



Park Districts Report –August/September 2016

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

October 4, 2016

SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- The Hawkins Amphitheater continued to be busy in August with 13 performance dates booked and 6 rehearsals. We will have Lake Tahoe Shakespeare, a Patagonia private company event with music by Mojo Green, the Community Health Alliance annual fundraiser, the Sierra Nevada Performing Arts rendition of the Wizard of Oz, and finally the Sierra Nevada Performing Arts Association fundraiser.
- There were four events during September - the Reno Jazz Orchestra, Friends of the Black Rock fundraiser, Silver Dollar Chorus, and the Washoe County Sheriff's Office awards ceremony.
- Bowers Pool closed on Monday, August 8th. All in all it was a good season and we are looking forward to new construction. Thanks to the William N. Pennington Foundation, Bowers pool will receive a much needed renovation to aged and failing plumbing and mechanical system.
- The campfire programs at Galena Creek Regional Park were a success with an average attendance of approximately 75 visitors. Attendees enjoyed a wide variety of performances at Eagle Meadow within the park. The final program was on Friday, August 12.
- This was the 31st year of the Annual Bowers Mansion Bluegrass Festival. This event continues to be a great fit for the park.
- Reno 5000 put on their third race in the series of three races – all within Washoe County Parks. This third run was staged at Bowers Mansion Park on Sunday, August 28. There were approximately 700 runners in attendance.
- There were 3 Washoe County School District cross country races in September. Two were staged at Hidden Valley Park for middle school runners (September 1 & September 6) and the third (September 16) was staged at Bartley Ranch Park for the high school runners.
- Power of One took place on Saturday, September 10th. There was a 5K walk, a 10K run, and a 10-mile bike ride in Washoe Valley. Approximately 300 people attended this first year event.
- Edible Pedal was on Sunday, September 18th at Bowers Mansion Park. Approximately 700 riders attended the event. Rides ranges from a 10-mile ride through Washoe Valley, a 50-mile ride to Genoa and back, and the 100-mile century to Kingsbury Grade and back along highway 50 through South Lake Tahoe.
- Nevada Youth Empowerment Fall Harvest Festival was on Sunday, September 25th. About 300 people attended this third year of their annual event.
- Galenafest was on Sunday, September 25th. The event was co-sponsored by Washoe County and activities included a mountain bike climb, a trail run and a kids fun run. About 200 participated enjoyed the event.
- Camp WeChMe and the Fish Hatchery remain the most popular wedding venues Washoe County Parks has to offer. September is a busy month as the beauty of fall colors enhance the experience Galena Creek Park.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

- The 26th annual Celtic Celebration will be held at Bartley Ranch Park on October 1 & 2. The festival will use the entire park for a variety of Celtic activities such as pipe bands, a heritage encampment, highland games, music and dancing, and much more.
- Bowers Mansion Park will host a cider press event on Saturday, October 15th at the Comstock Picnic Area. Local Washoe Valley cider maker will be on hand with an apple cider press and discuss the heirloom apple trees within Bowers Mansion Park and all of Washoe Valley.
- Bowers Mansion tours will run through the end of October. It is open each Saturday and Sunday from 11am-4pm with tours on the top of the hour.
- The final amphitheater event will be on Friday, October 21st. Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation will be putting on a silent movie to a live score. The movie this year is "A Night With Dr. Caligari". The event begins at 4pm with carnival games, food and drink. The movie will begin at 6:30pm. After the movie, the staff will guide visitors through the night sky at the park.

NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- The 2nd Annual Festival of Colors was held at the Nevada Farms and Families area at Rancho San Rafael on Saturday, August 20th. Approximately 350 people attended the event.
- The Highland Ditch was cut off at the beginning of September. We were hoping for water through the entire season but a dry summer kept that from occurring.
- The Summer Concert Series at Lazy 5 ended on Wednesday August, 10. Over the course of 8 shows, the attendance averaged 520.
- Obsolete Iron held their annual Show 'n' Shine at Lazy 5 on Saturday, September 23rd.
- Approximately 150 volunteers came out to help clean the Highland Ditch on Rancho's north side on Saturday, 9/24. The volunteers were part of KTMB's river cleanup. The Highland Ditch is part of the Truckee River watershed.
- Great Reno Balloon Races was held at Rancho for the 34th year. The event ran smoothly as thousands of spectators looked skyward.
- Job Corp stained the Discovery Room in the Nevada Farms and Families area at Rancho. It is now white and green to match the rest of the buildings in that area and it really pops!
- With the drying out of the pasture at Rancho, the use as an off-leash area has increased dramatically. Rancho still offers the biggest, grassiest off-leash area in the County.
- Both Melio Gaspari Water Play Park and North Valleys Splash Park closed for the season on September 5th. A special "dogs only" day was held at Melio on Saturday, 9/10. A few dozen canine buddies enjoyed the water for the day.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- The second CrossReno bicycle event will be held at Rancho on October 1st. Up to 500 participants are anticipated along with several hundred spectators.
- With the anticipated start of irrigation upgrades at Rancho, pavilion reservation will be stopped after October 9th.



May Center Report –September 2016

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



May Arboretum Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ The May Arboretum Society held their annual, “Party In The Garden” fundraising event this past month. Over 100 people attended. Attendees were greeted to live music, libations and food from 6 different local restaurants. Music, food, refreshments were in three premier gardens of the Arboretum, Plaza, Burke and Honey’s Garden. The event was held from 5:00 – 7:30 pm.
- ◆ The Arboretum held their 3rd annual volunteer appreciation breakfast at Lear Garden during the balloon race week. John Slaughter, Washoe County Manager and Dave Solaro, Director of the Community Service Department were on hand to welcome and thank all of our volunteers who work to support the Arboretum. The event was coordinated by Denise Evens, Volunteer Coordinator and the arboretum staff.
- ◆ The Arboretum will host two AmeriCorps member through support from the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation. The AmeriCorps members are doing a year of national service and will be working closely with Arboretum staff on education and program development for the Arboretum.
- ◆ The arboretum continues to secure interns from the Children’s’ Cabinet, Job Corps and the Nevada Youth Empowerment Project.
- ◆ The greenhouse is scheduled to break ground this month. Utility lines will be installed and construction is scheduled to begin November 2016.
- ◆ The 12 year old Arboretum software, Site-Pro Irrigation central control system crashed this past month. Phil Brazier, Horticulture Assistant has been busy programing all 12 irrigation controllers which have over 200 stations. Staff also reported several irrigation electrical valves have lost connectivity to the controllers due to rodent damage. Staff will be using a “tracer” and solenoid actuator to detect the broken wires and fix issue if possible. The irrigation system, valves and wires are over 20 years old and in need of replacement.
- ◆ May Arboretum Society (MAS) and Arboretum volunteers recorded 396 hours this past month which has a service value of \$8,918.00. Sierra Nevada Job Corps logged 119.0 hours (service value of \$2,683.50), Childrens’ Cabinet intern recorded 152 hours (service value of \$3,427), and Nevada Youth Empowerment Program logged 10.75 (service value of \$236). Total volunteer hours for September was 677.5.
- ◆ A new water feature was installed in Plaza garden this past month. A local sculpture donated the feature in honor of a former Arboretum Volunteer, Nancy Peppin. Funds for the installation were provided by family and friends of Mrs. Peppin.
- ◆ Horticulturist, Bill Carlos provided over 65 UNR students from the Public Health College a tour on medicinal & edible plants in the Arboretum and ethno-botany (the scientific study of the relationships that exist between people and plants).

Wilbur D. May Arboretum Visitors

In September the Arboretum recorded 5,742 visitors with an average of 191 per day. Total visitors since January 2016 are 55,000.



May Center Report –September 2016

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

MAY ARBORETUM SOCIETY UPCOMING EVENTS

- ◆ The Arboretum will host the Western Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture (WCISA) arborist training preparatory class from November 14th through November 17th, 2016. This is a professional workshop for those seeking Certified Arborist certification. Park staff is invited to attend this week long training free of charge.
- ◆ The May Arboretum Society is a non-profit organization celebrating 30 years of supporting the May Arboretum and Botanical Garden. A special tree planting and luncheon will be held on October 4th 2016 in commemoration of their extended relationship with Washoe County and the May Foundation.
- ◆ Currently the Arboretum is booking school tours for spring of 2017. The Arboretum staff and volunteer docents provide a hands-on interactive educational program teach children about the Sierra Nevada Mountain Ranges, the Great Basin native flora and fauna, wetland ecosystem and ancient living tree fossils. This is hands-on learning experience has gained popularity in Washoe County School and Carson City School Districts. 7-12 volunteers assist with the program as well as staff.

Volunteer Report

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting - October 1, 2016

August & September 2016 Highlights

- Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful had a very successful Truckee River Cleanup this year held on Saturday, September 24 from 9am-12pm. Overall, Washoe County Parks benefited from the help of 305 volunteers, with almost half coming from UNR. Participating Washoe County Parks hosted 150 volunteers at Rancho San Rafael, 15 at Lockwood, 81 at Mayberry, 47 at Dorostkar, and 12 at Ambrose. Approximately 188 yards of weeds and 5 yards of trash were removed from our parks alone, as well as 20 spots of graffiti were cleaned up, over a dozen trees were wrapped, and several picnic tables were repainted.
- Park Ranger John Keesee and Volunteer Coordinator Denise Evans worked with Sweetwater Pain and Spine to put together a fun and unusual morning of service at Crystal Peak Park. The park was a stop in the staff's "Amazing Race" themed team building exercise, and teams had 1.5 hours to gather and remove as many invasive thistle seed heads as possible before receiving the clue to their next location. A prize was also given to the tallest thistle plant found and removed. The group had a good time and a large portion of the parks thistles were removed in the process.
- Washoe County's Regional Shooting Facility has a handful of dedicated volunteers. One volunteer in particular, Ron Holt, volunteered 82 hours in the month of August alone!

August Volunteer Hours/Value:

There were no outstanding differences between August of 2016 and 2015, just slight differences in group sizes adding up to about 200 hours. Intern hours are down due to no available Job Corp intern to work with the Rancho San Rafael rangers.

	August 2016	August 2015	% Increase	Total for YTD 2016	Compared to YTD 2015	% Increase
# of Volunteer Hrs	1,567.00	1,801.25	-13.0%	13,246.5	18,857.5	-29.8%
# of Intern Hrs	218	360	-39.4%	1,908.25	2,175.25	-12.3%
Total \$\$\$ Value*	\$42,054.60	\$49,860.04	-15.7%	\$357,045.91	\$494,472.38	-27.8%

September Volunteer Hours/Value:

A large group of AAA volunteers at Rancho San Rafael in September of 2015 equated to 850 hours, skewing the numbers. Otherwise hours were up over last year at several parks. Intern hours are up at the Arboretum but down at RSR and the May Museum.

	September 2016	September 2015	% Increase	Total for YTD 2016	Compared to YTD 2015	% Increase
# of Volunteer Hrs	2,829.5	3,322.75	-14.8%	16,076	22,180.25	-27.5%
# of Intern Hrs	271	559.25	-51.5%	2,179.25	2,734.5	-20.3%
Total \$\$\$ Value*	\$73,047.78	\$89,557.74	-18.4%	\$430,093.69	\$584,030.12	-26.4%

*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.

Crossroads in partnership with Washoe County Parks work crews

- Total number of participants/volunteers from July 14 – August 17: 69
- Total number of participants/volunteers from August 18 – September 14: 64



Park Planning and Development

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

October 4, 2016

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

Ballardini Ranch Trail connection to Thomas Creek

- Funded by 2000 WC-1 Bond and SNPLMA.
- Layout and design of connector from Ballardini Ranch to Thomas Creek completed.
- Sierra Trail Works has been contracted to construct the first few miles of new trail. Construction will begin after fire season.

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 schedule at Bartley Ranch Regional Park on November 4, 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 to be hired 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 under construction
- Punch list being completed

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

NDF Medusahead Grant

Project on-going. Areas for treatment prioritized with NDOW and work will begin Fall 2016. Volunteer planting date to be announced for Saturday in November.

North Valleys Trail Project

- Funding received from Recreational Trails Program to construct new trail and trailhead adjacent to North Valleys Phase V Expansion
- Project to begin Fall 2016

North Valleys Phase V Expansion

- Funding agreement with City of Reno Complete (\$1,000,000)
- Design work underway with LUMOS and Associates, County design contractor
- Project out to bid late Fall of 2016

Playground Resurfacing

- Project awarded to Spanish Springs Construction
- 10 sports courts County wide resurfaced
- Hidden Valley pickle ball resurfacing
- New Washoe City Park, Golden Valley Park, Forest Park, MLK Jr. Park, Wilson Commons Park.
- Pennington fund grant
- Projects Completed

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 to be completed this fall. Road controls in place on SR-28.

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.
- Project began September 26th. Fencing to be installed. Washoe County Roads crews completed initial work to decommission old roads. Great Basin Institute crews are doing vegetative restoration and seeding.

Truckee Meadows Trails Guide Republication

- Project Completed.
- Guides being distributed and stored.

Wilbur May Arboretum Greenhouse Project

- Special Use Permit submitted to the City of Reno
- Dirt work to commence winter of 2016/2017

Board of County Commissioners Action August & September 2016

August 23, 2016

- Approve the Interlocal Agreement for Maintenance and Operations of the Nevada SR-28 Shared Use Path and Associated Parking Facilities between the State of Nevada, acting by and through its Department of Transportation and Washoe County. (Commission District 1.)