

A photograph of a sunflower field. In the foreground, there are rows of sunflowers with large green leaves and bright yellow heads. A dirt path leads through the field towards the background. In the background, there is a white fence, a white building, and a line of tall green trees under a clear sky.

Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space

Sharing Sunshine

Fall 2020

Planting the Seed

After Urban Roots cancelled their programming this year due to Covid 19, we were brainstorming what to do with the space in Rancho San Rafael's Nevada Farms & Families area



We decided to till up the soil and make a sunflower and pumpkin patch in the area! We planted 150 pumpkin plants and spread $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of sunflower seeds in May 2020



By August we had a full sunflower patch ready for picking!



To share a little sunshine, we picked the sunflowers and delivered hundreds of bouquets to Washoe County Senior Center, Summit Ridge, St. Vincent's Dining Room, and Park Place Assisted Living for seniors to enjoy.



In October we hosted a pumpkin patch for the kids at Kids Kottage.

Games were played, pumpkins were decorated, and even a scarecrow was built. Leftover pumpkins were brought to Casa De Vida



In December every year Washoe County Park Rangers host a “Christmas Trees for Special Families” event. Washoe County Parks and Community Service Department work with the US Forest Service harvesting White Firs from a fire break and fuels reduction project site in Galena forest. We give away the 60 trees we harvest as Christmas trees to the Washoe County’s Foster Families program or to Military families in the Truckee Meadows. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we did things a little different this year to keep everyone safe, but still managed to have a fun night for our families to come collect their Christmas trees, meet Santa, and take away goodies and crafts. The Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada troops put together over a dozen different ornament crafts for families to take home with them. Girl Scouts made so many ornament crafts for us, that we have enough for next year’s event!



Families were so thankful and happy to get a fresh Christmas tree and meet Santa!

