



Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting March 2025

SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- On April 1st, the first in a series of *Washoe County Rocks!* program series (The World of Rocks and Minerals) was held at the Western Heritage Interpretive Center at Bartley Ranch. This well attended program explored the process that created amazing minerals and formations throughout the Great Basin.
- On April 5th, Junior Rangers took part in exploration of Davis Creek Regional Park following the devastating Davis Fire to see firsthand the impacts of fire on the landscape and the challenges we face in restoring those sensitive areas.
- On May 9th, Ranger Chris Smyczek held a Career Day event at Caughlin Ranch Elementary School. There were approximately 150 students who learned about careers in the parks and in public lands.
- The *Washoe County Rocks!* program series continued at Hidden Valley Regional Park on May 14th (rescheduled from April 26th), in partnership with Roger Putnam, professor of geology at TMCC, focused on *The History of Your Home: Geology of the Truckee Meadows and Virginia Range*.

SOUTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- Bowers Mansion will be hosting *Programs on the Porch* every Wednesday evening during the month of June. Gates open up at 6:00PM, the musical programs will perform from 7-8PM.
- On Saturday, June 21st, Rangers from all over the South Region will be participating in the Regional Junior Ranger Program at Mira Loma Park in Reno. This event will bring together local agencies to engage families in outdoor education and fun activities.
- On Thursday, June 26th from 4-5PM, the South Region Rangers will team up with the Reno South Valleys Library for a Summer STEAM program. The topic of this presentation will be "Wildfires! The Why and How of Forest Fires in the American West."
- On Sunday, June 29th from 1-2:30PM, Bowers Mansion will be hosting a Junior Ranger Program. The topic of this program will be "History of Washoe Valley and its Mining Heydays." This will be a family friendly event where Junior Ranger's can earn a Bowers Mansion Park stamp for participating.
- On Thursday, July 3rd from 4-5PM, South Region Rangers will team up with the Reno South Valleys Library for a Summer STEAM program. The topic of this



presentation will be "Owls and their Superpowers: Secrets of Success in the Dark of Night."

- Bartley Ranch will be hosting *Evenings on the Ranch* on Wednesday evenings from July 9th through July 30th. Gates open at 6PM, the musical programs will perform from 7-8PM.

NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Volunteers from the Lahontan Audubon Society assisted Park Rangers from the Peavine District to complete a cleanup of the Swan Lake Nature Study Area on April 12th.
- Rangers hosted the annual *Farm Day* Celebration at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park's Nevada Farms and Families area, which included many fun attractions and activities for all ages on Saturday, April 26th.
- North Region staff supported several volunteer projects as part of the annual KTMB Great Community Cleanup on Saturday, May 3rd. Project sites included Rancho San Rafael, Swan Lake NSA and Lockwood Trailhead.
- Several aspiring junior rangers attended the *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* program was held at Rancho San Rafael's Nevada Farms and Families Area on Sunday, May 18th, where they learned all about caring for poultry and even got to meet our new baby chicks!

NORTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- UNR Extension Master Gardeners are hosting a free garden talk in the Community Garden at Rancho San Rafael each 3rd Thursday of the month May through September from 6-7:30pm. Topics include succession planting, straw bale gardening, and many other tips and tricks for gardening in our climate.
- To commemorate the 20th year of the *Lazy 5 Summer Music Series*, a special celebration will take place on Saturday, June 7th from 10am-8pm, featuring hours of live entertainment, a car show, a craft fair and several food trucks, as well as appearances from County Manager Eric Brown and Commissioner Clara Andriola.
- The *Lazy 5 Summer Music Series* will then take the stage for its 20th year each Wednesday from June 11th – August 13th at Lazy 5 Regional Park starting at 6pm, featuring live music from a range of musical genres from local and regional artists each week.



- The upcoming *North Valleys Community Fair* has been rescheduled to Thursday, June 12th, and will take place in partnership with Reno Street Food's new Thursday evening food truck events at North Valleys Regional Park. The fair will feature Washoe County services available to North Valleys residents, such as the Library, Human Services Agency, Sheriff's Office, as well as the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and the Washoe County School District.