



# WASHOE COUNTY

## COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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### Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan Update – FAQs

- 1. Will the reclaimed water proposed for use at Hidden Valley Regional Park smell bad?**
  - a. The treated effluent proposed for use at Hidden Valley Regional Park does not have a foul sewage odor. It comes from the South Truckee Meadows Water Reclamation Facility, which is treated to a Class A level, meaning that it's filtered and chlorinated. This treated effluent is used at Arrowcreek Golf Course and South Valleys Regional Park with no odor detected and no complaints.
- 2. What can you do about illegal activities in the park at night?**
  - a. Electronic gates operated on a timer are proposed. If supported, these could close after park hours.
- 3. Will there be mosquitoes from the wetlands/ponds?**
  - a. A mosquito abatement plan would be developed and implemented to ensure that mosquitoes do not become an issue.
- 4. What can you do about speeding in the park and the nearby neighborhoods?**
  - a. We are considering ways to mitigate speeding, such as installing traffic-calming devices both outside and within the park. A traffic analysis is being conducted to study existing speeding and use, as well as proposed use that would occur with each Concept Plan.
- 5. Why are you trying to keep horses out of the park?**
  - a. Feral horses in the park pose a danger to park users and also damage park facilities. Double cattle guards are proposed at each entrance along with a higher fence to keep them out of the active areas of the park. Given a number of comments about fence height, we are researching the height needed to keep horses out of the park.
- 6. Why do you need to replace the playgrounds?**
  - a. Washoe County has a Certified Playground Safety Inspector who inspects Washoe County playgrounds each month. Most playgrounds are good for about 15-25 years, but some hold up for approximately 30 years. At that point, they need to be replaced. Given the age of the playgrounds at Hidden Valley Regional Park, we know that they will need to be replaced in the next 10-20 years, which is how long the master plan will be good for. The playgrounds are safe and in good condition right now and they won't be replaced until it's needed. That being said, the playground in the north of the park only has a playground for the 5-12 age range and nothing for the 2-5 age range. Washoe County is considering adding a playground for smaller kids in the north of the park and potentially relocating the playground area.
- 7. Why would you replace wood chips with plastic tiles or rubber mats at the playgrounds?**



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- a. The pictures shown in the survey were just to provide examples of what the amenities could look like. In other words, we do not currently know what the design of the playgrounds will be. That being said, wood chips typically require more routine maintenance because they are lightweight and blow out of the play areas on windy days. They are also not ADA-compliant. Washoe County can consider a combination of wood chips and other materials when the playgrounds are updated.

### 8. Is the reclaimed water proposed for use at the park safe?

- a. The Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) regulates reclaimed water uses. The uses considered at Hidden Valley Regional Park are consistent with NDEP's allowed uses. For many years, Washoe County has provided water for irrigation at parks, residential landscape medians, golf courses (including ponds), residential water features, and other uses. According to NDEP, Class A treated effluent can be used for:
  - i. Spray irrigation of land used as a cemetery, commercial lawn, golf course, greenbelt or park even if:
    1. Public access to the area of use is unrestricted; and
    2. Human contact with the reclaimed water can reasonably be expected to occur.
  - ii. An impoundment in which swimming is prohibited even if:
    1. Public access to the impoundment is unrestricted; and
    2. Human contact with the reclaimed water can reasonably be expected to occur.
  - iii. Snowmaking. The Division may require additional treatment before reclaimed water may be used for this purpose.
  - iv. Irrigation of food crops. The Division may require additional treatment before reclaimed water may be used for this purpose.
  - v. Outdoor decorative water features.
  - vi. Commercial toilet and urinal flushing.
  - vii. Commercial window washing and pressure cleaning which occurs outdoors.
  - viii. Any activity approved for reuse category B, C, D or E.

### 9. How deep will the wetlands be?

- a. The depth of the wetlands is expected to about 3 to 4 feet. However, the depth is dependent on several design and operational considerations that will be determined during final design. As such, the depth may vary slightly (shallower or deeper) from this estimated depth.

### 10. Why does there need to be a paved path/trail?

- a. A paved trail is proposed to provide an ADA-accessible trail. Gates can be installed to deter motorized vehicles from utilizing the trail.



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