

# Programming, fundraising top priorities at Headwaters

By Keri Heath | Posted: Thursday, January 4, 2018 12:00 am

Last year marked several important landmarks for the Headwaters at the Comal, including the completion of Phase One of the project.

Now, the personnel who manage it are looking toward 2018 with programming and fundraising in mind.

Phase One, completed in November, involved removing concrete and asphalt from the site, adding soil, constructing a pavilion and bringing in native grasses and plants to return the area to its natural beauty.

“We’re excited to be able to have opportunities to engage with the community and do research,” Assistant Manager at the Headwaters Lauren Strack said.

November featured the first of three community preview days of the completed Phase One. The first, in November, showed the area to donors and other invited guests, while the other two, on Dec. 15 and Dec. 16, were for New Braunfels Utilities (NBU) employees and the public.

November also launched a membership program, as well as a website.

This is meant to help with the next steps for development: fundraising for Phase Two.

Strack said the Headwaters hopes to raise \$12 million and that construction on Phase Two won’t begin until the money is obtained.

“In 2018, the focus is getting the programming started, the fundraising for Phase Two, and we’ll have some archeological work ongoing throughout the year,” Strack said.

Educational programming is scheduled to begin in February, but Strack said the extent of events will depend on winter weather. It will be geared toward both children and adults.

While the plans are still in the development stages, topics will include archaeology, birding, water, endangered species, native plants and wildlife.

“One event that we’re working on is birding, even teaching people the basics of birding,” Strack said. “It’ll have kids activities but will also have talks about birding.”

Later in the spring, archeological work should begin on the site. All of the work will be looking for prehistoric objects, Strack said, and should begin in March or April.

“Finishing Phase One of the project and getting all that restoration work done – that was I would say the big accomplishment for us in 2017,” Strack said.

Now, the Headwaters is looking for volunteers to help with the programming schedule. The first day of training is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Jan. 20 at the Headwaters.

The Headwaters should be open a few days every month.