

**From:** [Kurt Williams](#)  
**To:** [Roman, Brandon](#)  
**Subject:** May 28th Public Comment - Regional Park Playground  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 13, 2025 2:01:58 PM

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Hi Brandon,

I have recently moved to the North Valley and live across the street from the regional park off Sky Vista Pkwy. We couldn't be happier with our new home and new community. We have enjoyed the park with our son and the dog park for our two dogs.

My only concern is the playground at the regional park. It is showing its age with cracked slides, limited offerings, and dated equipment. It almost seems like sections of the playground were combined from various kits and spare parts. Only two swings with no basket options for little ones. For such a nice, large regional park, it's unfortunate that the playground is so lacking. With the massive new development in this area, I imagine there is a lot of new property tax revenue coming in and it would be wonderful to see that invested in a new playground.

Playground ideas

<https://www.playlsi.com/en/ad/volo-aire/>

<https://www.davebang.com/astra-portfolio/playground-equipment-playworld/>

<https://www.utahsadventurefamily.com/smith-ranch-regional-park-eagle-mountain/>

I would love to get more information on the master plan for this park and if no master plan exists yet, help voice my concern and push the board into developing one to improve the playground at this facility. I look forward to attending meetings in the future and being an active member in this community as we all work together for a common goal.

Cheers,

**Kurt Williams**

**Recreation Superintendent**

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May 26, 2025

**Subject: Fenced & gated Dog Park needed in South Reno**

**Hello Open Space Commissioners and Marilu Garcia,**

Cynthia Reed, 40-year resident of Reno, 775-762-5110, lived in Galena Country Estates for 23 years. I'm a Park Volunteer who picks up trash/poop at any park I go to in County or City, HOA Board Member & Firewise USA Coordinator for our HOA.

**GOAL: More balanced-use of Whites Creek Park. This park should not be sitting there empty. Green space is needed more than ever for mental and physical health.** What is NOT needed is rangers enforcing leash law when dog owner is throwing a ball to a dog in a safe area. We can't play in the streets or the wildland areas.

In 2020, during the Covid lockdown, I started inquiring about when a fenced, gated dog park was going to be built in south Reno. I talked to by the ranger for throwing the ball to my dog in Whites Creek Park, a fenced park in my neighborhood but no gate. NO ONE else was there. After research and a lot of letter writing, Washoe County opened up a shared-use area at South Valley's Soccer Park which is partially fenced.

**Problem 1:** Two of the fenced sides have three openings: one opens to the creek and exits unto Whites Creek Lane, 10' from the opening. We have a rescue lab who loves balls, water, and space. She puts two balls in her mouth; gets thirsty; lays in the creek and drops the balls which meander under the freeway. Then, after gulping water, she heads down to Reno Ice. We've tried using a 100' lead on her but that is dangerous for us seniors and others. **Can the County add a gate to the north side entrance to block dogs from running out into the road?**

**Problem 2:** We'd rather walk up to our neighborhood Whites Creek Park where an ingenious dog owner left a 5' piece of cattle fencing with a bungee cord to use as a gate while a dog is retrieving a ball. But recently the ranger took that away and posted a big sign and threatened us with \$200 fines. Our alternative is to drive to Cyan, a 30-minute road-trip drive plus gas, across the valley. Our dogs are leashed wherever we walk in Whites Creek Park except when throwing the ball in the grass area. You can not run with the dog at our age. The leash is damaged if you leave it on the dog while it is running on the grass.

**Problem 3:** A fenced dog park in South Reno has been in the Washoe County Plans since 2015 but here we are in 2025 without a date when this might be completed. Do we even have a County Planner?

**Solution: Have a town-hall meeting at the South Valleys Library to discuss mitigation for issues brought up in 2022 when the County tried to pilot shared-use at Whites Creek Park:**

I had just joined the Galena Country Estates HOA Board. The president at that time Larry Crapo said it was a County issue and could not be discussed at Board Meeting. So, I spoke in favor of the plan at the beginning of an Open Space & Parks Commission meeting but all the other HOA Board Members zoomed in to express opposition. One board member in particular likes to tell people they can use the park with their dog if you live in the neighborhood but if you don't, you can't. **Homeowners were not contacted to get their opinions.** The four other Board Members had used the park with their dogs off-leash. They don't want increased traffic in the neighborhood but in reality, Whites Creek Park has been used as a shared-use park with dog owners and sporting events working together. We have a group of volunteers who pick up after the distracted, lazy, and the kids whether it is trash or poop.

**History of the Park:** From reading historical documents, in 1985, Washoe County purchased the 6 acres from a developer for the park. No houses were in the area at the time but the building agreement with Washoe County required the new Galena Country Estates (GCE) HOA to maintain the grass area. GCE HOA paid companies to maintain it. In 2005, an agreement was made with Washoe County to set the HOA fee to \$11,000 a year. GCE HOA requested that Washoe County do the maintenance and HOA pays Washoe County. Later that year, a building agreement for The Reserve at Monte Rosa required that HOA to contribute to the park maintenance, too.

Now there is about four GCE homeowners boarding the park. Washoe County rents out the park to the soccer league about 4-5 days a week from 4 pm.- dusk during spring and fall. So, you have the park available from 8-4 weekdays and 8 am-8 pm. on weekends for shared-use. During the winter, dog owners are using the park. This summer, dog owners will continue to use the park since it is empty.

| <u>Issues brought up 2022:</u> | <u>Mitigation</u>   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Poop                           | Volunteers picks up poop every day. (0-4 piles)   |
| Traffic                        | Increase will be minor and spread out throughout day.<br>Most homeowners from GCE, Monte Rosa, Saddlehorn & Government Lots area, walk into the park.   |
| Poop Bag Dispenser             | Needs to be installed at entrance of grass area to encourage everyone to pick up including trash from soccer groups.  |
| Use                            | Over 70% of the fenced park area is used by dog owners either leashed or unleashed.<br>Youth soccer brings in money for Washoe County but increases traffic at specific times during the week |

intensely. No one is going to ban soccer.

## Danger Time

Rule needs to be changed so dog owners aren't breaking a rule if they are in fenced area.

## Gate

Gate needs to be added so dog owners can unleash dog after entering the grass area and leash the dog before exiting the area, plus prevents unexpected diversions. The ingenious person who put a 5' cattle fencing with Bungee cord was under \$30.

## Balanced-Use

Public parks are for adults and children. Adults have paid taxes for years. This is not a gated-community. The streets are maintained by Washoe County.

## Increase maintenance cost

Increase will be minor. This park has been used as an off-leash area already for 40 years.

## Posting on WC Website

Can site NOT be listed as shared-use area? Maybe all neighborhood parks should be shared use.

## GC Park is too small?

Not really. GCE grass area just right.

## Social Interactions

Not only do the dog owners get to socialize with neighbors but the dogs socialize, too.



**It is crazy to have this park sitting empty more than 70% of the day! Aren't parks to be used?**

Please visit Sonoma Park in Carson City to see what a shared-use park looks like in the middle of a subdivision. Eight homes border the east and west side of the park. Over 14 homes are across the street on north/south side.

The rule is simple:

