

Celebrating 20...one Years! - By Stanton Southwick



October of 2020 marked 20 years since we opened our doors and hung out the SLA Land Architects shingle. We had great plans for celebrating that milestone last year but found ourselves working from home and pretty much closed off from the rest of the world. Now that we are better navigating our way through the worldwide pandemic, we want to celebrate our 20...first year anniversary. We thought it would be fun to hold the event at one of our recently completed park projects, Cougar Creek Park. We want to invite everyone to come by the park on Friday, October 15th between 4-7 pm for socializing, games, and food. The first 20 participants will receive a \$20 prize. The nature-themed Cougar Creek Park is located at 6635 W. Cougar Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89139.

We are only celebrating the last 20...one years, but I have been providing landscape architectural design in Southern Nevada for over 33 years. In 1988 I started S.W. Southwick & Associates. The "associates" part was stretching things a bit since I was the only employee for 3 years. After 6 years in business, we were acquired by and started a landscape architecture division for an engineering company. The name was Southwick Landscape Architects a division of the engineering company. Another 6 years later in October of 2000 I left the engineering company and started what is now known as SLA Land Architects. Even though we went through a major recession and a global pandemic, the last 21 years have been full of many great people, projects, opportunities, and blessings. Our employees are what make us who we are, and I'm privileged to be surrounded by the cream of the crop in the landscape architecture profession.

So come on by Cougar Creek Park on October 15th and have some food and fun. I look forward to catching up with all of you.

"The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate." ~Oprah Winfrey

Favorite Flora:

Acacia greggii - Catclaw Acacia - By Caryl Davies



This native tree has moderate growth to 15' tall and is really the cat's meow. The tree has dense branching structure and fragrant cream-colored catkins that flower from April to October. The Catclaw Acacia truly has some very sharp thorns that do look like a cat's claw. I remember working an internship at the Water District's Desert Demonstration Gardens (Pre Springs Preserve) and clearing out some clutter from under a small shrubby tree (my introduction to Acacia greggii). I popped my head up and boy oh boy, did I feel those

thorns on my head. Not only that, I had very long hair and the 'claws' grabbed my hair in several branches holding me hostage until another co-worker came along and helped untangle the mess so I could move. With that said, this little beauty is an excellent addition to a native restoration site or as a screen or barrier. It endures our harsh colds and heat with ease and is great for honey production. You can find this tree along native streams and washes if you are a hiker around town. When you come out to Cougar Creek Park, be on the lookout as this beautiful tree can be seen within the preserved native washes.



Vegas on Fire - Henderson, NV
Stan Southwick