



Park Districts Report – March 2015

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

April 7, 2015

SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- “Come in from the Cold” Winter Family Series concluded on March 14th with the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra. We had an average of 147 people per program and total donations of \$2,544. We will use this donation money for future programming in the south region. A big thank you to Park Ranger Nick Steuer for stepping up and managing the program for 2015.
- “Gardening in Nevada”, a series of free gardening classes, have been well attended since they began on February 3. With a bit of press, we increased the numbers for the first program three fold! They are a collaborative effort between Washoe County and University of Nevada’s Cooperative Extension. All programs are at Bartley Ranch Park’s Western Heritage Interpretive Center and begin at 6pm. Programs last about 2 hours and are free. They will continue each Tuesday evening through March 31st. Our highest attendance so far was last week, Vegetable Gardening with Randy Robison brought in 165 visitors.
- The Historic Huffaker School is open for tours on select Saturdays throughout the year in conjunction with craft demonstrations by the Carson Sierra Spinners and Weavers Guild. Park Rangers Andy Brown and Nick Steuer will be conducting tours from 1pm-2pm on these Saturdays. The next date is Saturday, April 11th.
- Gabriel Andrus and Alden Cocanour completed their Eagle Scout projects in March. Gabriel built some split rail fencing that will act as enclosures to protect some Catalpa trees in a dirt parking lot at Hidden Valley Regional Park on March 14. Alden replaced the bridge decking, handrails, and safety rails of the second foot bridge that crosses over Last Chance Ditch at Dorostkar Park.
- Galena Creek Visitor’s Center has a grand opening of their insect hotel on Thursday April 2nd. They were awarded a grant by the Reno Sparks Association of Realtors to create the hotel and house it on site.
- Davis Creek Park has been busy with day use visitors and campers with the higher than average temperatures. We have had a few weekends with a full south loop of 30 sites occupied. We are working with our facility technicians to get our restrooms open and in full campground operation by Friday, April 10th.
- Seasonal interviews and temporary appointments of recreation specialists are keeping us busy with interviews. We hope to have full staffing with seasonals and temporary positions by mid-April.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Our staff will be training seasonals and preparing for increased visitation and reservations.
- Volunteer Coordinator Denise Evans has helped to secure some volunteer projects with Wells Fargo at Davis Creek Park and Starbucks at Bartley Ranch Park.

NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Attendance at all parks continues to be extremely high for the “winter” season. Rancho had over 150,000 visitors in March.
- All Ranger staff had a work day in which staff poured new pads for target bales at the Regional Archery Facility. Rangers mixed over 6,000 pounds of concrete! (About 80, 80 pound bags total.)



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- Ag Days was held at the Nevada Farm and Families (NFF) area of Rancho San Rafael Park. Approximately 200 people came out to see chickens, ducks, rabbits, and geese as well as learn about agriculture in Nevada.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Explore the Outdoors will be held in the NFF at Rancho on April 18th. This is a cosponsored event with KNPB and will highlight other partners who Parks and KNPB work with. Examples are Boys and Girls Club and Reno Disc Golf Association.
- Staff is planning the upcoming programming for the spring and summer. This includes the Concert Series at Lazy 5 and Ranching at Rancho.
- Saturdays at the Ranch will begin at the NFF on April 18th in conjunction with Explore the Outdoors. The program will run most Saturdays into November, culminating in the ever-popular "Meet the Turkeys" day just before Thanksgiving.



May Center Report – March 2015

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



May Arboretum

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Arboretum staff resumes work with the Glen Duncan Elementary School Garden Project. Both horticulturist and the Assistant attended the contractor meeting to answer questions regarding the work on bid specifications.
- ◆ Phase II of the \$30,000 fencing project started March 24, 2015. Funds were provided by a generous donation from the May Foundation.
- ◆ Pruning and tree removal started in Phase II of the Gardens and in David's Memorial grove, upper montane conifer plant collection (\$8,000). Several hazardous trees were removed, and pruning continues in several of the Arboretum garden and groves. Funding was provided by the May Foundation.
- ◆ The May Arboretum completed their 24 hour Horticulture Volunteer training this month. Over 18 people paid the registration fee of \$25.00. In return, Volunteers are required to provide the Arboretum with 25 hours of service. Denise Evans, Park Volunteer Coordinator planned the training course.
- ◆ The horticulturist continues to upgrade the Arboretum website in Cascade.
- ◆ Upgrades will continue in Kristen's Garden. Electrical lines have been installed and the horticulturist will contract the installation of a new water feature. Funding was provided by the May Arboretum Society (\$8,500).
- ◆ A French drain was installed to mitigate soil erosion into the Evans Creek wetland area along the lower trail that runs east and west in the north part of the Arboretum. Park maintenance worker, Jen Conlon, Parks Trustee Crew Leader Robbie Short and trustee's and the horticulture staff dug 400 feet of trenches and installed drain pipe and crushed rock this past month. Arboretum donations were used (\$1,300.00) to fund materials (400 feet of perforated pipe, coupling, tee's and 20 yds of fractured ¾ inch granite drain rock). Total volunteer labor saving to the county was \$750.00. The county uses the hourly rate for volunteers (\$22.55/hr) as established by the national group of non-profit agencies known as Independent Sector. Total department contract saving was approximately \$5,200.00.
- ◆ Greenhouse project is moving forward.
- ◆ Arboretum horticulturist will continue to upgrade plant records (plant curator) and add new accessions as they come into the arboretum.
- ◆ The Horticulturist continues to serve on the Statewide Nevada Shade Tree counsel as vice president and continues serve on the UNR Arboretum board.
- ◆ The Horticulturist serves as chairmen of the May Arboretum Endowment fund committee and Horticultural Assistant sits on the committee. The group meets regularly to plan and establish fund raising events.
- ◆ The horticulturist continues to publish horticultural articles for the May Center newsletter (Botanical Bytes). Last year the horticulturist published 24 articles.
- ◆ A Sierra Nevada Job Corps Intern is working in the Arboretum. Phil Brazier, Horticulture Assistant, provides supervision, training and management. Interns contribute up 32 hours of service per week.



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Wilbur D. May Arboretum Volunteers

- ◆ May Arboretum Society (MAS) and Arboretum volunteers logged 285 hours this past month which has a service value of \$6,438.00. Job Corps intern logged 144 hours which has a service value of \$3,247.00. Total Arboretum volunteer hours logged for March were 429.4 hours which has a service value of \$9,685.00. This fiscal year the Arboretum logged 3,831.00 hours to date, which has a service value of \$86,404.00.

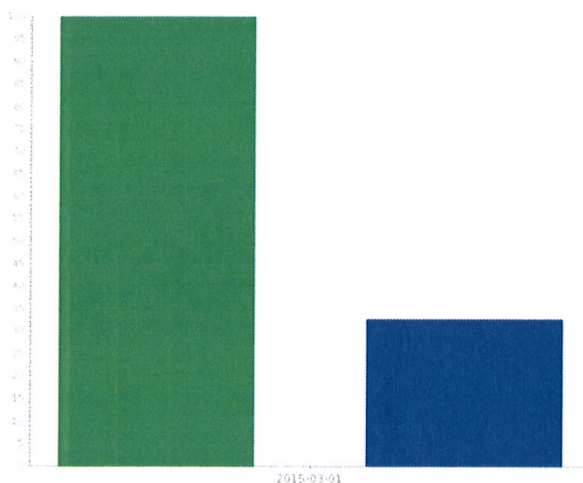
Job Corps

- ◆ The Park Volunteer Coordinator secured a Job Corps intern for the Arboretum for the next two months. The Horticultural Assistant will provide training and direction.

Wilbur D. May Arboretum Visitors

- ◆ May Arboretum subscribe to the Pedestrian TRAFX Counter software. The software is used to collect, view, analyze and manage pedestrian data flow from two entrances at the Arboretum, south entrance and west entrance. The data is collected monthly using a portable data logger (G3 Dock). Adjustments are made to accommodate visitors entering and exiting the Arboretum. The system averages the number of visitors based on historical date and the days that were recorded. The average number of visitor for March 2015 was 5,692 with an average daily attendance of 177 visitors per day per month. Annual visitor count for the calendar year (2015) was 14,004 visitors.

MONTHLY SUMMARY THROUGH MARCH 27, 2015



Site Name	Average	Min	Max
So.Arbo Entrance	4,254.2	4,254.2	4,254.2



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Site Name	Average	Min	Max
West Arbo Entrance	1,437.9	1,437.9	1,437.9

2015 MASTER SUMMARY

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT [†]	ADT [†] x365	Days with data
2015	So.Arbo Entrance	3,048*	2,896*	4,254*										115.742	42,246	66
	West Arbo Entrance	1,357*	1,038	1,438*										41.985	15,325	67

ADT[†] = Average Daily Traffic

* = based upon that month's ADT [Learn more](#)

^A = adjustment applied, ^D = divide by 2 applied, ^F = filtering applied

Arboretum Tours

- ◆ Tours were not booked this month.

Wilbur D. May Arboretum Memorials

- ◆ The one memorial brick was purchase one memorial tree this past month.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ "KEEP IT CLEAN AND GREEN" - May Arboretum Spring Clean-Up!
Saturday, April 11, 2015; 10am to noon. Rail City Garden Center, KKOH 780 AM Newstalk radio and Costco are sponsors of the event.
- ◆ DISCOVER YOUR PARKS, APRIL 18, 2014
- ◆ ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION - Friday, April 24, 2015; 11:45 am-1:00 pm. Arboretum staff will be planting a tree to celebrate Arbor Day, but also to honor Gene Sullivan, former Washoe County Parks Director. Dixie May provided funding for the tree.
- ◆ NATIONAL PUBLIC GARDEN DAY - Friday, May 8, 2015; 11:45 am - 1:00 pm – A FREE Public Garden Tour will be offered.
- ◆ MAY ARBORETUM SOCIETY PLANT SALE will be held on May 30, 2015 and continue the following week, June 1st to June 5th. The Horticulturist chairs the plant sale.

Volunteer Report

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

April 5, 2015

February & March 2015 Highlights

- The annual Horticultural Training for Arboretum volunteers completed on March 24th with a group volunteer project and BBQ. The classes averaged 20 participants with 14 of them completely new to the Arboretum. Each participant agreed in advance to volunteer for at least 25 hours this year.
- Rancho San Rafael Regional Park has been very busy with volunteer groups from UNR. Two especially large events took place in March: Greek Week which brought 170 students from fraternities and sororities; and Upward Bound, a group of 70 first generation college students. Sigma Chi Epsilon, UNR Faculty Outreach, UNR Outdoor Club, and a UNR Engineering Fraternity also participated in service projects with the park ranger staff.
- Bartley Ranch Regional Park now has an intern who will be working approximately 20 hours per week for the next five months through the Childrens Cabinet's Face Forward work study program. The Volunteer Coordinator, Denise Evans, interviewed potential candidates for this position at a career faire held at the Children's Cabinet. We expect to receive more interns at various parks throughout this ongoing two year program.

Upcoming Events

- The Arboretum is inviting the community to participate in its annual Spring Community Clean-up day on Saturday, April 11th from 10am-noon. Many of the regular Arboretum Volunteers will be on hand to lead groups in projects throughout the Arboretum.
- Approximately 40 volunteers will come in shifts throughout Saturday, April 18th to assist with Washoe County and KNPB's "Explore the Outdoors" day at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. Assignments will include helping with parking, directing park visitors, cleanup, and assistance with arts and crafts.

February Volunteer Hours/Value:

Beautiful weather in February enabled many more Arboretum volunteers to come out and work. Bartley Ranch also had two more cleanups than last year, most likely also due to the good weather.

	February 2015	February 2014	% Increase	Fiscal YTD 2014/2015	Fiscal YTD 2013/2014	% Increase
# of Volunteer Hrs	1,110.5	816.25	36.0%	18,083.25	10,754.00	68.2%
# of Intern Hrs	185.5	204.00	-9.1%	1,377.25	2,082.25	-33.9%
Total Dollar Value*	\$28,693.44	\$22,588.34	27.0%	\$430,855.47	\$284,194.57	51.6%

March Volunteer Hours/Value:

Total hours continue to be up due to good weather and people volunteering sooner. Intern hours are up due to Job Corp interns starting earlier than last year at Rancho San Rafael, increased Museum intern hours and a new Children's Cabinet intern at Bartley Ranch.

	March 2015	March 2014	% Increase	Fiscal YTD 2014/2015	Fiscal YTD 2013/2014	% Increase
# of Volunteer Hrs	3,112.5	1,229.75	153.0%	21,195.75	11,983.75	76.9%
# of Intern Hrs	559.00	176.75	216.3%	1,936.25	2,259.00	-14.3%
Total Dollar Value*	\$82,792.33	\$31,139.91	165.9%	\$521,626.60	\$315,334.48	65.4%

**The hourly rate of \$22.55 used for calculating the dollar value is based on the estimated national value of volunteer time as reported by www.independentsector.org.*



Park Planning and Development

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

April 2015

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

New Park Planner

Dennis Troy has been hired as the new Park Planner. He started March 18, 2015

Ballardini Ranch Trailhead Project

- Funded by 2000 WC-1 Bond and SNPLMA.
- Trailhead is open and being utilized.

Galena Terrace Park

- Project in cooperation with Galena Terrace Homeowners Association to construct new playground facility that will be managed and maintained by HOA.
- Funding from Residential Construction Tax.
- Notice to adjacent property owners sent.
- Public meeting to be scheduled Spring 2015

Greenhouse at Rancho San Rafael Park

- Funded by Washoe County Special Project Funds (\$150,000); Donations (\$30,000)
- Capital Projects staff is preparing a bid package with hopes of completion by April 2015
- Project will be a cooperative effort with various community partners and will assist with plant propagation to support the County's park system.

North Valleys Playground Rehabilitation (south playground)

- \$126,000 (50% Park Tax match) for the North Valleys Regional Park (south playground)
- New rubberized surfacing to improve aesthetics and reduce maintenance costs associated with the existing surfacing and provide safety improvements to existing equipment
- Design is underway by LA Studio at 50%. Anticipate bidding in spring of 2015.

Land and Water Conservation Fund- Outdoor Recreation Legacy Program

- Washoe County and City of Reno submitted a joint application for further improvements to North Valleys Regional Park.
- Grant request of \$500k for a restroom/concession facility, outdoor gym/fitness components and an outdoor sport court (basketball/pickle ball) in conjunction with Phase V (athletic fields, parking)
- Cash match from WC is \$250,00 from Sierra Sage Water Rights proceeds and \$250,000 from City of Reno is from Park District 1 Residential Construction Tax
- This is a nationally competitive program and the North Valleys project is the only application from Nevada. 49 applications were received nationwide requesting over \$19 million in projects, with \$3 million available. Results of application have not been announced.

On Our Way Grants

- \$53,500 Grant received to complete a signage master plan and produce two logo designs for the SR-28 National Scenic Corridor and the Stateline-to-Stateline –Shared-Use Path.

- \$10,000 Grant received to hire a consulting firm to survey residents living in Washoe County to ascertain their willingness to pay to park for the day and what their preferred price point would be. Contractor hired. SURVEY COMPLETED November 10-12, 2014. Project Completed.
- \$42,500 Grant to supplement the SR 431 Mount Rose Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan. Request for Qualifications out for contractor response. To be combined with Washoe Valley Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan. Design Workshop was the successful firm selected for both projects. Agreement approved by BCC January 27th. Notice to proceed sent to Design Workshop. Work has begun on both projects.

Recreational Trails Program Grant Applications

- Two applications were submitted from Washoe County.
- Application for OHV trail closures and trail rehabilitation submitted for Sun Valley Regional Park, based on trails plan produced by NV Trail Works.
- Application to augment and match Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant for Stateline Bikeway North Demonstration Project for trail from Ponderosa Ranch to Tunnel Creek Road.

Sky Ranch Park Reconveyance

- Restated and amended agreement regarding Parcel 1 approved by BCC.
- Purchase and Sale agreement for Parcel 2 for economic development purposes approved by BCC.
- Pyramid Urban Achievers (buyer) submitted a Master Plan Amendment and rezoning request was approved by Planning Commission and Board of County Commissioners
- Per terms of the agreement, Pyramid Urban Achievers is currently reimbursing Washoe County for maintenance of the park on a monthly basis, until the property closes escrow. Escrow is scheduled to close May, 2016.

Stateline to Stateline Bikeway

- The Tahoe Transportation District and the Federal Highway Administration's Central Federal Lands Division have completed the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant Project Agreement approved by the WC Board of County Commissioner's November 12th. This agreement establishes the partnership between the agencies and the federal funding for the Bikeway project.
- Construction for the North Demonstration Project is set to begin Summer 2015.
- The Tahoe Fund has raised nearly 1 million dollars from the community in match for the Stateline Bikeway.

State Question One Truckee River Bond

- Washoe County serves as fiscal agent for the program. Bond was originally \$10 million and has a few remaining projects to be completed. MOU with State of Nevada extending to 2019- to BCC 8.12
- Staff in final stages of due diligence for acquisition of two parcels on the Truckee River owned by the Carcione Family Trust and location of the Avansino Mogul Ranch. This would be a continuation of the Truckee River Greenbelt for passive recreation, natural resource management, and access to and from the river.
- Schiappacasse Path (Truckee River path) project completed in November, 2015.

Board of County Commissioners Action February and March 2015

February 10, 2015

- Accept cash donations [\$142,197.08] from the Wilbur May Foundation restricted for Wilbur D. May Center facility improvement projects, and underwriting specific operating costs for staff, travel, training and marketing. (Commission District 3.)
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February 24, 2015

- Approve an Agreement between Washoe County and Frederic Apar Productions for the Wagon Wheel Country Music Festival to be held at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on October 3-4, 2015, with options for renewal in 2016 and 2017. (Commission District 3.)
- Recommendation to approve Funding Agreement State Question-1 Truckee River Land Acquisition-Hoss Parcel Project (APN 084-212-05) [\$29,500-State Question 1 Truckee River Bond Funds] between Washoe County and The Nature Conservancy. (Commission District 4.)

March 10, 2015

- Authorize the purchase of 21.72-acres (currently APN 038-150-18 and APN 038-150-20 located along the Truckee River); approve a Real Property Purchase and Sale Agreement between Washoe County (buyer) and JoAnne Silvia Grasso and Karen Jennifer Loing, trustees under the Carcione Family Revocable Living Trust (sellers) [not to exceed \$440,000 for acquisition, closing costs and property clean-up funded from WC-1 Parks, Trails and Open Space Bond of 2000 and State Question One Truckee River Bond funds]; and further authorize the Community Services Department Director to act on behalf of Washoe County to execute and deliver any and all instruments and funds, including without limitation, contracts, agreements, notices, escrow instructions, deeds and restrictions and railroad access documents, as may be necessary or appropriate to accomplish the acquisition; and authorize the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments. (Commission District 5.)

March 24, 2015

- Recommendation to approve an Agreement Regarding November 2000 Parks, Trails and Open Space Bond-Lake Tahoe Bike Path Project [WC-1 in an amount not to exceed \$1 million] for Phase 4 of the Lake Tahoe Bike Path Project between Washoe County and Tahoe Transportation District effective March 24, 2015 through June 30, 2019; authorize the Community Services Department Director to execute the Agreement and all appropriate Tahoe Transportation District related agreements and documents; and, direct the Comptroller's Office to make all necessary budget adjustments. (Commission District 1.)