

Volunteer Report

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting
July 7, 2020

Volunteer Updates

- May Volunteer Hours: There were a total of 168.5 volunteer hours in May performed by only 7 volunteers. These volunteers included a woman who regularly hikes and cleans up trails near Sun Valley Regional Park, one of the Regional Shooting Facility volunteers, two missionaries from the LDS church who rake pine needles at Davis Creek Regional Park, and a trail monitor who has been trimming the overgrown vegetation on trails in the Galena area.
- We have successfully implemented an online volunteer management system called “Volgistics” for scheduling and tracking volunteer time at the Arboretum. As mentioned in the last report, this monthly subscription has been funded by a generous donation from the May Arboretum Society to support volunteer efforts. Other notable Arboretums such as The Morton Arboretum, UC Santa Cruz Arboretum, and the Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden are already utilizing this system. This is an ideal time to implement the program as county offices are still closed and the volunteers do not have their normal access to the project list and time sheets. Now volunteers can sign up for an assignment online, come ready with their tools from home and head right to the area where they will be working, and log their time from their home computer.
- The Parks Volunteer Coordinator continues to work closely with Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful to develop best practices for resuming group volunteer activities. This includes the best ways to handle tool sanitation and how to best communicate safety procedures to the volunteers. We are also working on seeking out and coordinating groups to complete the projects originally planned for the Great Community Cleanup, which was cancelled in early May.
- For Phase 2, we are allowing individuals to volunteer and are open to hosting groups while following the below guidelines. **It is important to note that we haven’t actually had any groups volunteer yet.**
 - Allow individual volunteers or groups (no more than 50 people) if able to social distance. Prior approval by the Parks Volunteer Coordinator is needed.
 - Volunteers must practice social distancing amongst each other and the public. Parks staff can help facilitate this by placing volunteers away from busy areas of the park when possible.
 - Volunteers must have a face mask or bandanna on hand in case they need to interact with anyone.
 - Volunteers must supply their own cloth gloves (we can provide disposable) and are asked to bring their own tools whenever possible.
 - We will not be providing sunscreen, water, or snacks at this time.

Volunteer Report

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting
August 4, 2020

June Volunteer Updates

- June Volunteer Hours: There were a total of 557.25 volunteer hours in June. We did not have any groups larger than 8 people during this time, so this number was the total effort of only 44 individuals. During a “normal” June with groups, scouts, etc. we probably would have had an additional thousand hours. Kudos to our staff for continuing to keep the parks looking so nice without the additional volunteer assistance!
- We had 18 different individuals volunteering at the Arboretum throughout the month of June for a total of 174.5 hours. Some of these volunteers have been with us for over 10 years and work very well independently, knowing what to work on without much additional instruction. We also had two group work days led by the Washoe County Natural Resource Planner Joanne Lowden along the Evans Creek wetlands. She had worked with volunteers last fall to remove invasive Teasel and to plant native species. During these two events, the focus was on weed abatement to allow the native species to prosper.
- We had several dynamite individuals volunteering in June. Ron Holt, one of the usual Regional Shooting Facility volunteers put in 106 hours. We also have a woman who has made a project out of researching and restoring the Huffaker Cemetery spending 6 hours on that in June, another volunteer named Kyle spent 34 hours trimming back the vegetation on trails in the Galena Creek area, and our regular two ladies volunteering for the LDS church spent a combined 135 hours raking up pine needles at Davis Creek Regional Park and Bowers Mansion Regional Park. In addition, several of our Hive volunteers (Lazy 5 Regional Park) returned this month, and we had a family of four who spent 4 hours helping to clean Bowers Mansion.
- To reiterate Phase 2 procedures, we are allowing individuals to volunteer and are open to hosting groups while following the below guidelines.
 - Allow individual volunteers or groups (no more than 25 people) if able to social distance. Prior approval by the Parks Volunteer Coordinator is needed.
 - Volunteers must practice social distancing amongst each other and the public. Parks staff can help facilitate this by placing volunteers away from busy areas of the park when possible.
 - Volunteers must have a face mask or bandanna on hand in case they need to interact with anyone or use the restroom.
 - Volunteers must supply their own cloth gloves (we can provide disposable) and are asked to bring their own tools whenever possible.
 - We will not be providing sunscreen, water, or snacks at this time.