

Green and With Growth!

Have you found yourself in a local conversation about “protecting green space and the increasing demand for housing and commerce” right here in our Comal County? I certainly find myself experiencing some form of that topic frequently!

When you are privileged to live on heritage acres that have engaged in agricultural endeavors through several generations it is difficult to realize how many others look at the trees and spread wondering if there are alternatives for this space. Weekly inquiries regarding the acreage with an eye toward development and/or commercial options get disruptive. In our dynamic Comal County, there is such an accelerating pace to find space to make way for the incoming folk who are eager to find a future among us.

As I stroll along outside with my walking stick or a young companion, I think of how fortunate we are to have this cherished space and feel the weight of its stewardship. Sometimes I think back to the indicators that show that our rivers, springs and stretches of Hill Country spaces have been a point of opportunity from the earliest of times. There are a few locations where Clovis peoples’ practices can be found. Nomadic and indigenous others have left their marks through the generations as well. How inviting the springs and rivers have been for the Veramendi, Landa, Zink and other families that began patterns of settlements that give us the basic outlines of life along the Guadalupe, Comal and Blanco Rivers. So, too, we see those settlement outlines among the hills of the great escarpment. That rise into the hills gave them, as they give us, the vistas we cherish.

Now we find our village and its surrounding areas in high demand for homes and so much more. Our “corridor” that races through along the interstate highway puts us as one of the “select between” locations between two burgeoning urban centers. Indeed, we are the beneficiaries and victims of the “new and thriving Texas.” That current reality tells us our reflections and decisions related to best use and green space are urgent matters.

There are some developers and planners endeavoring to take the growth needs seriously while placing a value and protective eye on the green spaces available. Let’s encourage and participate in these conversations with the developers and planners who look at available space, fresh and discard water, air quality, and wildlife protection. The quality of such dialogue is heartening. Lest we miss the opportunity that comes but once before it’s gone forever, let’s see together what to develop and what to preserve, creating a broad basis for choosing and planning. Our time is now!

Join us for discovery and a look forward on 13 July at 6 p.m. in a Zoom session with our neighboring Hays County Commissioner, Lon Shell. He has agreed to give us an overview of the Hays County Regional Habitat Conservation Plan, Hays County Parks Planning and their Open Space Master Plan. Since these adjacent neighbors are experiencing all the real estate and commercial pressures “along our shared corridor,” some Hays clues helpful for Comal just might become obvious and helpful. It should prove beneficial to explore how each County looks toward the other along the Blanco River and the remaining county line. It’s a conversation overdue!

Check the details on the website www.comalconservation.org for the most up to date events and information.

