

# NEVADA RECREATION & PARKS SOCIETY

*Established 1967*

2020 CONFERENCE AWARDS

**NO. 12**

August 2020

# AND THE WINNERS ARE

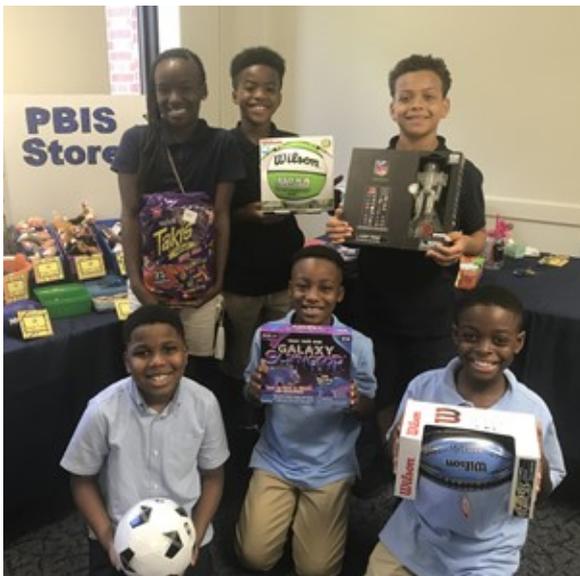
## **ACTIVE ADULT 50+- SENIOR SPRINGS OLYMPICS, CLARK COUNTY**

The event allowed older adults the opportunity to participate and/or be a spectator in 15 different sport and challenge events during our week long Olympic themed event. Participants registered for this event were allowed access to the opening and closing ceremonies, an event T-shirt, food at the ceremonies, and admittance into any and all activities selected by the participant. The activities were designed to provide introduction to games that some participants had never played, and it provided inclusive opportunities by offering activities such as coloring and trivia. The games were designed so everyone had the chance to enter, have fun, and win prizes. Gold, silver and Bronze winners were awarded for individual/team event as well as overall game winners. Activities offered: Ping Pong, Trivia, Wii bowling, Corn hole, Puck Hockey, Bocce Ball, Shuffleboard, Horseshoes, Aquatic Obstacle Course, Pickleball, Archery, Football Toss, Billiards, Coloring, and a Distance Swim. The true testament of the program was that no previous skill in any category was required to participate and that those not playing in an event were encouraged to come cheer others on.



## **ADAPTIVE- PBIS REWARDS, CITY OF RENO**

PBIS Rewards is an affordable program-wide behavior management software system. Commonly used in Schools, City of Reno is the first Parks and Recreation Department to implement this multi-device platform to acknowledge positive participant behavior in our camps and out of school programs. PBIS Rewards makes it easy to continuously recognize participants for meeting behavior expectations from anywhere in the program and with added features like referral tracking (behavior incidents), and a staff rewards system, PBIS Rewards helps to foster accountability and fidelity in your program. PBIS Rewards is easy-to-use, fun for both participants and staff, and provides accountability for



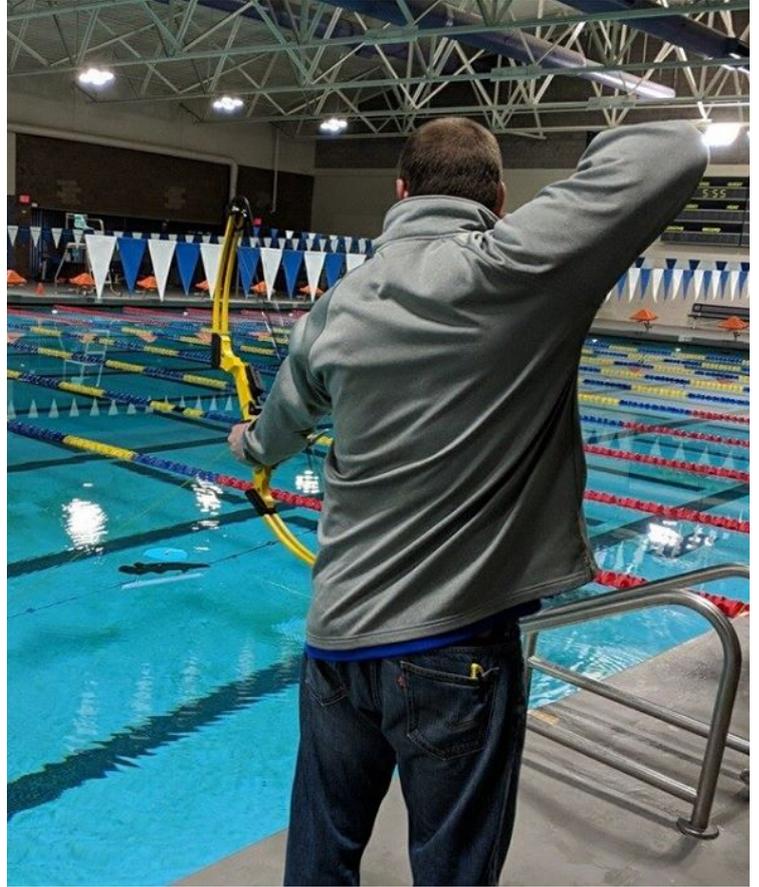
everyone in the program. In addition, PBIS Apps includes a Parent App that gives parents a view into how their child is doing with respect to the program (rewards and referrals) and a Participant App that gives kids an opportunity to see how many points they have earned and make purchases in the program store.

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## **AQUATICS- INTRODUCTION TO BOWFISHING, CLARK COUNTY**

With the rise of archery in our schools and recreation centers many Nevada residents have taken up archery either for recreation or hunting, but what do you do once you have learned the basics and want to expand your knowledge? Where can you go to practice archery in a safe space with crystal clear water? To answer those questions the Introduction to Bowfishing program was created and implemented at Desert Breeze Aquatic Facility with support from Nevada Department of Wildlife.



## **COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIAL EVENT (101-1000): THE POLAR EXPRESS, CITY OF LAS VEGAS**

The Polar Express was held as a 2 night special event at the City of Las Vegas' Cimarron Rose Community Center. Staff transformed the 40'x 80' outdoor, covered sports court into a train car. Wednesday, December 18 and Thursday December 19, 2019. The Polar Express accommodated 260 passengers each evening and each passenger enjoyed hot chocolate, a holiday cookie and received a silver sleigh bell to take home. The Las Vegas Academy of Performing Arts Choir greeted the passengers with carols as they arrived at the station prior to boarding the Polar Express. Passengers on the train were entertained by Cimarron Staff as well as a visit from Santa and his elves.

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## **COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIAL EVENT (0-100): HARRY POTTER MOVIE SERIES, CLARK COUNTY**

By creating the Harry Potter Movie Series we were able to foster the need for departmental collaboration by working with seven different locations, our management team, and marketing team in order to make this series a success. Families who had attended an event at the center closest to their place of dwelling followed the series around town and were able to have exposure to different community centers and facets of the community they had not engaged with before. Participants were encouraged to expand their literary repertoire in order to participate in trivia and enjoy the movies in a new light. Parents, older siblings and guardians that grew up on this series were able to share that with a younger generation in a fun and creative way. Staff that have a connection and passion for the series were able to showcase that through their creative talents and lead participants through activities and crafts. An idea that was brought forward in 2017 has come to fruition this year and will continue in new and creative ways.

## **COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIAL EVENT (1001-10000): HOMESTEAD HOLIDAYS, CARSON CITY PARKS RECREATION & OPEN SPACE**

Homestead Holidays met a need in the Carson City community for a family friendly holiday event. Prior to this event, the department did not offer any holiday related programs or events. While there is a successful and popular Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Capitol Building put on by the local chamber, residents were looking for something that provided activities that all ages would enjoy. The department received positive feedback from community members about how much they enjoyed the event. Many continue to go to Silver Saddle Ranch to use its hiking trails, many who had never been there before. Approximately 2000 residents visited the event over the course of three evenings. The department had to work with many other agencies to provide services at the event, and they used that as a fundraiser. Kiwanis cooked and sold chili and other food and reported it was the largest fundraiser they had in a decade. The Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch provided the wagon rides and accepted donations, which ended up being their largest fundraiser to date. While the event had many challenges to overcome, it brought many community groups together to celebrate the holidays, community, and enjoy a historical facility.



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## **COMMUNITY OR NEIGHBORHOOD SPECIAL EVENT (10000+): SLIDES, RIDES & ROCK AND ROLL, CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS**

Slides, Rides & Rock and Roll (S3R) was the first new signature event for the City of North Las Vegas in over a decade. Faced with the economic downturn, in 2010 the Parks and Recreation department suffered budget and personnel cuts that resulted in a reduction in programming sports, activities and events.

In 2016, the Department saw its first increase in revenue in over a decade as several funding sources were restored to healthy statuses. Personnel began long-range planning that included increases to programming in the recreation centers, sports leagues, and events divisions Parks staff began reinstating preventative maintenance programs and planned/scheduled major capital improvement projects to replace and/or add playground equipment and amenities, site furnishings, turf and hardscape.

Leading the growth was the events programming at City parks, especially at Craig Ranch Regional Park. Staff reinstated movies in the park, increased the Harvest Fair, and instituted new programming options

including the Heroes Challenge, Craig Ranch Campout and the Twilight Blockbuster Series.

However, there still was a void in event programming during the stifling summer months. Staff was tasked with instituting a unique City event that would appeal to a wide variety of demographics, engage our community partners, and provide an affordable option to the community without minimal impact on the general fund. The result was the S3R concept.

The event was defined as a tribute to all things summer – water activities, great BBQ, cars shows and the latest music – much like the hit movie Grease. The inaugural event took place in July 2018, but was plagued by all-day thunderstorms. Despite this, staff received numerous accolades from the attendees (approximately 1,500 braved the weather) who requested that we continue the event on a yearly basis. In 2019, the event was moved to June to coincide with the summer solstice, therefore reinforcing its "summer nights" theme while avoiding the monsoon season.



On the day of the 2019 event, over 500 people were waiting as the slides went into full operational status. That number grew exponentially throughout the day, and exploded once dusk fell and the car show and DJs went into full swing. Staff was pleasantly surprised to find that the numbers of attendees for the car show alone actually rivaled the numbers that utilized the water slides. In all, over 4,500 slide tickets were sold and attendance counts numbered well over 10,000 throughout the day

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## **CO-PARTNERSHIP: VETERAN'S RESOURCE FAIR, CITY OF HENDERSON**

The 2nd annual Veteran's Resource Fair was very successful, and everything was "FREE"! We grew the event substantially from 41 to 51 Vendor tables, the addition of community support from AARP who sponsored the BarBQ, Smith's, P3, OceanSpray, 720 Radio station, Haircuts from Sportclips, massages from Massage Connection and so much community outreach from the Veteran's themselves to promote the event within was fantastic to see. Everyone was so grateful for the opportunity to get together in support of the Veterans, AARP has already committed to sponsor the 2020 fair! I anticipate growing this event yearly and having more attendees, sponsors and Veteran vendors that will bring additional resources and updated information to the Veterans that will make it more successful every year. We received very positive feedback from all who attended. I was able to make contact with VA Deputy Director, Fred Wagar, we are actively working on getting a VSO to be in our facility for two full days out of the week. I was able to connect with Greg Brask, Department of Veterans Affairs to start a weekly Veterans Coffee Club, he is bringing the group to HPSF weekly to support them and get them involved in our activities at the center. The Veterans Coffee Club is being implemented nationwide by the VA due to our support of each other, they love what we are doing! I have seen several of the men coming to lunch now and using the Library. A local news crew stopped over to showcase our "feel good" event, as they called it, on getting the information out to Veteran's.



## **EDUCATION: SUMMER OUTBURST, CITY OF SPARKS**

The Summer Outburst/Nevada Reads program was a huge success for us and Spread the Word Nevada. During the 8-week program 1,311 youth were served. There were 1,244 books distributed along with 71 completed and turned in reading logs. Of the 6 literacy enrichment packets given, our campers completed all 6. Because the positive feedback we have received, we've continued providing this activity for campers throughout the year during our fall, winter and spring breaks. We've added our own reading area consisting of bean bag chairs and a mini library for the children. They all can read on their own during the mornings and evenings of our programs.

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## **CULTURAL: CLARK COUNTY POET LAUREATE, CLARK COUNTY**

Reading and writing poetry improves understandings of the self as well as the world in which we live. Poetry enhances empathy, and it develops creativity including critical-thinking and problem-solving skills important to effective citizenship. For children, teenagers, and adults alike, poetry improves communication, including public-speaking skills, and it offers a compassionate platform for public discourse on topics such as historical remembrances, community grief, and human impact on our planet, including in Las Vegas, one of the fastest-growing cities in the United States. Clark County's administration of the Poet Laureate program has allowed for the development and implementation of year-round poetry programming that is free and open to the public. Each poet laureate has made many contributions to our community and have numerous accomplishments during their term. Bruce Issacson created Poetry Premise, published Clark, Poetry from Clark Country, Nevada, a 280-page anthology of more than 95 Clark County poets and writers, illustrated by 12 local artists and brought poets on national stature to our community. Vogue Robinson, used poetry slams to draw young people into the program and added seniors as a target audience, sending poets to read in retirement and nursing homes in the Alzheimer's Poetry Project. She worked with Isaacson to bring to life one of his original goals, to extend the program into local schools, where poets are actually paid to teach poetry. She brought the new National Poet Laureate, Tracy K. Smith, to read here. She has drawn attention to our community when she was named Best Literary Advocate and has visited the Library of Congress as a special guest by Tracy K. Smith. Heather Lang-Casseara has in a short period of time compiled, edited and published Sandstone and Silver, an anthology of Nevada poets while conducting workshops, readings and events throughout the city and urban areas of Clark County. She is a contributor and member of The Association of Writers & Writing Programs (AWP). The Clark County Poet Laureate Program was recognized by Las Vegas Weekly as The Best Literary Use of Tax Payer Money.



## **HEALTH AND FITNESS: HENDERSON TRAIL HUNT, CITY OF HENDERSON**

This program was such a great success that we are offer three campouts this coming summer.

A Youth Campout, adult Campout, and a family Campout this summer. Camping is a great way for the community to enjoy the outdoors and learn new skills. Last year we had two of the families go out and buy all their owe equipment and went camping two more time before the summer was up.



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## **OUTDOOR: POPUP MOBILE RECREATION, CITY OF LAS VEGAS**

The PopUp program provides a variety of games and activities that are as diverse as the participants we have in our local parks. We hope to foster a sense of adventure by establishing new places to play. Not only does PopUp provide fun activities at the park but with caring staff we hope to nurture a sense of community and showcase the importance of recreational services for all. By being in the parks, it gives the centers in each community an opportunity to advertise to new participants who have yet to attend programs at one of our traditional centers. This program also give opportunities to provide services to those communities who are not able to attend programs at an actual facility due to financial or transportation constraints.

## **SPORTS: YOUTH FLOOR HOCKEY LEAGUE, CITY OF LAS VEGAS**

This program created an opportunity for kids ages 8-12 to find an outlet where they can have fun, be physically active and learn about the biggest sport in Las Vegas right now. In order for the floor hockey league to start off successfully, floor hockey skills classes were hosted at V.M.C.C. for nearly a year prior to the inaugural season. Those skills classes were at a maximum capacity month after month. Kids and parents were benefiting from the low cost prices that only a recreation center could offer with exceptional energy and instruction for kids to learn the fundamentals of hockey. This skills program is now offered city wide, at all our facilities. As the league kicked off, a feeling of community started to be built. Every week the kids would not only develop in hockey, but socially as well.

This skills program is now offered city wide, at all our facilities. As the league kicked off, a feeling of community started to be built. Every week the kids would not only develop in hockey, but socially as well. This could also be seen in our volunteer coaches and parents, who many were also just starting to learn the sport of hockey. As the league continued the positive atmosphere of helping every child develop, rather than focusing on a winning result, became even more apparent. A lot of this was due to the staffing and implementation of the league. From the parent meeting, to the skills clinic, to the refereeing and weekly interactions with staff and participants. There was always a positive aura with the focus always directed on developing the players through a fun and safe environment. The positive feedback from parents and participants was expressed on a weekly and daily basis. An end of season survey was also emailed to participants in order to receive their thoughts and experiences with the league. This allowed us to see how successful the league actually was and where we could also improve.



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## **YOUTH ENRICHMENT: CAMP KINDNESS CAMPAIGN, CITY OF LAS VEGAS**

Through the Camp Kindness Campaign, we touched the lives of over 900 campers not to mention the countless parents, grandparents, staff, and community members with the numerous acts of kindness that were exhibited over the 11 weeks. To recognize and celebrate all of the attributes of kindness, each week's campers created kindness links to document acts of kindness received or witnessed, kind statements, or something meaningful for our youth. Different colored rings represented each of the various attributes and the individual week's specific curriculum. The campers documented thousand of acts of kindness through links of kindness. We also created our kindness pledge, which we are proud to say all of our 900 plus campers took. In addition, the Camp Kindness Campaign has had a significant impact on the various communities we serve. We have seen firsthand a decrease in behavioral challenges and an increase in demonstrated compassion and positive behaviors among the



campers. Focusing on our youth and young adults, we hosted a Camp Kindness Day during the 11-week summer camp program to showcase the commitment of our camp community to fostering the core values of kindness, compassion, generosity, and care while integrating those values more fully into every aspect of our society. These values are now an integral part of the fabric of the City of Las Vegas' camp experience. We shared in the mission for our youth to be nurtured, taught, supported, and inspired to grow into our new generation of kind, compassionate, socially minded, community-oriented citizens.

## **NEIGHBORHOOD PARK: DESERT PULSE PARK, CITY OF HENDERSON**

The 5-acre park is nestled within the thriving master-plan community of Cadence. The park's popularity stems from its proximity to homes, along with the abundance of amenities it provides. With the park located within a community, it provides a perfect opportunity for friends and family to enjoy the outdoors just minutes from their homes.



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## **SILVER STATE LEGACY PROGRAM AWARD: SCHEEL'S TURKEY TROT, CITY OF SPARKS**

A Thanksgiving mainstay that has become a local tradition for Sparks Parks & Recreation—the Scheels Turkey Trot. For 2 decades, area families have been tossing the turkey in the oven and heading down to the Sparks Marina to participate in this fun and exciting event. Rain shine, snow, sleet, ice, wind or whatever the elements, this fun run race/walk has taken place every Thanksgiving morning since 1999. What is now known as the Scheels Turkey Trot consists of a 2-mile walk or run and a 10K run that takes place on Thanksgiving morning. Inaugurally, in 1999 the event was held in a dirt lot at the Sparks Marina. In 2010, Scheels (sporting goods retailer) became the title sponsor of the event. With that, the staging area was moved from the Sparks Marina Park to the Scheels lot and breezeway. Located adjacent to the Sparks Marina, the move still provided the serene marina park setting for the participants. The Turkey Trot is an annual holiday tradition for many Sparks residents as well as for many people from the surrounding communities. Participations have grown from 550 at the inaugural event to nearly 2500 participants at its peak. In the beginning prizes consisted of a pumpkin pie and a bottle of wine, now all participants receive a race shirt and souvenir bag and top participants in each age group receive a custom medal. The addition of corporate and community sponsorships has contributed to the improvements and changes over the years. The title sponsorship funding received from Scheels helps cover costs to allow a maximum amount of funding to go towards the beneficiary organizations and programs. In the beginning, Turkey Trot was a unique idea for a holiday event. Over the years other runs have followed the Turkey Trot example, but the tradition, longevity and community-based nature of the Scheels Turkey Trot make this event unique and a community favorite. For 20 years, the event has evolved and improved, while the fundamental concept and vision has remained intact.



## **SPECIAL FEATURE: LAS VEGAS COMUNITY HEALING GARDEN, CITY OF LAS VEGAS**



The design was to simply create something that provided a quiet, reflective place for healing; a temporary place for Las Vegasans to grieve and pay their respects. Once a plot of land was donated, the plan grew to create a permanent space that included a remembrance wall to collect mementoes of the 58 individuals lost; a tree of life sitting in a heart shaped planter adorned with tiles made by victim's families, survivors, and community members; a path that winds through the 58 tupelo trees at a slight incline so visitors feel they ascend above the city, all to create the sense of healing. This is a community garden created by the community, to heal the community. Everything in the garden has been donated.

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## **PARK AND FACILITY RENOVATION: A UNIQUE TURF CONVERSION, CITY OF HENDERSON**

This turf conversion project is also a water conservation project. Water conservation is very important issue in the Las Vegas Valley. People continue to move to the valley which increases new development and the demand for water. Meanwhile, we are still in a drought in southern Nevada and the water level at Lake Mead continues to drop, although the level has risen 5 feet since last February 2019. However, the current lake level is 1,095 ft which is 134 ft below "full pool" which is 1,229 ft. The last time the lake level was near 'full pool' was in 2000 when the level was 1,214 ft. Since then, the water level at Lake Mead has steadily declined.

SNWA has done a good job of prioritizing turf conversion at residential homes and commercial properties. Since 1999, more than 187 million square feet of turf has been removed. All water conservation efforts add water to the "bank" which can be used for future development.

The turf conversion project we are currently performing is a unique project in that converting from high water use fescue to turf to low water use hybrid Bermuda turf can provide significant water savings while still providing safe sports turf for users to play on. Our desired outcome is to save 22.4 million gallons of water per year. To put this in perspective, 22.4 million gallons of water is the equivalent of 34 Olympic size swimming pools.



## **SILVER STATE LEGACY PARK AWARD: DEEP PARK, CITY OF SPARKS**

It all started in 1903 when the park opened for the community. The park had an area of 3.2 acres. People were able to have picnics and watch deer graze in the park. Because of the deer in the park, the name of the park became Deer Park. The completion of the Lincoln Highway transformed Deer Park into a free municipal campground. Auto tourists could pitch tents along with their automobiles and have small campfires. The campground closed in 1933, and a fence was put around the grass, making it into a park. The park had a water pump, showers, a tennis court, and a playground. A gas pump was placed near the park for visitors to fill up when visiting the park. In 1942, the most significant development of all happened at Deer Park. The City of Sparks built a new municipal pool for the community. In 2007, the pool got renovated. The new pool featured a zero-depth entry design to assist small children and access for all abilities. The park has a playground, restrooms, full basketball court, canopy, and BBQ areas.

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**DUNDEE AWARD: JAYNE MAZURKIEWICZ, CITY OF  
HENDERSON**



**YOUNG PROFESSIONAL: BRITTANY MARTIENZ, CITY  
OF SPARKS**



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