



# Park Districts Report – July 2015

## Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

August 4, 2015

### **SOUTH REGION** **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater is dynamic in July due to many exciting Artown performances. We had a total of 15 days of action at the amphitheater. Dance and musical performances graced the stage with names such as Eugene Landau Murphy Jr., Clint Black, and Mary Chapin Carpenter. The Reno Philharmonic put on a great performance despite rain and thunderstorms. Reno Pops and AVA Ballet come back year after year to entertain audiences.
- Washoe County Parks collaborated with Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation to put on a photography exhibit entitled "Parks: Past and Present Perspectives". It was on display during the entire month of July at Bartley Ranch Park's Western Heritage Interpretive Center.
- "Evenings on the Ranch" at Bartley Ranch have been quite successful this year. The average attendance is 125. Park Ranger Andy Brown organized the performances and brought in musical performers, young Chautauqua's, and cowboy poets.
- Goat Grazers has brought in 25 goats to assist with weed abatement at Anderson Park on Sunday, July 26<sup>th</sup>. Sections of the trail will be closed during this process to allow the goats to eat as many weeds as possible and not disturb park visitors. We were able to fund this project with the assistance of Nevada Land Trust. We hope to have many weeds eaten and the trails re-opened by August 15.
- Bowers Mansion Pool continues to be popular with the public. Some mechanical issues necessitated a closure from July 18-23, but repairs have been made and the pool is back up and running. In the past the pool was open daily from 12noon -5pm. We are now open Monday through Friday from 12noon-7pm and on weekends from 10am - 7pm. We hope the public enjoys the extended hours. We plan to remain open on weekends only through Labor Day.
- GBI began their residential camps for kids ages 8-12 in the Truckee Meadows. So far, they have had full camps each week and will conclude their residential camps on August 7<sup>th</sup>, just before the school year begins.
- Davis Creek Park continues to be a popular campground to beat the heat and get into the forest for the weekend.
- Volunteers continue to be a large part of our labor force and we accommodated a number of projects throughout the south region.
- Washoe County Juvenile Services has a Summer Youth Employment Program. This summer they worked at both Hidden Valley Park and Galena Creek Park building split rail fence and putting an irrigation system in place.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Bowers Mansion Bluegrass Festival will take place on August 15. The headliner this year is Blue Highway with the likes of Lacy J. Dalton, Suspect Terrane, and the John Jorgenson Bluegrass Band.
- The Robert Z. Hawkins Amphitheater has 7 dates booked. Lake Tahoe Shakespeare will be coming August 4<sup>th</sup>, the Community Health Alliance will be organizing their fundraiser on August 15, the Reno Tahoe Music Festival is scheduled for August 21 & 22, and the Silver Dollar Chorus will be gracing us with their powerful voices on August 29<sup>th</sup>.



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## NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- Festival of Color was held in the NFF on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Around 400 were in attendance. Overall it was a good first time event although parking was somewhat of an issue. If the group comes back in the future a better parking plan will be required.
- The Summer Concert Series at Lazy 5 on Wednesday evenings continues to be very successful. Average attendance is around 500. One show was postponed due to weather but will be rescheduled to the end of the series.
- Several parks including Village Center, Swan Lake and Rancho San Rafael Parks sustained minor to moderate damage due to the passing thunderstorms that hit the area in July. Rancho San Rafael was hit hardest on Tuesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>. Trails were covered in mud or washed out, the crawl space at the residence was full of water, and the basement in the Ranch House had a lot of mud and water. Repairs are being made.
- Gator Swamp Park made headlines when four juveniles used the park turf and surrounding area as a motocross track. Damage was minor but still took staff time to assess and repair. The juveniles were caught.
- The off leash pastures at Rancho remain closed to public use. The rancher has cut and baled the grass and has removed the bales.
- Both splash parks are operating well.
- Washoe County Juvenile Services has a Summer Youth Employment Program. This summer they worked at Cold Springs Park restoring picnic pavilions, Rancho San Rafael Regional Park painting chicken coops and barn trellises in the NFF, restored playground/pavilion benches and horseshoe pits at Lemon Valley Horse Arena, worked at Golden Valley Park restoring the playground and bbq areas, and completed trail work at Lockwood Park.
- Cashman Equipment held a successful company picnic at Peavine Pavilion Saturday July 25<sup>th</sup>
- Lorie's pony rides continues to offer rides in the NFF Friday –Sunday (10 -1:00).
- The "Ranching at Rancho" Series has been very successful with continued increases in attendance.
- Rangers are managing and assisting with the "Discovery Room Themed Weeks" and presented during the Park Ranger themed week. Rangers are also managing the Discovery Room and staffing it with volunteers Saturdays and Sundays.
- Eagle Scout Austin Dove completed his Eagle Scout Project in the NFF when he reroofed the chicken coop and retired an old flag and installed a new flag.
- The Charles River volunteer group spent approximately 70 hours changing out the dry water containers on the north side of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.
- Within the Peavine District there were multiple volunteer groups including 15 on-going Eagle Scout Projects, Job Corps shops, Discovery Room volunteers, and others for a total of 1,758 hours volunteered during July.
- Rangers from North and South presented a "Urban Campfire" program for the Sparks Library with approximately 75 in attendance.
- The Wally's World Exhibit at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park's Visitor Center ran through July 28<sup>th</sup>.
- The fencing project along Coleman is going well with continued work by Crew Leader Robbie Short and Kevin Callahan and Rangers. This project has been made possible with grant money and has greatly improved the appearance and safety of the park's west property line.



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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- The Summer Concert Series at L5 will continue through August.
- North Valleys Splash Park and Melio Gaspari Water Play Park will be open during the first week in August then go to weekends only through Labor Day.
- The “Farewell to Summer, Welcome Fall” Exhibit has been installed in the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Visitor Center and will be on display through September.
- The Discover Room volunteers will have finished their 18 dates of programming in the Discovery Room and Rangers will be managing the nearly 90 other dates that the building is being used for programming.
- Rangers are preparing for the annual Great Reno Balloon Races. Fire breaks are being cleared and maintained in advance of the event as are the parking areas, trails, etc...
- City of Reno programming in the NVCC will end with the beginning of school and dance classes will be resuming.
- Juvenile Crews will be spending two days before school beginning assisting Ranger and Maintenance on some general upkeep at RSR South.
- Summer Youth Employment has their final work day in the Peavine District at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- “Ranching at Rancho” will continue through November as will pony rides.