

Honey's bridge

Welcome to a unique, high elevation, beautifully designed, arboretum and botanical garden. The gardens showcase diverse native and non-native plant communities and offer seasonal displays of spring flowering perennials, summer annuals, majestic fall colors and breathtaking vistas of the Truckee Meadows and the Sierra Nevada Mountain range. The Arboretum is a place for all ages to learn, explore and engage the senses while discovering what the plant kingdom has to offer.



Wilbur D. May

Preserving a life and legacy

Wilbur D. May was a world traveler, rancher, artist, pilot, businessman, soldier, and philanthropist in the Reno community, committed to the education and well-being of children. The May Center's Museum, Arboretum, and Botanical Gardens are places that showcase Wilbur's passion for life and carryout his legacy.

Enjoy being an Arboretum volunteer

A large volunteer base is needed to keep the gardens in premier condition. If you are looking to volunteer, the Arboretum can always use the helping hands. Call (775) 785-4153 for more information.

Become a donor

The Arboretum and Botanical Garden is partially funded by Washoe County and relies on private donations from the May Foundation, the May Arboretum Society and others for operation, maintenance, improvements, expansion and restoration of the gardens. All donations benefit the Arboretum exclusively.

Get married in a garden

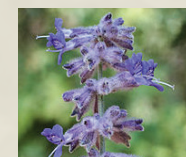
Honey's, Burke, Plaza, Evans Creek Bridge and Columbus Gazebo Gardens can be reserved for weddings. Contact (775) 823-6501 for reservations or visit Washoe County Parks at www.washoecounty.us/parks.

Take a tour!

Private and school tours are available upon request. Call (775) 785-4153 and leave your name, telephone number or e-mail, along with a brief message.



Butterfly bush



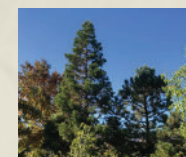
23 Dwight's Grove

Constructed in 2001, in memory of the young Dwight Blevins, this garden represents many of his favorite shrubs including Russian sage and Lydia broom. Mixed within adaptive and native plant species is a box elder and a London plane tree.



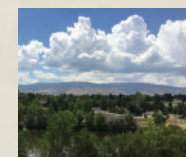
24 Lear Garden

Built in honor of the late William Powell Lear, inventor of the Lear Jet, this garden overlooks the Arboretum, Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and the Eastern Sierra. 'Liset' crabapple trees, 'Halls' Japanese honeysuckle, boxwoods, Oregon grapes and vine maples grow around the Victorian gazebo. The Lear Garden was funded by William's wife, Moya Lear, and friends.



25 Santini Grove

This grove was built for Clark Santini who worked with Washoe County Manager, Russel McDonald, Ginnie Kersey and many other community leaders to acquire and preserve the nearly 415-acre ranch now known as Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.



26 Irwin Overlook

The overlook lies at the north end of the Arboretum. Built high on a knoll, the vistas of the Arboretum, Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and the Sierra Range are breathtaking. Funding for the overlook was provided by the Irwin family.

About the Wilbur D. May Arboretum

The Wilbur D. May Arboretum & Botanical Garden is a unique showplace for plants and wildlife living in the transition zone between the Sierra Nevada and the Great Basin Desert. Established in 1983, the Arboretum is home to over 4,000 native and non-native plant species, and covers nearly 23 acres. Funded by the Wilbur May Foundation, the Arboretum is a tribute to philanthropist Wilbur D. May. Owned and operated by Washoe County, the Arboretum receives funding from the May Foundation, the May Arboretum Society and private donors.

Phases of the Arboretum

Garden construction began shortly after the acquisition of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park in 1979. From 1983–1984, construction began on three acres, thanks to donations from the May Foundation and other groups and individuals. David's, Native, Rock, Rose and Songbird gardens were dedicated in 1986, and are located at the west entrance. Phase two began in the early 1990's on the east side near Sierra Street and Evans Creek. Phase two gardens include Kleiner Oak Grove, Columbus Garden, Honey's Garden, Galaxy Grove and several others with smaller stands of trees. Early on, expansion was limited by Evans Creek until the May Foundation funded the Evans Creek bridge and landing. This allowed for an additional five acres which is phase three. The May Grove, Kleiner Hardwood Grove, Wollitz, Rowley's, Irwin's Overlook, Fannie's, Streshley's and the beautiful Lear Garden were built during this phase.

Native and Introduced Plants

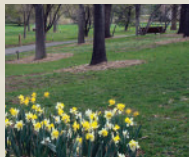
The gardens support many Nevada native plants as well as other introduced ornamentals. Native plants are indigenous or endemic to the area and evolve over geologic time, occurring in specific ecosystems. Introduced plants have been deliberately planted, but withstand our environment. In some cases, "landscape" or "alien" species can escape and become invasive.





1 The Labyrinth

The seven circle Santa Rose® Labyrinth, constructed in 2000, is a place for healing and meditation. Pasque and hellobores, the first perennial flowers, appear in winter. Other flowers bloom through autumn. *See the map for our generous supporters of this garden.*



2 Kleiner Oak Grove

This grove is named after the founder and former director of the Arboretum, plant ecologist, Ed Kleiner, PhD. The overhanging oak branches are from a special eastern oak collection. Red, pin, shumard and scarlett oaks show off fall colors. Bur and white oaks provide summer shade. In spring, a daffodil display hosts several May Arboretum Society events. There are 18 different species of oak in the Arboretum.



3 Galaxy Grove

This grove honors the 71 passengers who perished in the 1985 Galaxy Airline crash in Reno. Moved by the loss, citizens of Reno and Sparks purchased several Giant Sequoia trees to honor the passengers. These trees stand behind the monument.



4 Blakely Grove

Richard Blakey assisted the May family with Washoe County agreements in order to build the May Museum. The grove is planted with a fusion of conifers and eastern deciduous trees. Signature trees in the grove are the Mexican pinyon pine and Klotzch pine, the only two of this kind found in the Arboretum.



5 Columbus Garden

The fields of Italy inspire the open landscape and vine-covered gazebo. Reno's long-established Italian community provided the idea and support for this pleasant reminder of the "old country."



6 Songbird Garden

This secluded garden attracts many songbird species. Overlooking Evans Creek Wetlands, the garden has a small water feature, flowering trees and shrubs and nutritious seeds and fruits. Evergreen and deciduous shrubs, grasses and trees were planted to provide ideal nesting and feeding sites.



7 Kristen's Garden

This is one of the many secluded gardens in the Arboretum. It has a small water feature, an interpretive shade garden and gazebo. Kristen's Garden is planted with a profusion of grape vines, keria and winter honey suckle.



8 Rock Garden

This garden consists of native and sustainable adaptive plants suitable for our high desert environment such as mountain mahogany, apache plume, donkey tail spurge, Mormon tea, sedums, oregano species and fern bush. Numerous varieties are situated in a low water regime of the garden.



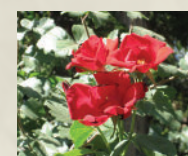
9 Frits Went Native Garden

This garden highlights Nevada native flora with a collection of Great Basin and eastern Sierra Nevada native plants. Follow the gravel paths to learn about salt and northern desert shrubs, pinyon-juniper woodland species and mountain vegetation.



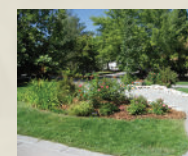
10 David's Grove

This grove represents the western and eastern Sierra Nevada native trees and shrubs as well as a creekside plant community. It is dominated by upper elevation evergreen trees including white fir, Douglas fir, incense cedar, ponderosa pine and Jeffrey pine.



11 The Rose Garden

The roses grow in three raised beds with benches to sit on to enjoy the color and fragrance of the flowers. The small collection encompasses heritage roses, hybrid teas, floribundas and climbing roses which provide flowers all summer. Optimum blooms can be seen in early June.



12 Dixie's Plaza Garden

Funded by Wilbur May's daughter, Dixie May, this garden has colorful drift roses, spiderwort, ox-eye daisy and day lilies during summer. A stone knoll was constructed for wedding vows. The May Museum adjoins the garden and offers two large halls, and an indoor garden court with waterfalls and koi ponds.



Echinacea, Purple cone flower



Quercus rubra, Red oak— by Famartin



Pinyon pine



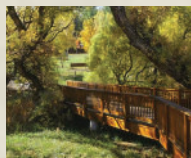
13 Burke Garden

This English country-style garden has blooming perennials including shrub roses, St. Johnswort, hardy geranium, foxglove, Jupiter's Beard, gladiolas, hollyhocks, oxeeye daisy, catnip, clematis, comfrey, digitalis and purple cone flower, to name a few. The garden is available for small weddings.



14 Honey's Garden

Honey's Garden and waterfall is a popular wedding garden situated in a serene setting. There is a covered bridge and cascading water rolling over large boulders into a reflecting pond. The garden has yellow and white themed flowers and large oaks for shade. Honey's Garden overlooks Evans Creek Wetlands and bridge, and represents an upper elevation setting of the Sierra Range.



15 Evans Creek Wetlands

This is a unique and exclusive area and one of the few wetlands in Reno. Visited by nearly 57 species of birds throughout the year, this area features a bridge and landing to relax and observe wildlife under the shade of black willows and cottonwood trees. Cattails and other riparian plants are abundant in the wetland. Wetlands are very important because they provide food and habitat for insects, amphibians, reptiles, birds, fish and mammals.



16 David May II Memorial Grove

Built in honor of David May II, this grove is planted with Nevada and California native deciduous trees and conifers. There is a blue oak in the grove, native to California. This oak is found in lower elevations and foothills of the Sierra Nevada, valleys, and the coast. The blue oak has adapted to our dry summers and cold winters. There are four blue oaks living in the Arboretum.



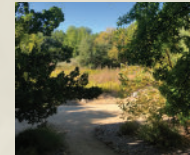
17 Kleiner Hardwood Grove

Midwestern and eastern native deciduous hardwood trees grace the south-facing slope along Evans Creek Wetlands. This is one of the most diverse, interesting and primitive areas of the Arboretum, showcasing shingle oaks, sawtooth oaks and many eastern species including buckeyes. The upper trails open to panoramic views of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, the Truckee Meadows and the Sierra Nevada at Irwin's Overlook and Lear Garden.



18 Fannie's Garden

This garden is located at the north end of the Arboretum on the way to the Lear Gazebo. The garden was named after Fannie Brown who was a gardener and loved oak trees. The first plantings were done around her bench and include a mix of native and non-native conifers and deciduous trees. Fannie's garden lies above the May and Kleiner groves and extends east and west. The east part of the garden includes gamble, scarlet columnar and valley oak as well as other conifers.



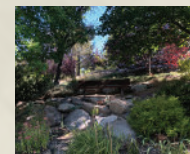
19 Wollitz Grove

Named after Bill Wollitz, a long-time Renoite, this grove features thirty trees and forty shrubs planted in 1994. There is a mix of evergreen, conifers, deciduous trees and native and non-native shrubs including incense cedar. Limber pine and snowberry bush can be found on the upper trail of Wollitz Grove.



20 Rowley Grove

The Rowley Grove was established in the mid-1990s to honor a family member killed in WWII. The grove highlights a mix of native conifers including ponderosa pine, lodge pole and white fir. The honey locust that grows here was a family favorite.



21 Streshley Grove

This grove is a mixture of Nevada favorites such as common lilac, spirea, dwarf flowering almond, snowball bush and dogwood. Ornamental pear, seedless ash and conifers such as limber pine and Austrian black pine also showcase the late Carol Townsend Streshley's favorites.



22 Bree Megan Grove

Built to honor the young life of Bree Megan Shaddrick who passed in 1999, this grove offers breathtaking views with a blend of eastern hardwoods including maples and northern red oaks, and Great Basin natives such as mountain mahogany, bearberry and red twig dogwood. Flower perennials adorn the wall including Mexican evening primrose and salvia species.