



# Davis Creek Park Fire Restoration

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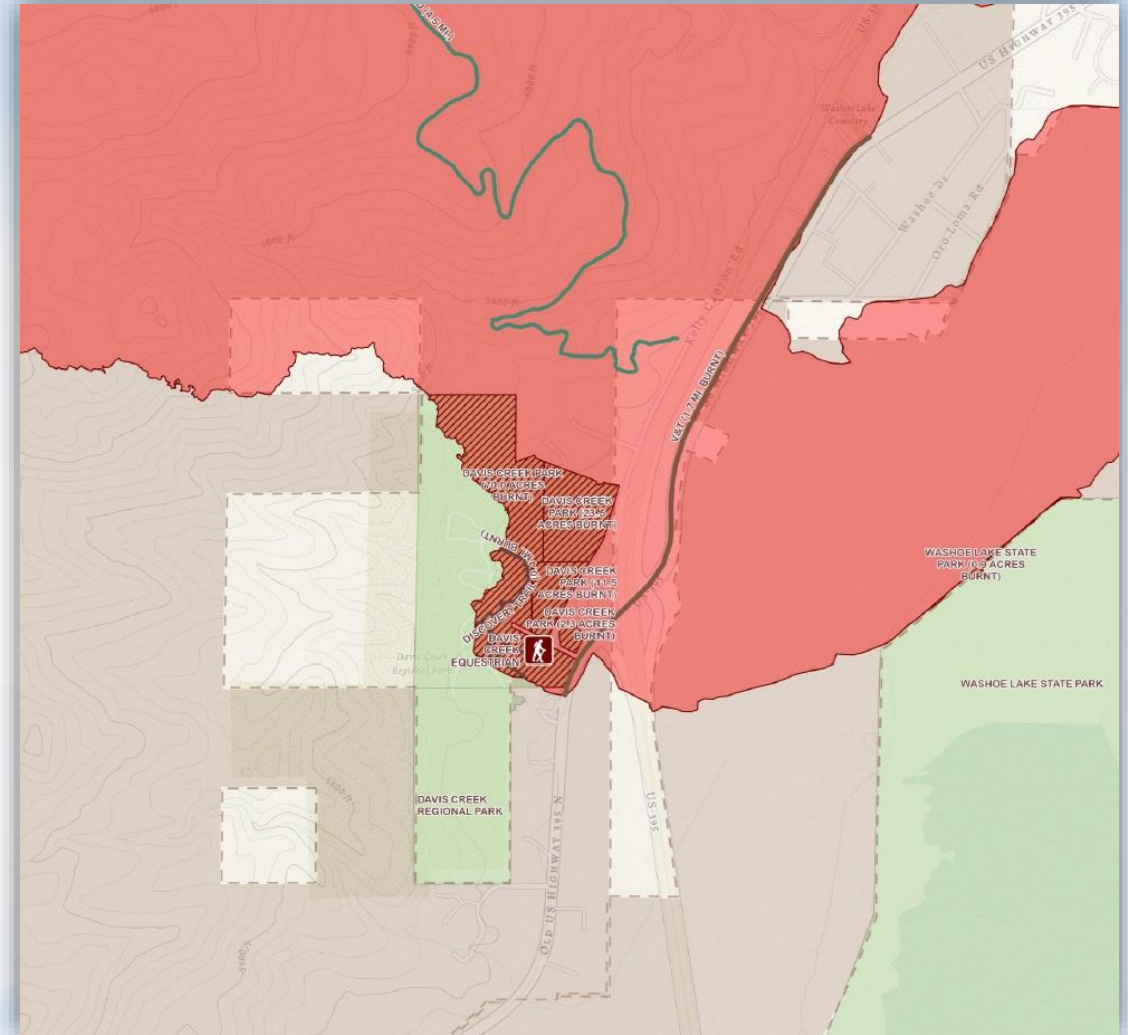
# Davis Fire

Sept. 7, 2024



## Fire Facts:

- Cause determined to be an improperly extinguished campfire.
- Wind-driven fire rapidly burned a total of 5,824 acres of private, state, and federal lands.
- Approximately 118 acres (of 265) within Davis Creek Park boundaries burned.
- 100% contained on 9/25/24









# Washoe County: Davis Creek Park Fire Restoration



### Fire Losses:

At least \$2,000,000.00 in total replacement costs including:

- Ranger Residence and Garage
- Electrical Infrastructure
- 5 Storage Outbuildings
- 1 Outdoor Amphitheater
- Utility Trailer
- Fencing, Signs, Tools, Small Equipment, etc.



# Washoe County: Davis Creek Park Fire Restoration





**Up from the ashes,  
hope will rise.**





## 'Leg of Lamb, Side of Beef, Slab of Bacon County 4-H Club' & Cub Scout Pack 150

11/3/24 & 3/1/25:

Raked up and redistributed pine needles from unburned areas of the park to the burn areas.

This will help prevent erosion and help retain soil moisture.





## Native Shrub Planting, 11/15/24

50 volunteers planted close to 700 native seedlings!

Mulch (delivered by TMFR) was then spread around each plant by the County Juv. Crews and other volunteers.

Charles River Labs volunteers watered plants & pulled weeds early July.





## Venturing Scout Clark Burns (Crew #7322)

11/22/24 &  
4/26/25

15 volunteers  
replaced burnt  
split rail fence  
surrounding  
the equestrian  
parking lot.





### Native Seeding, 1/24/25

15 volunteers (45 total hours) spread native seed over 25 acres of burned area. Seed donated by NDOW & NDF.

Belly spreaders and rakes used.





## Hazard Tree Mitigation

Ongoing partnership with NDF, TMFR and Sparks Fire.

Some trees became firewood for the campground. Some left for soil stabilization and wildlife habitat. Others to the Carson Mill.



## Aerial Seeding with NDF

On 3/20/25, sections of burn scar were seeded with a focus on federal lands & upper elevation private property.

Fall herbicide to lower elevation County property followed by spring seeding.





## Eagle Scout Morgan de la Torre (Troop 20)

4/26/25

She utilized the help of 12 volunteers to re-build the campground woodshed, chalkboard, and lending library. 120 volunteer hours.





## Native Tree Planting, End of October

- 100 Jeffrey Pines donated by Moana Nursery!
- Will be planted along eastern edge of the campground where most tree loss occurred.





## Local Artist Mike Burke

Re-purposing burnt signs and tools to construct and install a metal pinecone sculpture near the park entrance. Concrete base being donated by 3D Concrete.

Hope to have an Interpretive sign thanking firefighters and promoting fire awareness.





## Local Artist Tim Torell

Will carve burnt tree stumps into various wildlife art pieces.

About 8 carvings will be located along roadways or paths.





### Future Projects

- Native tree planting. 100 Jeffrey Pines being donated by Moana Nursery. Fall 2025.
- Reconstruction of electrical infrastructure and Ranger residence.
- Eagle Scout Kylie Holden of Troop 55 will re-build the outdoor amphitheater.
- Eagle Scouts Abhinav Kalluri and Nirav Bayya of Troop 15B will re-build the campground registration sign structure and the larger firewood storage shed, respectively.
- Eagle Scout Nolan Yount will be replacing ten older, shallower fire rings in the campground with deeper, safer rings.



## Outreach: Carson High School Biology Research, 11/15/24

9<sup>th</sup> grade Biology Teacher Julie Koop & students set up four transects to document plant growth & succession post-fire.

Students will return in the fall of 2025 for 2<sup>nd</sup> round of data collection.



## Wild Nevada Episode: 'Living with Wildfire'

Episode 706 premiered on PBS  
Reno 1/23/25.

Comprehensive look at fire awareness and how prevention, recovery and fire science work together to help us safely and sustainably enjoy the landscape.





## Other Media Outreach

- KTVN 2 News, KOLO 8 News, & KOH Radio have covered closure & restoration efforts.
- Galena Times, spring 2025
- Reno PBS Podcast Interview 6/18/25
- KOLO 8 'Morning Break' Interview 7/16/25

*The Galena Times | Spring 25*

*Local 3*

### From Ashes to Renewal: The Recovery of Davis Creek Campground

By Bethany Drysdale

Fire. Destruction. Rebirth. That's the story of Davis Creek Campground following the fast-moving flames of the Davis Fire in September 2024. The park lost approximately 100 acres, including Park Ranger Andy Brown's home, but there is hope on the horizon.

The day-use and campground areas were largely spared, with just some black char on the trees to remind park rangers of what could have been a much-worse loss.

Rangers will be felling hazardous trees and restoring power and water before reopening the park to the public.

They have been joined by dozens of volunteers over the past several months to plant hundreds of native shrub seedlings, repair split rail fencing and spread native seeds. There will be additional community events in the future including a pine tree planting that will help hold the soil in place and restore the natural environment of the park.

"There will be areas that will look differently, but most of the park, which we're thankful for, was spared," Ranger Nick Steuer said.

Even this early in the season, there are hints of renewal and regrowth.



Volunteers help rangers to clean up and replant Davis Creek Regional Park in Washoe Valley. While the park is tentatively closed for the 2025 season, additional community events will be announced on the Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Facebook page.

(Photos: B. Drysdale)

Green tufts of grass are climbing through the charred dirt and rubble.

"Nature, you know, nature comes back, nature has a way," Steuer said. "So, we're going to be doing what we can to help out with some shrub and tree planting, and overall, it's just going to take some time for things to regrow and repopulate with plants."

Steuer hopes that this experience gives residents a renewed appreciation for the land and that they remember

fire safety when they enjoy it. Fire danger is a year-round threat in northern Nevada, particularly in the areas known as the wildland-urban interface. No matter what the weather has been or is forecast to be, recreating in the outdoors requires an awareness and care that Steuer calls "outdoor ethics."

"Be safe: be fire safe, be bear safe," he said.

Living With Fire is a program

through the UNR Extension, and it provides information to keep homes and wildlands safe from fire. All homes should have defensible space – a perimeter around the home that is void of fire fuel and hazards. Homes in the WUI that may have more room around them can employ a three-tier approach to defensible space, beginning 100 feet out with low-fuel space.

Native plants and regular yard maintenance can make the difference between a home standing and burning in a fire. Building materials, construction integrity, and regular cleanup of gutters and roofs can all contribute to making a home more fire-hardy.

Some of northern Nevada's worst wildfires have happened in the late fall and winter months. High winds combined with dry fuel can be a deadly combo, so part of "outdoor ethics" is to ensure that fires of any size are completely extinguished after use, and that they are never left unattended.

Roasting marshmallows over a fire or enjoying a backyard fire pit on a cold night should be the stuff that good memories are made of and should not turn into the fuel of nightmares.

Bethany Drysdale is the Washoe County Media and Communications Manager. She co-hosts the Washoe Life Podcast and successfully juggles career and family.

## Fire Ecology and Management Class Field Trips

UNR Fire Ecology Professor Erin Hanan brought 30 students out on 4/4/25 to learn about restoration efforts and to perform a lab activity. Also 9/26/25.

They did some transects to measure burn severity using the composite burn index (lots of math!).





## Junior Ranger Activity Day, 4/5/25

Ranger-led hike through the burn area discussing impacts of fire on the landscape.

25 total kids and parents.



## Reno Public Market Artown Event, 7/19/25

Fundraising event for the park that raised \$6,475.

Fire restoration presentation.

Sierra Alphorn performances.

Art auction & various speakers including local dignitaries.







### What Can You Do?

- Please be patient and respect park & trail closure notices.
- *Be fire aware!* Practice 'Leave No Trace' principles.
- Volunteer (Info. on [washoecountyparks.com](http://washoecountyparks.com) and the Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Facebook page).
- Donations Welcome! (Ask us how)

Ernst A. Ross Photography - 2019



# The “End” Thank You!

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