



TRUCKEE MEADOWS PARKS FOUNDATION

AWARENESS • APPRECIATION • STEWARDSHIP

Trail Information:

Cottonwood Park is an urban, 6 acre park in Sparks on the Truckee River and Tahoe-Pyramid bike trail. Amenities at this park include a volleyball net, horseshoes, biking/hiking paths, a picnic area, and a barbecue area. Once on the Tahoe-Pyramid trail, walk west towards the McCarran bridge. Here, a colony of bats lives under the bridge, and thousands of bats can often be seen leaving their roosting spots to begin feeding at dusk in the warmer months. Please protect the bats and yourself by keeping your distance, and you might be able to witness to a spectacular natural show!

Discover Your Park! Cottonwood Park



Photo Credit to Site Steward Terri Durgin



Animal biodiversity:

As a riparian (on a river) park, you can find a wide variety of animal species here! Aquatic birds like cormorants, ducks, geese, and coots can often be seen in or near the Truckee River. You may also see raptors like hawks and ospreys.

Cottonwood park is also well-known for being near the bat colony under the McCarran bridge. These are migratory Brazilian free-tailed bats, and only live in Reno during the warmer months.

The Truckee River is also home to beavers! You'll see beaver damage on trees; some trees, especially cottonwoods, along the river are wrapped to prevent beaver damage.

Plant biodiversity:

While you'll definitely see Cottonwood trees at Cottonwood park, see if you can find and identify the following:

Scotch thistle
Mullein
Coyote willow
Horsetail
Curlycup gumweed
Black locust
Honey locust
Showy milkweed
Wild rose
Siberian elm
and blackberry!



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Please visit us at tmparksfoundation.org! We
look forward to seeing you out on the trails!