

Volunteer Report

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting
July 7, 2015

June 2015 Highlights

- We were excited to host the first group of Tesla volunteers last Friday, June 23rd. The newly hired Panasonic division took a morning off to spend the day with Park Ranger Andy Brown at Crystal Peak Park in Verdi. The 21 enthusiastic volunteers dug up invasive thistle weeds, some over six feet tall! Management on site that day said they intend to make giving back to the community a regular occurrence.
- The May Arboretum has entered in to a new partnership with the ‘Nevada Youth Empowerment Project’, which is a community funded initiative to help 18-21 year old females transitioning from foster care to independent living. We were approached by NYEP because they had a resident interested in gardening. She is currently paired up with a seasonal employee, working 2 days per week. The Arboretum is also still partnering with Job Corp and Children’s Cabinet.
- The May Arboretum held their annual (fiscal) year-end appreciation barbeque where volunteers with over 100 hour in the last year were given Presidential Volunteer Service Awards, as well as certificates noting their total hours volunteered in the last year. One volunteer, Rod Dimmitt, received special recognition for 460 hours in the last year! Six other volunteers had well over 200 hours each, and another 6 had over 100 hours.

Year End Summary

- Overall, Washoe County Parks has seen a significant increase in volunteerism over the past year, with volunteer hours increasing a total of 62% in the last fiscal year. The value of the volunteers in dollars has increased \$272,993 totaling almost \$800,000 per year. Not only do we have more reoccurring volunteer groups, but the staff also appears to be more comfortable identifying appropriate volunteer projects and reaching out to potential new volunteers.

June Volunteer Hours/Value:

Intern hours are down due to Rancho San Rafael Rangers not utilizing as many Job Corp and the May Museum currently does not have an intern.

	June 2015	June 2014	% Increase	Fiscal YTD 2014/2015	Fiscal YTD 2013/2014	% Increase
# of Volunteer Hrs	3,186.5	2,873.50	10.9%	31,030	19,146.50	62.1%
# of Intern Hrs	298	465.50	-36.0%	2,778	3,335	-16.7%
Total Dollar Value*	\$80,387.42	\$75,294.45	6.8%	\$779,950.56	\$506,957.82	53.8%

**The hourly rate of \$23.07 used for calculating the dollar value is based on the estimated national value of volunteer time as reported by www.independentsector.org.*