



## May Center Report – Oct/Nov/Dec 2021

### Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



#### **May Arboretum Report**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ◆ The May Arboretum, the May Arboretum Society and Washoe County received a \$1 million dollar pledge from an anonymous donor to begin construction of the 2.5-acre new cactus and succulent garden.
- ◆ Washoe County seasonal staff were laid off in mid-October.
- ◆ The May Arboretum Society held the annual fall bulb festival and sale in October. 12,000 bulbs were sold.
- ◆ The horticulturist announced his retirement on January 31, 2022.

#### **May Arboretum Environmental Educational Programs**

- ◆ Rachel Dunn, AmeriCorps Arboretum Educator launched a new activity for the Arboretum in October, “The Pumpkin Scavenger Hunt”. It was held the week before Halloween and drew over 1,000 parents and children. Currently the popular “Little Sprouts” program series is scheduled along with “Cabin Fever”. Both programs require parents to RSVP and both series are fully booked for the rest of the year.

#### **Arboretum Upgrades and Projects**

- ◆ The arboretum received 3 irrigation upgrades in three gardens, Burke, Dwarf Conifer/Plaza (\$9,000) and Xeriscape (\$12,000). Thanks to a generous donation from the May Arboretum Society.
- ◆ Three new projects are scheduled to begin. Honey’s Garden rock wall replacement (\$26,000), Honey’s Bridge small stream restoration (\$4,000) and installation of 3 new kiosks in the Arboretum (\$3,600). Many thanks to the May Arboretum Society for their continued and generous support.
- ◆ The horticulturist continues work with Parks Operations Superintendent to complete the interpretive panel project for the Arboretum. Many thanks to the May Foundation for funding this project (\$149,600.00).

#### **Arboretum Operations**

- ◆ The Arboretum will maintain two fulltime ManPower employees and hire an additional fulltime employee in the spring of 2022. This is part of an approved proposal and request by the horticulturist to the May Arboretum Society (\$106,000.00).
- ◆ The horticulturist order seeds and “plugs” for the Arboretum and employee garden. Production is



## May Center Report – Oct/Nov/Dec 2021

### Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



scheduled to begin January. In addition, staff is preparing the Arboretum greenhouse of the May Arboretum Society plants sale which will be held in May of 2022. Over 4,000 plants will be transplanted and “pushed up” into 3.5” and quart pots. Staff and volunteers will be caring for the plants before the sale for approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

- ◆ Staff planted 7 new trees in the Arboretum. Trees that we selected will increase the number of two of the species, *Tsuga mertensiana*, mountain hemlock and *Larix occidentalis*, western larch. The hemlocks are replacements (2) and the western larch was chosen to increase the total number to four in the collection. To maintain the collection and to protect the taxon, 3 to 5 trees or shrubs of the same genus and species are typically grown in the Arboretum.
- ◆ The horticulturist continues to maintain plant records, accession, and plant mapping using Iris BG software. In addition, the horticulturist continues to also manage the donor data base (DonorSnap).

#### Visitor Data

- ◆ The average number of visitors for the two months was 20,000 people. The Arboretum uses TRAFX pedestrian counters at the west and south entrances. Data is collected using a portable data logger which connects to the site counters. The data logger accepts the data then taken back to the office to download to a PC and analyzed using TRAFX software.

#### Volunteers

- ◆ Volunteers continue to play a major role in the maintenance and operation of the Arboretum. The number of hours logged for October and November was 187 hours which has a service value of \$6,039.22. Volunteers have provided on average annually over \$110,000.00 in service to the Arboretum.

#### Memorials

- ◆ Seven memorial bricks were ordered for the labyrinth garden by donors.



## May Center Report – Oct/Nov/Dec 2021

### Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



#### **May Museum**

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- ◆ Tuba Christmas returned to the May Museum. This free holiday music event is a community favorite but was canceled last year due to COVID-19. Nearly 500 people attended the event, which featured music, festive decorations, and refreshments.
- ◆ The Sierra Watercolor Society art show and sale closed after a successful month of exhibition. The show, "A Celebration of Color," featured dozens of original watercolor paintings from regional artists. The exhibit was well attended and several paintings sold.
- ◆ The Toys for Tots collection drive ended. The Museum collected several bins of toys for the local chapter.

#### **UPCOMING**

- ◆ The May Museum will host "Sweet: A Tasty Journey" beginning on January 15. Sweet teaches the process of candy and chocolate making, the history of candy companies, ingredients, candy art, and more. This will be the first large traveling exhibition at the May Museum since COVID-19 began.