

Volunteer Report

Open Space and Regional Park Commission Meeting
December 1, 2020

September & October Volunteer Updates

- Total Hours: There were a total of 1,183.5 volunteer hours in September and 1,134.75 hours in October. In 2019, there were approximately twice as many hours during the same time periods. In many cases, group sizes are significantly smaller than usual and there are very few corporate groups volunteering due to COVID.
- Despite some challenges, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB) was still able to hold the annual Truckee River Cleanup on Saturday, September 26 this year. Group numbers were kept at 25 people or less and required face coverings, but the event was otherwise very much the same to the participants. Behind the scenes, KTMB put much stronger sanitation practices in place for the tools. Participating Washoe County parks included Mayberry Park, Crystal Peak Park, Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, Lockwood Trailhead and Dorostkar Park. Projects consisted of mostly weed pulling and cleaning up vegetation, and volunteers at Rancho planted approximately 400 seedlings near the entrance of the multi-use pasture.
- Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful has been extremely helpful with several volunteer groups over the past two months. They not only provide a project leader from their staff, but they will also supply all tools needed. This is extremely helpful in times like these when we are short staffed, but it is also helpful because they have a system in place for thoroughly sanitizing their tools, which is one less thing for our staff to worry about. We have been able to accept so many more volunteer groups these past few months thanks to their help.
- The LDS church has a long history of encouraging volunteering with Washoe County Parks, and we have benefited from several groups of missionaries that volunteer their time during their off hours. We currently have missionaries volunteering at Davis Creek Regional Park, Galena Creek Regional Park, Lazy 5 Regional Park, and Rancho San Rafael Regional Park starting soon. Often times it will just be two Elders or Sisters, but other times we have larger groups. Overall this month, over 100 hours came from these volunteers.
- The following COVID-19 modifications to volunteering will remain in place until further notice:
 - Individual volunteers and groups of no more than 25 people are allowed.
 - 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 covering accessible at all times in case they need to interact with anyone or use the restroom.
 - Volunteers are asked to bring their own gloves and tools whenever possible.
 - During “Stay-at-Home 2.0”, we are limiting volunteer groups that do not live in the same household and are pausing starting new volunteers.