



Park Districts Report –November 2016

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

December 6, 2016

SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Alta Alpina cycling put on their 3rd annual cyclocross event at Davis Creek Park. The weather was amazing and they had 75 participants for the race on November 12.
- Galena Creek Park had its first snowfall of the season over Thanksgiving Day weekend. Plows and shovels were in order. Marilyn's Pond is closed for fishing as the pond is iced over for winter.
- The Galena Visitor's Center has guided hikes each Saturday from 10am-12noon. Please check their website and calendar for details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Reno Wheelmen will host a cyclocross event at Hidden Valley Park on December 3 & 4. They also anticipate 75 riders for their event. They ride throughout the trails in the park as well as by the horse arena parking area.
- Washoe County Community Services Department will be doing their annual Christmas Trees for Special Families program. We will be working in conjunction with the Nevada Division of Forestry, Washoe County's Social Services along with the Nevada National Guard and other agencies to provide FREE Christmas Trees while thinning the understory of the Galena Creek Park forest. The tree cutting will take place on December 6th, and tree pick-up at Rancho San Rafael will be December 10th.
- Christmas Tree Recycling will begin Monday December 26 & run through January 16, 2017.
- Bartley Ranch Park will host the "Come in from the Cold" winter family series. This will begin on Saturday, January 7th and run each Saturday through March 18th. There will be 11 programs, all begin at 7pm and run about an hour. Presenters are often music, but on occasion we have some Cowboy Poetry to change things up. Pat O'Mara has secured all presenters for the series, we look forward to another great year of programs.

NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- The second phase of the irrigation rehab at Rancho San Rafael has started. The system is very dated, much having been installed in the early 1980's. The new system will be much less labor intensive and more efficient. Mid-May is the estimated time of completion, including overseeding of trenches.
- Meet the Turkeys at the Nevada Farms and Families area at Rancho was very successful with well over 1,000 people attending the event. The weather was cold and very windy but everyone had a great time with many photos being taken with some handsome birds.
- The art exhibit "Geographical Divides: Finding Common Ground" was installed at the Visitor Center at Rancho San Rafael. The exhibit is part of the Nevada Arts Council's Nevada Touring Initiative program. The exhibit features pieces that are combined efforts by artists from the North and South parts of Nevada that show differences and similarities in culture and geography.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Christmas Tree recycling will begin on 12/16/16 at Rancho. This is the annual recycling event put on by KTMB.



May Center Report –November 2016

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



May Arboretum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The May Arboretum and the Washoe County Community Services Parks Department hosted the International of Society of Arboriculture, Arborist Prep workshop at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Ranch House. Two Community Service Parks Department employees attend the three day course free of charge with both taking the certification test. In addition two returning Arboretum seasonal staff that were off for the season were allowed to attend the workshop as well. The horticulturist presented two topics, Plant Nutrition and Plant Biology and Phil Brazier Horticulture Assistant who is a certified arborist proctored the exam.
- ◆ Phase III of the fencing project was completed this past month. Funding was provided by the May Foundation. The final phase will be completed before the New Year weather permitting.
- ◆ The greenhouse footings were excavated. The next step is forming the footings, installing re-bar and pouring the concrete. The electrical and water lines will be in installed shortly after that.
- ◆ The Arboretum secured funding from the May Arboretum Society (\$12,890.00) to upgrade and transition Kristen's Garden into a shade garden.
- ◆ As a Level II accredited arboretum, we will be introducing easier to read new botanical markers for visitors. Over 1,000 markers are scheduled to be replaced over several years.
- ◆ Staff is currently prioritizing work for next spring. Pruning will also being completed during the winter and staff will be addressing other irrigation issues that occurred this past summer.

Wilbur D. May Arboretum Volunteers

- ◆ The May Arboretum Society (MAS) and Arboretum volunteers recorded 299.0 hrs. of service this past month which has a service value of \$6,748.00. Children Cabinet and Nevada Youth Empowerment interns logged 30 hours which has a service value of \$687.78. Total volunteer and intern hours for the new fiscal year for November were 329.75 which have a service value of \$7,435.00 for the month.
- ◆ AmeriCorps Members
AmeriCorps members are currently working to revise and upgrade the Arboretum environmental educational "Backpack" program, and they are exploring new opportunities with other agencies to provide educational programs in the Arboretum. They are also investigating presenting in-school Arboretum programs. Special thanks go to the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation for funding the two positions (\$16,000.).

Wilbur D. May Arboretum Visitors

- ◆ The May Arboretum subscribes to the Pedestrian TRAFX Counter software. In November the Arboretum recorded 4,977 visitors. Total visitors from the south entrance were 3,889 and the west entrance 1,078. Average daily visitors from the south entrance per day were 130 visitors, and 35.0 per day from the west entrance respectively. Average daily arboretum visitors per day in November were 165.0 per day. Total visitors since January 2016 were 57,921.



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Arboretum Tours

- ◆ The horticulturist provided a tour to 30 AmeriCorps members this past month.

May Arboretum Society Upcoming Events

- ◆ The May Arboretum Society will be holding their 9th Annual Gingerbread House Competition & Festival on December 10th, 2016 from 12:00 to 3:30 pm in the May Museum. New this year, the Society will have the authors and illustrators from the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators at the Gingerbread Festival. Books for all ages will be available for purchase and signing, including picture books, non-fiction, and young adult novels.

May Museum Monthly Report

- The “Married to Adventure” exhibition closed and shipped out. Final attendance was 2,445 visitors in 62 operating days.
- The Orchid Society of Northern Nevada held their annual show and sale at the museum on November 5 & 6. Approximately 170 visitors attended the free event, which featured flowers on display and for sale, along with workshops and demos.
- The Museum was a polling place for the general election on Nov. 8. Nearly 2,000 people voted onsite, and there were no problems.
- The Sierra Watercolor Society opened a new exhibition entitled “Around the World in 40 Days.” It will hang into mid-December. It features dozens of travel-themed watercolor paintings for sale.
- The Museum is holding a book drive for the Washoe County School District’s Read & Succeed program. Through Christmas, the Museum will collect new and used children’s books.

May Museum Upcoming Events

- The annual Tuba Christmas concert is Saturday, December 3. This free holiday event usually attracts hundreds of visitors. It features holiday carols performed by local musicians, along with cookies, cocoa, and other refreshments.
- Assistant Curator Samantha Szesciorcka will give a lecture on her recent Nevada Discovery Ride, on Thursday, December 8.
- The Sierra Watercolor Society will hold their annual Art Angels Workshop on Saturday, December 10. This is a free painting workshop for kids ages 6-12.

Volunteer Report

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

December 6, 2016

November 2016 Highlights

- Washoe County teamed up with the Nevada Department of Wildlife on a fire restoration project aimed at restoring Mule Deer Habitat after the Hawkin Fire. A total of 74 volunteers, mostly from an AP Environmental Science class at Reno High, worked hard to plant 350 Bitterbrush shrubs. Each plant also needed two containers of DriWater and a chicken wire cage which needed to be constructed on the spot. The volunteers did amazing work considering the high winds, intermittent rain, and rough terrain. Washoe County’s Park Planner, Cheryl Surface, was the lead on this successful project.
- Forty-eight volunteers came out to help with the popular “Meet the Turkeys” event at Rancho San Rafael Park. A large percentage of these volunteers were UNR students who came early to help set up and worked to rake/clean up the area before, during, and after the event. Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation and several Americorp also came to help with crafts and activities.
- A volunteer service club by the tongue-in-cheek name of the “Bearded Sinners” is one of our newest park adopters of Hidden Valley Regional Park. Recently the small club also helped to refresh Driwater on the shrub gardens at Bartley Ranch Regional Park. Even though this isn’t their adopted park, the hardworking group still wanted to lend a hand. It should be noted that it is thanks to the great job our park rangers do establishing relationships with our volunteers that we have so many great groups that continually want to come back and help.

Upcoming Events

- A club that enjoys racing remote control 4WD cars will be returning to Mayberry Park this December for a get together and service day. The group takes a twist on the normal cleanup by using their remote control vehicles to pick up and remove litter along the river. They have fun doing it, but also produce several bags of trash in the process. They will also be collecting toys with the WCSO. This group first met up at Mayberry Park in 2012 and continues to perform cleanups throughout the county on a regular basis.

November Volunteer Hours/Value:

November normally slows down considerably for special volunteer events, so the events listed under the highlights contributed to the larger numbers this month – as well as weather that was conducive to holding such events!

	November 2016	November 2015	% Increase	Total for YTD 2016	Compared to YTD 2015	% Increase
# of Volunteer Hrs	1,667.75	983	69.7%	16,584.25	25,361.75	-34.6%
# of Intern Hrs	30.5	149	-79.5%	2,018.75	3,176.5	-36.4%
Total \$\$\$ Value*	\$40,010.77	\$26,115.24	53.2%	\$438,286.68	\$667,624.26	-34.4%

*The hourly rate of \$23.56 used for calculating the dollar value is based on the estimated national value of volunteer time as reported by www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time.

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Park Planning and Development

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PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Ballardini Ranch Trail connection to Thomas Creek

- Funded by 2000 WC-1 Bond and SNPLMA.
- Construction for Trail Connector between Ballardini Ranch Trailhead and Thomas Creek Trailhead began on Thursday, October 27th. Sierra Trail Works has been contracted to construct the first few miles of new trail. Great Basin Institute crews are assisting Sierra Trail Works. Volunteers have worked to assist on getting the project ready for winter. Bridge is being designed ditch crossing.
- Trail will not be opened until fall 2017.

Ballardini Ranch property purchase

- Willing Seller letter received for purchase of 3 additional parcels totally 93.27 acres of the Ballardini Ranch
- Lin Norberg hired to perform appraisal of properties
- McGinley & Associates hired to complete Phase 1 Environmental Analysis

Eastern Sierra Trail Coalition

- Assistance grant received from National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program to form a Trails Coalition
- Draft Charter and Resolution being reviewed by group
- Vision is a Regional network of sustainable trails that provide connectivity between communities, points of interest, and outdoor recreation opportunities within the Eastern Sierra and Tahoe Region.
- Coalition is being led by Washoe County and members include: Back Country Horseman, BLM, USFS, Carson City Parks & Open Space, Carson Valley Trails Association, College Cyclery, Eagle Valley Trail Committee, Friends of Incline Trails, Great Basin Institute, Muscle Powered, Nevada State Parks, Biggest Little Trail Stewardship, Tahoe Fund, Tahoe Pyramid Bikeway, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association, Washoe County Parks, Washoe Zephyr Consulting, Alta Planning
- ***Trails Summit was held at Bartley Ranch Regional Park on November 4, 2016 with over 70 attendees.***

Eagle Canyon Park Playground

- Project expected to go out to bid Fall 2016

Gator Swamp Park Playground

- Project expected to go out to bid Fall 2016

Galena-Joy Lake-Callahan Fuels Project

- NDF grant for continuation of fuels reduction project from Galena Regional Park to Callahan Ranch Road along Galena Creek. Grant awarded to NDF. Washoe County providing interface between staff, community and TMFPD.

Galena Terrace Park

- Project in cooperation with Galena Terrace Homeowners Association to construct new playground facility that will be managed and maintained by HOA.
- Final design of the park has been selected.
- Design and Construction agreement and Maintenance Agreement has been forwarded to Galena Terrace Maintenance Association for review by their legal counsel

Hunter Creek Bridge

- Lumos and Associates on contract for engineering specification and bid documents.

Land and Water Conservation Fund

- Grant for resurfacing of the playground at the South Valley Regional Park received and accepted by the BCC May 10, 2016. This will replace the existing wood chip surfacing with a rubberized material.

Lemon Valley Park Playground Resurfacing

- Project Completed and playground is open

Little Valley Burned Area Emergency Response Team (BAER)

- Washoe County leading multi-agency team to assess and mitigate impacts of the Little Valley fire to public and private property.
- BAER team completed assessments October 31st
- Restoration plans completed.
- BAER teams are staffed by specially trained professionals including hydrologists, soil scientists, engineers, biologists, vegetation specialists, archeologists and others who rapidly evaluate the burned area and prescribe emergency stabilization treatments. These can include cleaning of culverts and ditches, redirecting water and sediment flows where needed, and installing soil stabilization treatments such as log and straw erosion barriers and the use of straw or chipped wood mulch.
- Funding for implementation of BAER team restoration plans being sought.
- Dream Tags application submitted December 1, 2016

NDF Medusahead Grant

- Project on-going.
- Volunteer planting project at Hawken fire completed November 19th in cooperation with NDOW and WC. Sixty-five volunteers planted 350 bitterbrush seedlings with dri-water and cages during a severe wind and snow event.

North Valleys Trail Project

- Funding received from Recreational Trails Program to construct new trail and trailhead adjacent to North Valleys Phase V Expansion
- Preliminary design and layout underway

North Valleys Phase V Expansion

- Project under review by City of Reno
- Project to be bid once Building Permit received by City of Reno, anticipated bid February 2017

Truckee River – One River Plan

- The One Truckee River Management Plan will manage, protect and provide stewardship for the Truckee River across all jurisdictional boundaries. Nevada Land Trust and Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful will act as lead agencies with the assistance and cooperation of a large Truckee River stakeholder group to fundraise and develop the plan. **Plan adopted by BCC September 27, 2016.**
- Cheryl Surface is leading the Recreation Team
- Funding provided through Washoe County State Question 1 Program

Stateline to Stateline Bikeway – Tahoe East Shore Trail

- Name of the project has been adopted as the Tahoe East Shore Trail per the Signage Master Plan completed by Wood Rodgers.
- Granite construction awarded Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) by Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) for construction of 3 mile of trail and parking facilities.

- Groundbreaking held August 19th at Sand Harbor Boat Ramp.
- 2 parking lots and tunnel under SR-28 completed.
- Washoe County leading the Signage and Interpretive Plan
- 90% Plan set under review.

Sun Valley Trail Enhancement Project

- Project received funding from the Recreational Trails Program. Project includes OHV trail closures and trail rehabilitation submitted for Sun Valley Regional Park, based on trails plan produced by NV Trail Works.
- Fencing, trails restoration, seeding and planting completed. Great Basin Institute crews will be back in the Spring to complete re-seeding efforts, installation of stairwell to Sun Rock Rim trail and cleanup of illegal dump sites.

Wilbur May Arboretum Greenhouse Project

- Project construction underway
- Footings poured on November 29, 2016
- Greenhouse structure will arrive first of January, 30-day assembly
- Project completion date mid-February 2017

Board of County Commissioners Action November 2016

November 15, 2016

- Approve Amendment No. 1 to the Agreement for Professional Services between Washoe County and Lumos and Associates to provide design, engineering and bidding assistance for the North Valleys Regional Park Phase V expansion project [\$65,787]. (Commission District 5.)