

### Park Information:

With large Sycamore trees and plenty of open grass space, Deer Park is a great place to keep cool while enjoying the outdoors. A paved path weaves around the park making it accessible for all, and amenities include: playgrounds, picnic shelters, tables, BBQ's, basketball courts, tennis courts, and a pool!



### History Highlights:

- Deer Park predates the founding of Sparks, making it the oldest park in the area with reportedly some of the oldest cottonwood trees.
- Initially it was named Highland Park and served as the centerpiece in the New Town Tract linking Reno and Sparks. It soon was renamed Deer Park in 1903 after the small zoo within that housed six deer. In 1908, lights were added to the park, increasing its popularity among the public.
- This site was once a free public campground after the Lincoln Highway (which ran along Prater Way) was constructed. Here travelers could pitch tents near their cars, alongside the playground, by the water pump, or near the tennis courts. Public showers were also available during its time.

### Local Biodiversity:

#### Cottonwood

**Identification:** A tall tree that can reach up to 100 feet. Leaves are heart-shaped or cordate, with autumn colors yellow to orange. Distinguished for the white, fluffy fruit which resembles cotton. Flowers bloom March to April.

#### Fun Facts:

- Cottonwoods can grow 10-20 feet a year
- Prefers to be near water, keep an eye out for growing locations
- Can be male or female, with only females growing the cotton-like fruit

**Resources:** [https://calscape.org/Populus-fremontii-\(Fremont-Cottonwood\)](https://calscape.org/Populus-fremontii-(Fremont-Cottonwood))



#### Brewer's Blackbird

**ID Characteristics:** Medium sized bird; males have an overall glossy black body and head; bill is straight and eyes are a bright yellow; some green iridescence can be seen along their back.

#### Fun Facts:

- Brewer's Blackbirds have extremely variable egg colors when a clutch is laid. - A few studies have been done that suggest these variations assist in camouflage against predators.
- Feeds on seeds, grains, and insects.

**Resources:** [https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Brewers\\_Blackbird/overview](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Brewers_Blackbird/overview)



**Want to Learn More?**

Visit [Cityofsparks.us](https://cityofsparks.us) to learn more about this trail  
<https://cityofsparks.us/resources/resource/deer-park-pool/>  
<http://visitreno.com/parks/deer/index.php>  
<https://www.kunr.org/post/summers-deer-park#stream/0>

