



May Center Report – January 2021

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



May Arboretum Report

HIGHLIGHTS.

May Arboretum Environmental Educational Programs

- ◆ During December the educator, Laura Fraser, AmeriCorps May Arboretum Educational Coordinator, Laura stayed busy developing online crafts and activities for the holidays. She created activities that utilized nature and incorporating it within the activity itself. The purpose of the program is to encourage families to get outside and not only enjoy nature. Air dry clay ornaments made from, cards, cardboard and pine cones. They were created to engage adults and children of all ages.
- ◆ Laura continued to create and post virtual “Story Time” every week for kids. Each video included a craft for kids after each story. She also received the final video submission from the UNR intern. The video will be used in the future a promotion piece for the arboretum for visitors on our webpage to view. The video project highlights different parts of the arboretum throughout the changing of the seasons.
- ◆ Laura also began developing a program that includes a plant press kit”. This kit will include a plant press, paint to decorate it, instructions and activities for kids and families to do with the pressed plants once they are ready. We hope to encourage younger children to get involved and to see firsthand how nature and art are intertwined. The hope is that this project will be available to the public during the month of February.
- ◆ Many thanks to the May Arboretum Society for funding this position (\$9,500).

Arboretum Upgrades and Projects

- ◆ The horticulturist, staff and May Arboretum Society member meet with contractors to review the scope of work for 3 new kiosks that were purchased for the arboretum. Two will replace the current kiosks in Plaza and Honey’s Garden and the third, a three sided kiosk, will be installed at the south main entrance gate off the main asphalt walk way and by the Ranch House Parking lot. Circular pavers were requested the three sided kiosk to attract visitors. In addition, electrical work is also be requested for lighting for all three. Kiosks (**\$8,740.00**) and future installation were funded by the May Arboretum Society.
- ◆ A tree pruning contract was completed in the arboretum. Many thanks to the May Arboretum Society (\$15,000).
- ◆ Burke Garden’s vandalized water feature was replaced with a vandal resistant feature.

Arboretum Operations

- ◆ With un-seasonally good weather, staff continued with removing leaf litter and continued to prune. Leaf litter is chopped, recycled and applied around the tree wells. This serves as mulch. Mulch eliminates green waste from entering the landfill (60 yards annually), inhibits weed growth around the trees, reduce soil erosion, enhance the soil conditions, reduce pesticide use, recycle nutrients, saves water by reducing evaporation and saves labor (string trimming lawn).



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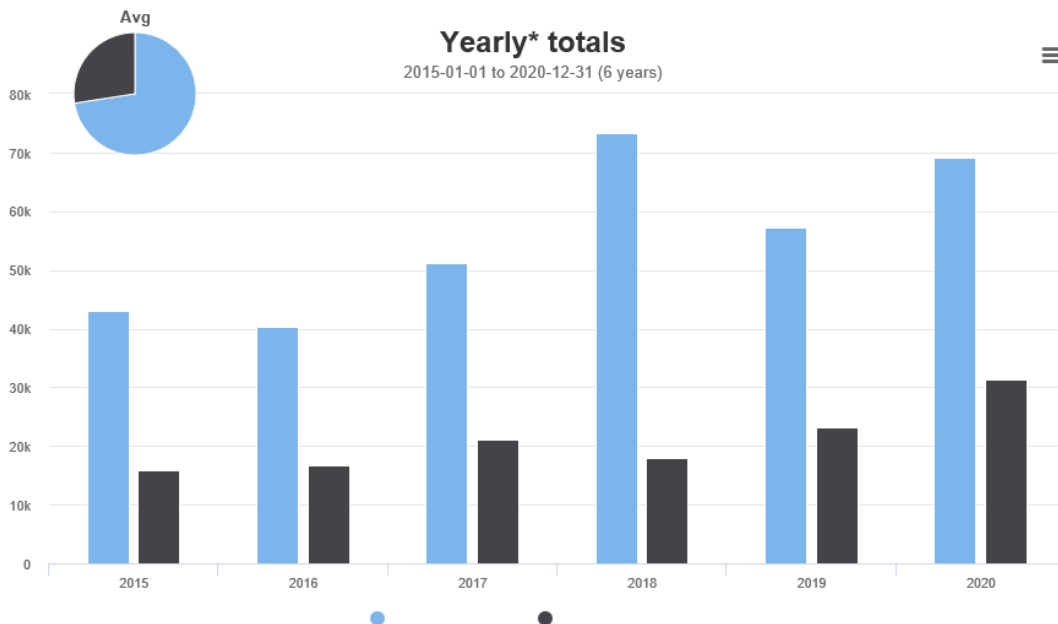


- ◆ Phil Brazier, horticulture assistant continues to manage the Arboretum seasonal maintenance staff and projects while the horticulturist works from home.

Visitor Data

- ◆ The number of visitors in December, 2020 was 6,210. This is nearly a 44% percent increase from the previous year, 3,442 respectively. We can only assume the increase is a result of a mild winter temperatures and the pandemic. The total number of visitors for the calendar 2020 was 100,729 and the 5 year visitor average is 109,822.
- ◆ The majority of foot traffic in December came from the Ranch House parking lot (south entrance) 3,926 and the remainder entered from the west 2284. Historically during the summer nearly 70% of the visitors enter from south entrance. The five year total chart illustrates the differences between the two entrances.

Five year trend for two the entrances, south entrance in blue and west entrance in black.





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May Arboretum Volunteer Program

- ◆ Un-seasonal weather allowed volunteers to continue to work at the arboretum. They are instructed to work alone, wear a mask and maintain social distance if working together.
- ◆ Volunteers continue play a major role in our operation of the Arboretum. They provide additional support to our staff and gardens.
- ◆ Volunteer logged 130 hours for the month of December which has a service value of \$2,949.70 of service.

Memorials

- ◆ The horticulturist manages and oversees the memorial tree, bench and brick program. Four memorial bricks were received this past month and will be scheduled for installation as soon as the soil is not frozen.

May Museum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The museum wrapped up its “Cloth as Community” exhibition. More than 730 people visited the exhibit. It was well received.

UPCOMING

- ◆ The museum will hold “History in the Buff”, an after-hours Valentine’s event over Valentine’s Day weekend. The event is very limited in size and reservations are required to maintain safe operations and appropriate social distancing.