

# The Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden

## INTERPRETIVE PLAN

Reno, Nevada 2018



Table of Contents

Introduction letter	4.
Overview of Phase I	5.
Visitor Analysis	6.
Vision, goals and objectives	6.
Media and methods	7.
Summary of recommendations	8.
Implementation	8.
Resources	8.
Interpretive guidelines / branding strategies	9.
<b>GARDENS</b>	
David’s Grove	10.
Frits Went Trail	12.
Rock Garden / Native Garden	14.
Plaza Garden	16.
Kristen’s Garden	18.
Ralph Shearer Rose Garden	20.
Songbird Garden	22.
Burke Garden	24.
Welcome/History/Phases	26.
Kleiner Oak Grove	28.
Columbus Garden	30.
Galaxy Grove	32.
Blakely Conifer Grove	34.
Honey’s Garden	36.
Wetland Entrance	38.
Wetland Bridge/Observation Area	40.
David May II Memorial Grove	42.
Kleiner Mixed Hardwood Grove	44.
Wollitz Grove	46.
Fannie’s Garden	48.
Rowley’s Grove	50.
Streshley’s Grove	52.
Bree Megan Grove	54.
Santini’s Grove	56.
Dwight’s Grove	58.
Lear Garden	60.



Table of Contents (continued)

<b>IRWIN OVERLOOK</b>	
The Virginia Range	62.
Slide Mountain / Mt. Rose	64.
Carson Range	66.
Peavine Mountain	68.
Crystal Peak	70.
<b>CHILDREN’S PANELS</b>	
Songbirds	72.
Wetlands	74.
How do plants grow?	76.
Leaf identifier	78.
<b>TOPICS TO INTERPRET IN ADDITION TO THE GARDENS</b>	
Profiles / History / Education / Stewardship	80.
<b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</b>	
Map of the gardens	81.
Informal survey	82.
Interpretive panel material options	84.
Interpretive planning process phase overview	86.
Wish list for future projects	87.





April, 2018

This comprehensive master interpretive plan has been prepared specifically for the Wilbur D. May Arboretum located in Reno, Nevada. The Arboretum is owned and operated by Washoe County and continues to receive funding from the May Foundation as well as other supporters such as the May Arboretum Society and private donors.

Recently, the Arboretum and Botanical Garden, home to over 4,000 plant species, celebrated its 30th year anniversary. This amazing place is home to 175 genus/taxon with over 250 different species including 85 tree species. The area is a unique showplace for plants and wildlife living in the transition zone between the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range and the Great Basin Desert. It encompasses nearly 23 acres, with 13 of those acres serving as a living plant museum and new gardens and venues planned for additional acres.

The Arboretum is a member of the American Public Garden Association and certified as a Level II Arboretum; whose mission is education, research, conservation, and demonstration regarding how introduced plant species and native plants grow in a high desert environment. It offers a combination of science and aesthetics and provides displays of native and adaptable plant species, shrubs and wildflowers.

An integral part of the interpretive planning process is understanding the experience from a visitor's standpoint. We have conducted visitor interviews at the Arboretum and an online survey. Visitor experiences deal with emotions, inspiration and relationship to the subject matter. We talked with visitors to determine why they come to the Arboretum and if they have thoughts or ideas about the future of the area.

This plan includes interpretive recommendations for the current Arboretum as well as future phases. Additionally, it outlines an overall creative, interpretive approach and steps for implementation.

## An Overview of Using the Wilbur D. May Arboretum Interpretive Plan

- ☞ This Interpretive Plan (Phase I) encompasses research from October, 2017 through March, 2018.
- ☞ This Plan provides recommendations such as highlights for each garden or grove; panel locations; and future suggestions to enhance the visitor experience.
- ☞ It is recommended that this Plan be used as a "guideline" for the individual garden panels. It is expected that some of the highlighted themes and subthemes may change due to a variety of reasons, e.g. the health of a particular species, need for consistency with the digital mapping program, or additional expert input from team members.

*Note: The next phase, Phase II, will include in-depth research and discovery on all selected topics; design and layout of each panel; writing and editing; imagery collection and custom photography; professional proofing; extensive digital file preparation; and panel fabrication and delivery. This includes delivery of all accompanying hardware and pedestals.*

Here is a brief overview of the interpretive process.

- Phase I is the research and creation of this interpretive plan.
- Phase II will consist of research and discovery for all interpretive panels, as well as design and layout, writing and editing, preparation of all digital files, and fabrication.
- Phase III will consist of receipt and installation of all panels, pedestals/stands, and accompanying hardware.

# Visitor Analysis

## Audience Profiles

- ☞ Local residents of all ages
- ☞ School children
- ☞ College students
- ☞ Senior citizens
- ☞ Regional visitors from Nevada and California
- ☞ Out of state visitors

## The Audience Experience

Our goal for the visitor is to enhance the experience he or she has when visiting the Arboretum by utilizing a multitude of senses including sight, hearing, touch and smell. Also to embrace the importance of sharing, preserving and conserving this special place.

# Vision, Goals and Objectives

## The Vision

While the “vision” for the Arboretum encompasses many experiences for many people, the overall vision is for visitors to fall in love with this special place and want to learn more about the plants, trees, and beings that live here. We want people to come back again and again, and to bring their family and friends. We want visitors to get excited and inspired by what they see and experience and in turn this will encourage them to explore deeper into the science, history and environment. Ultimately, many of these visitors will continue to visit the Arboretum on a regular basis throughout the year and become stewards, advocates, volunteers, and possible donors.

# Goals and Objectives

- ☞ Encourage visitors and supporters to deepen their appreciation for plants and trees, and the Arboretum as a whole.
- ☞ Help visitors become engaged and interested in the property by engaging them in stories shared on the interpretive panels.
- ☞ Boost the botanical knowledge of experienced visitors by providing information and scientific facts via creative platforms and entertaining methods.
- ☞ Communicate opportunities for donors to support the Arboretum financially, and through volunteerism.
- ☞ Excite children and young people about plants and trees, and the birds, animals and insects that depend on them for survival.

## Media and Methods

We recommend informative, educational interpretive panels fabricated in High Pressure Laminate (HPL). For stands and pedestals, we are recommending aluminum powder-coated posts with accompanying hardware. Panel fabrication specifications include:

- ☞ Superior quality high-pressure laminate (HPL)
- ☞ Manufactured by Fossil Industries [www.fossilgraphics.com](http://www.fossilgraphics.com)
- ☞ 12-color High Definition (HD) Printing
- ☞ Durable and long-lasting / UV-Coated
- ☞ Graffiti-proof / Moisture and scratch-resistant
- ☞ 10-year warranty

# Summary of Recommendations

- ☞ Design custom interpretive panels that complement the current wayfinding signs and install them in primary gardens, groves and locations throughout the Arboretum to educate and inspire visitors.
- ☞ Design and create selected educational panels specifically designed for younger children. Suggested topics and locations can be found in this plan.
- ☞ Clearly define technology-based interpretive programs that will enhance the visitor experience – this may include beacon augmented-reality technology allowing visitors to download a custom app once they arrive on the property.
- ☞ Make sure all tools and programs work together to solidify the branding strategies currently in place at the Arboretum and also embrace future plans.
- ☞ Stewardship messaging featured throughout the Arboretum panels and messaging encouraging visitors to embrace and protect the Arboretum. Messaging platforms may include respecting the Arboretum, minimizing our footprints on the environment, educating younger individuals about importance of maintaining and protecting our special places (such as the Arboretum).
- ☞ Review current mission statement and/or prepare new statement and/or tagline that may be incorporated into interpretive messaging throughout the grounds.

# Implementation

We are recommending a phased plan for the roll-out of this interpretive plan:

- ☞ Upon approval of this Interpretive Plan, the selected interpretive design firm can begin further research and design, writing and editing, imagery development, etc. on each panel.
- ☞ Technology-based interpretive options can be further researched and recommended.
- ☞ Research the possibility of enhancing the docent program, so an Arboretum specialist is always available to be on-hand for special events or busy summer weekends.

# Resources

Bill Carlos, M.S. Horticulturist, Washoe County Regional Parks, May Arboretum  
Dr. Ed Kleiner, Founder of the Arboretum and Former Director, Plant Conservationist and Botanist  
Lynda Nelson, Natural Resources Specialist

# Interpretive Panel Guidelines and Branding Strategies

## Overview

The overview copy will highlight characteristics of each garden or viewpoint. The interpretive plan lists basic guidelines to follow. Further development of the copy content for this section will be finalized in Phase II –the interpretive design and development phase. Each interpretive panel will follow a consistent flow of information, and will feature the following:

## Main Theme

A focus or call-out of a premier point of interest within the garden. This portion of the interpretive panel will include a large image to draw in the visitor, as well as a description. Further development of the copy content for this section will be finalized in Phase 2 –the interpretive design and development phase. *Common and scientific names will be used for highlighted plants.*

## Subthemes

Each panel will contain three to four subthemes with image and copy interpreting distinct biological characteristics. Further development of the copy content for this section will be finalized in Phase II –the interpretive design and development phase. *Common and scientific names will be used for highlighted plants.*

## Additional Panel Content

An additional content area will be used on each panel relating to different categories such as:

- ☞ General history / family history of the garden
- ☞ Flora and fauna
- ☞ Research / scientific areas of interest
- ☞ Master plan information
- ☞ Managing an arboretum
- ☞ Donation and volunteer information

## Font and Color Recommendations

It is recommended that the interpretive panels follow interpretive design guidelines by using sans serif fonts for most of the body copy. Some headers or smaller statements can be in serif fonts if found appropriate. For plants, common names should be listed in “regular” and scientific names listed in the “italic.”

PMS: Dark green (need to match current colors to Pantone Matching System for final plan update)  
PMS: Teal (need to match current colors to Pantone Matching System for final plan update)  
PMS: Gray 6



# 1 · DAVID’S GROVE

---

## Overview

David’s Grove consists of High Sierra native and creekside plants. This section is dominated by upper montane evergreen conifers such as Jeffrey and Ponderosa Pines.

## Main Theme

- Ponderosa pine | *Pinus ponderosa*

## Subthemes

- Douglas fir | *Pseudotsuga menziesii*
- White fir | *Abies concolor*
- Jeffrey pine | *Pinus jeffreyi*

## Donor Profiles | Historical, Education and Stewardship Topics

### Suggestions:

- Donor Profile: Image of David Odencrantz and family history surrounding the garden.
  - Systems of the Great Basin with a diagram of the ecosystem.
- 

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.



## 2 · FRITS WENT TRAIL

---

### Overview

The Frits Went Trail encompasses lower desert to higher elevation points, including Great Basin and Sierra Nevada native plants.

### Main Theme

- Single-leaf pinyon | *Pinus monophylla* (note: the only single needle pine in the world grows in the Western U.S.)
- Two-needle pinyon | *Pinus edulis*

### Subthemes

- Bristlecone pine | *Pinus aristata*
- Mountain mahogany | *Cercocarpus ledifolius*
- Mormon tea | *Ephedra viridis* (note: this is a living fossil)

### Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

#### Suggestions:

- Donor Profile with image and historical information.
  - Choose from suggested content list such as history on the Arboretum.
- 

### Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

## FRITS WENT TRAIL



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



# 3 · ROCK GARDEN | NATIVE GARDEN

## Overview

This garden consists of an extensive collection of small plants of the Great Basin, adaptive plant species and some southwest natives. The species within this garden have adapted to surviving in a low-water environment.

## Main Theme

Bigtooth maple | *Acer grandidentatum*

## Subthemes

- Pinyon pine | *Pinus edulis* Engelman
- Sagebrush | *Artemisia tridentata*
- Red osier dogwood | *Cornus sericea*
- Western juniper | *Juniperus occidentalis*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

### Suggestions:

- Donor Profile with image and historical / botanical information—Margaret and Loring Williams.
- Interpret: how plants adapt to a low-water environment. Talk about zones.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



# 4 · DIXIE MAY PLAZA GARDEN

## Overview

Funded by Wilbur May’s daughter, the Dixie May Plaza Garden is adorned by colorful displays of perennials. The small stone knoll was constructed specifically for newlyweds to exchange their wedding vows.

## Main Theme

Ginkgo tree or maidenhair tree | *Ginkgo biloba* (note: traditional medicine / living fossil)

## Subthemes

- Adams crabapple | *Malus x atrosanguinea*
- Silver maple | *Acer saccharinum*
- Incense cedar | *Calocedrus decurrens*
- Horse chestnut | *Aesculus hippocastanum*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- Donor Profile with image and historical information–Dixie May.
- Choose from suggested content list such as history on the Arboretum.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



A



B

Two possible panel locations. This garden has foot traffic from different directions. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only. For reference only.

# 5 · KRISTEN'S SHADE GARDEN

## Overview

Kristen's Shade Garden is a lush, secluded gazebo garden where shrubs and vines flourish. This spot is ideal for small gatherings and intimate weddings. A profusion of wisteria, Hosta's, ferns, corral bells and bleeding harts bloom in the spring; and opulent Michaelmas daisies delight several months every year including late summer and fall. Kristen's Shade Garden is home to several species of shade plants, including 12 different species of Hosta and several species of ferns.

## Main Theme

- Hosta | *Funkia*
- Fern | *Pteridophyta*

## Subthemes

- Coskspur Thornless Hawthorn | *Crategus crus-galli*
- Canyon grape | *Vitis arizonica*
- Compact Japanese knotweed | *Polygonum cuspidatum*
- Giant sequoia | *Sequoiadendron giganteum*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- Donor Profile with image and historical information–Kristen.
- Information on intimate gatherings and availability.
- Choose from suggested content such as history on the Arboretum or how plants are classified (scientific name verses classification and rank).

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

# KRISTEN'S SHADE GARDEN



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



# 6 · RALPH SHEARER ROSE GARDEN

---

## Overview

This garden houses a unique collection of up to 50 different types of roses that can be seen in bloom from summer into autumn. The Rose Garden is a mix of different types of roses, from heritage roses to hybrid tea's. The rose varieties can change from year to year as the Arboretum continues to try new roses that are hardy and fragrant.

## Main Theme

- Hybrid tea rose

## Subthemes

- Floribunda rose
- Heritage rose
- Climbing rose

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

### Suggestions:

- Donor Profile with image and historical information–Ralph Shearer.
  - Interpret: What is a hybrid? There are more than 15,000 species/hybrids in the world.  
What is a heritage plant? Culinary use. Fragrance use. What makes this collection unique?
- 

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.

# 7 · SONGBIRD GARDEN

## Overview

Offering aromatic flowers, nutritious seeds, and colorful fruits, the Songbird Garden attracts many native birds. Many of the shrubs and trees were specially selected as ideal nesting sites. This Garden is a bird-watcher’s delight.

## Main Theme

- Giant sequoia | *Sequoiadendron giganteum*

## Subthemes

- Alpine Currant | *Ribes alpinum*
- Fragrant sumac | *Rhus aromatica*
- Snowberry | *Symphoricarpos albus*
- Mentor barberry | *Berberis thunbergii*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- Donor Profile with image and historical information.
- The shade, humidity, and water make for the perfect nesting site. The birdhouse on a pole in the NW corner was a contribution from a Veteran. What are micro climates? Note: Make use of content currently seen on the Washoe Storey Conservation District panel which needs to be replaced.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

## NOTE:

The interpretive team believes this would make a good area for an additional children’s panel to talk about and list colorful images and information on songbirds. The new panel would replace the existing “bird” panel shown in the photograph. Concept would be to “look out” for specific songbirds that would be frequenting the garden.



Two panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.



# 8 · BURKE GARDEN

## Overview

Styled after English country gardens, this area features an abundant display of flowering perennials. Blooming from early spring through late autumn, this garden is a beautiful setting for weddings and other special events.

## Main Theme

- Jupiter’s beard | *Centranthus ruber*

## Subthemes

- Hardy geranium | *Pelargonium*
- Jackmanii Clematis Vine | *Clematis jackmanii*
- Purple cone flower | *Echinacea*
- Foxglove | *Digitalis*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- Donor Profile with image and historical information. Burke Garden, named after Daisy Burke (beautiful garden near the Ranch House) – Cottonwood had to be removed. Burke was a pioneer family with eight children who wanted the family to be recognized in the Arboretum. The sundial displayed in the garden was from their home near downtown.
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.

## 9 · Welcome Panel ~ History I Phase I, Phase II and Phase III

---

### Overview ~ Welcome Panel

This panel would outline the history, phases and plans for the Arboretum. This panel could be considered more of a welcome-style panel and duplicates could be made for each entrance. Once Phase III is complete, the welcome panel would need to be updated to showcase current status.

### Main Theme

- Large map of Arboretum

### Subthemes

- History
- Show rendering for future plans (Phase III map)
- Become a volunteer

### Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- Who was Wilbur D. May.

---

### Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

## Past and Present

Location to be determined.  
This 36" x 24" panel may lend itself to several duplicates located at Arboretum entrances.



# 10 · Kleiner Oak Grove

## Overview

The Kleiner Oak Grove celebrates the varieties of deciduous trees found in the forests of the midwest and eastern United States. Most common in these native forests are hardwood trees such as oak, ash and maple. These forests are notable for their display of brilliantly colored leaves in the fall.

## Main Theme

- “Iconic” Eastern White Oak / *Quercus alba*

## Subthemes

- Red maple / *Acer rubrum*
- Sugar maple / *Acer saccharum*
- White ash / *Fraxinus americana*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of Dr. Kleiner and his dedication to the Arboretum.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

# Kleiner Oak Grove



Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.



# 11 · Columbus Garden

## Overview

The fields of Italy inspire the open landscape and vine-covered gazebo for pleasant reminders of the “old country.”

## Main Theme

- Box elder | *Acer negundo*

## Subthemes

- Bur oak | *Quercus macrocarpa*
- Cherry tree | *Prunus*
- Honey locust | *Gleditsia triacanthos*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

### Suggestions:

- History of Blanch Holcomb. Italian history is important here - Angela DeNevi. Louis Gardella.
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

# Columbus Garden



Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only. Panel will replace existing sign.



# 12 · Galaxy Grove

## Overview

This area honors the crew and passengers of Galaxy Airlines Flight 203 that crashed shortly after take-off on January 21, 1985.

## Main Theme

- Giant redwood | *Sequoiadendron giganteum*

## Subthemes

- Colorado blue spruce | *Picea pungens*
- White Fir | *Abies concolor*
- Quaking aspen | *Populus tremuloides*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

### Suggestions:

- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

# Galaxy Grove



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.

# 13 · Blakely Conifer Grove

## Overview

This is mixed coniferous collection. Conifers are mostly needle-leaved or scale-leaved, chiefly evergreen, cone-bearing (seed producing plants) trees or shrubs of the order Coniferales, such as pines, spruces, and firs.

## Main Theme

- Scots pine | *Pinus sylvestris*

## Subthemes

- Ponderosa pine | *Pinus ponderosa*
- Jefferey pine | *Pinus jeffreyi*
- Mexican pinyon pine | *Pinus cembroides*

NOTE: There were questions as to what trees should be on this one.

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of Dick Blakely (mentioned WWII and that he was legal council for Wilbur May)
- What is a coniferous forest? Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



# 14 · Honey’s Garden

## Overview

Honey’s Garden started out as a weed-filled clay and rock area. Heavy machinery was brought into the Arboretum and created remarkable transformation was created. Honey was the nickname of one of the May brother’s wife. The panel will require additional research about Honey. When in bloom, this garden features white and yellow flowers and is a centerpiece for weddings and relaxing.

## Main Theme

- Honey’s Garden water feature

## Subthemes

- Wysteria vines | *Wisteria sinensis*
- Bald cypress | *Taxodium distichum*
- Burr oak | *Quercus macrocarpa*
- European Beech | *Fagus sylvatica*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of the May family and Honey.
- What does it take to clear land and create what you see today. How an arboretum chooses plants.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



A



B

Two possible panel locations. Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.

# 15 · Wetland Entrance

## Overview

Wetlands are a critical part of our natural environment and they are among the most productive ecosystems in the world, comparable to rain forests and coral reefs. They reduce the impacts of floods, absorb pollutants and improve water quality. They provide habitat for animals and plants and contain a wide diversity of life, supporting plants and animals that are found nowhere else. This area represents one of the last wetlands in northwest Reno. It is fed from Evans Creek run-off which flows from Peavine Mountain.

## Main Theme

- Black cottonwood | *Populus trichocarpa*

## Subthemes

- Black willow | *Salix nigra*
- Cattail | *Typha*
- Rush | *Juncus*
- Sedges | *Carex nevadensis*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

### Suggestions:

- How wetlands work - use an illustrated diagram. Nature’s water filter serves as erosion control.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

## NOTE:

The interpretive team believes this area could make a good location for an additional children’s panel to feature the importance of the wetlands habitat and to showcase the variety of animal species that depend on this environment. The other interesting story regarding this area is the long-term plan to do minimum removal of limbs and other organic materials. Perhaps noting that we are not “cleaning up our room” here!

# Wetland



Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only. Remove existing signs for visual clarity and include existing content from the discarded signs on new panel.



# 16 · Wetland Bridge and Observation Area

## Overview

This observation area affords a vista over the shallow wetlands of the May Arboretum. The observation deck and sitting area allows the visitor to experience wildlife in a wetland. Over 57 species of birds visit the arboretum and wetlands. Panel copy also should contain some of the highlights in view when standing on the bridge.

## Main Theme

- Water fowl

## Subthemes

- Muskrats | *Ondatra zibethicus*
- Aquatic Insects
- Squirrels
- Birds of prey

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of the great flood and how the bridge was saved.
- High level nutrients produced in a wetland. Atmospheric maintenance. The perfect habitat for many different species that depend on detritus (organic matter produced by decomposition).

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation would be behind the railing set at a 45 degree angel.  
Suggested size for this area would be 24" x 48".

# 17 · David May II Memorial Grove

---

## Overview

This grove of mostly evergreen trees is representative of species commonly found throughout the west and southwest areas of the United States, particularly in higher elevations.

## Main Theme

- Jeffrey pine | *Pinus jeffreyi*

## Subthemes

- Nine bark | *Physocarpus opulnifolius*
- Ponderosa pine | *Pinus ponderosa*
- Gamble oak | *Quercus gambelii*
- Lodgepole pine | *Pinus contorta*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of David May II, Wilbur May’s nephew.
  - Talk about the 18 different species of oak trees in the Arboretum.
  - Choose from suggested themes.
- 

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

## NOTE:

The interpretive team is recommending replacing the existing large panels and designating individual signs for David May II and Kleiner Mixed Hardwood Groves.



Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.



# 18 · Kleiner Mixed Hardwood Grove

## Overview

Midwestern and eastern native deciduous hardwood trees grace the south-facing slope along Evan’s Creek wetlands. There are eight different species of eastern oak trees represented in this grove.

## Main Theme

- Scarlet oak | *Quercus coccinea*

## Subthemes

- Bur oak | *Quercus macrocarapa*
- Shumard Oak | *Quercus shumardii*
- Yellow buckeye | *Aesculus octandra*
- American hop hornbeam | *Ostrya virginiana*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of Dr. Kleiner (additional to the other Kleiner Oak Grove panel).
- Discuss native hardwood trees of Nevada and where they can be found throughout the state.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

## NOTE:

The interpretive team is recommending replacing the existing large panels and designating individual signs for David May II and Kleiner Mixed Hardwood Groves. This would open up the view of the landscape here. Right now it appears as a wall and would not match the new panels.

# Kleiner Mixed Hardwood Grove



Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.

# 19 · Wollitz Grove

## Overview

This garden contains a mix of conifers and deciduous native and adaptive plants species.

## Main Theme

- Shasta cypress | *Cupressus macnabiana*

## Subthemes

- Dawn redwood | *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*
- Ornamental pear | *Pyrus calleryana*
- California native plants
- Eastern hardwoods

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of the dedications and contributions of the Wollitz family.
- What is an evergreen.
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



# 20 · Fannie’s Garden

## Overview

A mix of upper Sierra montane conifers, spruce trees and common landscape conifers and deciduous native and non-native adaptive plant species.

## Main Theme

- Black hills spruce | *Picea glauca*

## Subthemes

- Russian sage | *Pervoskia atriplicifolia*
- Valley oak | *Quercus lobata*
- Forsythia | *Forsythia x intermedia*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of Fanny Brown and family.
- Talk about how non-native plants adapt.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



# 21 · Rowley’s Grove

## Overview

Another mix stand of Sierra Nevada native conifers including lodge pole pine. Integrated are riparian species such as red twig dogwood, service berry, a few ponderosa pines and common ornamentals such forsythia, false spirea, ornamental pears and others.

## Main Theme

- Lodge pole | *Cornus sericea*

## Subthemes

- Red twig dogwood | *Cornus stonifera*
- Service berry | *Amelanchier*
- Ponderosa pine | *Pinus ponderosa*
- White fir | *Abies concolor*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of Rowley family.
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



# 22 · Streshley’s Grove

## Overview

Streshley’s Grove is a mixed collection of evergreen, deciduous and riparian plants. There also are red oaks along with limber pine. A small perennial garden lies below the bench to view an array of spring, summer and fall flowers.

## Main Theme

- Mock Orange | *Philadelphus x virginalis*

## Subthemes

- Limber pine | *Pinus flexilis*
- Red oak | *Quercus rubra*
- Autumn purple, seedless white ash | *Fraxinus americana*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of Streshley family.
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.

# 23 · Bree Megan Grove

## Overview

This garden overlooks the north side of the Arboretum and Evan’s Creek.

## Main Theme

- Autumn blaze maple | *Acer X freemannii*

## Subthemes

- Northern red oak | *Quercus rubra*
- Kinnikinnick or Bearberry | *Arctaphuylos uva-ursa*
- Amur Maple | *Acer ginnala*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of Bree and family.
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



# 24 · Santini’s Grove

## Overview

Santini’s Garden is named after the late Clark Santini who was responsible for pushing for the acquisition of Rancho San Rafael. This garden is home to species of native species of the Great Basin as well as conifer from Sierra Nevada mountain range.

## Main Theme

- Native sagebrush | *Artemisia tridentata*

## Subthemes

- Incense cedar | *Calocedrus decurrens*
- Sawtooth oak | *Quercus acutissima*
- Giant sequoia | *Sequoiadendron giganteum*
- Gambel oak | *Quercus gambelii*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History Walter Clark Michael Santini. In 1979 Clark Santini co-chaired a volunteer group to advocate for the public purchase of Rancho San Rafael. If Clark and his group were not successful, you would be looking at a sea of apartments, condos and homes today.
- Choose from the list of additional topics.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.

# 25 · Dwight’s Grove

---

## Overview

Dwights Grove is comprised of low water use and adaptive and native plants species.

## Main Theme

- Two needle pinyon pine | *Pinus edulis*

## Subthemes

- Russian Sage | *Pervoskia atriplicifolia*
- Lydia broom | *Genista lydia*
- Scotch broom / Moonlight | *Cytisus scoparius*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of family.
  - Choose from suggested themes.
- 

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



# 26 · Lear Garden

## Overview

This formal garden and gazebo was named after the late American inventor and businessman Bill Lear. A local resident, Bill was best known for founding the Lear Jet Corporation, a manufacturer of business jets. He also invented the battery eliminator for the B battery, and developed the 8-track cartridge, an audio tape system. Throughout his career of 46 years, Lear received over 120 patents. Funds were received in 1999 to build the garden in his honor and soon after it was completed. A dedication was held with the late Moya Lear, who receive the honors. Lear Garden was planted with common and moderate to adaptive low water plant species. The garden gazebo architecture was designed to stay in theme with the rest of the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

## Main Theme

- Red maple | *Acer rubrum*

## Subthemes

- Swiss mountain pine | *Pinus mugo*
- Flowering crabapple | *Malus floribunda*
- Burning bush | *Euyonymus alata*
- Japanese honeysuckle | *Lonicera japonica*

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of the Lear family.
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel location recommendation. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.

# 27 · Irwin Overlook 1 – The Virginia Range

## Overview

The Virginia Range sits primarily within Storey County, and extends east into Lyon County. The range is named after James Finney, “Old Virginny”, an early discoverer of gold during the Comstock Lode.

*Possible tagline: Glancing at history.*

## Main Theme

- Large panoramic image with-call outs of specific mountains and mountain ranges.

## Subthemes

- Comstock Lode history.
- Reno history.
- Geology of the different color rocks above Lawler Events Center created by geothermal.
- Both current and historical history of the wild horses of the Virginia Range.

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- History of the original inhabitants. Petroglyphs that tell a story within the Virginia Range.
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



*Panel will replace current interpretive sign. Suggesting signage size to be 48” x 24”. For reference only.*



# 28 · Irwin Overlook 2 – Slide Mountain / Mt. Rose

## Overview

Slide Mountain is a 9,702-foot peak in the Carson Range. The Mount Rose Ski Tahoe resort is located on this mountain, leading some to believe that the mountain is named Mount Rose, when Mount Rose itself is approximately 1,000 feet higher and several miles to the northwest.

Possible tagline: *Interesting geology.*

## Main Theme

- Large panoramic image with-call outs of specific mountains and mountain ranges.

## Subthemes

- Slide Mountain geologic history and current history. Constantly sliding. Recent slide in 1980s that took out a house. You can easily see how it got its name.
- Dr. Church established the Mount Rose Weather Observatory, one of America’s first high-altitude meteorological observatories, in 1905. The highest and most topographically prominent peak. Extinct volcano. How it got it’s name. Current snow level tests.
- Evans Creek Wetlands.
- Flora and fauna of the Mt. Rose Wilderness.

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- Irwin family story.
- Rocks at the sign site.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel will replace current interpretive sign. Suggesting signage size to be 48” x 24”. For reference only. Panel needs to move to the right to line up with the subject matter.

# 29 · Irwin Overlook 3 – Carson Range and the Sierra Nevada

## Overview

The Carson Range is a spur of the Sierra Nevada in eastern California and western Nevada that starts at Carson Pass and stretches north to the Truckee River near Verdi, Nevada. A spur is a lateral ridge or tongue of land descending from a hill, mountain or main crest of a ridge. Sometimes the term is used in sense of sub peak. *Possible tagline: A different kind of “spur.”*

## Main Theme

- Large panoramic image with-call outs of specific mountains and mountain ranges.

## Subthemes

- Information on the Carson Range - elevation, length, mountains.
- Information on the Sierra Nevada - elevation, length, mountains.
- Truckee Canyon. Truckee River.
- Rocks at the sign site.

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- Wilma “Willie” L. Irwin
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel will replace current interpretive sign. Suggesting signage size to be 48” x 24”. For reference only.



# 30 · Irwin Overlook 4 – Peavine Mountain

## Overview

Peavine Peak is the highest point on Peavine mountain. It forms one of the most dominant geographical features in the Reno / Sparks area. Early prospectors discovered wild pea vines growing in the vicinity of Peavine Springs on the northeast flank of the mountain, hence the name.

Possible tagline: A peak at Reno’s backdrop.

## Main Theme

- Large panoramic image with-call outs of specific mountains and mountain ranges.

## Subthemes

- Geology of Peavine - Much of the northern Truckee Meadows is built atop Peavine alluvium.
- Archaeological sites on Peavine.
- Mining of Peavine.
- Recreation.

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- The Irwin Family.
- Choose from suggested themes.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel will replace current interpretive sign. Suggesting signage size to be 48” x 24”. For reference only.

# 31 · Irwin Overlook 5 – Crystal Peak

## Overview

Crystal Peak is a summit on Crystal Mountain in the middle of the northern Sierra Nevada Diamond Mountains, on the border of Lassen and Plumas Counties, between Reno and Susanville.

*Possible tagline: History is in the rocks.*

## Main Theme

- Large panoramic image with-call outs of specific mountains and mountain ranges.

## Subthemes

- Geology of Crystal Peak – Unusual summit block, which is made out of solid quartz (crystals).
- History of Crystal Peak Mine – The first recorded visit was in 1845 by a Stevens wagon train. During World War II crystals were needed in abundance for use in two-way radios. Dynamite was used to blast the hillside and bring the crystals to the surface.
- Rockhounding at Crystal Peak today.

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Topics

Suggestions:

- Crystal Peak Park information – Flora / fauna, recreation.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)

May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)



Panel will replace current interpretive sign. Suggesting signage size to be 48” x 24”. For reference only.



# 32 · Children’s Panel – Songbirds in the Songbird Garden

## Overview

To casual observers, songbirds are small vocal birds that sing like crazy. To scientists, “songbirds” refers to a wide range of bird species—some of which don’t even sing. Can you spot the songbirds? There are over 200 birds that use the Arboretum either as a stopover to nest and rest, or as a year-round home.

## Panel Arrangement

- Featured birds in the garden.

## Birds Identifier (Possible)

- Black-capped chickadee | *Poecile atricapilla*
- Juniper titmouse | *Baeolophus ridgwayi*
- American tree sparrow | *Spizelloides arborea*
- Golden-winged warbler | *Vermivora chrysoptera*

\*\*\*\*\**(full list of birds to be dertermined at time of sign research)*\*\*\*\*\*

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

# Children’s Panel Songbirds



Panel will replace current interpretive sign. Panel location recommendation. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.

# 33 · Children’s Panel – Wetlands

## Overview

You have to clean up your room, but we don’t do that here! Talk about Dissolved Organic Matter (DOM) and how the Arboretum leaves tree stumps, etc. to rot and why. DOM consists of soluble organic materials derived from the partial decomposition of organic materials, including soil organic matter, plant residues, and soluble particles released by living organisms, including bacteria, algae, and plants.

## Panel Arrangement

- Images and schematics the wetland at the Arboretum works and its importance.

## Illustration Diagrams

- Wetland hydrology
- Hydrophytes
- Energy Cycle
- Macroinvertebrates

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayAboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayAboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

# Children’s Panel Wetlands



Panel location to be determined. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.



# 34 · How Do Plants Grow? – Sunlight Makes Sugar!

## Overview

Plants are everywhere around us, but how do plants grow and what makes plants grow? There are many things plants need to grow such as water, nutrients, air, water, light, temperature, space, and time.

## Panel Arrangement

Photosynthesis. Trees breath life to our planet. Sunlight makes sugar! Photosynthesis equation.  
N, P, K = Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potassium–the three most important nutrients that plants need to grow.

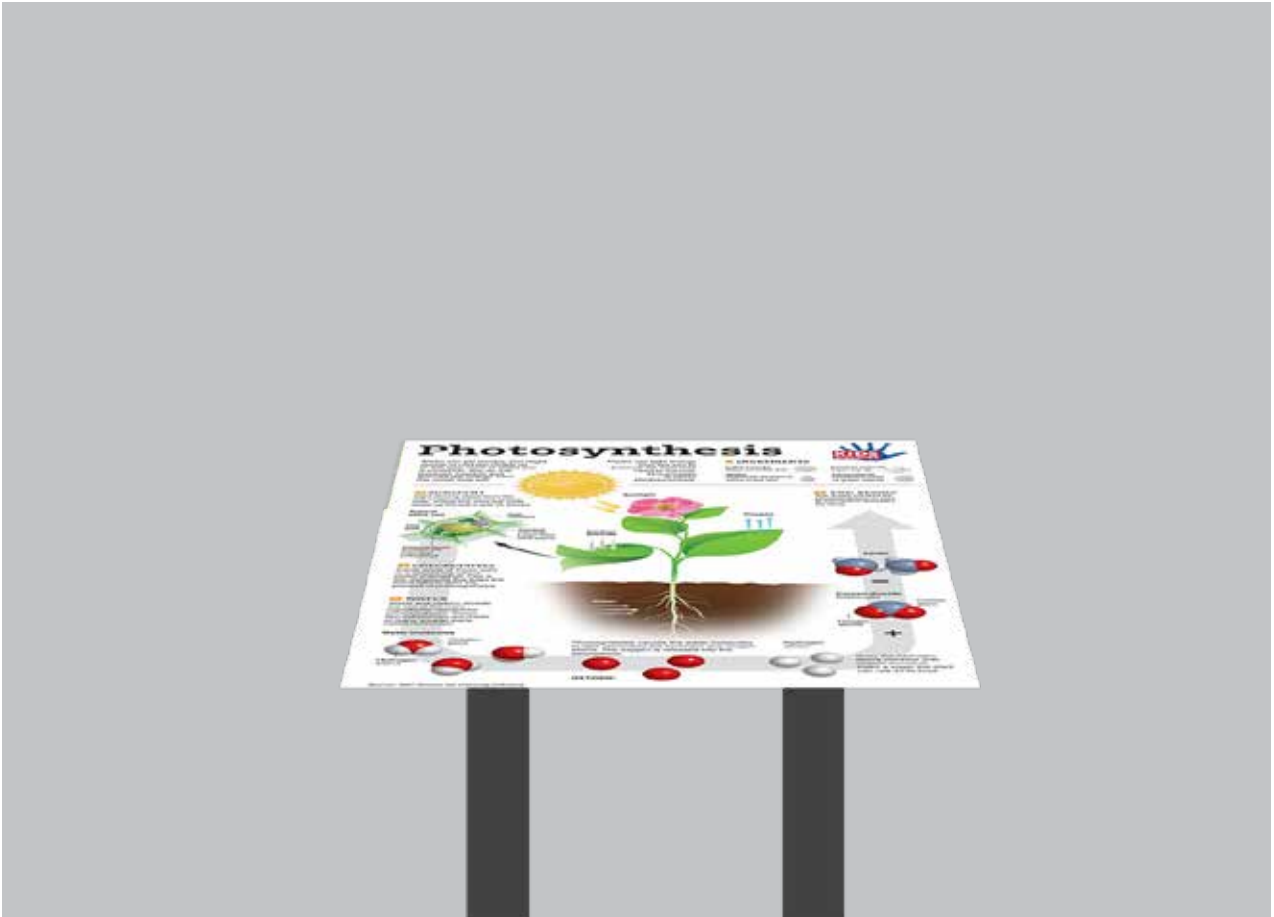
## Illustration Diagrams

- Sunlight is absorbed.
- Chlorophyll inside plant cells traps the sun’s rays.
- Water and carbon dioxide are the main ingredients.
- Sugar is created by photosynthesis and sent out to the rest of the plant.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

# Children’s Panel Photosynthesis



Panel location to be determined. Size 36” x 24”. For reference only.

# 35 · Leaf Identifier – Can you spot these leaves?

## Overview

A leaf is an organ of a vascular plant and is the principal lateral appendage of the stem. The leaves and stem together form the shoot. Leaves are referred to as foliage. How many of these leaves can you find?

## Panel Arrangement

A collection of various types of leaves and needles from different trees in the park.

## Illustration Diagrams (Possible)

- Oak
- Red maple
- Hickories
- Dogwood
- Sugar maple
- Aspen
- Elder
- Pinion pine
- Juniper

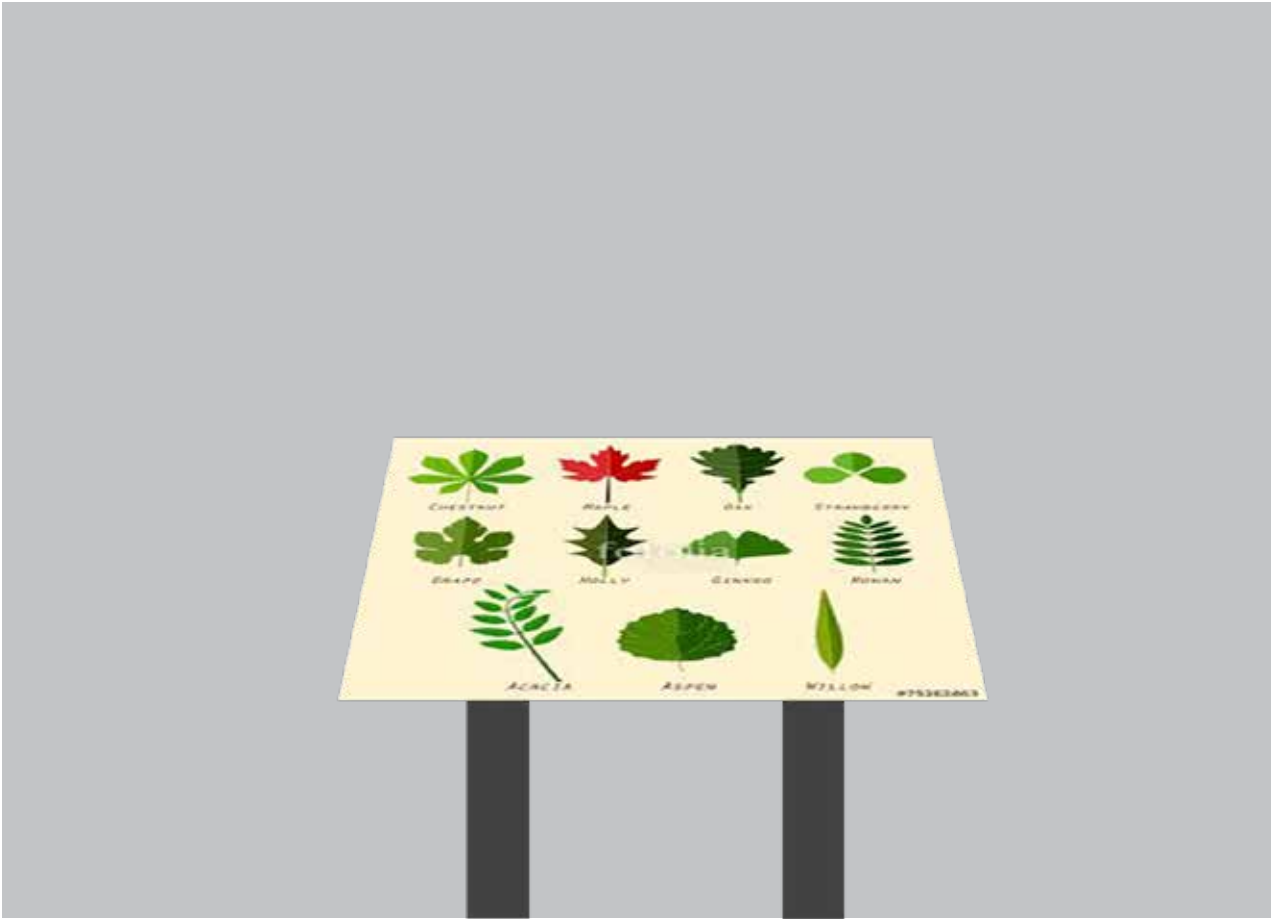
Other leaves / needles to be determined.

## Other:

Website for full details on each garden: [www.MayArboretumSociety.org](http://www.MayArboretumSociety.org)  
May Arboretum (logo) | Wilbur May Foundation (typeset in all caps)

NOTE: This concept would make a great teaching tool for kids if they have a leaf id app, or there could be a leaf brochure with check boxes. Leaf hunt.

# Children’s Panel Leaf Identity



Panel location to be determined. Size 36" x 24". For reference only.



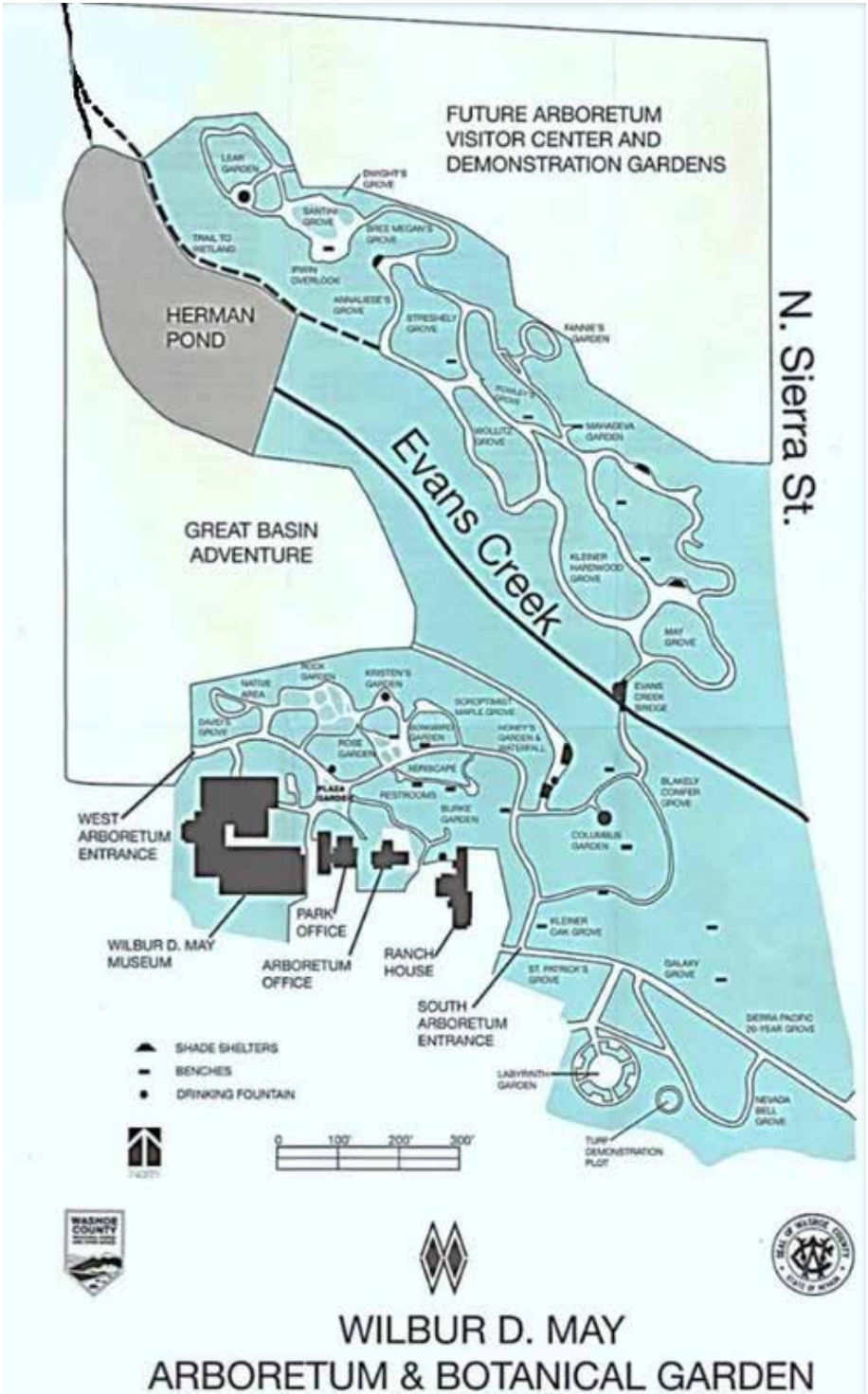
# TOPICS TO INTERPRET IN ADDITION TO THE GARDENS

## Donor Profiles | Historical Education and Stewardship Initiatives

- ☞ Donor profiles.
- ☞ What does it take to maintain the Arboretum?
- ☞ What is the mission of the Arboretum? e.g. Grow native species as well as species from other regions; although emphasis has always been on the Great Basin meets the Sierra.
- ☞ Plants as medicine, e.g. Native Americans.
- ☞ From dinosaurs to present day – A walk through time.
- ☞ What is unique about this place? Connecting people to place builds stewardship.
- ☞ How the plants/trees/species were selected?
- ☞ Experimentation, and research on endangered plants.
- ☞ Different phases of the Arboretum – past and future (e.g. Master Plan, technology, etc.)
- ☞ Town of immigrants (e.g. Columbus Garden) / History of individuals who created the Arboretum.
- ☞ What did this area look like when it was a “working ranch”?
- ☞ Water wars of the past.
- ☞ Pollination and diversity.
- ☞ Biodiversity.
- ☞ 200 Species of birds (not just happenstance, amazing environment for them–food source, plant variety, etc.)
- ☞ What type of insects live in the gardens and what role do they play?
- ☞ How do I become a donor?
- ☞ How do I become a volunteer?
- ☞ How to successfully grow your own plants.
- ☞ Talk about the different plant zones (high desert, etc.)
- ☞ Climate change and its affect on plants and trees.

# MAP OF THE GARDENS

Placeholder. A new map will be downloaded in the final plan.



# INFORMAL SURVEY

On-site interviews from October 2017– March, 2018 | Approximately 25 visitors  
Survey Monkey – February, 2018 | 15 participants  
Demographic | 35–70 years old | Approximately 9 out of 10 visitors were local

An informal survey is part of Fallon Multimedia’s process of creating an interpretive plan in order to better understand visitor needs and to make sure the team is on the right track. This informal research benefits the planning process and is more for the team, and assists the working group in determining interpretive priorities.

- While people have heard about the Arboretum, only 72% out of 100% (who have heard about the Arboretum) have visited.
- Most visitors come to the Arboretum to walk and enjoy the surroundings.
- Many returning visitors would like to see paved trails or more maintenance on trails.
- Better directional/wayfinding signage would be appreciated.
- More information posted about programs and lectures available.

## Questions

1. Are you familiar with the Wilbur D. May Arboretum located in Reno, Nevada?  
Yes / No
2. Have you ever been to the Arboretum?  
Yes / No
3. Approximately how many times do you visit the Arboretum each year?  
One / Three / Five / Ten or more
4. Why do you like to come to the Arboretum?  
Walk / Education / Relax / Events
5. How likely would you be to use the Arboretum for a special event in the next year or two?  
Very likely / Possibly / Not likely
6. What would you like to see at the Arboretum in the future?  
More educational signage / More interactive experiences for children / Paved trails for seniors and

# INFORMAL SURVEY

## Positive Comments

- “Nice trails – convenient escape from the City.”
- “Wonderful place ... Very beautiful and serene.”
- “One of Reno’s best kept secrets.”
- “Amazing potential to be a destination location for locals and visitors to our area.”
- “Usually fairly quiet place even though it is near city.”
- “One of our favorite places to walk.”

## Recommended Improvements / Enhancements Comments

- Smoother trails that provide wheelchair access, and / or safer walking for seniors.
- Improve trail surface to make safer when walking.
- More directional and informational signage.
- Interactive exhibits for children.
- Information about memorial options.
- Japanese Garden.
- Devise a public outreach plan to attract more visitors to the Arboretum and its activities.



# INTERPRETIVE PANEL MATERIAL OPTIONS

---

There are several material options available for interpretive panels. After careful research, the option we are recommending for the Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden is High-Pressure Laminate (HPL). Porcelain Enamel is also an excellent choice. However, the cost is approximately 3-4 times more than HPL. Below is a brief description of the most popular interpretive panel material choices:

## High Pressure Laminate

Combining the most advanced graphic imaging with years of proven durability, High Pressure Laminate (HPL) is an excellent choice of material for most outdoor interpretive panels. Additionally, HPL offers great value and quality at an affordable price. Features include:

- Dynamic color (12-color process).
- Resistant to UV rays, scratching, impact, cigarette burns and graffiti.
- Withstands de-lamination, cracking and peeling.
- Strong and durable.
- Weathers harsh climates / Resistant to moisture.
- Extremely versatile – Panels look great with or without frames.
- Maximum size is 4’, 10.5” x 11’ 11.5”.
- Available in a variety of thicknesses.
- 10 Year Warranty.

## Porcelain Enamel

Graphics are applied to the porcelain enamel with glass-based inks by traditional screen printing, stenciling and a high resolution photographic process. This process produces visually striking and extremely durable signage. However, while porcelain is an amazing material, it is considerably more expensive than HPL, and must be displayed/installed in a frame. Therefore, additional hardware also is an added expense. Features include:

- Beautiful color and image quality.
- Typically, resistant to vandalism by painting or engraving.
- Offers the best UV protection.
- Will not de-laminate.
- Extremely scratch resistant.
- Impervious to moisture and temperature extremes.
- Can be any shape or size up to 4’ x 7’.
- 25 Year Warranty.

## Digital Fiberglass Embedments

Digitally printed images embedded with fiberglass in UV resistant resins. Cost less than HPL, but quality not as good. Typically, comes with a 10-year warranty.

## Metal Micro-Imaging

Photo-chemically etched hard coat anodized aluminum. Unique look for special projects including plaques, honorable sponsors, dedication messages, etc. - Warranties vary.

## ImageLOC

Digital graphics fused to the surface of an aluminum substrate. Good for outdoor signage. Cost similar to HPL. Available in sizes up to 4’ x 10’. Supports full color, and typically comes with a 10-year warranty.

Interpretive Planning and Development Process  
Brief Overview

- PHASE I: Interpretive Planning (the Arboretum Interpretive Plan)
- Research, write, edit and publish a comprehensive interpretive plan.
  - Extensive research and discovery, overall creative approach, identification of themes and sub-themes, bulleted information for each panel, and short-term and long-term interpretation recommendations.
  - Ongoing strategic planning with client and project team(s).
  - List of options for fabrication and installation (materials, options, best values, recommendations, warranties, etc.)
- PHASE II: Development (research, design, layout, imagery, writing, editing), production, and fabrication of each interpretive panel and other recommended interpretive and educational tools and aids.
- Design and layout of each interpretive panel.
  - Additional research and discovery for each panel.
  - Write and edit all panels.
  - Provide imagery.
  - Fact-checking and professional proofreading.
  - Production of high-resolution digital files and electronic transfer of files to designated fabricator.
  - Constant quality control checks throughout the fabrication process – e.g. color samples, PDF layouts, and review of pre-press list and details.
- PHASE III: Installation
- Often times the installation is handled by the public works department or on-site staff. However, in situations where that is not possible, Fallon Multimedia will handle the recommendation of a licensed contractor to properly install panels and other exhibits.
  - If an outside contractor is required, a bid will be submitted prior to installation for the review and approval by the client.
  - Fallon Multimedia will work with contractor to ensure proper and secure installation.

WISH LIST FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

Beacon Technology (Connects to the Wilbur D. May Arboretum website)

The use of beacon technology is recommended at the May Arboretum. The beacon can ping the Arboretum visitor asking if they would like to connect to the website / digital garden map. The dedicated (home) page should include not only the website categories for more information, but a clear link to the Iris digital map of the gardens by a visual button or other graphic. *NOTE: The smaller and less obtrusive they get, the easier they become to use. Beacons employ Bluetooth low-energy (BLE) wireless technology to pinpoint the location of visitors in order to deliver messages to their mobile devices. These messages are limitless. Example: Iris digital map link (IrisBG), volunteer information events at the Arboretum, etc.*

Interactive Apps (Suggest listing on the Arboretum website as an App Sidebar)

There are many interactive applications available to mobile devices. Keeping visitors up-to-date via the website would be helpful for additional education and listing these apps. Some apps to research may include: *iNaturalist (series) | Interactive Songbird | Leafsnap | Project Noah*

The location of this information could be listed on a platform such as the Arboretum’s website or social pages. Any app that may be beneficial to the visitor should be easily edited or added electronically as some apps can become obsolete or change. Many new apps are being created yearly.

Donor Identification Plaques Concept

Recognizing future donors can be handled in a way that is low-profile and easy to change out. One of the recommendations would be to use a rock with stand-offs and a metal engraved sign with the person or organization name. This idea would keep from having additional signage at each garden and would be easy to switch out when there are new donors. Depending on the size, the metal plaques could list more than one donor for each garden.

Arboretum Treasure Hunt App or Booklet / Passport for Kids

Concept: Create an app or “passport” for kids to bring out into the gardens and find / check off / illustrate different plants. Bring it back and get a stamp for that day.

Additional Future Panel Ideas

Update the Zone Panels and any other panels that are deteriorating. Update additional gardens outside of the Arboretum proper to be consistent with new panels - such as the Labyrinth Garden and St. Patrick’s Grove.

Plant Identification Signs

Each garden should be updated with additional plant identification signs.

Sight Impaired Inclusion

Talk of Braille interpretation has been mentioned. Although it is possible to create some signage in Braille, our fabricator has discussed that it is being phased out for technology solutions. This plan could include: *An audio tour section on the Arboretum’s website with information on the welcome panel or the beacon ping that informs the impaired | Arboretum audio tours via headphones*  
Setting up a voice-over for audio on the gardens would be necessary to make this part of the plan work.