

DeSoto City Lights

CITY OF DESOTO AND THE MINT FOUNDATION IMPLEMENT TEXAS EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR LOW INCOME RESIDENTS

The City of DeSoto in partnership with The MINT Foundation, is offering a short-term rental assistance program to DeSoto residents through the Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program (TERAP). This program provides rental assistance to income-eligible households impacted by COVID-19 to help them stay housed during the pandemic.

The TERAP is an alternative to the program offered by Dallas County, in that the TERAP specifically assists low-to-moderate income residents. The program can pay up to six months of an eligible household's rent, including rental arrears, with at least one of those months covering a month of future rent.



CITY OF DESOTO ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE MINT FOUNDATION




DESOTO EMERGENCY COVID-19 RELIEF PROGRAM

RENTAL & UTILITY ASSISTANCE
UP TO 6 MONTHS OF ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

- Must live in the City of DeSoto
- Must meet income requirements
- Must be financially impacted by COVID-19

EVICITION ASSISTANCE IS ALSO AVAILABLE

Applications accepted starting on Monday, February 15th
APPLYING FOR ASSISTANCE DOES NOT GUARANTEE APPROVAL

TO APPLY VISIT: WWW.MINTCARES.ORG
THE MINT FOUNDATION IS A 501(C)(3) ORGANIZATION



The City of DeSoto is eligible to receive \$150,000 in CDBG-CV funding from the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs. 10% of those funds are specifically earmarked to administer the Texas Eviction Diversion Program (TEDP) which provides rental assistance to tenants who have been sued for eviction. This program provides the landlord and tenant an alternative to eviction.

Residents and landlords interested in applying to the Texas Emergency Rental Assistance Program will need to contact The MINT Foundation, who will screen applicants, determine eligibility, and arrange for payments to be sent directly to the landlord. **Applications will be accepted beginning Monday, February 15, 2021 and will last until all available funding is spent.** For additional information including program guidelines, restrictions, and documentation needed, please contact The MINT Foundation directly at 972.224.7200 or visit www.mintcares.org.

CITY CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

- 1 Arts Commission virtual - 6 pm
- 1 Park Board Meeting - virtual - 6:30 pm
- 2 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm
- 4 Library Board Mtg. Library - 7 pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg.— virtual –6 pm
- 15 Topical Work Session - virtual - 6 pm
- 16 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm
- 20 Veterans Benefit Forum virtual - 10 am
- 23 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm
- 25 Mental Health Town Hall- virtual 6 pm
- 26 & 27 Daddy/Daughter Event

MARCH

- 1 Park Board Meeting - virtual 6:30 pm
- 2 City Council Mtg. - Virtual 6 pm
- 4 Library Board Meeting 7 pm
- 6 Arts Commission planning retreat 1pm
- 9 Planning & Zoning Mtg. - virtual 6 pm
- 15 Topical Work Session—virtual 6 pm
- 16 City Council Mtg. - virtual - 6 pm
- 20 Veterans Benefit Forum virtual - 10 am
- 23 P&Z Meeting virtual- 6 pm



DeSoto Parks & Recreation invites you to join us for the 5K Shamrock Shake Virtual Walk or Run. We have "gone virtual" to protect the health and safety of our participants and community. Register to participate at [Parks & Recreation | DeSoto, TX - Official Website \(desototexas.gov\)](https://www.desototexas.gov) or call 972.230.9655 for more information.

Use any app to track your activity such as Strava or MapmyRun. You must complete 3.1 miles (5 kilometers). Once you complete your challenge, come to the DeSoto Recreation Center to claim your T-shirt. You must show your app to the attendant to verify that you have completed the challenge.

DeSoto has great trails such as the Roy Orr Trail and DeSoto Ranch Nature Trail, and there are walking trails at many DeSoto parks. Pick your own route in or near your neighborhood. Make it fun and challenge your neighbors to get involved.

KEEP DESOTO CLEAN LOGO CONTEST WINNER

Madison Parker, a 16 year old DeSoto resident, is the winner of the Keep DeSoto Clean Logo contest. Keep DeSoto Beautiful and Park Board members collaborated to judge the entries submitted by 24 contest participants. Madison received an iPad as the grand prize winner.

Madison's winning design, pictured here, will adorn t-shirts that will be available for \$5 during our city-wide clean-up event on March 27th (see the flyer for this event on page 4). Proceeds from t-shirts sales will benefit future Keep DeSoto Beautiful projects. For more information, please call the Parks & Recreations office at 972-230-9653.



A Message from DeSoto's Veterans Affairs Committee:

DeSoto's monthly in-person Benefit Forums are currently suspended due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. But we will continue providing information to our Veterans **VIRTUALLY** so please watch for our Virtual Veterans Benefit Forums on the third Saturday of each month at 10 am on the City of DeSoto Facebook Page @desototx, on the city's website at www.desototexas.gov and on Government Channel 16 for Spectrum Cable subscribers and 99 for AT&T U-verse subscribers. These virtual benefit forums provide veterans and family members with important information on topics such as VA medical services, PTSD, Veterans burial benefits and more.

We also have access to knowledgeable professionals and would be happy to assist you in connecting with them for assistance with filing for benefits, claims questions and more. Just give us a call at 972.230.9648 and we will do our best to connect you to someone who can help.



DALLAS COUNTY'S

COVID-19 VACCINE REGISTRATION HOTLINE

CALL THE COVID-19 VACCINE REGISTRATION HOTLINE TO ENROLL

1-855-IMMUNE9 (1-855-466-8639)

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK, 7 A.M. - 7 P.M.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT VACCINE REGISTRATION AND QUALIFICATIONS, VISIT DALLASCOUNTYCOVID.ORG

FREE DRIVE -THRU COVID TESTING BEGINNING MONDAY AT MEADOWCREEK PARK

The State of Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) is working with the City of DeSoto to provide additional free COVID-19 testing in DeSoto. Beginning Monday, TDEM will have one of their top testing contractors providing free Drive-Thru COVID-19 (PCR) testing at Meadow Creek Park, 1400 S. Uhl Road, in DeSoto. This service will be provided daily from Sunday through Friday, Noon until 6pm, until further notice. To clarify, there will only be testing at this location.



TEXAS MUNICIPAL LEAGUE AWARDS ADVANCED CERTIFICATION TO DESOTO COUNCILMEMBERS KAY BROWN-PATRICK AND CANDICE QUARLES

The Texas Municipal League (TML) has awarded DeSoto City Councilmembers Kay Brown-Patrick and Candice Quarles the designations of “Certified Municipal Official” for completing their advanced professional development training.

Both councilmembers have been participating in TML’s voluntary certification program which provides interested and motivated elected officials from Texas Municipal League member cities with advanced training designed to enhance their policy-making and leadership skills.



“As a DeSoto City Councilmember, full-time job holder, and mother, I barely get enough time to catch my breath, but I have made time for this program because it provides me with meaningful, informative, and useful information on topics that expand my knowledge and capabilities as a Councilmember,” noted DeSoto City Councilmember (Place Two) Kay Brown-Patrick.

“This additional knowledge and training from the Texas Municipal league assists me with making informed decisions and in doing so works toward the betterment of our community.”

Brown-Patrick’s comments were echoed by her City Council colleague from Place Six, Candice Quarles who stated, “While the commitment that we have to make to the TML program is sizeable, I consider this advanced training to be an investment not just in my professional development but in DeSoto’s future. The information and skills that I gained allow me to do a better job of representing my constituents and bringing them new programs and initiatives that can make a real difference in their quality of life.”



Adopt-a-Street Program Volunteers Needed

DeSoto’s Adopt-a-Street Program is a joint effort between our city government and residents to keep our rights-of-ways and neighborhoods clean and beautiful. This program allows our residents, HOAs, civic and religious organizations and local businesses to express their pride and commitment to the community by committing to clean a street or area in DeSoto on a consistent basis.

As you drive around town, you’ll see signs similar to this one that recognize the efforts of participants in the Adopt-a-Street program. Many of DeSoto’s streets have been adopted but there are more available for adoption.



To join the Adopt-a-Street program just call the City Manager’s office at 972.230.9643 to request an application. In exchange for your commitment to clean your adopted street at least twice a month for an initial period of six months, a sign with your name on it, similar to the one pictured above, will be erected on your adopted street.

“Encouraging our HOAs and neighborhood groups to participate in the Adopt-a-Street Program is a City Business Plan item for 2021,” said DeSoto City Manager Brandon Wright. “I’m hoping all our HOAs will join the Adopt-a-Street program this year.”

WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/PARKS



DeSoto Parks & Recreation
Discover, Experience, Play!

KEEP DESOTO CLEAN TRASH PICK UP DAY

MARCH 27, 2021 | 9AM - 11AM



CITY CLEANUP

Want to help out? Simply sign up for a cleanup location and show up. It's that easy.

TRASH PICK UP AND MEET UP LOCATIONS

Hampton Rd. and Parkerville Rd.
Beltline Rd. and Cockrell Hill Rd.
Beltline Rd. and Elerson
Wintergreen Rd. and I35E

For questions or further information, contact the Parks and Recreation offices at (972) 230-9653 or email youthsports@desototexas.gov.

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/PARKS

Keep DeSoto Clean Trash Pick Up Day will begin on Saturday, March 27, 2021.

This initiative was created as a means for individuals and groups to make a difference in our community.

All supplies are provided by the City for all volunteers including gloves, bags, and pickers.

\$5 T-SHIRT SALE

Features our new KDC logo designed by local student, Madison Parker.

(Proceeds from t-shirt sales will go towards future Keep DeSoto Beautiful initiatives)

MASK ON EVENT



SAFE DISTANCE

6FT



HIGH SCHOOL CLEANUP

We are ONE DeSoto Small groups will clean up assigned areas immediately around DeSoto High School.

Volunteers will be needed for this event.

Earn Community Service Hours while helping our community. Meet at DHS 9th Grade parking lot at 8:30am.

620 S. Westmoreland Rd,
DeSoto, TX 75115

For more information or to volunteer, please contact M. Pope at mopope75115@gmail.com

SPONSORED BY DHS PTSA

[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

WWW.DESOTOTEXAS.GOV/PARKS

