

## The Next Generation of Parks

Reunion Trails Park is destined to become an icon in the award winning park portfolio of the City of Henderson. The park sits on two sites, ten acres owned by the Clark County School District and 4 acres owned by the City of Henderson. The City of Henderson developed the entire 14 acre site through a joint use agreement with the school district. The park is aptly named because of the reunion of three trail systems at the park - the Amargosa Trail, the 215 Trail and the Stephanie Street Trail.



The 10 acre school site sports a dog run lit at night by solar lighting, a jogging/walking path of stabilized decomposed granite and an expansive grass play area. The grass play area is surrounded by native re-vegetation to provide a protective buffer for children at play.



The 4 acre City site hosts a unique M.C. Escher inspired park with optical illusions and whimsical patterns imbedded in the hardscape. Tile mosaics of lizards in the concrete come from three different segments of the park and converge into one interlocking element. Artistic rusted pipe walls appear to wave in the wind like a flag. Sedimentary walls are not only visually interesting, but provide pedestrian direction and define outdoor rooms. The immense splash pad feature contains water, earth, and air sections designed for use by children of all ages. The Kompan playground equipment is electronic creating an interactive video game experience that appeals to a diverse age group. The basketball court has 8', 9' and 10' rims and a colorful sports court surfacing. The custom shade shelters provide a lot of shade and visual appeal. All the materials used for the structures, walkways, and artistic elements allow visitors to experience the diversity and imagination of M.C. Escher.



The park is located near Stephanie and Paseo Verde (Chapata & Casady Hollow) and is must visit park for "kids" of any age.

"The trouble with weather forecasting is that it's right too often for us to ignore it and wrong too often for us to rely on it." -Patrick Young

### FAVORITE FLORA: SIMMONDSIA CHINENSIS- JOJOBA



Next time you spray on your favorite fragrance it could contain this plant, which you might even have in your backyard. The Jojoba (*Simmondsia chinensis*) is a native shrub to the Sonora and Mojave deserts. With oblong, leathery, blue green leaves, this evergreen shrub can grow to 6 feet tall and wide. The Jojoba will produce small, nondescript clusters of yellow flowers in early summer which can lead to small acorn-like fruits. Only female plants will produce these fruits when male plants are nearby. These fruits not only provide food to many animals including squirrels and other rodents, rabbits and larger birds but also provide oil for commercial use. The oil is

extracted from the seeds and used as a whale oil substitute in cosmetics and as a carrier oil for some fragrances.

For landscape use, Jojoba is best grown in full sun and can tolerate the reflected heat of a south or west facing wall. It is hardy to about 15 degrees and is drought tolerant, although it prefers supplemental irrigation. While older specimens can reach heights of 6 feet, this slow growing shrub can be easily kept at half this size by pruning to shape in the summer after flowering. This tough plant can be used as a hedge, screen or near high traffic areas and roadways. Pair this plant with flowering shrubs such as Cleveland Sage (*Salvia clevelandii*) and Rock Verbena (*Verbena tenuisecta*) to complete your next colorful desert landscape.

### Photo of the Month

Seeing Double  
The Henderson Bird Preserve, NV  
Matt Durham

