



Friends of City of Rocks Newsletter

Volume 1, Number 1, October, 2023

New newsletter! New Webpage! Same great Park!

Upcoming and Recent Events



September Bird Hike

About 20 people showed up for a loop in the park on September 16. The long hot and dry summer had given way to a wetter, cooler September. Participants were rewarded with some marvelous warblers passing through on their migration.



Star Parties Scheduled

Every month the park hosts astronomers taking advantage of our clear and dark night skies. All are welcome to join in and take a peak at the heavens with telescopes. Find them in the campground. The next party is October 7 at sunset which is around 6:30 on that date. Future dates can be found on our new webpage at

www.cityofrocks.org.



Geology Hike in Novemeber

Anita Williams will lead a free geology hike in the park on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 9 to 11 AM. Join us at the Visitor's Center.

Desert Plants at City of Rocks State Park

A Primer By William (Bill) Norris



I moved to southwestern New Mexico 22 years ago with very little knowledge of desert plants. As the new botanist at Western New Mexico University, I knew I had a lot to learn. Fast. Fortunately I discovered City of Rocks State Park, and after I got over my initial awe of the geologic splendor of the place I realized that this park protects a prime slice of Chihuahuan Desert. As I visited the park again and again, driving the Loop Road that envelops the cluster of tall rock pinnacles for which the park is named, stopping by the park Botanical Garden and then venturing out to hike the Hydra Trail, I slowly became familiar with some common desert plants. And so can you.

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We Want Your Stories

So many people in our area have loved the City of Rocks State Park for a very long time. We'd love to see your family photos and hear stories of how your family has enjoyed the park. Please send them to us at friends@cityofrocks.org.

We have a new web page and address

Many thanks to Marion MacDonald for her revamp of our webpage. Now you can keep up and find all upcoming events and even renew your membership. Check it out at www.cityofrocks.org.

Speaking of that did you know we are on Instagram, too? You can find us at [@friendsofcityofrocks](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofcityofrocks). Got a picture you want us to share? Let us know.



Retirement of President Tim Geddes

Tim Geddes was born in Virginia and has an Associate of Science Degree in Aquaculture from Southern Mississippi University. His citizen science projects include collecting reptiles and amphibians for the North Carolina State Museum and since 2012 conducting a plant inventory of City of Rocks (with Bill Norris). Tim is a founding father of the Friends of City of Rock and was its first President (2017-2022).

Tim, thanks for all of your hard work to support Friends of City of Rocks!

Become a Friend

Interested in helping out City of Rocks State Park? Consider joining the Friends. Typical Friends activities include highway cleanup, cutting and splitting firewood for sale to park campers, operation of a gift shop in the park Visitor Center, fund-raising, and more!

[Join or Renew](#)

The purpose of the Friends of City of Rocks State Park, Inc. is to help support the New Mexico State Parks in the enrichment of the park area. Specifically, the Friends aim to enhance, preserve and promote park use, to participate in nature as responsible stewards of the Earth, to create an awareness of the wonder, fragility and importance of the park, to develop and improve existing education/interpretive programs, to develop and improve public awareness of the park, and to encourage public participation and/or membership in the Friends group.

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