

Parks, Trails & Open Space District

**Joint Meeting of the City of Sparks, City of Reno &
Washoe County Parks, Recreation
& Open Space Citizen Commissions**

April 25, 2023

Presenters:

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Widening gap

Desired Services ↔ Funding

- ▶ Continued population growth in the Truckee Meadows- pressure on existing facilities
- ▶ Regional and municipal facilities are deteriorating
- ▶ Lack of new facilities causing overcrowding and inequity of services; significant increase in demand
- ▶ Inability of governments to financially support maintenance of facilities; competition for resources
- ▶ Deterioration of our natural systems, ie., Truckee River Corridor



What's Changed, Why Now?

- ▶ Citizens' heightened awareness of deteriorating facilities
- ▶ 2013-City of Sparks Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Draft Plan
- ▶ 2019-Washoe County Parks & Open Space Master Plan Updated
- ▶ Anticipated Summer 2023-City of Reno Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Updated
- ▶ Prepare for the future



Why is a New Approach Needed?

- ▶ Opportunity to focus mutual efforts
- ▶ New governance tool to improve effectiveness, efficiency, accountability to citizens
- ▶ Region's population growth placing unmet demands on existing resources
- ▶ District model addresses capital and long-term operating needs-to tackle deferred maintenance issues
- ▶ Post Great Recession and COVID pandemic-economic recovery has not brought needed sustainable resources; competing interests for limited funds remains

How do we start the process in the Truckee Meadows?

- ▶ Initiated by citizens, Park Commissions or elected Boards of either a County and/or City
- ▶ Development and approval of a *Service Plan* with extensive citizen, business and community input
- ▶ Option to seek majority approval of affected property owners through election process

Service Plan Elements- Understanding the road ahead!



Financial feasibility analysis-outlining proposed services, financial structure, financing alternatives



Boundary map-population estimate and assessed valuation of properties within boundaries



Facility, improvement, proposed projects list-cost estimates, engineering services, proposed indebtedness, annual operation and maintenance expenses.



Intergovernmental Agreements-proposed agreements with adjacent governmental entities



Provides options-for a sustainable Regional Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation system



-The Mechanics-

District financing options

- ▶ Intergovernmental revenue-city, county, state & federal
- ▶ User Fees
- ▶ Rate assessments on identified parcels
- ▶ Property tax/ad valorem-(except in Washoe County which is capped); cannot double assess for existing funded services; requires approval of local County Board of Commissioners
- ▶ Contract services
- ▶ Grants/donations
- ▶ It cannot supplant existing funding-it fills the gap and provides for the future.

District Examples

- ▶ Over 1,000 Park & Recreation Districts nationwide
- ▶ Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District- Truckee, CA
- ▶ Bend Metro Park and Recreation District-Bend, OR
- ▶ Bozeman Parks and Trails Special District-Bozeman, Montana (May 2020)
- ▶ Estes Valley Recreation & Park District-Estes Park, CO
- ▶ General Improvement Districts- IVGID, SVGID

Leadership- Turning the Vision into Reality



Committing to a robust system of parks, trails, open spaces available to all



Insisting on a sustainably funded program of services, facilities and long-term maintenance



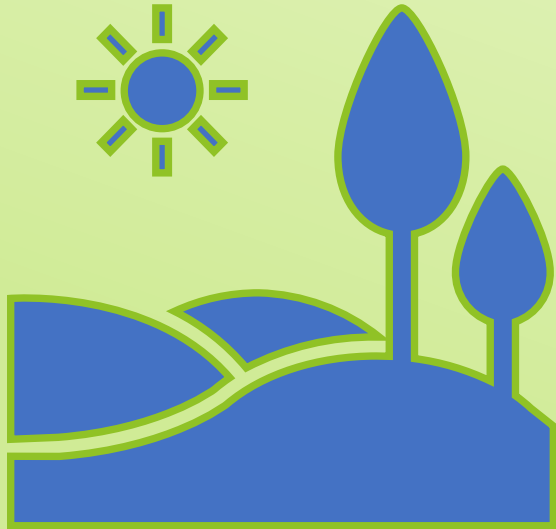
Providing for an informed and engaged citizenry



Seeking a healthy environment with a vibrant habitat, clean rivers, greenways and creeks

Summary-

What's the Next Step:



- ▶ Support Service Plan development to address existing and growing needs - focuses efforts to Parks, Trails, & Open Space priorities
- ▶ Advocate for agency electeds to budget funding in FY23/24 to mutually fund the **Service Plan** study
- ▶ Engage the electeds of all local jurisdictions to embrace a new approach and new tool to meet shared challenges
- ▶ Encourage robust citizen engagement -involve, seek involvement/feedback from citizens
- ▶ Opportunity for The Trust for Public Lands assistance