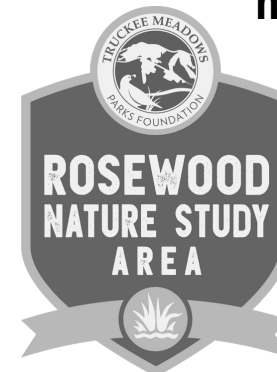


Rosewood Nature Study Area

Self-Guided Tour



Take yourself on a tour through this living laboratory, and discover how Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation is actively restoring a crucial Great Basin habitat.



Trails:
Mon-Sat 8am-7pm
Visitor Center:
Tues-Sat 11am-6:30pm

On the site of a decommissioned golf course, the vision of the Rosewood Nature Study Area is to establish and steward a publicly accessible Great Basin wetland habitat where the community can come to learn about and appreciate the importance of our natural open spaces and local parks. This self-guided tour will take you on a roughly 2.5 mile walk and reveal many of the ways the Parks Foundation is restoring this crucial habitat!

1 Pollinator Garden

Like the entire Nature Study Area, this pollinator garden was once part of the Rosewood Lakes Golf Course that is now being restored to support Nevada's plants and wildlife. This garden is designed to provide important food sources for bees, butterflies, and other pollinators. Thanks to the help of the University of Nevada Cooperative Extension, we were able to plant a variety of colorful native plants. Are there any flowers that you recognize? You may also notice many small flags here and around the wetland marking specific plants we want to study or keep track of.

2 Community Science

The Rosewood Nature Study Area is ever-changing. Whether you come back in 6 months, 6 weeks, or 6 hours, something will be different each time. Tracking these changes helps us learn more about the environment, but doing so can take a lot of time and labor. The Nature Study Area has created new community science volunteer programs. As part of these programs, community members like you can contribute to the many scientific studies happening here!

3 Invasive Species Removal

You may notice spots with a lot of bare soil with almost no plant life. This is a result of the weeding of invasive plant species, such as tall whitetop, tamarisk, and kochia from the Nature Study Area. Invasive, or non-native, plants such as these often form monocultures, meaning they take over an entire area and no other plants can survive. To promote plant diversity and wetland health, the AmeriCorps Wetland Restoration Technicians and volunteers have already cleared over 60 acres of invasive plants.

4 An Urban Wetland

The Nature Study Area is surrounded by houses and highways, making it an urban wetland. Urban or city settings bring about different challenges including pollution, litter, and wildlife issues. The stream in front of you, called Boynton Slough, runs through much of Reno before emptying into Steamboat Creek (see map) and then the Truckee River. Cleaning up trash and planting cattails, which help clean water, are important steps our AmeriCorps Wetland Technicians take to reduce the impacts of pollution on the environment.

5 Introducing Native Vegetation

Look around you - you may see small plants low to the ground, some of which are marked with silver tags. Seeding and community planting events are returning native plant species to the Nature Study Area. Together with our amazing volunteers, we have planted over 1,500 native plants. Some of these plants include silver buffaloberry, showy penstemon, and blue flax. Wetland native plant species help with stream bank stabilization, improve soil structure, and provide food and shelter for native wildlife. Interested in volunteering? Sign up at tmparksfoundation.org!

6 Cultural Roots

The greater Reno area is the traditional lands of the Welmelti band of the Washeshu since time immemorial. As the valley began to develop, other Great Basin Tribes began to call the valley home. The Numu- Northern Paiute, Newe- Shoshone were welcomed into the valley to work and network. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony was created for the inter city Great Basin tribes to further cultural growth. The Reno-Sparks Indian Colony still proudly represents all three Great Basin Tribes: the Numu, Newe, and Washeshu.

7 Historical Impacts

The stream in front of you is Steamboat Creek, which flows from Little Washoe Lake through the Nature Study Area and onwards into Sparks. Unfortunately, Steamboat Creek has been contaminated with Mercury since the mid-1800s due to the mining operations that followed the Comstock Lode discovery in Virginia City. As Nevada is considered the driest state in the US, it is crucial to protect our limited water resources.

8 Great Basin Wetlands

When you think of Nevada's landscape, wetlands are probably one of the last things on your mind. Yet here in the Truckee River Watershed, wetlands and meadows were very common prior to European settlement and industrialization. As a habitat with high biological productivity, wetlands become an essential location for wildlife to find food and shelter. Humans benefit from wetlands too, as they provide services such as water purification and flood prevention.

9 Bird Boxes

If you look around the Nature Study Area you'll notice there are very few trees. Many trees have been planted since restoration began in 2019, but until they have grown tall we have installed many bird boxes, like the one in front of you. These bird boxes serve as homes for cavity-nesting birds like swallows, wrens, American kestrels, and barn owls. See how many bird boxes you can spot on your walk today, but please do not touch.

10 Truckee Meadows Watershed

This is one of the last remaining wetland habitats in the Truckee Meadows and an important part of the Lower Truckee River Basin Watershed. Steamboat Creek, which is in front of you, drains both Washoe Valley and Pleasant Valley and is one of the largest tributaries of the Truckee River. After passing through the Nature Study Area, Boynton Slough joins with Steamboat Creek as it flows north. Eventually Steamboat Creek drains into the Truckee River before emptying into Pyramid Lake.

11 Wetland Birds

Wetlands are crucial habitats for a variety of birds. The waterways in front of you have hosted dozens of species of herons, egrets, waterfowl, and shorebirds. In the middle of the Great Basin Desert, the Rosewood Nature Study Area offers birds an important place to rest, feed, and breed. In addition, this location is along a major bird migratory route - the Pacific Flyway.

12 Floating Gardens

The floating piece of plastic in front of you isn't trash! These square container gardens float on the surface of the water and allow aquatic plants to grow in areas that would otherwise be too deep. The plants we place in these gardens - like broadleaf cattail, Baltic rush, and Nebraska sedge - naturally absorb pollutants and improve water quality. These floating gardens also act as habitats and food sources for aquatic species and wetland birds.

13 Pollinator Houses

The little house to your right is a special-built home for bees and other pollinators. There are over 4,000 species of native bees in North America with over 1,000 of these living in the Great Basin. Many of these bees live underground, with some building nests in small, hollow cavities. Here at the Nature Study Area we have partnered with the "Help Save the Bees Foundation" to install and monitor several native bee houses. See how many you can spot on your walk today, but please do not touch.

14 Habitat Restoration

The emergent marshland you just explored is on its way to becoming even more healthy and vibrant! In March 2021, the City



of Reno granted the Parks Foundation up to a 50-year lease, meaning that the restoration project here has only just begun. Restoring a wetland such as this takes a lot of time, effort, and funds. If you would like to support the Nature Study Area and its many ongoing restoration efforts, scan the QR code to donate!