



# Keep Irving Beautiful Newsletter



## Irving Rocked 2021!

Thanks to partnerships - some new ones and some with old friends - Keep Irving Beautiful had an outstanding 2021. Here is a snapshot of what happened during the past year:

- **Litter Prevention** - The Don't Mess with Texas Trash-Off was the first major live event, with modifications and a virtual option offered. The 30th Annual Trash Bash was back as an in-person event after going virtual last year. A great new partnership was with the Irving recreation centers after-school programs, with all six conducting fall cleanups. In the 34 total cleanups, combined with the Adopt-a-Spot teams year-round efforts, more than 12,600 pounds of trash and 6,000 pounds of recyclables were collected.
- **Community Greening** - By partnering with the Parks Urban Forestry Team, 133 trees were planted, made possible by donations from Verizon, Northrop Grumman, Dallas Everest Lions, and Lowe's. The biggest project was the planting of 100 trees at Cimarron Park with Mission Tomorrow through a grant from Lowe's "100 Hometowns." The dedication of the Friends of the Butterfly Garden resulted in a beautiful pollinator garden that is thriving along the Campion Trail.
- **Beautification** - New partner Chuck E. Cheese joined KIB at Running Bear Park for a Juneteenth paint project that also included a cleanup. We welcomed back longtime partner Vizient for their annual Community Day project, adding a fresh coat of paint at the Fritz Park Petting Farm in anticipation of a busy 2022 season.

## End-of-Year Events

KIB is always seeking new projects and ways our volunteers can be of service. This year we launched a Holiday Card Campaign, asking people to write cards or notes to be given to local nursing home residents to bring a little Christmas cheer. With a goal of 140 cards, we were overwhelmed with the kindness shown by the Irving community, who brought 535 cards to the KIB office! It was wonderful delivering those, and look for an announcement soon about a similar project for Valentine's Day.



Nimitz High School Students at the Trash Bash

- **Recycling** - America Recycles Day went virtual again in 2021, with volunteers showing us how they recycle via social media posts. KIB brought our mascot skit to all six recreation center Summer Camps, with Singley theater students playing the roles of Kirby, Buddy and the Litterbug while teaching about recycling.
- **Photo Contests** - KIB held two photo contests, and the entries proved just how beautiful Irving is. The Irving Archives and Museum (IAM) printed and displayed the winning photos at the museum.
- **Blanket Project/Blessing Bags** - KIB volunteers continued to show how caring they are by making 52 no-sew blankets and hundreds of "blessing bags." Canned food drives at the Trash-Off, Trash Bash and Joe's Coffee Shop with Irving Girl Scouts brought in 1,900 pounds of food items for donation to Crisis Ministries and Irving Cares.
- Thanks to the 5,665 volunteers who gave 8,081 hours of service in 2021!

The Irving Parks and Recreation Advisory Board presented their "IPAR" Awards in a ceremony at City Hall on Dec. 13. KIB nominated Mission Tomorrow, Chuck E. Cheese, and our own Elouise McMillian, who all were recognized with awards. The late Chuck Kirk, who was a KIB Board member for many years, received the Legacy Award for all his service in supporting the mission of the Irving Parks and Recreation Department.

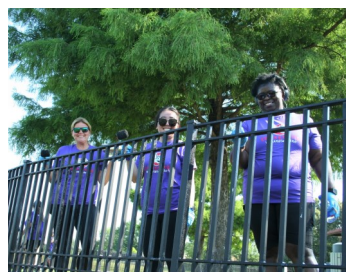
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Senter Park after-school program members at their cleanup



Mission Tomorrow "Trees for Life" at Cimarron Park in October



Chuck E. Cheese employee volunteers at Running Bear



Brown Elementary students show how they recycled for America Recycles Day

