

### Charlie Frias Park

We had the opportunity of attending another grand opening celebration of one of our park projects. This one, however, was special. The park was named after World War II Veteran, businessman and long time Las Vegas resident, Charlie Frias. The Frias Foundation was generous enough to donate funds for several additional amenities for the park. An eight foot tall kiosk in the main plaza celebrates the life of Charlie Frias. In 1958 Charlie's wife Phyllis visited her sister in Las Vegas. Charlie came to pick her up. Charlie and Phyllis were impressed with Las Vegas and remarked "I could see a great future here". The decision came down to a coin flip, "heads we go, tails we stay" said Charlie. Phyllis called tails and tails it was. So began a long and successful adventure in Las Vegas.



Charlie got a job as a taxi cab driver for ABC Cab and eventually managed the company. He bought the ABC Cab company in 1966 and later went on to buy three more cab companies. He and Phyllis enjoyed 40 years of success building the largest private transportation company in Southern Nevada before his passing in 2006. His kindness and generosity are well known throughout Southern Nevada.



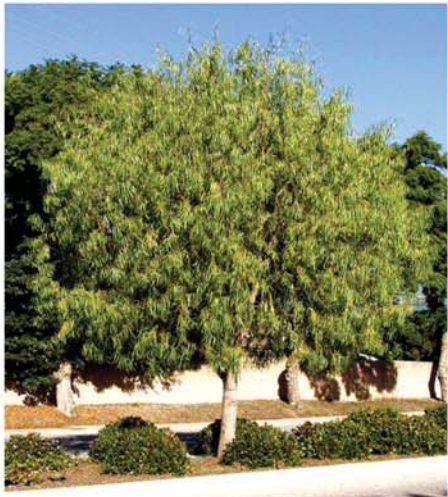
The park sits on 80 acres of land at the corner of Tropicana and Decatur and is divided in two by the Flamingo Wash. The center of the site is developed as a detention basin capable of holding a 100 year event. The facility works well having successfully made it through the heavy rains we had a few weeks ago. The upper park portion of the site sits on top of caliche bluffs that

overlook the wash and a twelve acre soccer complex. The park has many amenities including multiple playgrounds, picnic areas, tennis courts, basketball courts, dog parks, splash pads, exercise equipment and a butterfly garden. The recurring feature of the park is over two thousand feet of gabion wall that snakes its way from one end of the site to the other.

Charlie Frias Park is a fitting tribute to a wonderful person who has left his mark on Southern Nevada and helped shaped the business climate of the valley.

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."  
— Mahatma Gandhi

### FAVORITE FLORA: GEIJERA PARVIFLORA - AUSTRALIAN WILLOW



Choosing the right plant for the right location is a crucial part of designing any size landscape. Certain spaces have characteristics (high heat, full shade, narrow planter, etc) that can greatly limit plant choices. The Australian Willow (*Geijera parvifolia*) is a tree that can fill a few niches that are tough for many species. This evergreen tree can grow to 20-30 feet tall and 20 feet wide. It has 3-6 inch long, slender leaves that droop from the branches giving it a weeping willow look along with its name. Blooming in the spring and fall, *Geijera parviflora* produces clusters of small cream colored flowers. Australian Willow is extremely drought tolerant and hardy to 15 degrees Fahrenheit. This tree is best situated in full sun and can handle the reflected heat of a south or west wall.

Photo of the Month



Slot Canyon  
Unknown Location  
Jeff Dix

The Australian Willow excels in restricted spaces, near pavements or when a small tree is needed. Its deep non-invasive root system makes it ideal for narrow planters around concrete or pavers. It is a tough tree and can do well in areas such as parking lot medians or in hot courtyards. In smaller areas near buildings or under utility lines, this tree can be pruned to restrict its size but not lose its shade tree form. Australian Willow can make a great tree for a screen as it is very resistant to limb breakage from high winds. Due to its inability to be grown from seed or cuttings easily, availability in large quantities is usually limited.