



# Park Districts Report –February 2017

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

March 7, 2017

## **SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS**

- The New District Manager has been hired. It is Jeff Patterson, previous Park Ranger II from Lazy 5 Regional Park. Jeff is looking forward to learning the operations of the south region. We welcome his long time experience in management and operations with Washoe County, the City of Reno, and private industry.
- Bob Miller, our new Maintenance Supervisor in the South Region was transferred from Washoe Golf in January and has been a welcome addition to the south maintenance shop.
- We are currently in the hiring process for a new Permanent Part Time Maintenance Worker II. We hope to have the hiring completed by mid-March.
- Rain and snow has kept our staff on their toes with flood damage assessments. We are glad to know we will receive FEMA reimbursement for damage incurred during the January flood.
- The Galena Visitor's Center has guided hikes each Saturday from 10am-12noon. Please check their website and calendar for details.
- Bartley Ranch Park continues to host the "Come in from the Cold" winter family series. The programs began on Saturday, January 7<sup>th</sup> and will continue through March 18<sup>th</sup>. We have had an average of 95 attendees, and 190 folks showed up to support the Reno Youth Jazz Orchestra. Pat O'Mara, Recreation Coordinator coordinates the presenters, secures food donations, and hosts all programs.
- Gardening in Nevada began on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Programs are free and take place each Tuesday from 6pm-8pm.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Bowers Pool Pump Room reconstruction bid was awarded. Construction should begin March 16<sup>th</sup>. We are looking forward to the overhaul and a brand new pump room for the 2017 operating season.

## **NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS**

- The new District Manager for the North Region will be Bryan Harrower. Bryan "grew up" in Washoe County Parks, beginning as a lifeguard at Bowers Pool back in 1996. He received his degree at UNR in Natural Resource Management. Bryan has worked at many Washoe County Parks as a Park Ranger and we look forward to having his enthusiasm in the North Region.
- Flood clean-up and repairs are also high on the list of priorities for all park staff.
- Mike Kangas is now our Projects and Safety Coordinator for all of the parks. He is stationed out of Rancho San Rafael Park and was also transitioned from Washoe Golf in January. Mike is ready for the new challenge and will be taking the certification for the Playground Safety Specialist the first week of March.
- The second phase of the irrigation rehab at Rancho San Rafael has been on hold based on weather and soft soils. A mid-May estimated completion date will include re-seeded turf on all trenches. We are hopeful they will stay on track with that timeframe.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- The Biggest Little Photographer Exhibit will be on display at the Visitors Center at Rancho San Rafael Park. We will be hosting this exhibit through mid-April.



# May Center Report –February 2017

## Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting



### May Arboretum Report

#### HIGHLIGHTS

- ◆ Evans Creek that runs through the Arboretum flooded Sierra Street for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time this year, causing water to back up to the lower trails at the lower north east and west end of the arboretum. The recent rain and snow have exacerbated previous damage cause by earlier storm events.
- ◆ Two trees that fell during late January and early February during the storms were removed by crews.
- ◆ The 36 foot of chain link fence that was damage last month over MLK holiday was also repaired.
- ◆ The Arboretum greenhouse construction has been delayed to inclement weather.
- ◆ IRIS BG software will be installed this month. The new software is designed and used by botanical gardens and arboretums nationally and internationally for plant accession and research. Washoe County will host the site making the collection available publically. Funding for the new software was provided by a generous donation from the May Foundation.
- ◆ The horticulturist continues to assemble new botanical markers for the arboretum. Arrangements have been made with CDS Parks Department Inmate Work Program Leader, Robbie Short and his Cross Roads workers to assist with the installation. The new markers are easier to read. They include the same information as before e.g., genus, species, cultivar or variety, plant family and origin, but the name “Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden” will appear at the bottom to serve as reminder to visitors they are in a botanical garden. The markers are slightly larger with black ground and white lettering as compared to our current markers that are silver with black lettering. Over 1,000 markers are scheduled to be replaced over several years.
- ◆ Staff is currently planning to improve parts of the Arboretum ageing irrigation system and currently refurbishing dated wooden garden signs. As soon as the weather cooperates the horticulturist and assistant will be scheduling vertical mulching for many of the oak trees in the collection. This relieves soil compaction, improves soil health assist with water and nutrient retention.
- ◆ The horticulturist scheduled tree pruning which will begin as soon as conditional are favorable. Funding for pruning was made possible the by a generous donation of \$8,000.00 from the May Foundation.
- ◆ Rodent control measures are being conducted by staff to prevent further rodent damage.
- ◆ Horticulturist continues to update the May Arboretum webpage on a monthly basis.
- ◆ Plant records and accession continue weekly and throughout the year by the horticulturist.
- ◆ Donor data bases and donor records are also updated weekly and on a as needed basis.
- ◆ The Horticulturist continues to serve as Chairmen of the May Arboretum Society Endowment fund committee and serves as vice president of the state wide Nevada Shade Tree Counsel. The horticulturist also is a board member of the University of Nevada’s arboretum.
- ◆ The horticulturist publishes monthly horticultural articles for the May Center newsletter (Botanical Bytes) and a quarterly article for the May Arboretum Society.



## May Center Report –February 2017

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#### Wilbur D. May Arboretum Volunteers

- ◆ The May Arboretum volunteers and the May Arboretum Society recorded 194.00 hrs. of service this past month which has a value of \$4,374.00. Job Corps provided 105 hours of service valued at \$2,363.50. Children Cabinet and Nevada Youth Empowerment interns are off for the winter. Cross Road Program logged 16 hours which has service value of \$135.50. Total intern and volunteers hours were 300.00 hours which has a service value of \$6,992.00. Total volunteer and intern hours for this fiscal year, 16-17 is 3,404 which has a value of \$76,777.00.00.
- ◆ **Job Corps, Children’s Cabinet& Nevada Youth Empowerment**  
The Arboretum currently accepted a new Job Corps intern and will work with the crew for 2 months. Phil Brazier manages and trains the new interns.

#### Wilbur D. May Arboretum AmeriCorps

The Arboretum retains two AmeriCorps members until August of 2017. AmeriCorps members are currently developed an Arboretum “patch” contest for scouts and are developing the “May Arboretum Naturalist Program for the Arboretum. Please visit the Arboretum webpage for more details. Click on the Arboretum sign on the May Center webpage, then “Education”. The last button is “May Arboretum Naturalists Program”. They also revised and upgrade the Arboretum environmental educational “Backpack” program for grades through 1-5. The curriculum will be peer reviewed by the Washoe County School District. The members also scheduled workshops with the Reno/Sparks Indian Colony from their language and culture program. The first free workshop is March 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 am – noon at the Ranch House and the Arboretum. Children and adults will learn about native plants and their medicinal and practical use as well as their Paiute names. Activities will also be offered. Details can be found on the Arboretum webpage under “Education” then “Workshops”. They will also be scheduling additional programs in the Arboretum throughout the season. AmeriCorps hours are not included in the total number of volunteer hours. Special thanks to the Truckee Meadow foundation for funding the two positions (\$16,000.). AmeriCorps will assist the Arboretum to meet their educational mission and goals. Children’s Cabinet and the Nevada Youth Empowerment interns are on winter break.

#### Wilbur D. May Arboretum Visitors

- ◆ The May Arboretum subscribes to the Pedestrian TRAFX Counter software. The software is used to collect, view, analyze and manage pedestrian data flow from two entrances of the Arboretum, south entrance and west entrance. The data is collected monthly using a portable data logger (G3 Dock). Adjustments are made to accommodate visitors entering and exiting the Arboretum. The system averages the number of visitors based on historical data and the days that were recorded. Total number of visitor for the calendar year, minus the February south entrance due to technical issue, was 708.8 for February 2017. Historically visitor count for both entrance can range between 1,200 to 1,600.



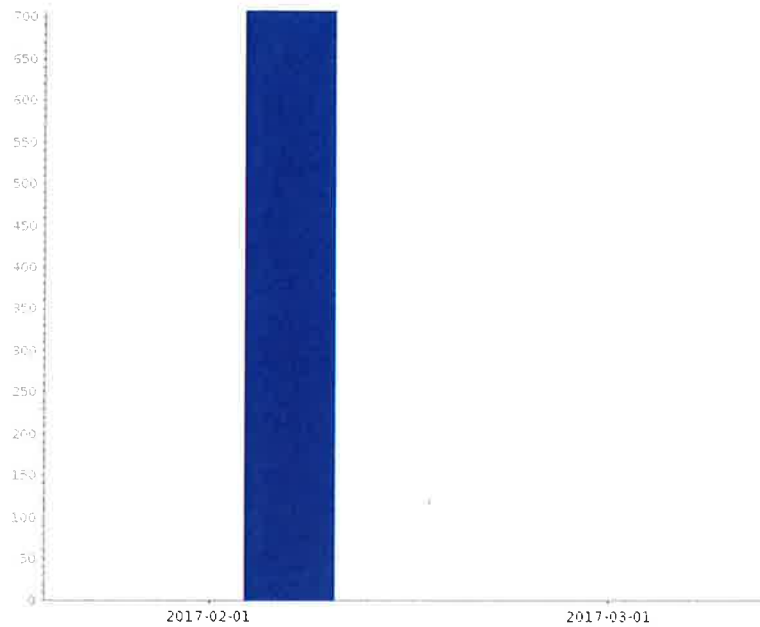
# May Center Report –February 2017

## Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

### Monthly\* totals report

Covering 2 months from 2017-02-01 to 2017-03-31

Report generated on 2017-03-01 by BCARLOS@WASHOECOUNTY.US



Site Name	Average	Min	Max
So.Arbo Entrance	0	0	0
West Arbo Entrance	708.0	708.0	708.0



# May Center Report –February 2017

## Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

### Master Summary

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT <sup>†</sup>	ADT <sup>†</sup> x365	Days with data
2017	So.Arbo Entrance	819*												26.414	9,641	29
	West Arbo Entrance		708											25.286	9,229	28

Data at the south Arboretum entrance was not collected due to data logger malfunction.  
 Figure in the south entrance summary is the average historical data: ADT<sup>†</sup> = Average Daily Traffic  
 \* = based upon that month's ADT. Indicates months with less than 6 days of data  
 ^ = adjustment applied, ° = divide by 2 applied, † = filtering applied

#### Arboretum Tours

- ◆ Tours were not scheduled for this month.

#### Reservations

- ◆ Garden wedding reservations are unavailable for the month of February through mid May.

#### Educational Programs

- ◆ AmeriCorps members participated in the annual national Great Backyard Bird Count Event in collaboration with Cornell University, Cornell Ornithology Lab, the Audubon Society and Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Rangers. Members offered children a bird walk and craft. The walk began at the south gate of the Arboretum and continued by Herman's Pond. There binoculars and Merlin (Cornell Ornithology Lab App) was used to ID birds while tracking them with eBird (an app produced by the university). All counts were submitted from Feb 17-Feb 20.

Below are the activities that were made available:

- "Binoculars" for kids to decorate.
  - Coloring pages with local birds.
  - Bird books (both bird guides and several children's bird books)
  - Bird nests collected from around the park.
  - Stuffed toy birds equipped with their appropriate song and call were made available.
- ◆ The Arboretum will be offering their Arboretum Horticulture training beginning April 4 - April 25, 2017 Tues/Wed/Thurs, 9:00 am - 11:30 am. It will be held in the Ranch House at Rancho San Rafael Park 1595 N. Sierra Street, Reno. This series of classes includes presentations by the Arboretum and park staff, local University of Nevada of Cooperative Extension Horticulture Specialists, Nevada Division of Agriculture and industry experts. Classes include beginning botany, Nevada soils, plant pathology, entomology, plant propagation, pruning, proper planting technique, docent and guide training and more. Seating is limited to 30 participants. Denise Evans, Park Volunteer Coordinator is accepting registration. Registration and additional class information is posted on the park and arboretum webpages.



## May Center Report –February 2017 Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting

### **MAY ARBORETUM UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ◆ The May Arboretum Society is planning their annual plant sale which is held the first Saturday in June.



# Volunteer Report

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting  
March 7, 2017

## February Highlights

- Despite the inclement weather, many volunteers are still staying active with service activities such as sprucing up the Arboretum, picking litter and raking at several parks, assisting with programming at the Galena Creek Visitor Center, at the Regional Shooting Facility, in Rancho San Rafael's Discovery Room, and on the various trails helping to assess damage.
- Several dozen Job Corp vocational students studying welding continued to work at the County's Regional Archery Facility to construct new shade structures and target areas. This has been an ongoing project over the past several months, and in February, 350 hours were spent on the project.
- Rancho San Rafael's partnering fraternity, Theta Chi, spent 150 hours raking leaves and doing general debris cleanup at the park one dry Saturday in February. Rangers will continue to work with this fraternity on periodic projects throughout the park, as well as for event assistance.

## **February Volunteer Hours/Value:**

Hours were up mostly due to Eagle Scout projects and Job Corp's welding class at the Regional Archery Facility.

	<b>February 2017</b>	<b>February 2016</b>	<b>% Increase</b>	<b>Total for YTD 2017</b>	<b>Compared to YTD 2016</b>	<b>% Increase</b>
# of Volunteer Hrs	1,306	904	44.5%	2,212.25	1,540	43.7%
# of Intern Hrs	182	178.75	1.8%	203	322.75	-37.1%
Total \$\$\$ Value*	\$35,057.28	\$24,979.04	40.3%	\$56,903.29	\$42,973.64	32.4%

\*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](http://www.independentsector.org).

## Upcoming Events

- Volunteer Coordinator, Denise Evans, has been busy meeting with staff to identify projects for the upcoming spring months. The Center for Student Engagement at UNR has invited us to participate as host sites for several volunteer events in the month of March. We plan to take advantage of this opportunity to clear ditches, rake leaves, and do other general upkeep activities in preparation for spring. We will also perform a much needed litter pickup at Lockwood Park because of all of the debris that washed up and snagged in the bushes when the river was high. More details next month on what was accomplished!
- Preparations are being made for the annual series of classes providing horticulture training for new Arboretum volunteers. The classes will begin on Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, and will run for three weeks on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday mornings. These classes have proven to be the best vehicle for recruiting and training new volunteers, and we are excited to have an eager new group of individuals joining our already strong volunteer force.



# **Board of County Commissioners Action December 2016, January & February 2017**

## **December 13, 2016**

- Discuss and provide direction to staff on settlement of disputes with Bell-Men Golf, Inc. of past due amounts related to the extended license agreement ending December 31, 2016 for management of Washoe Golf Course; and possible approval of an agreement for professional services for the full operation of Washoe Golf Course commencing January 1, 2017; and possible direction to staff on next steps for the full management of the Washoe Golf Course commencing on January 1, 2017. (Commission District 1.)

## **December 10, 2016**

- Possible action to: 1) Approve a License Agreement between Washoe County and Truckee Meadows Water Authority for a Galena Creek Stream Gage facility; and 2) approve a License Agreement between Washoe County and Truckee Meadows Water Authority for a Whites Creek Stream Gage facility; and 3) authorize the Community Services Department Director to sign both Agreements and future amendments on behalf of Washoe County. (Commission District 2.)

## **January 24, 2017**

- Approve a Participating Agreement Interpretive Services between the Great Basin Institute, Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest for continued cooperative visitor services and programming at the Galena Creek Visitor Center and Recreation Area, and authorize the Director of the Community Services Department to sign the Agreement on behalf of Washoe County; and further authorize the Operations Division Director of the Community Services Department to annually approve the Annual Operating Plan on behalf of Washoe County. (Commission District 1.)
- Approve an Easement Deed Grant of Easement between Washoe County and Maria Hogencamp Tanghe for a permanent non-exclusive easement and right-of-way for ingress, egress, public and private utilities totaling 26,400 square feet on APN 066-070-05. (Commission District 5.)

## **February 28, 2017**

- Recommendation to award a bid and approve the Agreement to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder for the Bowers Mansion Pool Mechanical Building Project [staff recommends California Commercial Pools in the amount of \$349,000.00] (Commission District 2).