



Open Space and Regional Parks Commission Meeting March 2025

SOUTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- The Gardening in Nevada Series hosted by Washoe County Extensions Master Gardeners was very well received at Bartley Ranch Regional Park. They were held every Tuesday evening in February and March and have an average attendance of over 30 participants.
- The Life and Times of Will James was held at Bartley Ranch Regional Park on February 15th. It highlighted the unusual path Will James took to build his legacy and legend in the Truckee Meadows and beyond and was attended by 150 of his devoted fans.
- The Astronomical Society of Nevada invited interested individuals to view the night skies at Galena Creek Regional Park on February 28th and was enjoyed by 40 attendees.
- On March 1st Park Rangers held a Junior Ranger “Snow Day” and taught 30 young explorers how to prepare for and adventure in the snow at Galena Creek Regional Park.

SOUTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- On Thursday April 1st, The first in a series of Washoe County Rocks! Programs (The World of Rocks and Minerals) will be held at the Western Heritage Interpretive Center in Bartley Ranch and it will explore the process that create the amazing minerals and formations you see throughout the Great Basin.
- On April 5th, Junior Rangers will get the chance to explore Davis Creek Regional Park after the devastating Davis Fire to see firsthand the impacts of fire on the landscape and the challenges we face in bringing back those sensitive areas.
- The Washoe County Rocks! Series will continue at Hidden Valley Regional Park, focusing on The History of Your Home: Geology of the Truckee Meadows and Virginia Range.

NORTH REGION HIGHLIGHTS

- “Nighttime Friends” were the theme of the *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* held at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on Sunday, January 26th.
- An arachnid-themed *Wildlife Wednesday*, featuring Ranger Lauren Hay and her pet tarantula “Marium” was held at Lazy 5 Regional Park on February 12th.



- Another well attended *Wildlife Wednesday*, featuring “Birds of Prey” was held at Lazy 5 Regional Park on March 12th.
- *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* was held at Lazy 5 Regional Park on Saturday, March 15th, focusing on animal migrations.
- Washoe County Juvenile Services *Youth Employment Program* worked with rangers to complete a beautification project, including murals and areas for the public to create “chalk art” at the Lazy 5 Skate Park over spring break.
- Recent training attended by North Region staff include OSHA-10 in February, Park Rangers Association of California Training Conference held in Reno in late March, and the upcoming Ranger Excellence School in Estes Park, Colorado in May.

NORTH REGION UPCOMING EVENTS

- Peavine District rangers will team up with volunteers from the Lahontan Autobahn Society to complete a cleanup of the Swan Lake Nature Study Area on April 12th.
- The annual *Farm Day Celebration* will take place in the Nevada Farms and Families Area at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park on Saturday, April 26th.
- North Region staff will lead several volunteer projects as part of the annual KTMB Great Community Cleanup on Saturday, May 3rd from 8am – 12pm. North sites will include Rancho San Rafael, Swan Lake NSA and Lockwood Trailhead.
- Peavine District staff will host the second annual *North Valleys Community Fair* at the North Valleys Community Center on Saturday, May 17th from 10am-2pm. The fair will feature Washoe County services available to North Valleys residents, such as the Library, Human Services Agency, Sheriff’s Office, as well as the Food Bank of Northern Nevada and the Washoe County School District.
- A *Junior Ranger Adventure Day* program will be held at Rancho San Rafael’s Nevada Farms and Families Area on Sunday, May 18th, featuring Farm Animals.