



May Center Report – July 2019

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



May Arboretum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The horticulturist submitted a proposal for two full time seasonal positions in April to the May Arboretum Society and was awarded \$86,043.60. The funding start date was April 29th, 2019. The horticulturist also submitted additional proposals in June for an educator position and arboretum upgrades and was granted an additional \$88,264.00. Total funding from the May Arboretum Society since April of 2019 is \$174,307.60.00.
- ◆ Katie Bird, Arboretum Educator and AmeriCorps member recruited two UNR interns to assist her with the arboretum educational programs. One intern completed her 100 hours in June.
- ◆ Volunteers planted 26 new roses in the garden and staff planted 8 new trees in the arboretum. Six volunteers assisted the horticulturist with rose planting logging over 18 hours of service.
- ◆ The horticulturist attended the week long American Public Garden conference in Washington D.C in June. Funding was provided by the May Foundation (\$4,000.00)

May Arboretum Volunteers

- ◆ Arboretum volunteers recorded at total of 503.25 hours of service from June 1 to July 22, 2019 which has a value of \$11,418.75. May Arboretum Society (MAS) volunteers logged 136 hours while arboretum gardeners logged 365.75. Total volunteer service to the arboretum this past month is valued at **\$11,369.00**. Total volunteer value since January 2019 is **\$37,812.89**.

May Arboretum Environmental Educational Programs

Educational Programs are managed by the Arboretum Educator, AmeriCorps member Katie Bird. For additional information you can contact her at kbird@washoeocounty.us.

- ◆ **Blossom Blitz** was offered in June 1st at the Arboretum. Class will be led by Forest Goggin, a UNR student and Arboretum volunteer. It was a one-time class that featured an indoor lesson on plant identification, followed by a guided outdoor adventure. Class was free and kids were welcome with parent in attendance.
- ◆ **Friday Bird Walks** was held by Katie Bird, AmeriCorps member and Educator in June and July. Several bird enthusiasts gathered for a tour in front of the Arboretum office. Katie studied wildlife ecology at the University of Delaware, and she focused on ornithology. She has years of experience leading bird walks for kids and adults. Participants met at 4:00 pm in front of the Arboretum office.
- ◆ **Nature Explore: Nature Journaling for Home Schoolers** is held every Tuesday from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Nature journaling is an activity for all ages where one spends time sketching & writing about the things that they experience outdoors. This activity does not depend on artistic skill, and instead is a



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pursuit of observation rather than of drawing mastery. Nature journaling is a valuable educational tool for children and adults alike to ask more questions about nature, and in turn develop a mindset more comfortable with scientific inquiry.

- ◆ **Little Sprouts** is held weekly and embarks on parent child discoveries that promote hand eye coordination, social skills, curiosity, and questioning. Lessons are inspired by patterns in nature and the beginning concepts of the natural sciences. No matter the season, classes are held once a month and are free! The format for each class varies depending on the weather, however all include a story time and guided exploration. This program is full and closed.
- ◆ **Storytime in the Gardens** held every Thursday in Honey' Garden during the summer in conjunction with Washoe County Libraries from 9:30 to 11:30 am. Suited for children 6 years and younger this event is family friendly. It focuses on developing early literary skills. Sessions will include stories, movement, music, and hands-on activities. This event is well received and over 80 to 100 children attend weekly. This program will be offered through July 25th, 2019.
- ◆ **Tuesday Tree Talks** resumed this month and was held on 2nd from 1:00 pm 2:00 pm. The talk was lead by led by Arboretum Educator Katie Bird. The theme of the walk was Eastern Trees, as Katie's botanical knowledge is rooted in her Delaware home ecosystems. The walk is FREE and open to the public. This program is intended for adults, but older teenagers with an interest in science or botany would also enjoy this talk. Meet by the south Arboretum entrance (first parking lot off of N. Sierra St/ Putnam.)
- ◆ **Teen Citizen Scientists** program begin offered. This program is intended for teens (13 and older), this program delves into the world of citizen science, scientific thought, and project design. Teens will use the platform iNaturalist to design their own observational or experimental study, collect data from the gardens, and create a presentation showing what they learned. This program works well for students interested in environmental research, biology, or have a passion for the outdoors or science. We will use an app called iNaturalist, which is available on both iPhone and Android smartphones. Our goal for the program is to be a month long series, which will meet one day a week for three hours.

Greenhouse Program

- ◆ Arboretum staff will be preparing the greenhouse to plant several hundred annuals for our summer and fall display.

Reservations

- ◆ Wedding reservations have opened and staff is managing all weekend reservations.



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Arboretum Upgrades and Projects

- ◆ The horticulturist was granted \$88,264.00 from the May Arboretum Society. Projects were funded are two irrigation upgrades, a retaining wall and an Arboretum Educator through the Truckee Meadow Foundations. Listed below are the funded projects.
 - Honey's Garden Irrigation Upgrade - \$14,568.00.
 - Nevada Bell Irrigation Upgrade - \$11,581.00.
 - Retaining Wall - \$52,615.00.
- ◆ The north slope of the Arboretum irrigation upgrade is complete.

May Arboretum Intern Program

- ◆ UNR student Alora Stickley is completing her 100 hour of internship at the Arboretum. The Arboretum also engages AmeriCorps and Cross Roads in an effort to fill labor gap due to budget cut that occurred nearly 10 years ago during the great recession.

Wilbur D. May Arboretum AmeriCorps

- ◆ Katie Bird, AmeriCorps member and Arboretum Educator will complete her term in August, 2019. Currently Katie continues to improve existing educational programs while developing new ones. She also has been partnering with the international programs such as I Naturalist . The goal for AmeriCorps Interns is to develop turn-key educational program for the next Arboretum educator.

Visitor Data Program

- ◆ The May Arboretum subscribes to the Pedestrian TRAFX Counter software. The software is used to collect, view, analyze and manage pedestrian flow from the two formal Arboretum two entrances, south and west entrances. The data is collected by the horticulturist monthly using a portable data logger (G3 Dock) and analyzed using TRAFX counter software. Adjustments to the counters were made to accommodate visitors entering and exiting the Arboretum. The system averages the number of visitors based on historical data and the actual recorded data. The average number of visitors recorded from June 1 to July 22nd of 2019 was approximately 18,470. Master summary suggest approximately 79,080 visited the Arboretum from January 2019 to July 22th, 2019. On annual average nearly 64% of our visitors enter through the south entrance. The Arboretum expects up to 85,000 visitors per year or more.

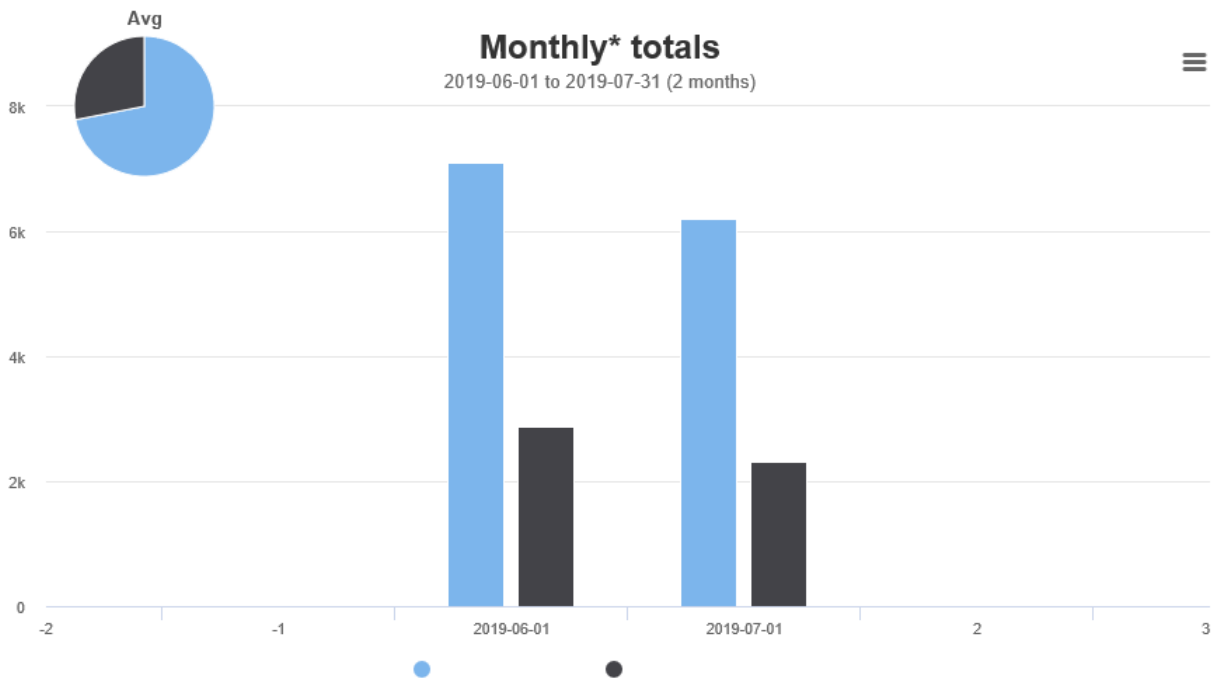
MASTER SUMMARY

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT [†]	ADT [†] x365	Days with data
2019	So. Entrance	2,409	1,360	3,743*	6,749	6,194	7,090	6,194*						157.313	57,419	201
	West Entrance ^D	1,209	572	1,274*	2,044	2,436	2,871	2,315*						59.368	21,669	201



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Memorials

- ◆ The horticulturist manages and oversees the memorial program. Three new benches have been installed in Honey Garden and 5 more will be installed later in the year. In addition 5 memorial bricks were ordered and will be placed in Labyrinth Garden.

May Museum

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The Sierra Watercolor Society’s spring exhibition – “Seeds of Inspiration” – closed on June 22. The show was well attended by the general public and sold several pieces.
- ◆ The Museum hosted two Artown exhibitions. The first was a 10-day pop up exhibit from ThisIsReno.com. It featured original news photographs taken by TIR that reflected contrasting perceptions of the city. The exhibition opened with a reception and discussion with the photographers. The show was short, but well attended. Some of the controversial content sparked engagement with visitors.



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- ◆ The second Artown exhibition is “Printmaking on Fiber: Wood, Paper, and Cloth.” This exhibition features the diverse work of six California artists. It will be on display until mid-August. The exhibit opened with artist demos and a reception. It has been well-attended and received so far.

Upcoming Events

- ◆ The Museum will host the Sierra Watercolor Society’s Artown Art Angels workshop on July 26. This very popular free workshop gives watercolor painting instruction to children.
- ◆ The Museum will begin installing the fall exhibit – “Art of the Aloha Shirt” which will be on display from September 1 – October 20.



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May Arboretum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Danielle Ornelas, Colorado State University graduate student who is pursuing her Master Degree at that Arboretum was featured on KOLO channel 8 News and Fox 11 for her, “The Power of Plants” program and tour at the Arboretum. Fox also did a live shot and wrote an article with the fun photos.
- ◆ The horticulturist, Park Maintenance Worker and 4 seasonal staff attended a 3 day workshop, “Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper” class at the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension. The training presents an affordable, proactive, local approach to reducing landscape water demand. QWEL provides graduates with knowledge in water efficient and sustainable landscape practices, including water management and preservation of other valuable resources.
- ◆ Katie Bird, Arboretum Educator and AmeriCorps termed out this past month.
- ◆ The May Arboretum Society donated \$9,500.00 to hire another AmeriCorps Educator. The Horticulturist has review nearly 15 application and held two interviews for the position. The horticulturist is looking to fill the position by the end of August.

May Arboretum Environmental Educational Programs

- ◆ **Tuesday Tree Talks** resumed this month and was held on 2nd from 1:00 pm 2:00 pm. The talk was lead by led by Rod Haulenbeek, local plant enthusiast and book author. This program is intended for adults, but older teenagers with an interest in science or botany would also enjoy this talk. Meet by the south Arboretum entrance (first parking lot off of N. Sierra St/ Putnam.)
- ◆ **Midsummer Walking Tours for Older Adults (50+)** started last month. It is a NEW educational series titled “The Power of Plants”. Danielle Ornelas, Colorado State University graduate student who is pursuing her Master Degree at that Arboretum engaged Arboretum volunteers and presented tours about the benefits plants in our everyday lives. Seniors enjoyed light conversation, art, and photography as they explored the gardens. The tour was featured on KOLO channel 8 News and Fox 11 did a live shot and wrote an article with the fun photos. The second series stared on August 16, and will continue on August 23, 30. Register by contacting Danielle @ (775) 785-4153 or dornelas@washoecounty.us

Tours

- ◆ The horticulturist provided a tour to over 56 seniors from Senior Care Plus. The tour focused on the history and the plant collection.

Reservations

- ◆ Wedding reservations have opened and staff is managing all weekend reservations.



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Arboretum Upgrades and Projects

- ◆ The horticulturist was granted \$8000.00 from the May Foundation for pruning and currently taking bids.
- ◆ The north slope of the Arboretum irrigation upgrade is complete.

May Museum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The “Prints on Fiber” art exhibition closed after a successful showing. The exhibit was well attended and the museum sold several paintings.

UPCOMING

- ◆ The Museum will open a new exhibit - “Art of the Aloha” – on September 1. This traveling exhibition explores the history of the Hawaiian shirt. It is expected to be a fun and well attended small fall exhibit.
- ◆ The Museum will offer free admission and special hours during the annual Great Reno Balloon Race.
- ◆ The Museum will offer free admission on September 21 for Smithsonian Magazine’s annual Museum Day. This national program draws hundreds of visitors to the museum each year.