



PRESS RELEASE

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Crystal Locke Named Young Professional of the Year Texas Recreation and Park Society, Central Region Awards Announced

The Central Region of the Texas Recreation and Park Society (TRAPS) held their yearly awards on Friday, November 15, 2019 and the City of Brenham's Crystal Locke was named Young Professional of the Year. "Crystal has been with the City for 16 years and always looks for ways to improve the quality of life for all citizens and provides a ray of sunshine to each organization she works with, says Dane Rau, Director of Public Works and Crystal's supervisor.

Crystal is responsible for planning and coordinating more than 13 programs within the City including Spring Training Baseball Camp, Walk with a Doc, Intro to Pickleball, Movies in the Park, Hot Nights, Cool Tunes, Kids to Parks Day, Pop-up Play Days, National Parks and Recreation month activities (July), Roll and Read, Little Diggers Volleyball, Boo Bash, Breakfast with Santa, and Christmas Stroll and Lighted Parade. Sgt. Todd Ashorn with the Brenham Police Department states, "Crystal is without a doubt an asset for the City of Brenham, but more importantly her ideas have allowed our citizens and youth an opportunity to safely enjoy of our parks and downtown areas."

Angelica Gamboa, Director of Operations & Programs adds, "The reasons why I personally enjoy collaborating with Crystal and what makes her great at what she does is the pride that she takes in her work, the compassion she shows to others and the love she has for our community." Some other projects of Crystal's that show exemplary advancement of Parks and Rec include: Project Lead for Brenham Parks and Recreation System Master Plan, creation of the City's Parks and Rec annual guide for citizens that highlights program and amenities, wrote and managed the Texas Parks and Wildlife Small Community Grant, responsible for the Lone Star Legacy designation for Brenham's local Fireman's Park, lead the Flying Horses Carousel signage project, and as part of the City's community engagement initiative, Crystal helped to implement the sport of Pickleball (new courts opened in 2019) and updates to our Disc Golf field.

Crystal has made it a priority through the years to grow personally and professionally. She is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional (2015) and has served within several professional associations: *Texas Recreation and Park Society* (2008 – Present), *Texas Recreation and Park Society Academy of Leadership Development*

(Alumni/2014), *Review Team for the TRAPS Academy of Leadership Development* (Class of 2018). In addition, she has extensive involvement in the Central Region workshops and Maintenance Rodeo: 2008 Round Rock/Committee Member, 2010 Georgetown/Co-Chair, 2011 San Marcos/Workshop Chair, 2012 San Antonio/Sponsor Chair, 2013 Temple/Sponsor Chair, 2014 Austin/Sponsor Chair, 2015 Kerrville/Sponsor Chair, 2016 Round Rock/Programs Chair, 2017 Schertz/Review team for the Central Region Awards, 2018 New Braunfels/Co-Sponsor Chair, and 2019 Pflugerville/Sponsor Chair. Wende Ragonis
CEO / President Washington County Chamber of Commerce says, "Crystal understands the value of community input and is eager to listen, so she can offer the best solution to the challenge at hand."

Along with her professional accomplishments, Crystal personally takes great pride and believes in giving back to others, the community, and the Parks and Rec industry through such things as: *Run for the Youth of Washington County*, Board Member, 2018-current; *First Baptist Church School and Early Education Center*, PTO Member, 2014-current; *Leadership Washington County*, Alumni, 2009; *Washington County Little League*, Board of Directors, 2008-2015; *Student Health Advisory Committee*, Member, 2008-2015.

The City is fortunate to have Crystal's skills, passion, and outstanding contribution to the Brenham community and Washington County.

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Links:

Attachments: Professional headshot

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