

A Dream Realized...



GO

Have you ever fixed something that was broken and felt really good about it? Lucy Reed Hibberd did just that with her 64-acre Charro Ranch in Dripping Springs. She created trails for enjoying and learning about nature. Along the trails there are signs about the trees and plants, bird viewing stations, a meditation area, and a Solstice Circle and compass. When you visit Charro Ranch, you will experience a place that someone loved enough to restore so others could love it too.

KNOW

Hooray for Native Grasses!



As you explore the trails, think about these ways that native grasses help people and animals.

- Native grasses provide food and shelter for wild animals, birds, and insects.
- Native grasses are good for our environment. They help keep the air healthy. They hold water and keep soil from eroding (washing away).
- Native grasses adapt to our ecosystem. The grasses at Charro Ranch survive winter freezes and summer heat. They can go for long periods without water. Can you?
- Some native grasses grow in bunches. Some may grow taller than you!
- Muhly grass is a native plant that grows at Charro Ranch. It grows about 2 to 5 feet tall. Muhly grass is light greenish-gray. It is bunched at the bottom, then grows upward and out, like a fountain. Can you spot the Muhly grass?

GROW



Find Where You're Going

Can you find the 4 compass points, or cardinal directions, on the Solstice Circle at the park?

N stands for _____

S stands for _____

E stands for _____

W stands for _____

On the back cover of this book, find Charro Ranch Park on the map. Use the compass rose on the map:

1. What creek is just south of Charro Ranch Park?

2. What's the closest town south of Charro Ranch Park? _____
3. Which park is located farthest west in Hays County? _____
4. What river runs west to east near Wimberley?

Answers: 1. Onion Creek 2. Driftwood 3. Jacob's Well 4. Blanco

The Long and Short of Solstice

The Solstice Circle at Charro Ranch lines up with the rising sun on special days. **Summer solstice** seems like the longest day of the year because it has the most hours of sunlight. **Winter solstice** seems like the shortest day of the year because it has the fewest hours of sunlight. **Equinox** happens 2 times a year, when the length of day and night are about the same.



