



# WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service

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## STAFF REPORT

COMMISSION MEETING DATE: **November 29, 2023**

**DATE:** November 20, 2023

**TO:** Open Space and Regional Park Commission

**FROM:** Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent  
Community Services Dept., 328-2181, [cwallace@washoecounty.gov](mailto:cwallace@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Eric Crump, Operations Division Director, Community Services Dept.,  
328-3625, [ecrump@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ecrump@washoecounty.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Update on the Service Plan for the proposed Park District pursuant to  
NRS 318A.090 to 318A.130. (All Districts.)

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### SUMMARY

Since the Open Space and Regional Park Commission meeting on May 24, 2023, a few things have taken place regionally to bring the Resolution and Service Plan closer to fruition. First, on October 23, 2023, the new Parks and Recreation Director Nancy O'Connor for the City of Sparks was sworn into her new role. On November 8, 2023, The City of Reno City Council unanimously adopted the update of its Park, Recreation, and Open Space Master Plan. Throughout the Plan are details of sustainable funding opportunities, including the creation of a park district and the need for a Service Plan. Being that the Service Plan is a regional effort, ideally a collaborative discussion between the leaders within each jurisdiction and with elected officials should occur to gain consensus, create resolutions for their respective councils and boards, and set aside funding for completion of the Service Plan. At this time, the citizen group who provided the presentation (attached) in May are ready to assist in drafting resolutions to all regional partners interested in participating in the service plan.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

**May 24, 2023** – The Open Space and Regional Park Commission approved the proposed name, powers, purpose, and boundaries of the proposed park district and recommend the Washoe County Commission 1) adopt a resolution to initiate the creation of a park district pursuant to NRS 318A.070 and 2) direct staff to create a Service Plan for the proposed district pursuant to NRS 318A.090 to 318A.130.

### BACKGROUND

In 2017, the Nevada State Legislature approved Assembly Bill No. 379, creating the Nevada Parks, Trails and Open Space District Act and added to Nevada Revised Statutes as Chapter 318A. NRS 318A provides for the creation of parks, trails and open space districts that serve a public use.

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

During the April 25, 2023, Joint/Concurrent meeting between City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission and Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission, a presentation on the possible creation of a park district was provided. During the meeting, several park commissioners from the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commissioner, expressed a desire to have an action item at a future meeting to discuss the creation of a potential park district.

This item seeks input and possible action on a proposed name, powers, purpose and boundaries of a proposed district. This information must be contained in a resolution adopted by a governing body of a County or City seeking to create a park district. A district may be entirely or partly within one or more counties or city and may even include noncontiguous portions of property. The powers of a park district related to parks, trails and open space are identified in NRS 318A.300:

**NRS 318A.300 Powers concerning parks, trails and open space; agreements with governmental agencies and nonprofit corporations; creation of fund to match federal money.**

1. Subject to the provisions of subsection 2, a board may:

(a) Acquire, construct, reconstruct, improve, operate, maintain, manage, restore, extend and better lands, works, systems and facilities, improvements and projects for parks, trails and open space.

(b) Design, compile or administer environmental or cultural reports related to parks, trails and open space.

(c) Take measures to reduce wildfire, restore native vegetation and conserve and manage natural resources.

(d) Establish or fund the establishment of educational programs related to recreation at facilities, improvements and projects for parks, trails and open space, including, without limitation, granting funding for personnel who provide such educational programs.

(e) Enter into an agreement with a federal or state agency or a nonprofit corporation to take one or more of the actions described in paragraph (a), (b), (c) or (d).

(f) Establish a fund consisting of contributions from private sources, the State or the county and cities in which the district is located for the purpose of matching federal money from any federal source.

(g) Accept gifts, grants and donations for deposit in any fund established pursuant to paragraph (f).

2. Such parks, trails and open space facilities, improvements and projects may include, without limitation, playgrounds, bowling greens, ball parks, public parks, promenades, beaches, marinas, levees, piers, docks, wharves, boat basins, boathouses, harborages, anchorages, gymnasiums, appurtenant shower, locker and other bathhouse facilities, concert halls, theaters, auditoriums, aviaries, aquariums, zoological gardens, biological gardens, vivariums, watersheds, trails, open spaces, lakes, ponds and rivers.

Additionally, a park district may do all the things commonly performed by the local jurisdictions including operate and maintain facilities, acquire real property, hire employees, and regulate the use of any park district facility.

Pursuant to NRS 318A.080, if a resolution is adopted for the potential creation of a park district, a Service Plan must be developed prior to the creation of a park district. The required elements of the service plan are outlined in NRS 318A.090, and the “purpose of NRS 318A.090 to 318A.130, inclusive, [is] to prevent unnecessary proliferation and fragmentation of services for parks, trails and open space, to encourage the extension of existing districts rather than the creation of new districts and to avoid excessive diffusion of local tax sources.”

A public hearing is required when the governing body will consider the Service Plan for a proposed park district. At the public hearing, the governing body can approve, disapprove, or conditionally approve the service plan.

During the May 24, 2023 Open Space and Regional Park Commission meeting, the Commission approved the proposed name, powers, purpose and boundaries of the proposed park district and recommend the Washoe County Commission 1) adopt a resolution to initiate the creation of a park district pursuant to NRS 318A.070 and 2) direct staff to create a Service Plan for the proposed district pursuant to NRS 318A.090 to 318A.130.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

No fiscal impact to Washoe County.

#### **PROPOSED MOTION**

Update only. Non-action item.