

Parks, Trails & Open Space District (NRS Title 25 Chapter 318A)

One Truckee River Partnership Council

Quarterly Meeting

November 3, 2022

Presenters:

Karen Mullen & Julee Conway

Widening gap

Desired Services ↔ Funding

- ▶ Continued population growth in Washoe County 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?

- ▶ 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 Spring 2023-City of Reno Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Updated
- ▶ Prepare for next economic downturn



Why is a New Approach Needed?

- ▶ Opportunity to focus mutual efforts/Vision on goal
- ▶ 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-COVID economic recovery has not brought needed sustainable resources; competing interests for limited funds remain

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



A District defined....

- ▶ *Nevada State law now authorizes a governing body/s to create and define the development of a district that is solely focused on Parks, Trails, Open Spaces, and Recreation.*
- ▶ *Enabling law that provides for the District's formation, operation and management, funding (both operations and capital), and governance structure*

-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
- ▶ East Bay Regional Park District-Alameda/Contra Costa Counties-CA
- ▶ 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 to our shared challenges
- ▶ Support robust citizen engagement -involve, seek involvement/feedback from citizens
- ▶ Opportunity for The Trust for Public Lands assistance