of service right to the end of the year. Troops 6458 and 3473 painted the metal safety handrails at Running Bear Park on Dec. 18, with six



Sunrise Rotary at their Trash Bash cleanup

- **Beautification** - In addition to our volunteer beautification projects, which accounted for 109 service hours, KIB had numerous opportunities to work with new partners - the Recreation Center and Aquatics staff members. We painted at several locations, including the Senter East Building and the Senter Park Pool, accounting for 316 city staff hours.
- **Blanket Project** - this project has become a favorite of KIB volunteers, and was vital in providing a way for them to participate individually and in family groups. They made 134 "no-sew" blankets this year, which were donated to several local charities.
- **KIB staff ventured into exciting new territory** by creating videos to post to social media. Look for many more of these in 2021!

volunteers giving 12 hours of service in beautifying this park.

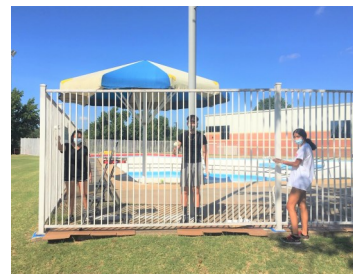
Troop 6458 was also one of three KIB nominees honored with an Irving Parks and Recreation Award on Dec. 14. Longtime KIB volunteer Sammy Romero and Fluor Corporation were also recipients of these IPAR Awards for all they do to support the mission of the Parks Department.

KIB wrapped up the year with another "first," our December photo contest. We received some outstanding entries, and winners will be announced in January!

Volume 11, Issue 1  
January 2021



The Acosta Cares team planted trees at Bird's Fort Trail



Aquatics staffers painted at Senter Park Pool during the summer



Brown Elementary students show how they recycled for America Recycles Day



KIB's last project of 2020, painting at Running Bear Park

