



## UNR Mathewson-IGT Knowledge Center

The landscape design at the UNR Library reflects both the traditional campus and the nearby, ecological environments of the Great Basin Desert, Truckee Meadows, and the Sierra Nevada. The design enhances the connection between the indoors and outdoors, inspires learning and provides a usable space for both study and special activities in Reno's often pleasant climate.

Plant spacing, compositions, color and densities increase near key entry and gathering spaces. At safe distances from the structure, surface runoff infiltrates in created basins to enhance plant growth.

Plant materials serve several functions including erosion control, habitat creation and the provision of seasonal interest. For instance, slope plantings express the nearby Sierra Nevada environment and mitigate soil erosion. Plant choices are based on a sense of appropriateness, habitat, and drought-tolerance.

Landscape zones, plants, and other materials are grouped to optimize aesthetics and minimize water usage and maintenance. This models natural environments. Biological, mychorrhizae-based soil amendments are installed throughout entire planting areas to conserve water, decrease evapotranspiration and improve soil biology for optimum plant health. Certain appropriate but unlisted (?) plant species are proposed in response to the need for drought tolerance and the desire for native character.

A High Intensity planting Zone focuses on image, color, and human comfort, using native and adapted plants in structured groupings and high densities. A Mid-Level Intensity planting Zone and Parking areas focus on visual interest and image, using native and adapted plants in structured groupings and moderate densities, along with site shading. The Slopes plantings focus on screening and water harvesting, using native plants in naturalistic groupings.

**Location:** Reno, NV

**Size:** 296,800sf

**Cost:** \$85 million

**Completed:** August 2008

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