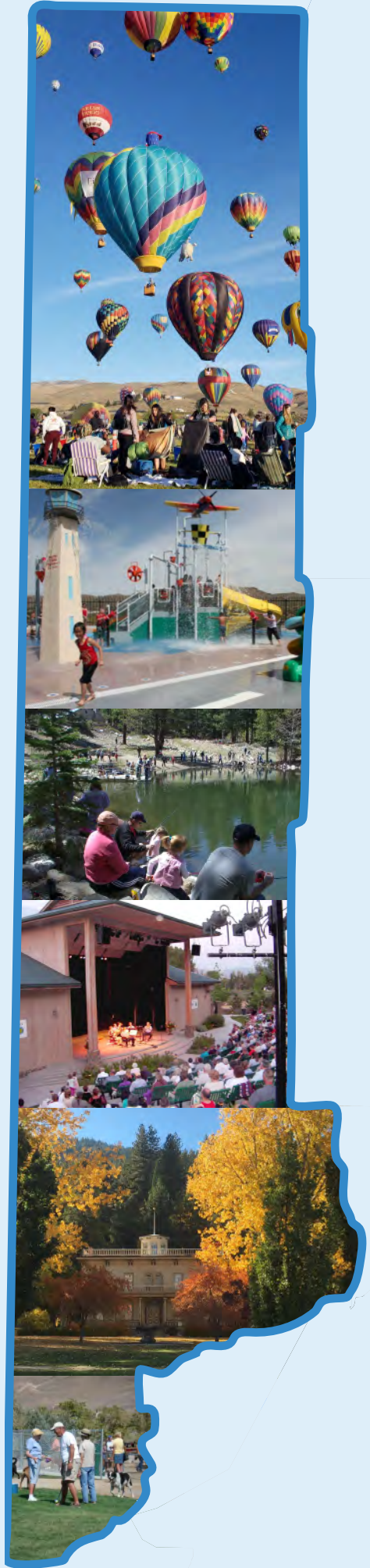


Washoe County Regional Parks & Open Space Master Plan

August 2019



Washoe County Parks Past and Present

Washoe County Parks Role

Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space (Parks) has provided the community with recreational facilities for nearly 60 years. Over this period the economies, visitors and residents of the area have changed, impacting the land patterns and diversity of the community. Each change brought with it a new set of opportunities and challenges. Through it all Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space vision has been to be a leader in building a community connected to nature and one another through active lifestyles. They have remained focused on the mission created decades ago:

Mission: To ensure the current and future residents have access to exceptional parks, trails, and recreational opportunities that promote a healthy and enriched lifestyle that increases the region's quality of life, while preserving the natural, historical and cultural resources that are unique to Washoe County.

As the region continues to grow, it will bring new regional changes. It is Washoe County's responsibility to develop a plan that will recognize the current opportunities and challenges to help manage the anticipated changes. The Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan, referred to as 'master plan' throughout this document, will set the ground work to develop a flexible master plan that will meet the short-term and long-term recreational needs of the community for today and throughout the next twenty years.



Figure 1 (left): Picnic at Bower's Mansion (~1900s); although not a park during this time period, Bower's Mansion was purchased by Washoe County and now operates as a regional park. Figure 2 (right): Passive recreation like fishing has continued to be a popular activity along the Truckee River (Source: Images of America - Washoe County, p 111, 113)

Washoe County Parks History

Washoe County is home to many different natural landscapes that have been enjoyed by a variety of visitors and residents who have called this area home for centuries. From the alpine forests that surround the shores of Lake Tahoe to the high desert foothills and playas around Pyramid Lake. Between these two lakes runs the Truckee River and the Truckee Meadows. The significance of the Truckee River to the community not only lies in its value as a primary water source but its enrichment of the region as a recreational asset and a beloved natural resource.

Although many of these resources are now protected as public land, it wasn't until the mid-twentieth century, that these resources started to get formal protection. During a period of rapid urbanization, Deer Park within the City of Sparks (est. 1903) and Idlewild Park within the City of Reno (est. 1926) were created. Years later, building upon the idea of re-creating the natural landscape several Washoe County residents had a greater vision. They wanted to protect and preserve native vegetation, natural features, and the watershed, as well as create large regional parks and trails that would allow residents to enjoy the outdoors while protecting the County's resources under threat by encroaching development.

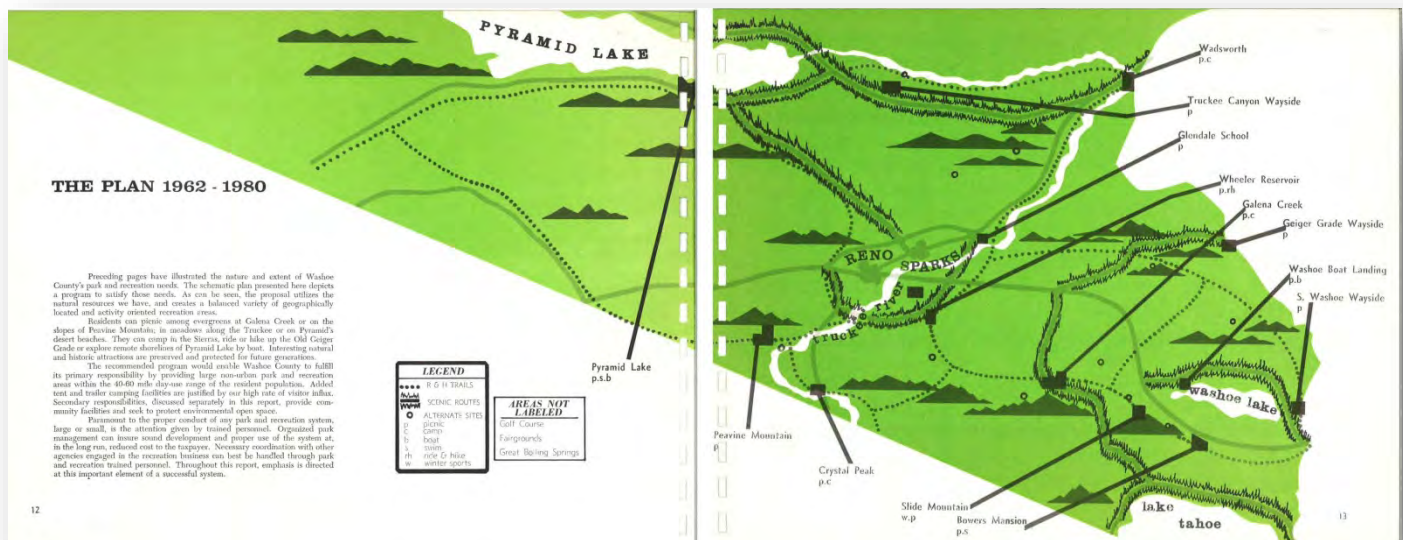


Figure 2: In 1962 the County was focused on providing camping facilities that were within a day's drive to capture visitors in an attempt to prolong their stay when visiting the Reno/Sparks area (Source: Master Plan Study No. 7 – Washoe County p 12-13).

Founding Washoe County Parks Commission Chairman Tom Cooke, and former Nevada Supreme Court Justice, the Honorable Cliff Young Sr. recognized that a majority of the land unique to this area was privately held. They realized that much of the forested lands to the west in the Carson Range and Sierra Nevada mountains were held by large timber companies or private landowners and that the ranch lands bordering the mountains would someday be developed, limiting access to the surrounding forests. They saw the value in preserving these natural areas and wanted to protect them, so they could be enjoyed by future generations. With this idea in mind, Cooke and Young worked to create the Washoe County Parks Department and established the Washoe County Parks Commission, setting the tone for how Washoe County would develop and manage parks and open space in the early 1960s.

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The first County park planner was hired by the Board of County Commissioners with the goal to establish Cooke's vision of creating a long-range planning document and to establish a department that could acquire property from private landholders to be preserved as open space and to develop regional parks and trails for recreation.¹ The first Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Plan (Appendix XX) was completed in 1961. In the following year, 1962, a one million-dollar bond was approved by voters to implement the 18-year plan.² Shortly afterward, park and open space acquisition began and a park director position was established. This plan and subsequent plans led to several integral property exchanges with timber companies and other large private landholders that would continue from the 1970s through the early 2000s. Much of the land that was acquired at this time was through partnerships with the US Forest Service (USFS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). From this plan, Washoe County and its citizens became major influencers supporting these agencies to move forward and acquire much of the land along the Sierra front.

When Cooke and Young looked at the Sierras the majority of the forested lands were private and could have been developed. Today, the majority of the land near the Sierras is protected and just a few small inholdings remain. Since the adoption of the first plan Washoe County has worked in partnership with federal agencies and sought voter approved bond issues to protect much of the open space and establish some of the most widely used regional parks.³

1960s: WC Supported Thousands of Acres of Land Acquisitions

- **Land Exchanges Partnering with US Forest Service & Bureau of Land Management (Timber Company properties)**
- **Buyouts with Federal Partners (Galena Destination Resort properties)**
- **Congressional Bills with Federal Partners (Redfield Properties)**

The primary goal of the first master plan was to provide a framework for developing regional parks, trails and recreation facilities for an increasing number of visitors and residents, and to protect open space. A second master plan was adopted in 1988. The purpose of this master plan was to continue the work of preserving open space, to focus an increasing amount of resources into regional parks, and to establish an extensive network of trails. The aim was to provide access to federal lands and to link all of the county's regional parks and open space through an extensive trail system.

Ten years later, in 1998 the plan was updated to include a focus on the growing need for regional sports complexes and to consolidate maintenance services to concentrate more on regional parks, trails, open space and natural resource management. This was in response to a growing number of smaller parks that were being created. Parks, through a separate study, found it was not financially sustainable to continue providing small parks dotted throughout the county due to significant amount of time spent traveling large distances to these individual small parks. In addition, these small parks were often in areas where parcels were one acre or larger, indicating that residents

¹ "Washoe County Park Planner Given Contract", Reno Evening Gazette Nov 20, 1960 p. 9

² "County Group Decides to Buy Land for Park" Reno Evening Gazette Dec 10, 1963 p. 9

³ "Commission Moves to Set Park Director Standards", Reno Evening Gazette Sep 10, 1963 p. 8

Chapter 1: Washoe County Parks Past and Present

were already driving rather than walking to their neighborhood park. At this time, it was determined that smaller parks, under 5 acres, would be discouraged or better served by private homeowner association maintenance agreements. Washoe County's role would focus on open space, trails, regional parks, natural resource management and neighborhood parks that were centrally located and at least 15-25 acres in size.

In 2011, in response to budget cuts exceeding 50% spurred by the recession, the Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Department was incorporated into the Community Services Department (CSD) and continues to operate as a part of this department today.

In keeping with the spirit of the first master plan written over 60 years ago, this updated 2019 master plan, seeks to perpetuate the goals of the previous master plans by continuing the County's history of providing regional recreational facilities for the residents and visitors while at the same time protecting the cultural and natural resources that make the area unique. This Master Plan outlines goals and objectives to guide the department over the next 20 years.

Over the Years Master Plans Focused on:

- **1962: Acquiring Open Space and Regional Parks**
- **1988: Providing Park Connectivity Thru Trails Network**
- **1998: Sports Complexes, Refocusing on Regional Parks & Open Space & Natural Resource Management**
- **2019: Regional Parks, Trails, Open Space & Natural Resource management**

Funding is Critical to Success

This master plan sets the direction for the next twenty years, but funding is a key component to plan implementation. The acquisition and construction of new parks, trails and open space has in the past received strong community support. This is evident by considering the history of publicly supported and voter approved bond issues. However, there are a number of other funding sources that Parks utilizes to acquire land, construct and maintain parks, trails, and open space. Just as critical is the maintenance and operations budget to sustain the facilities constructed and the lands acquired.

Operations and Maintenance Budget

While funding of new parks or acquisition of open space is challenging, perhaps the biggest obstacle has been determining how to recalibrate after the budget cuts resulting from the recent recession, which cut the operations and maintenance budgets for Parks by half in 2008. The recovery of the Parks budget has been slow and still stands at 65% of what it was prior to the recession, although the population has continued to increase. To maintain and improve facilities over time funding is needed to support the dedicated staff that makes all parks enjoyable, clean, and safe.

General Funding

The County General Fund typically allocates an annual dollar amount to Parks for both operations and capital infrastructure preservation. General fund dollars are competitive with multiple county programs such as law enforcement, fire, health and social services and varies based on the County's annual budgeting process influenced by the economic wellbeing of the county. Historically parks funding has been a small percentage of the overall general funds available. It should be recognized that there is a structural problem within the existing property tax that impacts the revenue received by the County for the general fund this then impacts the County's ability to fund services such as parks.

Infrastructure preservation fund dollars are also used for maintenance or replacement of park capital amenities, such as sidewalk or pavement repairs, restriping of courts, or replacement of picnic shelters etc. These capital projects are generally less than \$100,000. The infrastructure preservation accounts were instituted in the 1990s in the County Budget to capture some of the long-term capital depreciation costs of facilities. The infrastructure preservation funds have never covered the total capital depreciation nor do they cover the larger capital replacement of items such as a total resurfacing of large parking lots, roads, etc. These larger items have in the past been covered by bonds, or other county funding sources.

The infrastructure preservation funding is based on the available general fund budget and has therefore ranged from \$0-\$465,000. During periods of economic hardship, like the budget cuts during the great recession in 2008, there was no general funding available to Parks for approximately five years. Today the Parks General Fund is \$465,000 annually. However, a five-year period of no funding during the recession has left an additional backlog of repairs that Parks has only recently been able to start addressing.

Bonds and Leveraging

Some of the biggest land acquisitions, park renovations and park construction projects have been the result of the voter's support and the commitment by park staff to leverage the bonds through matching grants and partnerships with state and federal agencies. For example, WC-1 bond issue in 2000 was widely supported and passed by voters. As a result, park planners have been able to leverage the money provided by the public and increase the value added by \$90,863,191 (Appendix A). In addition to Washoe County bonds, there have been two voter approved statewide bond issues, one in 1990 and one in 2002. The state bond issues have focused on state resources, but have provided some local funding for acquisition of open space, parks and trails that have state or regional significance. The 2002 State Question 1 bond (SQ-1) brought \$15 million dollars to the Truckee River and to the Lake Tahoe Shared Use Path (see *Figure 3*).

Park staff maximized the funds matching over \$38.4 million for land acquisition, river restoration, trails and public access to the Truckee River and for the Lake Tahoe Shared Use Path. This could not have been done without Parks continued commitment to its residents and visitors to the region. Park planners and other Washoe County staff have been integral in leveraging funds from the most recent bond issues. This has been accomplished by forging partnerships and by matching funds through grants, private foundations, corporate gifts, private non-profit fundraising and volunteer labor. Although the public generally supports new park construction and acquisition, the voter approved

Chapter 1: Washoe County Parks Past and Present

bonds have been sporadic, representing only a portion of the total capital budget needs. Furthermore, new park acquisition and construction cannot be supported if funding for maintenance and staff is not available to support new facilities.

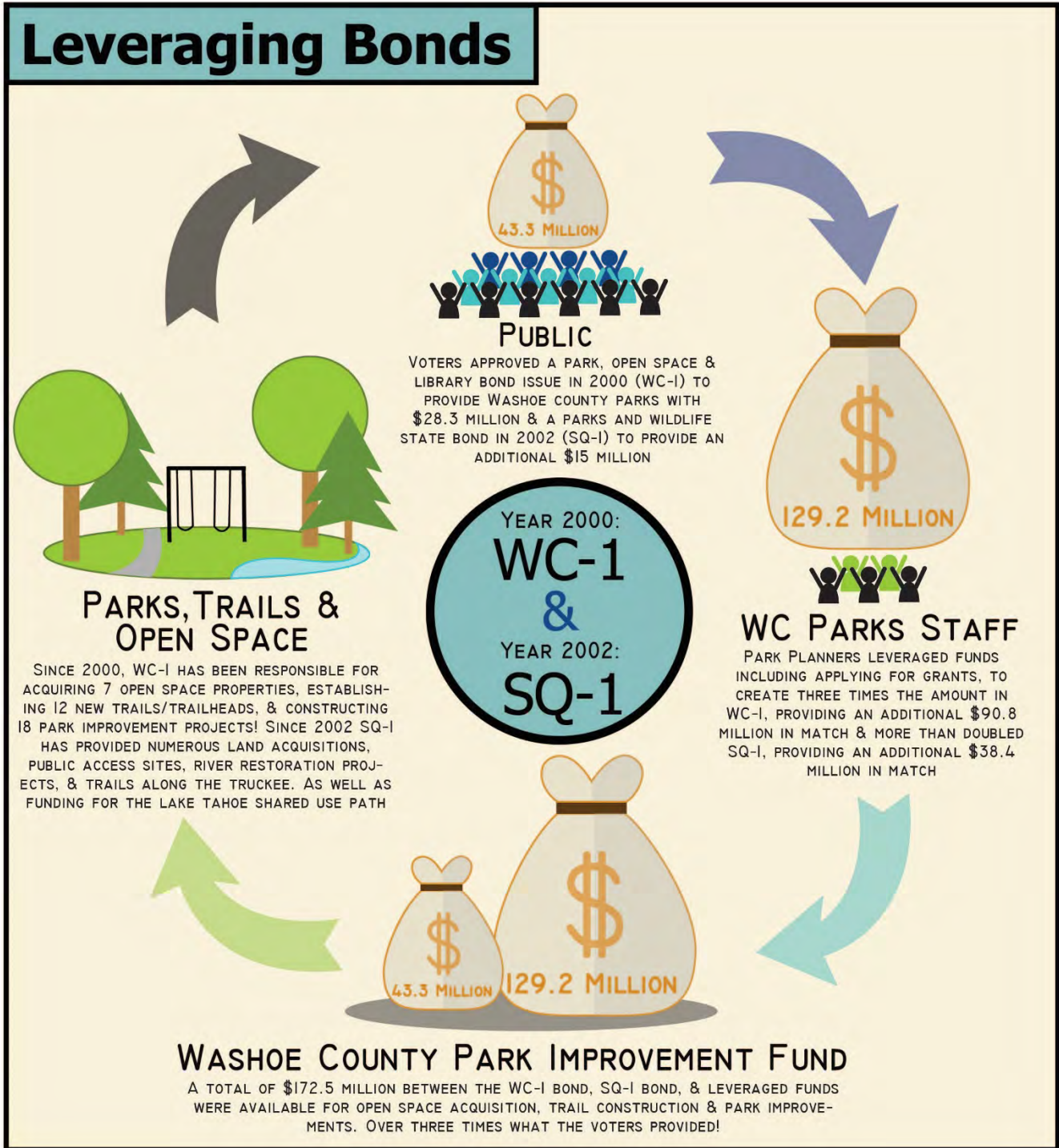


Figure 3: Leveraging Bonds: 2000 WC-1 and 2002 SQ-1

Residential Construction Tax

Nevada State Law enables Counties and Cities to collect a Residential Construction Tax (RCT) to be paid for with each newly constructed dwelling unit. The tax is 1% of the construction value but is capped at \$1,000. Generally, in Washoe County this means that the maximum tax of \$1,000 is paid for each new dwelling unit. This tax is to provide funding for the acquisition, design and construction of new parks and facilities to serve the new homes. Although this funding source is important, it is often not enough to acquire and or construct a new neighborhood park and there are a number of restrictions on the RCT limiting the use of the funds. Per state law, these funds cannot be spent on the maintenance to existing facilities, or to construct larger regional/community parks, community centers, or trails or trailheads. These funds are intended to be for the construction of new neighborhood parks. This can conflict with rural residents' desire to have other outdoor recreation amenities other than a neighborhood park, such as trails connecting their neighborhoods to federal lands. Furthermore, RCT funds can only be allocated within the district they are created in, further limiting where in the County the money can be spent. These two limitations create districts throughout Washoe County with an abundance or lack of RCT funds.

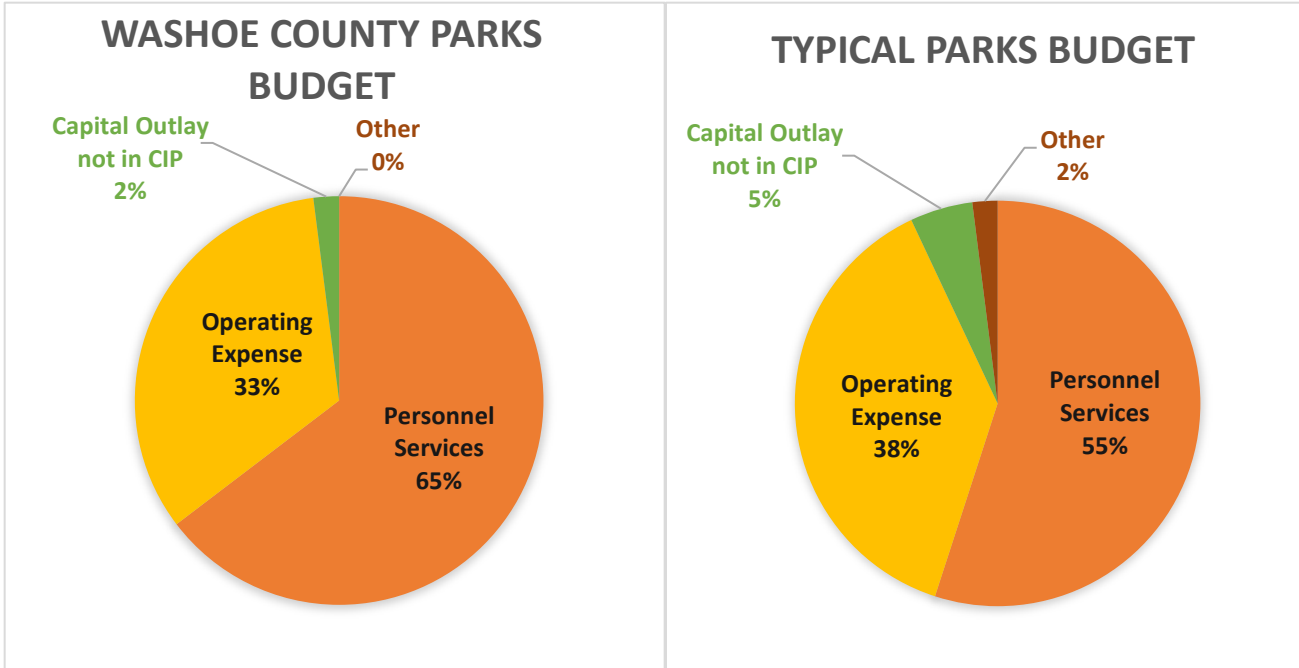
In addition to these limitations, the RCT funds are only apportioned to Washoe County when the new dwelling units are constructed within unincorporated Washoe County, outside of city limits. This can be an issue when a new development is located in the City of Reno or Sparks but surrounds an underdeveloped County-owned park. In some cases, staff has been successful in working with the cities to jointly develop new neighborhood amenities on County park land, but it is not guaranteed. As parcels within the Sphere of Influence are annexed by the cities, with subsequent future annexation of lands to come, the relinquishment of neighborhood parks to the cities has not occurred. This will continue to create long-term maintenance issues for the County maintaining small parks within the City of Reno or Sparks jurisdictions (see *Map 1*).

Current Park Funding Levels

Although it has been over ten years since the Great Recession, the Parks budget has not recovered to pre-recession levels. The recovery of the Parks budget has been slow. In 2007 the Parks budget was \$8.7 million dollars. Ten years later in 2017 it was at \$5.7 million dollars. Despite the lack of funding the population has increased by approximately 57,000 people generating an even greater need for new facilities within the area. Since the recession, Parks staff has been limited to maintaining existing parks and facilities to keep them open with no capacity to provide new facilities or update existing (see *Figure XX, Washoe County Parks Timeline*). To understand the current Parks operating budget, national comparisons can act as a metric to determine how Parks funding compares on a national level.

Using the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) 2018 Agency Performance Review information, the following comparisons can be made, (this information is provided as metrics for Parks, it is recognized that the Parks Budget is difficult to compare knowing that Parks is understaffed when compared to the pre-recession levels):

Budgets



Graph 1: Budget Comparison

This metric shows the split of total budget dollars for comparison. It is not a comparison of the amount of dollars spent on parks. As described above, funding for parks has had its limitations and is often not consistent, as parks are considered discretionary and are constantly competing with other mandatory County Departments.

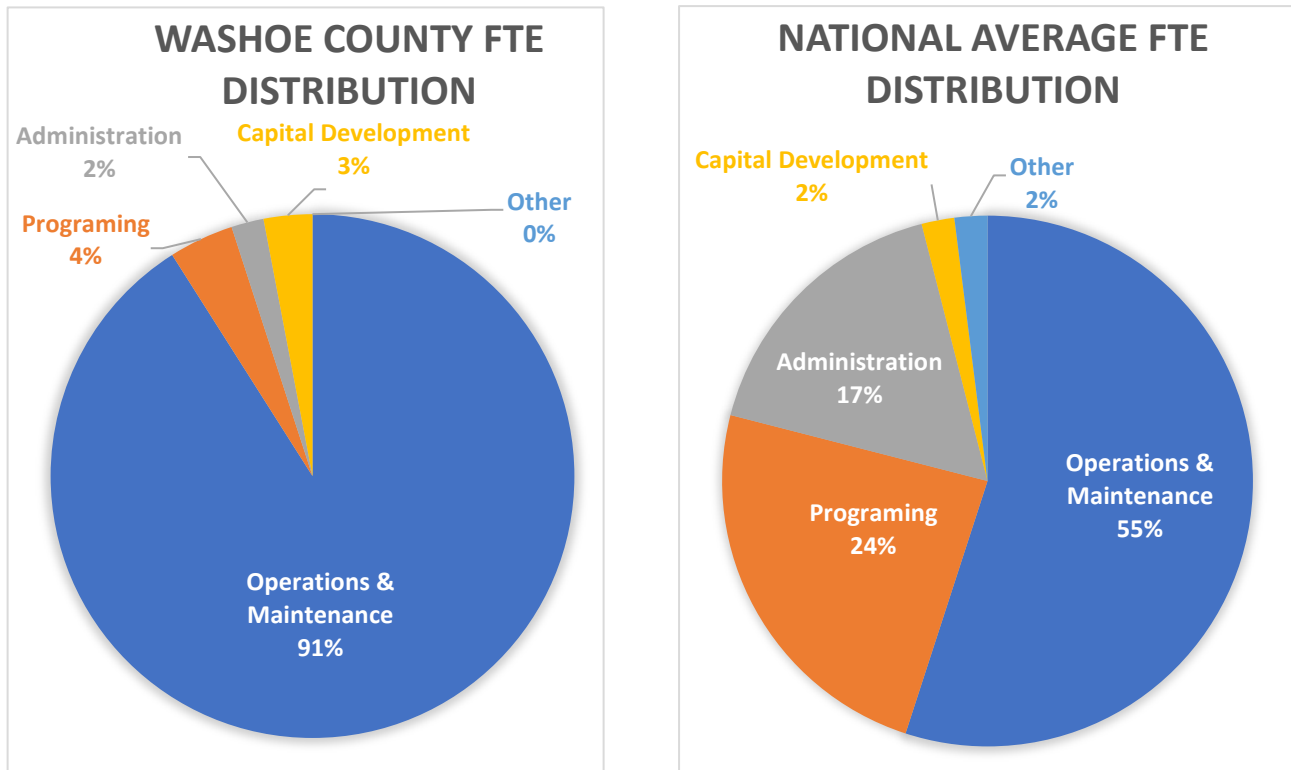
Staff Levels

Another way to gauge the Parks Budget is to measure Parks agency staffing relative to the population the agency serves. Based on the size of Washoe County, the typical park and recreation agency has 3.9 Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs) on staff for every 10,000 residents, (for a jurisdiction of 250,000 residents with fewer than 500 people per square mile). Washoe County is currently at 0.8 FTE's for every 10,000 residents (40 full time employees and 17 seasonal). Well below the typical agency. There are factors that impact the ability to have exact comparisons between Washoe County and the national standards. One factor is that Washoe County serves the entire region and the distance traveled between parks by maintenance staff is a large factor which impacts the personnel necessary to maintain facilities.

Full-Time Equivalent (FTEs) on Staff for Every 10,000 Residents	
Typical Park and Rec Agency:	Washoe County Parks:
3.9	0.8

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Another way to look at FTE's comparisons would be to look at how the typical agency distributes FTE's within the agency:



Graph 2: FTE Comparison

This comparison shows that currently a majority of the Parks staff is dedicated to operations and maintenance. Showing that current Parks staff is still operating at staffing levels affected by the recession. Leaving a majority of the staff still dedicated to maintaining existing facilities at a minimum level and still they are trying to keep up. Current park counts show that the Regional Parks and events alone draw in 4.9 million visitors annually with only 40 full-time staff members. Due to the dedication of the current staff the parks have remained maintained at a level the public can safely continue to utilize unfortunately this leaves no capacity to maintain new parks or facilities or to allow staff the ability to address the backlog of maintenance projects as described in the General Fund. Furthermore, the current lack of administration and programming staff do not allow Parks staff the capacity to plan and develop any new parks or park facilities. Again, this data is provided as a metric for Washoe County and further reflects the financial impact of the Great Recession with the focus strictly on maintaining facilities.

**Regional Parks & Events Alone Bring in 4.9 Million Visitors Annually
With Only 40 Full-Time Parks Employees on Staff.**

Expenditures per Capita

According to NRPA, the typical park and recreation agency in jurisdictions with operations similar to Washoe County (more than 250,000 population and with fewer than 500 people per square mile), typically have a median annual operating expense of \$44.01 on a per capita basis. This is about \$3.66 per month for every resident in the jurisdiction served by the agency. Parks has an annual operating

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expense of \$12.37 on a per capita basis or about \$1.06 per month. A factor influencing this comparison is the need to add the cities operating expenditures and the need to adjust the density which according to NRPA's study, (the denser the population served by the agency(s) the higher the per capita operating expense). The typical park and recreation agency's annual operating expenses of \$78.26 per capita would be a more likely comparison with the two cities added.

Comparing Pre & Post-Recession Budgets per Resident		
Year	2007	2017
Annual Budget	\$8.7 Million	\$5.7 Million
Population	413,215	460,587
Operating Expenditures per Capita	\$21.05	\$12.37

Using the expenditures per capita metric from 2007, the current Parks annual budget should be around \$10.10 million dollars based on the 2019 population (464,523 residents). This budget would be reflective of the budget if the recession did not impact the Parks so heavily. It has been over ten years since the first cuts to the budget and Parks are still slow to recover.

**Parks Budget Based on Pre-Recession
Operating Expenditures per Capita:**

\$10.10 Million

(nearly double the 2017 annual budget)

Continuing Trends

Washoe County's population has continued to increase since the 1960s when Parks was first established. According to the state demographer, this trend will continue through the next 20 years when the population is expected to grow by approximately 100,000 and will reach 558,746 by the year 2038 (reference). Throughout its history, Parks has used its budget and funding sources to continue the vision established by Cooke. Preserving open space and providing regional park services and trail connectivity to the residents and visitors of the area. This service includes the addition of new regional parks, neighborhood parks, trails and the preservation of open space for the growing population. Most of the major open space and park acquisitions and construction of regional park facilities have followed bond issues passed by the voters of Washoe County or the State of Nevada. Unfortunately, this progress was significantly slowed following the 2008 budget cuts due to the lack of funding and the inability to maintain new facilities.

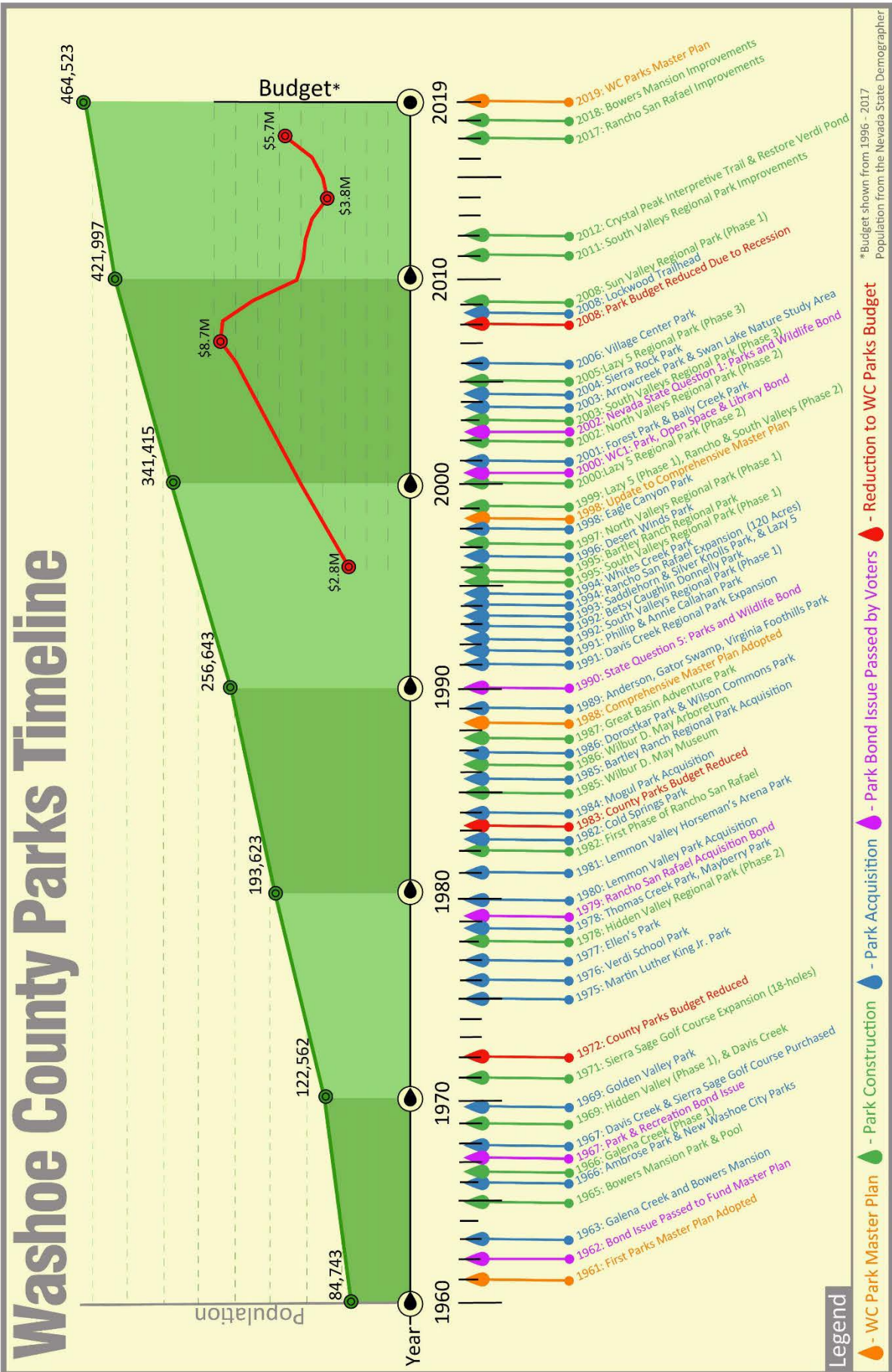


Figure 4: Washoe County Parks Timeline

Washoe County Parks and Open Space Inventory

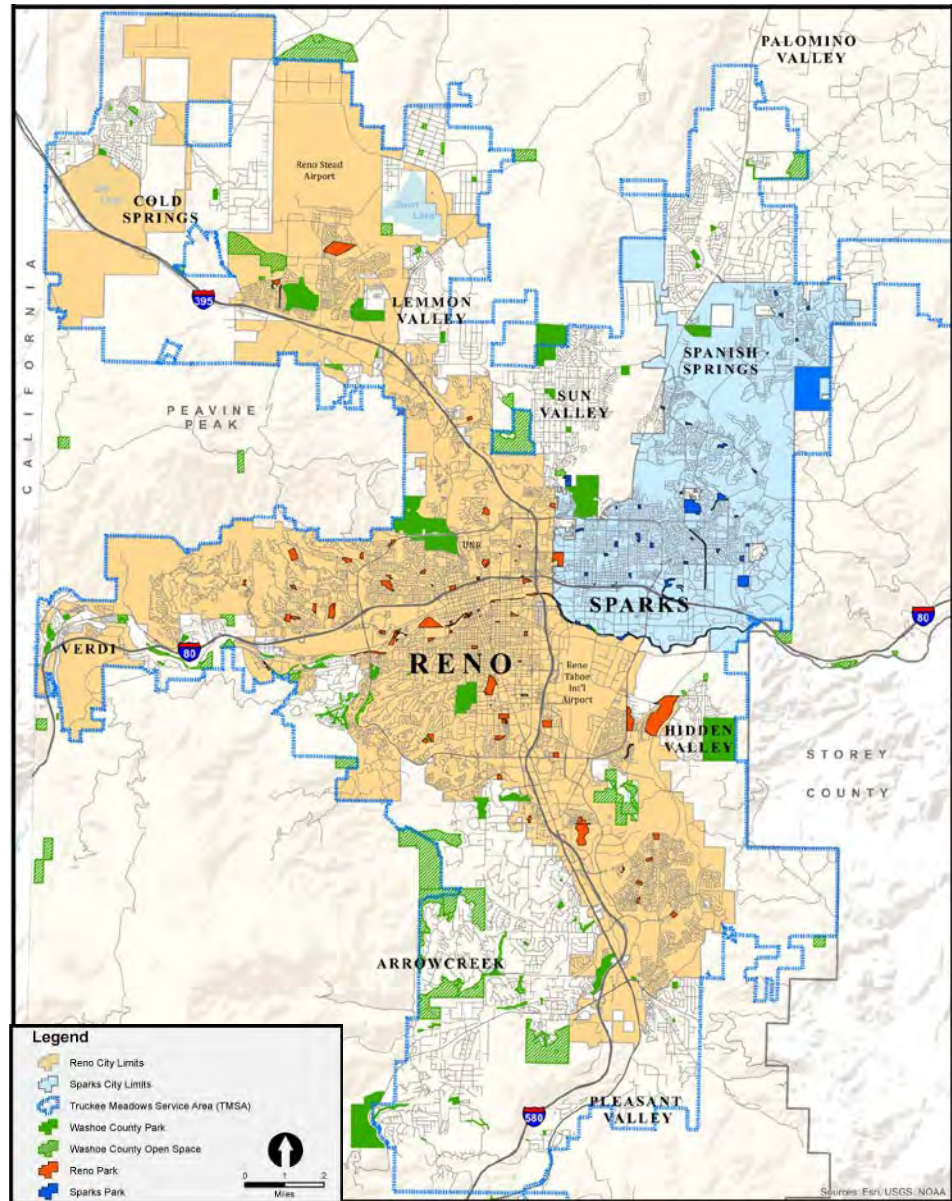
A complete inventory of existing parks and facilities was completed by Parks in 2010. The goal of this inventory was to record existing park facilities prior to developing recommendations for improvement in the master plan. This inventory includes the location, existing amenities, acreage, and opportunities for development for each Washoe County park. This inventory should continue to be updated to help in further analysis to identify underserved residents.

Park Type	Neighborhood and Community Parks	Regional Parks	Special Use Parks	Open Space, Trailheads & Trails	Totals
Locations	39	10	7	69	119
Acres	435±	2,694±	982±	9,113±	13,224±

Table 1: Washoe County Parks Inventory (Source: Washoe County GIS)

County and City Parks

When a resident decides to visit a park, they generally base that decision on several factors, ranging from location to the types of facilities within the park. In most cases a resident will not base their decision on which jurisdiction owns and operates the park. Therefore, when crafting this master plan, all neighborhood, community, and regional parks within Washoe County were considered. This includes parks owned and operated by the following jurisdictions: Washoe County, City of Reno, City of Sparks, Sun Valley General Improvement District, and Incline Village General Improvement District (see Map 1).



Park Types

There are generally three types of parks: Neighborhood Park, Community Park, and Regional Park. The different types are typically based on several factors including size, service area, and the facilities within each park. Not all of Washoe County's ten regional parks are the size listed in *Figure 5*. However, they are intended to serve the greater region and provide the facilities that are typically associated with a regional park.

A fourth type of park is commonly referred to as a "Pocket Park", and characterizes parks that are generally under five acres and are typically seen within the city limits. For the purposes of this master plan, any Washoe County park under 15 acres would be considered a neighborhood park. Large special use parks such as the Regional Shooting Facility, and the Washoe County Golf Course are only dedicated to a single recreation activity and are therefore considered a Special Use Facility.

Park Facilities

A park facility is an amenity that is included within a park. Park facilities are usually associated with park types. For example, a neighborhood park can only have smaller facilities such as playgrounds, picnic tables, and basketball courts, while larger parks, such as community and regional parks, can incorporate larger facilities, such as sports complexes, event space, community centers, and pools to name a few (refer to *Figure 5*).

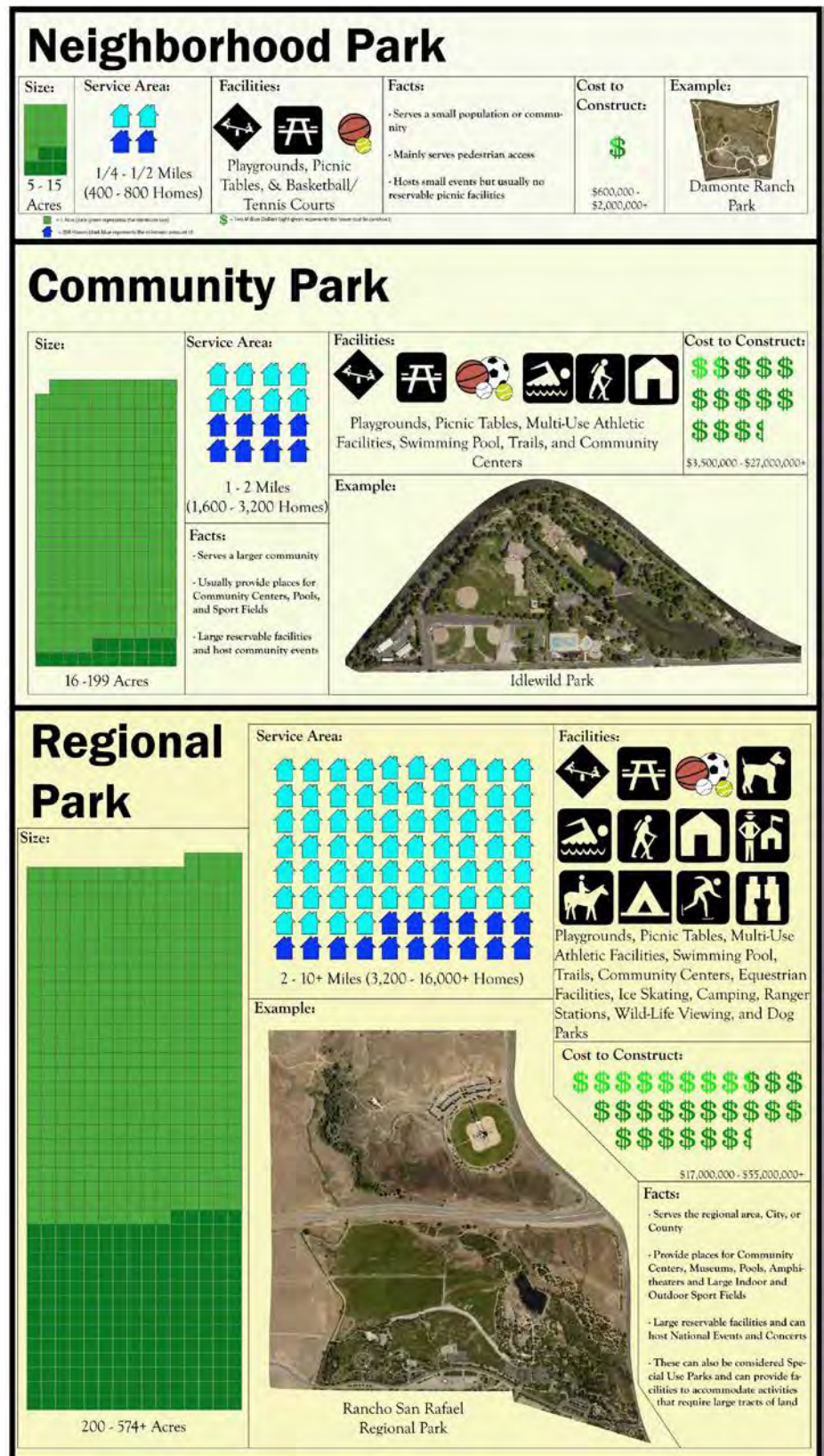


Figure 5: Park types based on the National Parks and Recreation Standards.

Park Specific Master Plans

Parks staff have developed specific master plans for all regional parks and a number of community and neighborhood parks. Over the decades these specific master plans were developed through a public process and have already been approved by County officials. These specific plans include specific details such as the types of facilities to be constructed within each park as well as how these phases will be developed. This master plan will not replace those. Instead, this document will act as a guide to help fund, update and develop the existing park specific master plans. The individual park specific master plans can be viewed on the Community Services Department website (www.washoecounty.us/parks/planning_and_development/master_plans)



Figure 6: South Valleys Regional Park Master Plan Example.

Complementary Plans

This master plan is intended to work in harmony with other community plans within Washoe County or other jurisdictions. This plan is intended to pull together all of the planning documents that are available for parks, open space and trails and will give Washoe County a focused direction forward. While this plan focuses on the general direction of the parks department, it will rely on other plans that have been developed throughout the region to provide a more focused direction and provide policies specific to that particular planning effort.



Figure 7: Complementary plans specific to this master plan.

Plan Development Process

Developing the Community Profile

To establish a better understanding of the existing community a thorough analysis of Washoe County was conducted. This included analyzing datasets gathered by federal and local governmental agencies using Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This process was able to highlight characteristics within the community and to map where they existed throughout the region. This was helpful in identifying how specific characteristics were unique or similar to other neighborhoods and areas throughout the county. The characteristics specific to each neighborhood and region established the community profile and helped to determine the planning areas outlined in Chapter 4. These characteristics were based on:

Demographics

When developing a master plan, it is important to understand the existing demographics within the area to identify how the area can best be served. The most recent United States census data was analyzed from the US Census Bureau, which established a starting point for determining community trends in Washoe County. Since 1970, Washoe County's population has grown consistently and is expected to continue growing over the next 20 years. As the population expands, the demographics are also expected to change. These demographics should be analyzed throughout the life of this Master Plan to ensure that the current demographics are consistent with the most current census data (see appendix XX, *GIS Data Sources*).



Figure 6: Examples of various maps created when developing the community profile

Potentially Underserved Areas

The distance from a park to a residence is one method for analyzing how well a community is being serviced by park facilities. The National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA) Metrics uses a distance based on the type of park to determine if a neighborhood is 'underserved'. Based on these standards, an underserved community is any existing resident who is not within a 1-mile radius of a neighborhood or community park, or not within a 2-mile radius of a regional park.

Although the underserved neighborhoods highlighted in the planning areas of Chapter 4 are considered underserved based on NRPA Metrics, passive recreation facilities, such as trails and trailheads, were not accounted for. It should also be noted that since the NRPA Metrics only apply to urban areas, no underserved residents were considered outside of the Truckee Meadows Service Area (TMSA) because these areas are considered rural (See appendix X, *Underserved Areas*).

Land Use

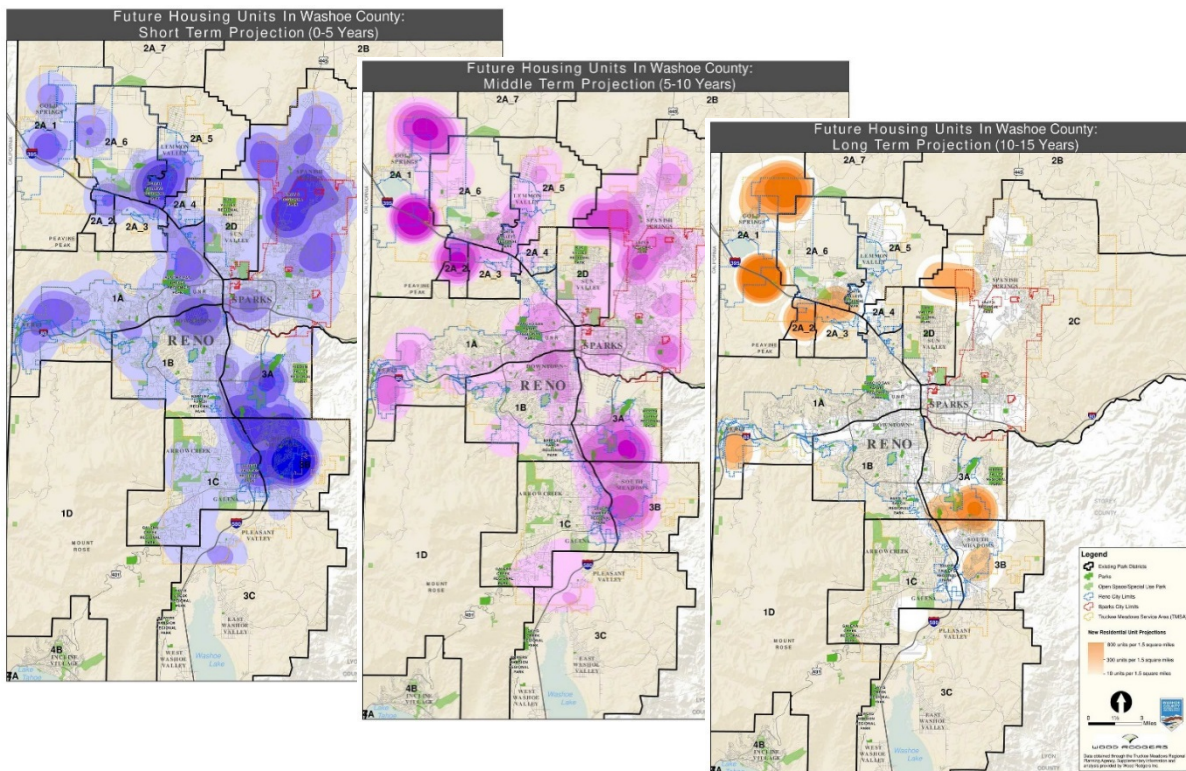


Figure 7: Baily Creek Park Land Use.

Land use and regulatory zoning were analyzed to determine areas that might require more services or have an abundance of resources based on the built environment. These included lot size, residential and commercial uses and other factors such as special planning areas, city limits, federal lands, and land jurisdiction. Land jurisdiction included unincorporated Washoe County, the City of Reno and Sparks, the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID) and Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID) limits. Land use and zoning can be a major influence when determining what type of park or park facility would be appropriate for an area.

Future Growth

To help determine areas for future park demand, data was gathered that showed all approved housing units within Washoe County as of June 2018. This data was obtained from the Regional Housing Study conducted by Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency (TMRPA). The data was then further analyzed to include a timing element which predicted the most likely time the approved developments would be constructed. This timeline was based on several factors, including local knowledge, feasibility, access to infrastructure, and current market conditions. The developments were then broken down into three time frames: short-term, 0 to 5 years (2018-2023); mid-term, 5-10 years (2023-2028); and long-term, 10 or more years (2028-2038); (See [Map 2](#)).



Map 2: Projected growth for the short-term (left), mid-term (middle), and long-term (right), based on approved dwelling units as of June 2018 and with analysis provided by Wood Rodgers, Inc and feedback from the Washoe County Master Plan Stakeholders group (source: Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency Housing Study – June 2018).

Washoe County Parks Master Plan 2

Community Profile Characteristics:

- ✓ **Demographics (age, income, race, etc.)**
- ✓ **Potentially Underserved Parcels (proximity to parks)**
- ✓ **Land Use (residential, commercial, open space, etc.)**
- ✓ **Future Growth (future approved dwelling units)**

Public Input

Extensive collaboration between Washoe County and the community has guided the plan development process throughout. Development of a park inventory and identification of the community profile constituted the first phase of this process, providing necessary background information regarding the existing conditions of Washoe County parks. With this information, preliminary recommendations for shaping this Master Plan were created and presented to stakeholders and the public to solicit feedback. Information provided in this Plan has been thoroughly informed by public guidance through community outreach meetings, an online survey, and the input of a dedicated stakeholder group. This chapter outlines the engagement activities that have been used to develop a shared vision of the future for Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space.

Stakeholder Meetings

Several meetings were organized between Washoe County Parks staff and representatives of community, agencies, and relevant private and non-profit groups to facilitate the development of the Master Plan. The first meeting in February 2018 provided this stakeholder group with an overview of park ownership, park types, and information on existing Residential Construction Tax (RCT) districts. Based on the community profile established through the analysis described above, proposed boundaries for consolidated districts were presented to the stakeholders during this meeting to solicit feedback. The consolidated districts were proposed to allow greater flexibility in leveraging RCT funds. Comments and concerns included:

- **Interest in developing a master plan independently from funding**
- **Washoe County should focus a majority of their efforts on regional parks and let neighborhood parks be constructed within the cities**
- **A long-term goal should be the development of a stand-alone Parks Department to oversee all city and county owned parks**
- **A need to analyze the influence of growth and development on existing and future park capacity**

A second stakeholder meeting in September 2018 was completed after the public outreach process. At the meeting the results of the public outreach meetings and survey data were presented. The growth projection maps shown in **Map 2** of this Master Plan were also displayed projecting the development time frame of the known developments in the region. The stakeholders then used this knowledge to provide additional input into establishing the planning area boundaries and worked with staff to outline possible opportunities and constraints for each planning area. Comments from the second meeting included:

- **Planning areas should take into consideration the Washoe County Master Plan Planning Area boundaries, RCT Districts, and the Truckee Meadows Service Area.**
- **The planning areas should be generally concentrated around the population in the North Valleys, Spanish Springs, South Valleys, and Verdi Area.**
- **Planning areas boundaries should consider passive/natural recreation areas as well as parks.**

For a detailed record of the stakeholder's meetings see **Appendix XX** attached to this document.

Community Outreach Meetings

Four public meetings were held in April 2018 at different locations within the County, including Spanish Springs, North Valleys, Rancho San Rafael, and South Valleys. The public meetings were centered around three questions:

- 1. Where do you live and what two places do you most frequently recreate?**
- 2. What type of park do you most frequently use?**
- 3. What are the top 3 facilities you use most?**



Figure 8: Public meeting at Bartley Ranch Regional park.

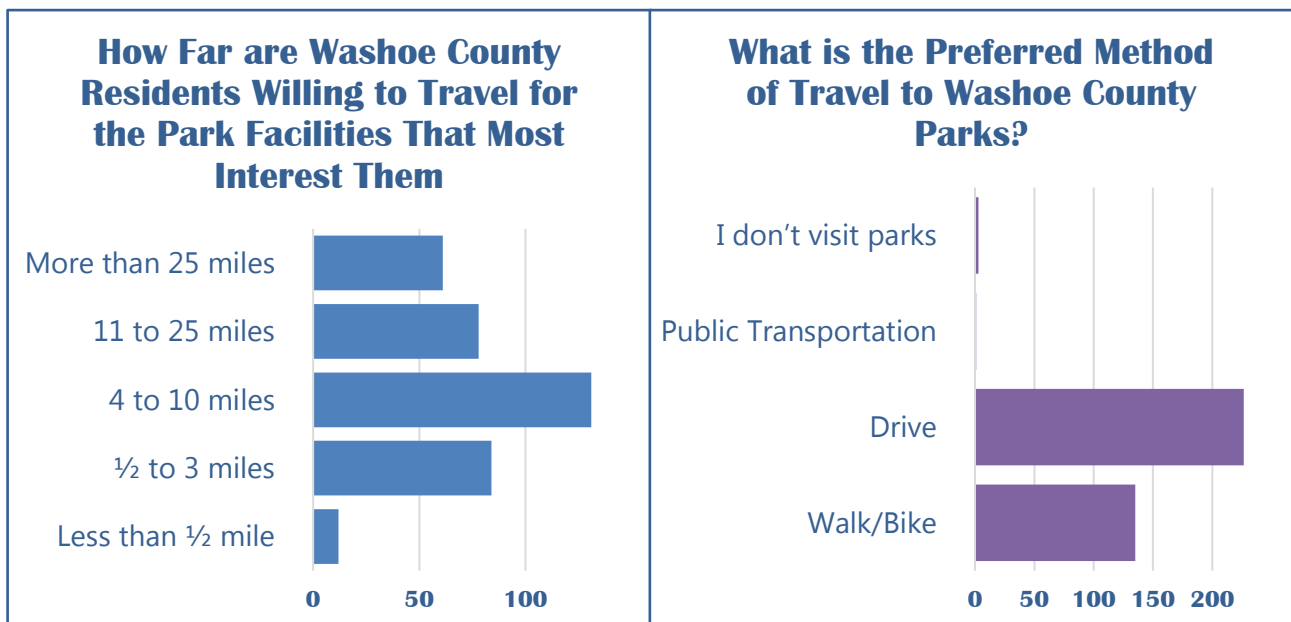
Meeting attendees indicated that they primarily recreated in the same planning area as their residence. However, they are also willing to travel farther distances to certain park facilities and regional parks. The most popular park facilities are generally located within regional parks (e.g. large playgrounds, recreation centers, museums, athletic fields, hiking/urban trails). Regional and community parks were the most used park types while neighborhood parks were used the least. Additional comments from the public attendees included interests in restoring park funding to pre-recession levels, creating additional dog parks, and providing additional amenities at existing trailheads. Results from this public meeting are provided in **Appendices XX and XX**.

Online Survey

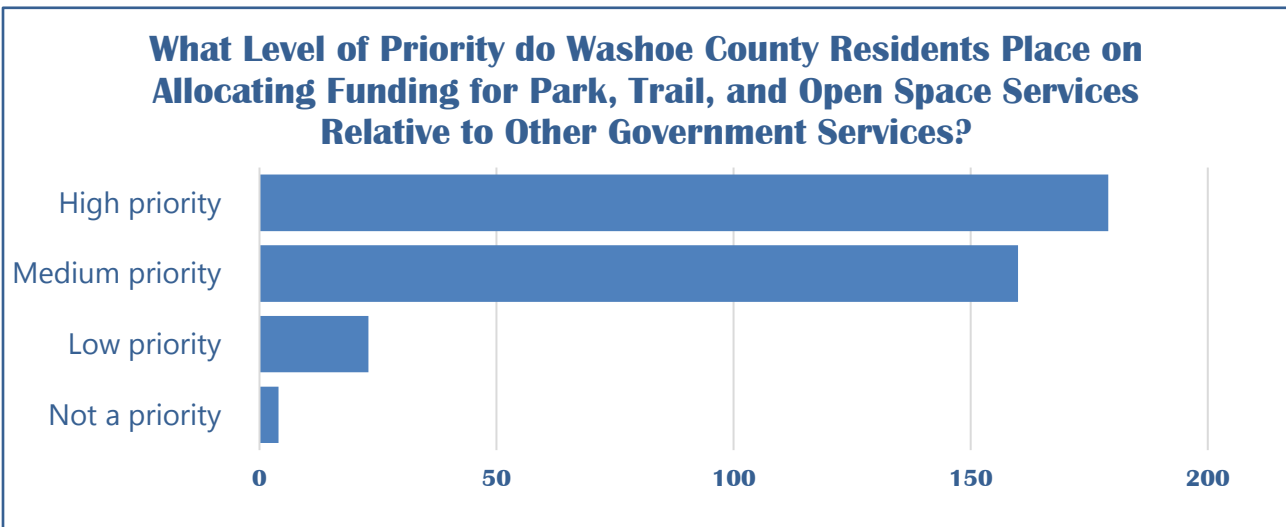
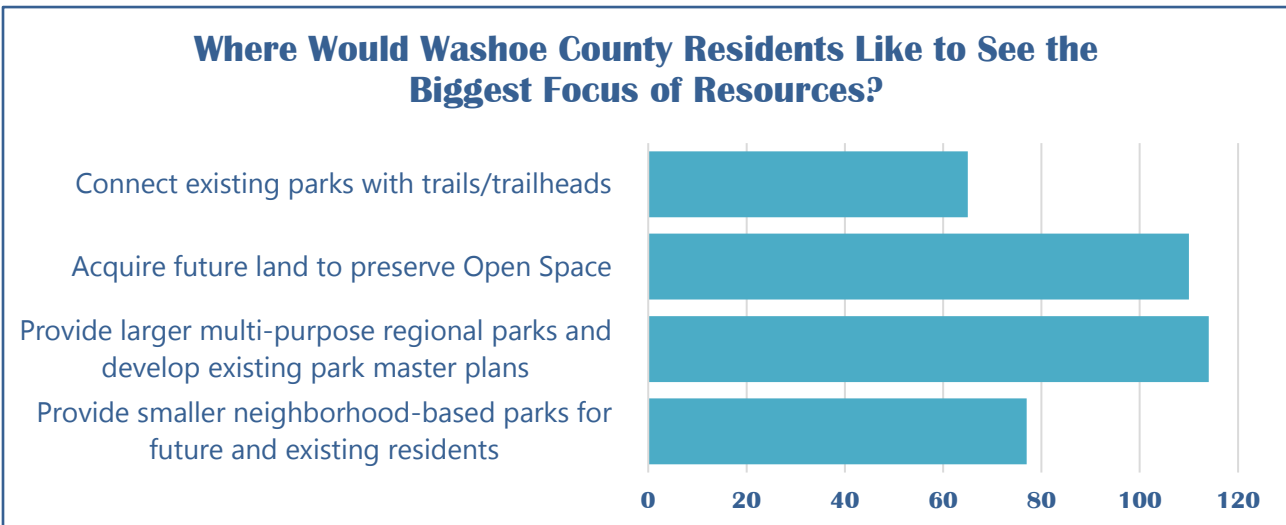
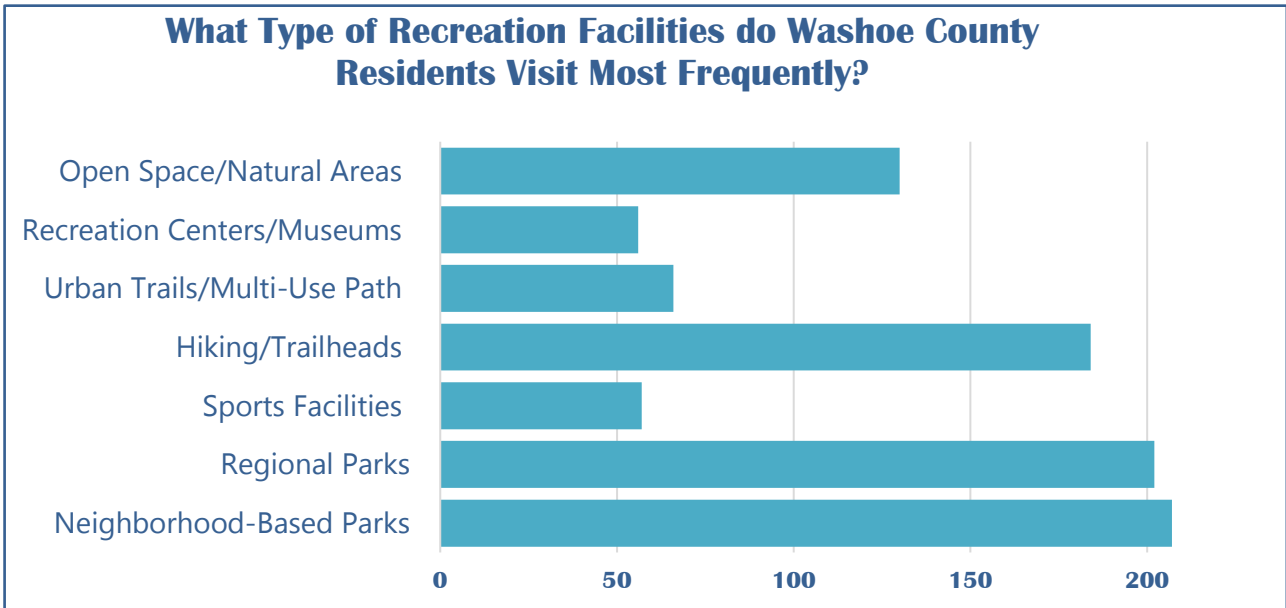
The survey was launched in conjunction with the public meetings. Notices were posted on the Washoe County website, sent out through email, passed out at parks and sporting events, and posted on social media and the local news stations. The survey was posted online between April 9th and May 11th 2018. The survey was intended to take approximately five minutes and totaled ten questions. The questions were targeted to understand how far residents traveled to parks, what types of parks and facilities they used most, and what types of parks and park facilities they were most interested in using in the future. A total of 370 complete survey responses were collected. A copy of the entire questionnaire is included in [Appendix XX](#).



Figure 9: Word Cloud, developed using “additional comments or questions” portion of survey. Source: www.wordclouds.com



Graphs 1: Responses to Question 8 and Question 9, (Total Responses: 370, “No Answer” not included in graphs)



Graphs 2: Responses to Question 7, Question 4, and Question 5 on the online survey (Question 7 & 4 both totaled 370 responses, "No Answer" not included in graphs; Question 5 asked respondents to chose their top three facilities).

Results of the survey concluded:

- **Majority of the respondents were frequent users of parks**
- **Park funding was a medium to high priority over other government services**
- **Most drove to the park (62%)**
- **Nearly all of the respondents (72%), said that they were willing to travel four miles or farther to get to a park that had facilities that interested them the most**

Comments and concerns written in the open-ended comments section revealed a wide range of interests. Several reoccurring comments were noted including the creation of more dog parks, preserving open space, developing adopted regional park specific master plans and including pool facilities within future park planning efforts (see the *Word Cloud* in [Figure 9](#)). Due to the limitations of distribution of the survey, most of the respondents were frequent users of parks. It should be noted that even though most survey respondents said that allocating funding for parks is a medium to high priority, this may not be indicative of residents in the County at large.

Parks Commission Presentations/Meetings

An Open Space and Regional Parks Commission meeting included this Master Plan as an agenda item on November 29th, 2018. This meeting provided feedback and guidance for the Master Plan from the commissioners. A commission meeting on [DATE](#) approved and adopted the Master Plan.

Summary of Public Input

- 1. The funding of parks services should be a high priority**
- 2. Future funding should focus on the development of large regional parks and acquiring open space for preservation**
- 3. As the areas grows, plan new park and open space acquisition based on future development in terms of short-term (0-5 years), mid-term (5-10 years), and long-term (10+ years)**
- 4. Establish planning areas separate from funding sources**

Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Purpose

This chapter contains the goals, objectives and strategies that are meant to guide this Master Plan from conception into reality. These are the overarching principles and policies that govern Washoe County Parks' decisions, help to shape current and future priorities, and ultimately, provide a framework for implementing the Plan. In Chapter 4, the degree to which each of the planning areas adhere to the objectives described below will be explored. Based on that analysis, the gaps and opportunities specific to each of the planning areas will be described in an effort to identify high, medium, and low priorities both now and in the future.

Goal 1: Provide, enhance, and support regional recreational opportunities that increase the quality of life for Washoe County residents

Objective 1.A: Preserve and enhance existing regional parks

Strategy 1.A.1: Provide regional parks with a multitude of facilities that will serve a diverse range of recreational needs for residents within the region, including city and county residents, of all ages and abilities

Strategy 1.A.2: Monitor the use of older parks and recreation facilities to determine if expansion or a retrofit of these facilities can best serve demands

Objective 1.B: Identify and acquire lands to be preserved for regional or community parks, special use facilities, trail systems, and open space purposes

Strategy 1.B.1: Use the adopted Washoe County Parks Master Plan Area Maps in conjunction with the Washoe County Open Space & Natural Resource Management Plan as a guide to determine where new regional parks, special use facilities, trails/trailheads, and open space should be located

Strategy 1.B.2: Acquire open space where beneficial to residents

Strategy 1.B.3: Identify, monitor, and analyze "underserved" residents as identified in the Park Master Plan, and provide recreational facilities based on their needs

Strategy 1.B.4: Encourage individuals, private foundations, and/or private developers to give donations of land, gifts, and/or cash for construction of public recreation facilities

Strategy 1.B.5: During the development review process, request public access easements or dedications in areas where recreational opportunities have been identified

Chapter 3: Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Strategy 1.B.7: During the development review process, require public access easements from subdivisions that are adjacent to public lands

Objective 1.C: Encourage a multi-purpose regional trail system to connect residents to regional parks, neighborhood parks, special use facilities, and open space

Strategy 1.C.1: Identify areas for future connections and work with land developers to provide connectivity to all future and existing parks, trails, and open space through dedications, easements or donations

Strategy 1.C.2: Work with local government agencies to identify areas of collaboration when connecting trails

Strategy 1.C.3: Plan to connect existing and planned urban bike lanes and paths with the regional trail system

Strategy 1.C.4: Identify a major regional trail or corridor system that connects major peaks and ranges in southern Washoe County

Strategy 1.C.5: Collaborate with other agencies to implement the Truckee Meadows Trails Plan

Strategy 1.C.5: Support completion of the outstanding segments of the Tahoe Pyramid Trail

Goal 2: Develop and update community supported short-term and long-term priorities specific to each park planning area

Objective 2.A: Continually update each planning area priorities as they become relevant

Strategy 2.A.1: Develop and manage Washoe County's parks inventory, including the condition of each park and facility

Strategy 2.A.2: Use the regional parks and special use facilities regional standards as a guide for planning the type and amount of facilities needed for Washoe County

Strategy 3.A.3: Monitor future development and identify areas of opportunity

Strategy 3.A.4: Assess existing facilities and identify and plan for future costs

Strategy 3.A.5: Encourage partnerships with community organizations to meet current community needs

Objective 2.B: Develop and update a master plan specific to each regional park

Strategy 2.B.1: Create a master plan specific to each regional park and update all park master plans and regional park master plans every 10-20 years

Chapter 3: Goals, Objectives and Strategies

Strategy 2.B.2: Encourage opportunities that will help fund/develop existing regional park master plans

Strategy 2.B.3: Work with land managers to leverage existing funding sources for update of planning documents

Goal 3: Support and encourage implementation of each priority to meet the needs of the community

Objective 3.A: Collaborate with other departments, agencies, organizations and private developers to meet the identified priorities

Strategy 3.A.1: Continue involvement with Nevada Land Trust, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, and other related organizations

Strategy 3.A.2: Work with outside partners to develop trail connectivity and acquisitions needed for future trails

Strategy 2.A.3: Work with Washoe County and land owners for easements, dedications, acquisitions property sales, etc.

Strategy 2.A.4: Seek partnerships with local businesses/local government agencies to further develop existing regional parks, trails, and open space

Strategy 2.A.4: Create sponsorships and partnerships with local businesses for opportunities to meet the identified needs of the planning areas

Objective 3.B: Sustain and enhance effective interagency and interjurisdictional partnerships to address the planning, development, operation, and maintenance of regional recreational resources

Strategy 3.B.1: Maintain existing and establish new partnerships with other government agencies and non-profits to provide more facilities and manage existing facilities

Strategy 3.B.2: Collaborate with other agencies to meet the community's aquatics needs

Strategy 3.B.3: Coordinate regional parks, special use facilities, and trails/open space planning based on future development and work with landowners and local government agencies to further develop regional facilities

Goal 4: Maintain and manage existing parks and seek diverse and flexible funding sources to insure the community’s needs are met

Objective 4.A: Maintain or increase existing funding levels and co-ordinate efforts with the Washoe County Capital Improvement Program (CIP), augment where required to meet growth demands

- Strategy 4.A.1: Track legislative issues impacting parks, trails and open space
- Strategy 4.A.2: Examine and, if appropriate, propose model legislation to be used for community park financing
- Strategy 4.A.3: Continue to pursue external revenue sources such as grants and donations
- Strategy 4.A.5: Develop ordinances establishing alternative programs such as tax incentives, land banking, transfer of development rights, and holding zones to promote land dedications, gifts and/or donations
- Strategy 4.A.6: Propose and use alternative methods such as private park service provision, and other methods that are deemed appropriate for funding the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of community parks
- Strategy 4.A.6: Leverage existing funding through grants, partnerships, and donations, when feasible

Goal 5: Protect and enhance recreational, cultural and natural resources.

Objective 5.A: Integrate recreation goals with cultural and natural resource management

- Strategy 5.A.1: Use this Plan in conjunction with Washoe County’s Regional Open Space and Natural Resource Management Plan to identify Parks Department priorities
- Strategy 5.A.2: Integrate interpretation and environmental education into the trail system to inform users about the region’s cultural heritage, natural resources and wildlife
- Strategy 5.A.3: Evaluate the appropriate levels of recreation to ensure that natural resources are sustained
- Strategy 5.A.4: Ensure that natural and cultural resource impacts are mitigated to the greatest extent feasible when developing new recreation facilities or amenities
- Strategy 1.A.5: Acquire lands that can meet both recreation and natural resource objectives

Planning Area Profiles, Priorities & Opportunities

Introduction to Planning Areas

The planning areas outlined in this master plan reflect the spaces in which residents living in the planning area are most likely to recreate. Although residents may recreate in other planning areas on occasion, the majority of their recreational opportunities usually occur within the parks, greenways/open space, trails and trailheads within the planning area in which they reside.

Planning Area Boundary Parameters	
✓ Public Feedback	✓ Existing residential neighborhoods
✓ Plan Planning Area boundaries	✓ Land use designations
✓ RCT District boundaries	✓ Future housing developments
✓ Park locations and travel times	✓ Similarities in demographics
✓ Geography of the land	

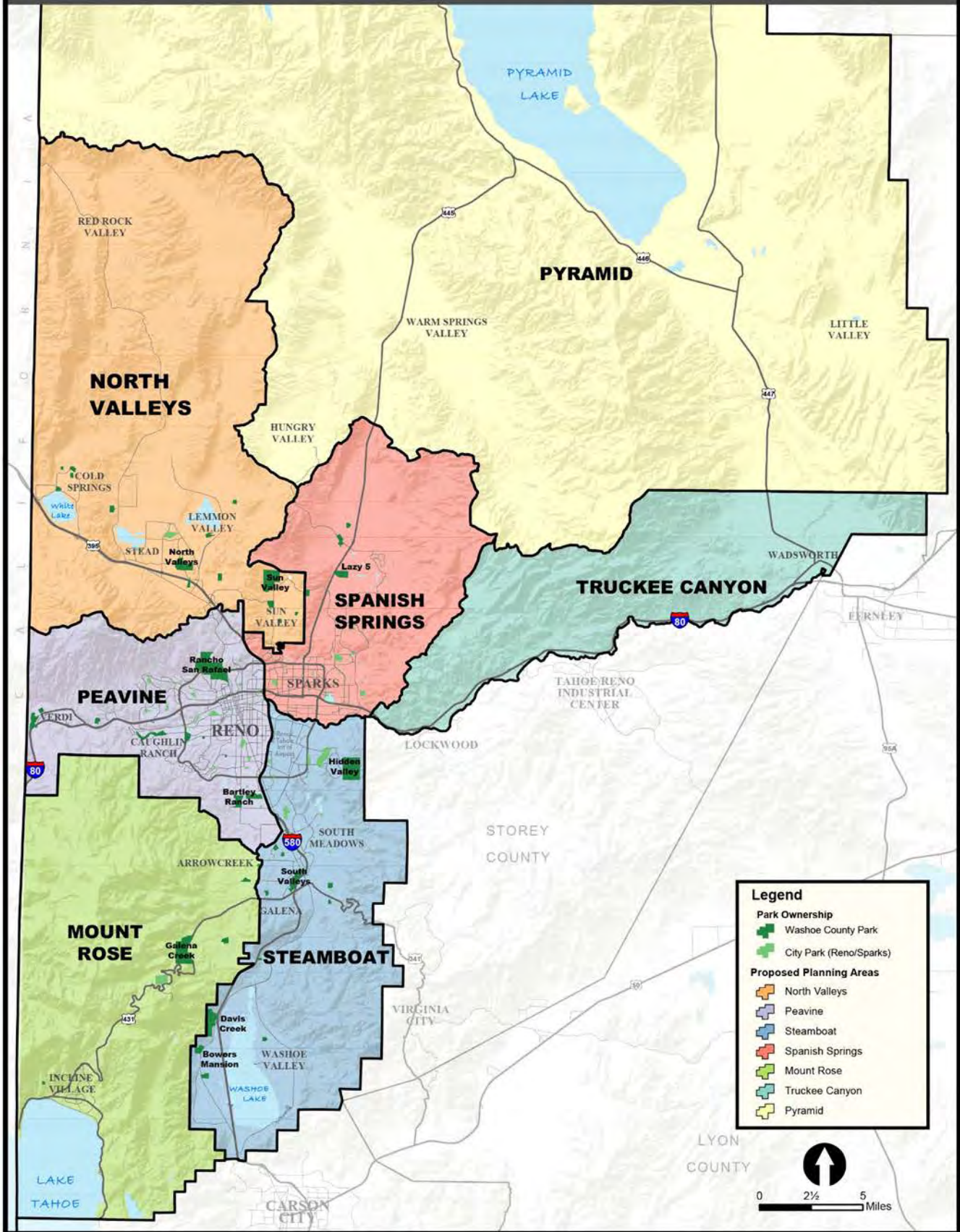
Planning Area Profiles

Each planning area has its own set of characteristics that are unique to the planning area as described in Chapter 2. Once the planning area boundaries were established these characteristics were further analyzed based on several datasets such as population, land jurisdiction, park types, recreation facilities, and future growth. These were analyzed through Geographic Information Systems (GIS). This analysis helped to identify the planning area profile along with the challenges and opportunities specific to each planning area.

Planning Area Priorities and Opportunities

Priorities were identified for each specific planning area in order for Washoe County to address the insufficiencies identified in the planning area profiles. Insufficiencies can include anything that generally relates to lack of facilities, inadequate park facilities, undeveloped parkland, etc. The priorities are directions that Washoe County needs to focus its resources. Specific Goals are provided for each priority. To meet the priority the implementation methods should fit with the objectives and strategies outlined in Chapter 3 of this master plan. The priorities and opportunities should be updated throughout the life of this Master Plan as the area continues to grow.

PLANNING AREAS

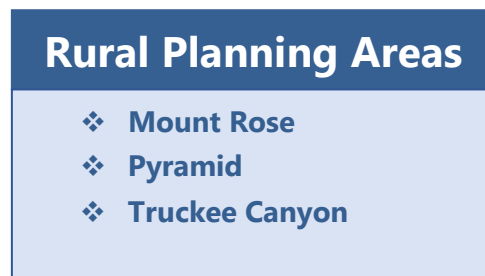
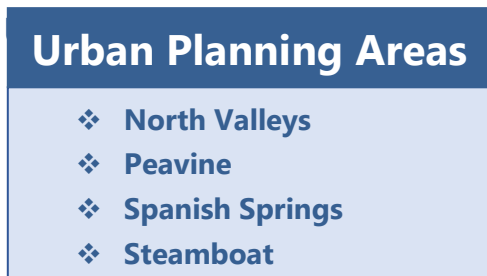


Washoe County Parks Master Plan 2

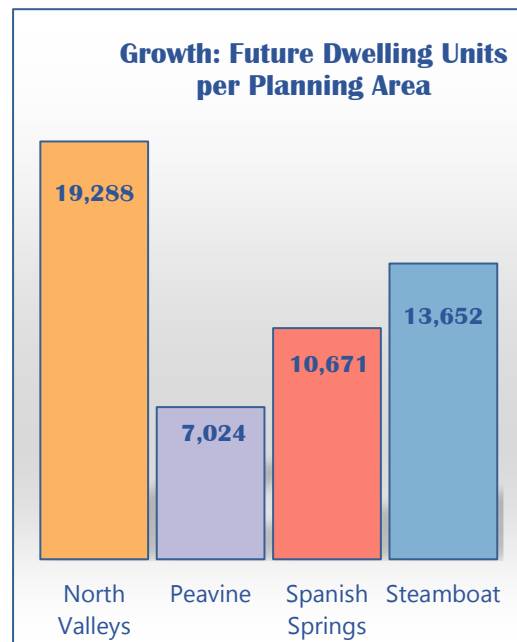
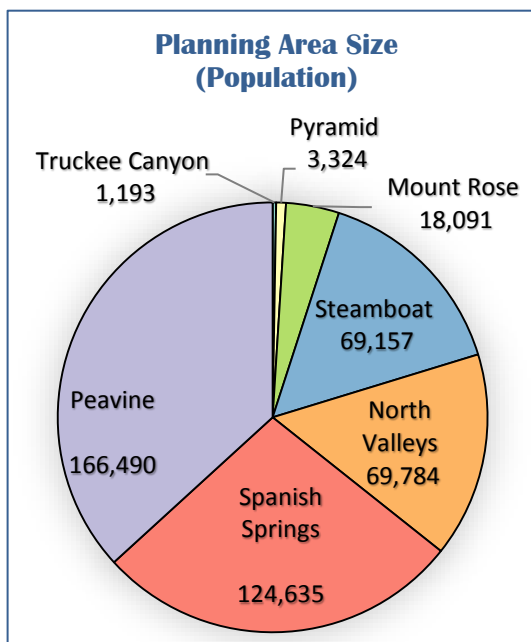
Map X: The seven planning areas; Pyramid Planning Area includes all of northern Washoe to the Oregon Border.

Urban and Rural Planning Areas

A majority of the population is concentrated within the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and portions of unincorporated Washoe County adjacent to the City Limits. This concentration of people is located within the Truckee Meadows Service Area (TMSA). The TMSA is an area delineated based on the availability of municipal services including water, sewer, and parks. Due to denser neighborhoods within these areas almost all of the neighborhood, community and regional parks are located within the TMSA. Furthermore, these areas are expected to see a majority of the growth within Washoe County over the next twenty-years. Areas outside of the TMSA are considered rural. Therefore, four planning areas that contain a majority of the TMSA within their boundaries are referred to as the Urban Planning Areas.



Outside of the TMSA the land use densities decrease drastically and most residents are on large lot properties which are typically serviced by a private well and septic tank. Due to the lower densities, these areas generally lack municipal services including park facilities. The Rural Planning Areas may still have pockets of urban neighborhoods that have services that are similar to those found within the TMSA, however; a majority of the planning area is considered rural and lacks municipal services.

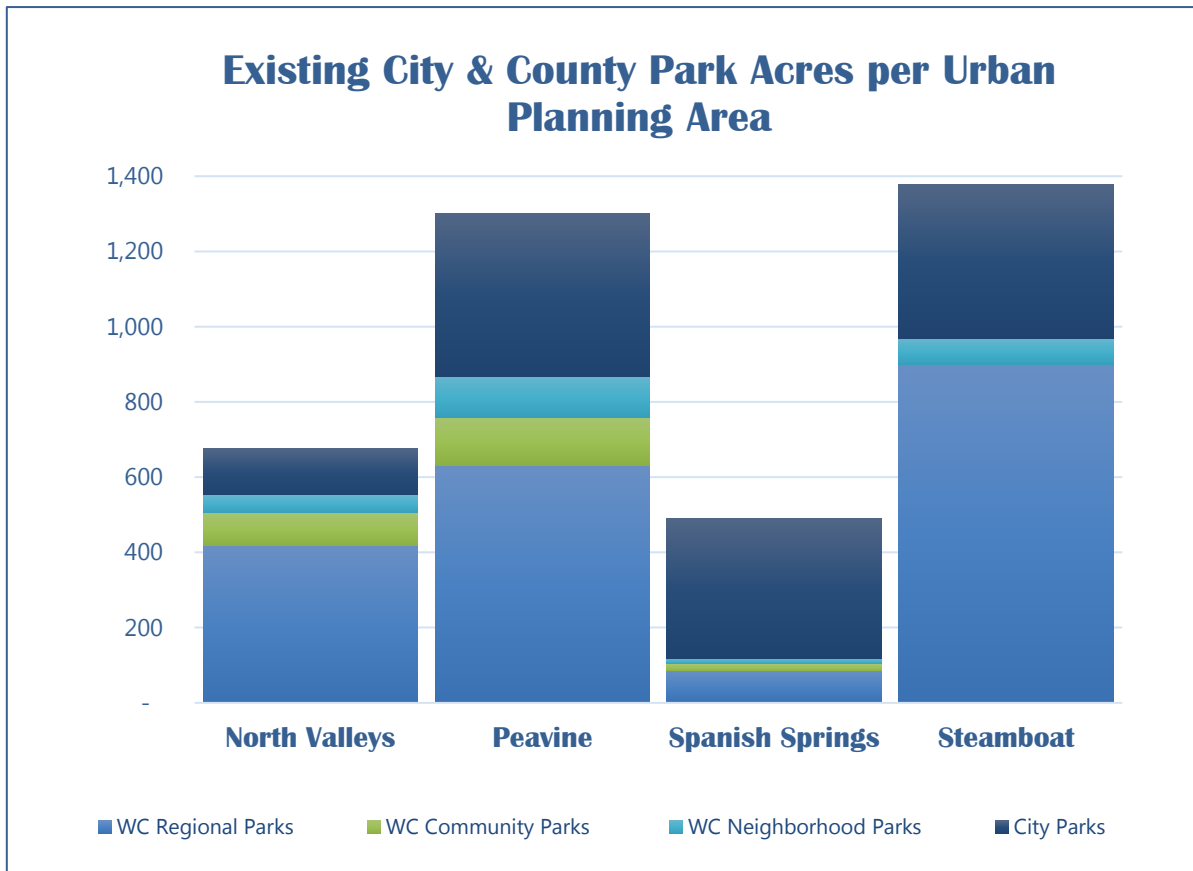


Graph X: Planning Area Size (Population), the urban planning areas have the highest population.

Graph X: Planning Area with number of approved units. Planning areas not shown have less than 1,000 units approved

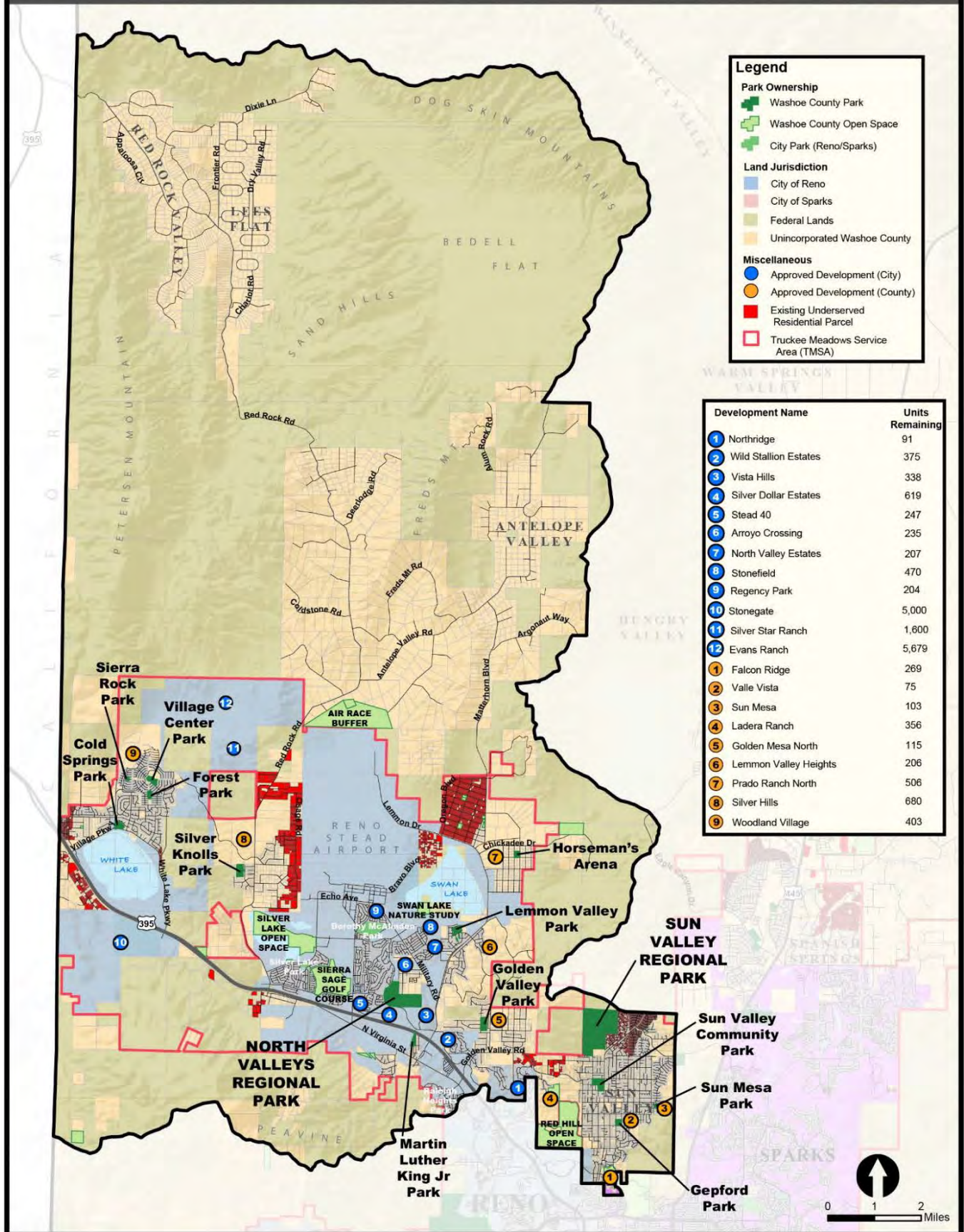
(Source: Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency –June 2018).

Comparing Planning Areas						
Planning Area	Current Population	Future Units	Number of County Parks	Number of City Parks	Total Park Acres	Park Acres per 1,000 Persons
North Valleys	69,784	19,288	16	5	980	14
Peavine	166,490	7,024	12	60	1,462	9
Spanish Springs	124,635	10,671	6	46	490	4
Steamboat	69,157	13,652	11	15	1,378	20
Mount Rose	18,091	794	5	13	1,227	68
Pyramid	3,324	36	1	-	29	9
Truckee Canyon	1,193	-	1	-	530	444



Graph 10: Spanish Springs Planning Area has the least number of parks of all of the urban planning areas (Source: Washoe County Geographic Information Systems Park Data).

NORTH VALLEYS PLANNING AREA

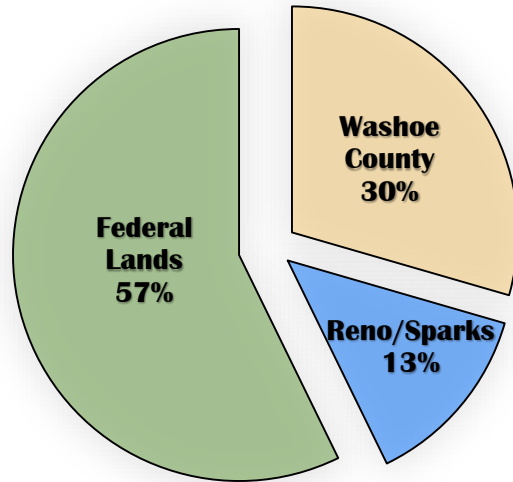


Map 6: North Valleys Planning Area including portions of northwest Reno and Sun Valley including the Sun Valley GID.

North Valleys Planning Area Profile

The North Valleys planning area includes Sun Valley, Golden Valley, Lemmon Valley and Cold Springs to the south, with Antelope Valley and Red Rock Valley to the north making up a population of 69,784 with a median age of 31.1 years. Most of the density is concentrated in the south of the planning area and has the highest need for park services. Although a majority of the population is within the City of Reno limits, Washoe County provides nearly eighty-seven percent of the 980 acres of parks. These parks include various neighborhood and community parks along with two regional parks: North Valley’s Regional Park and Sun Valley Regional Park. Although these parks are owned and operated by Washoe County, Sun Valley Regional Park is adjacent to properties that are within the jurisdiction of the Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID) and used by the citizens of Sun Valley. Similarly, North Valleys Regional Park is surrounded by the City of Reno and is heavily used by citizens of both the City and Unincorporated Washoe County. Other recreational facilities include Silver Sage Golf Course, open space including the Peavine Mountain United States Forest Service, and other natural features such as Whites Lake, Swan Lake and Silver Lake, (Refer to [Map 6](#)).

North Valleys Land Jurisdiction



Graph 5: North Valleys Land Jurisdiction (Source: Washoe County GIS).

North Valleys Facts:

- ✓ **Highest projected future growth**
- ✓ **Median Age 31.1 years (youngest)**
- ✓ **Most growth within the City limits around County Regional Parks**
- ✓ **Majority of the parks are owned and maintained by the County**
- ✓ **Sun Valley GID operates the parks within Sun Valley**

Despite all of the facilities provided within the planning area, several existing Washoe County neighborhoods have been identified as potentially underserved. The North Valleys planning area has the most approved housing units with a total of twenty-one approved subdivisions that are anticipated to be constructed over the next twenty years. A majority of the units (78%) will be constructed within the City of Reno limits, (see [Graph 6](#)).

Chapter 4: Planning Areas Profiles and Implementation

The northern portion of the planning area, (outside of the TMSA) is rural and includes Antelope Valley and Red Rock Valley. These neighborhoods have less of a need for park facilities but open space and access to outdoor recreational opportunities in these areas are important to the community character of the planning area. Current and past equestrian and livestock activities in this area also contribute to the rural character of these neighborhoods taking advantage of the open space parcels which are primarily owned and managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

North Valley's Park Totals
Regional Parks:
North Valleys Regional Park
Sun Valley Regional Park
Community Parks:
Sun Valley Community Park
Golden Valley Park
Silver Knolls Park
Neighborhood Parks:
Sierra Rock Park
Sun Mesa Park
Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Park
Forest Park
Lemmon Valley Horseman's Arena
Gepford Park
Lemmon Valley Park
Village Center Park
Cold Springs Park
Special Use Parks:
Swan Lake Nature Study Area
Sierra Sage Golf Course
Regional Archery Facility

North Valleys Priorities and Opportunities

Address Possible Underserved Areas (Goal 1 & 2)

Parcels considered “underserved” by NRPA Metrics are highlighted throughout the planning area. Study these areas further to determine facilities that can best serve specific neighborhoods. Work with future development to determine the best path forward (see [Map X North Valleys Opportunities Map](#)).

Further Develop Sun Valley Regional Park (Goal 1, 2, 3, & 4)

Although Sun Valley has a General Improvement District (SVGID), any Residential Construction Tax (RCT) funds generated within the SVGID jurisdiction will continue to go to SVGID, residents within the SVGID and the City of Reno use Sun Valley Regional Park. Work with the City of Reno and SVGID entities to further implement/update/develop the Sun Valley Regional Park Master Plan to meet or address the needs of the surrounding community.

Plan for Future Parks (Goal 1 & 2)

The North Valleys has the highest potential for growth with an estimated 19,288 new housing units planned over the next twenty-years. Although a majority of the future units will be developed within the City of Reno limits, those residents will likely be major users of the Washoe County Parks facilities. Work with developers and the City of Reno to ensure the current and future residents are properly served.

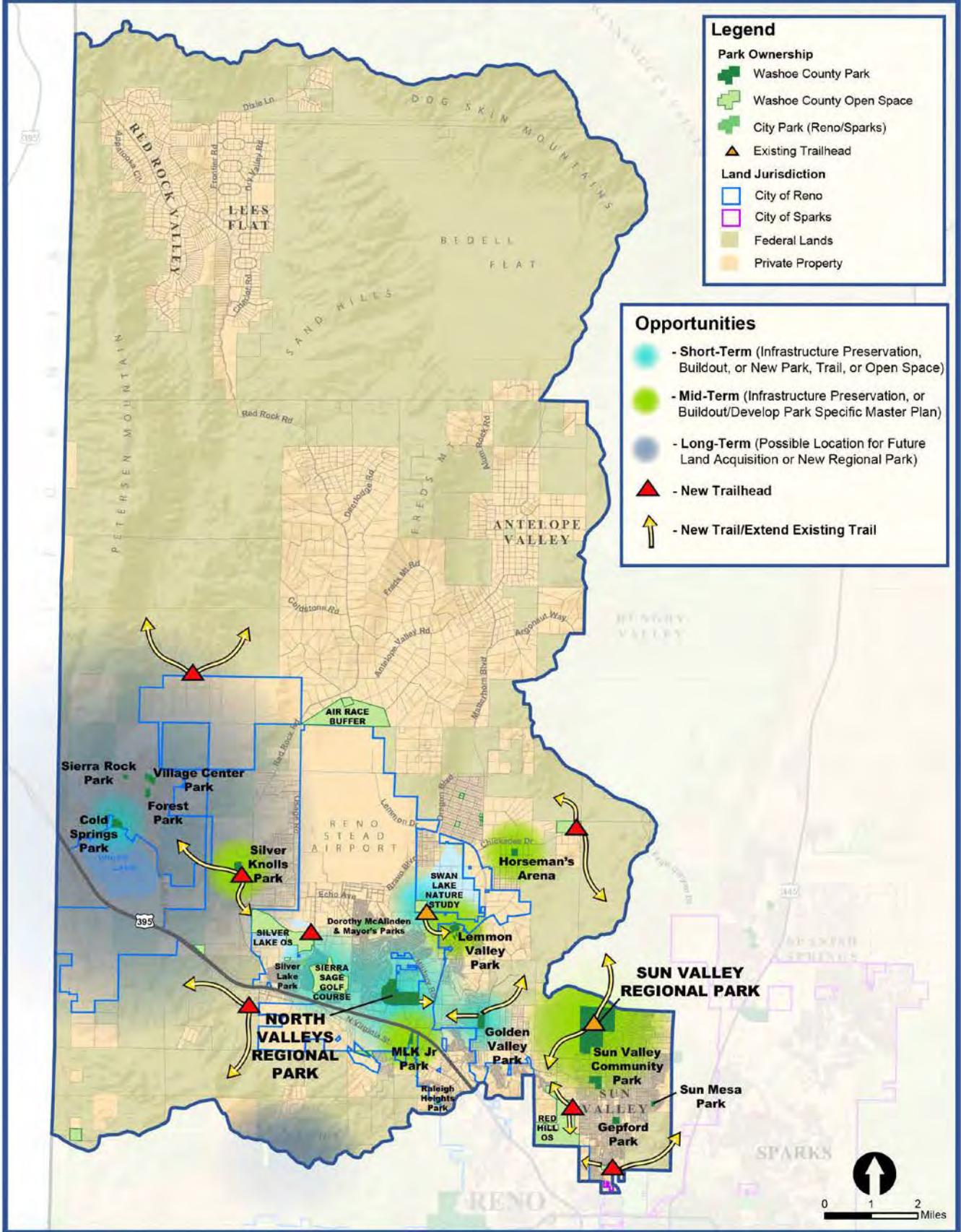
Buildout North Valleys Regional Park (Goal 1)

Work toward expanding existing parks and replacing aging facilities. Currently the North Valleys Planning Area has 304 acres of Washoe County Parks that can be further developed with new facilities without acquiring new land. Leverage existing funds to further develop these parks.

Acquire Open Space and Connect Parks with Trails (Goal 1)

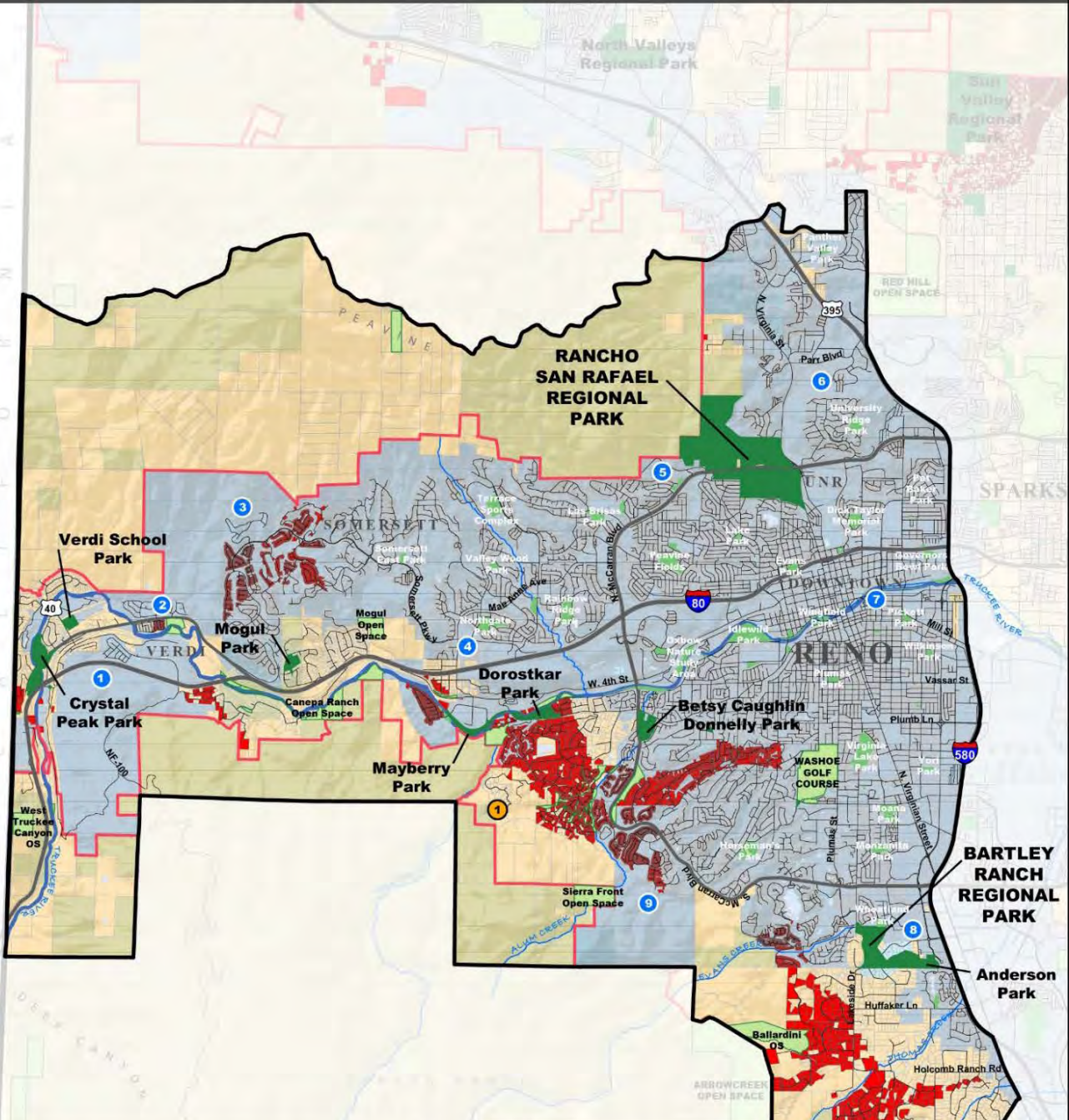
Use the Washoe County Open Space & Natural Resource Management Plan as a guide to determine locations for areas to be acquired for open space. Look for opportunities to provide access to federal lands via trailheads, extend trails networks to connect to existing trails, parks and open space.

NORTH VALLEYS OPPORTUNITIES





PEAVINE PLANNING AREA



Legend

Park Ownership

- Washoe County Park
- Washoe County Open Space
- City Park (Reno/Sparks)

Land Jurisdiction

- City of Reno
- City of Sparks
- Federal Lands
- Unincorporated Washoe County

Miscellaneous

- Approved Development (City)
- Approved Development (County)
- Existing Underserved Residential Parcel
- Truckee Meadows Service Area (TMSA)

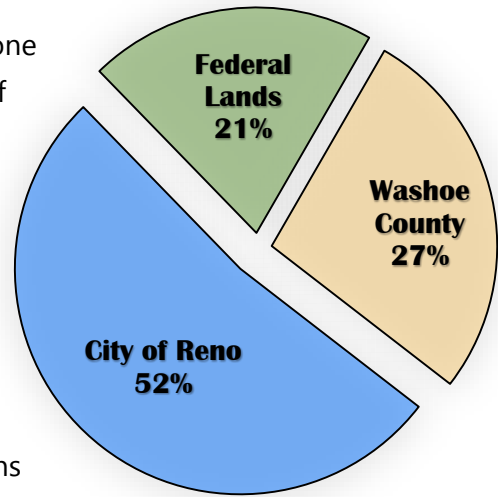
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Development Name	Units Remaining
1 Mortensen-Garson PUD	2,996
2 West Meadows	336
3 Somersett	291
4 Sharlands	83
5 Keystone Canyon	456
6 Mountain View Estates	168
7 Mill Street Lofts	50
8 Rancharrah	691
9 The Pines	251
10 The Ridges at Hunter Creek	53

Peavine Planning Area Profile

The Peavine Planning Area includes the southern portion of the Peavine Mountain United States Forest Service (USFS) property and a majority of the City of Reno. Approximately one quarter of the planning area is under the jurisdiction of Unincorporated Washoe County. This planning area is the smallest in size but has the largest population with 166,490 residents and a median age of 38.9 years. This combination leads to more intense land uses compared to the other planning areas. Much of the eastern portion of this planning area has been developed and includes the urban core of Downtown Reno and related suburban neighborhoods. Further from downtown, the area transitions into less dense residential neighborhoods with areas of open space furthest from Interstate 80 (I-80).

Peavine Land Jurisdiction



Graph 7: Peavine Land Jurisdiction (Source: Washoe County GIS).

Features of the Peavine Planning Area are diverse, ranging from high rise, urban buildings in the downtown core to a mix of suburban and rural neighborhoods in Verdi and Bartley Ranch. The density found in the city causes a greater need for park facilities. A strong mix of neighborhood and community parks are provided within the City of Reno. Washoe County parks also serve this area well including Rancho San Rafael and Bartley Ranch Regional Park. Rancho San Rafael Regional Park is the largest park in the County. Its large turf fields provide the perfect location for several annual events that attract crowds from all over the region. To the south, Bartley Ranch Regional Park preserves the historic feel of the agricultural and equestrian nature of the southern portion of the planning area and the amphitheater hosts smaller community events and concerts throughout the year. Crystal Peak Park, although a community park, plays an important role in providing the Verdi Community with a wide range of facilities commonly associated with a regional park (see [Map 7](#)).

Peavine Facts:

- ✓ **Lowest projected future growth**
- ✓ **Median Age 38.9 years**
- ✓ **Highest Population (166,490)**
- ✓ **Least amount of Unincorporated County Available**
- ✓ **Home to Rancho San Rafael and Bartley Ranch Regional Parks**

Natural passive recreational opportunities within the area include the Peavine Mountain Range in the northern portion providing access to trails within the Peavine Mountain USFS land. Additional hiking opportunities include the USFS property located to the southwest which is home to several popular hiking trails including the Hunter Creek Trail and other trails that lead to the Mount Rose Planning Area and the Mount Rose wilderness.

Chapter 4: Planning Areas Profiles and Implementation

The Truckee River is another notable natural recreational feature, bisecting this planning area and extending west from Verdi through downtown Reno to the east. Numerous passive and active recreational opportunities are available along the Truckee River, including trails and several community parks owned by the City of Reno such as Wingfield Park, Idlewild Park and the Oxbow Nature Study Area.

Of the four urban planning areas, the Peavine Planning Area has the least amount of projected growth with a majority of the development taking place within the City of Reno limits. Only 53 new units have been approved within Unincorporated Washoe County. Although there are numerous existing neighborhood and community parks throughout the planning area, there are several areas that have been identified as potentially underserved. The Caughlin Ranch neighborhood, is surrounded by neighborhood parks including Mayberry and Dorostkar Park. However, these parks have no park facilities and are mainly used for passive recreation (refer to [Map 7](#)).

Peavine Park Totals:
Regional Parks:
Rancho San Rafael Regional Park
Bartley Ranch Regional Park
Community Parks:
Anderson Park
Crystal Peak Park
Dorostkar Park
Neighborhood Parks:
Ambrose Park
Audrey Harris Park
Betsy Caughlin Donnelly Park
Mayberry Park
Mogul Park
Rivermount Park
Verdi School Park
Special Use Parks:
Washoe Golf Course
Washoe Tennis Complex

Peavine Priorities and Opportunities

Buildout Bartley Ranch Regional Park (Goal 1 & 2)

Although a portion of the park has been developed, a large area is available for other facilities. Work with the City of Reno and future development around the area to update and fully implement the Bartley Ranch Regional Park Specific Master Plan.

Develop Existing Community & Neighborhood Parks (Goal 1 & 2)

Washoe County owns approximately 869 acres of parks within the planning area; the second most of all of the planning areas. However, only approximately 189 acres, (22%) of these parks are developed. Large neighborhoods in the area of Mayberry and McCarran are identified as potentially underserved areas despite being adjacent to a number of undeveloped parks. Evaluate these areas and determine what park facilities can be installed on existing park property to help meet the needs of these neighborhoods (see [Map X](#) *Peavine Opportunities Map*).

Plan a New Regional Park (Goal 1 & 2)

Although a majority of the population is within the downtown core, a new Regional Park may be needed especially in the western portion where the population continues to grow. Work with developers and local governments to identify a location for a possible future regional park. Preferably within the Verdi Area.

Update/Maintain Amenities to Existing Parks (Goal 4)

This planning area contains some of the oldest parks and park facilities of all the planning areas. Proper maintenance and upgrades should be performed on the parks to guarantee the same level of service is maintained or improved.

Further Develop Rancho San Rafael Regional Park (Goal 1, 2, 3, & 4)

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park is one of the most heavily used parks and the most well known in the area. Because it is home to a large number of year-round attractions it hosts people not only

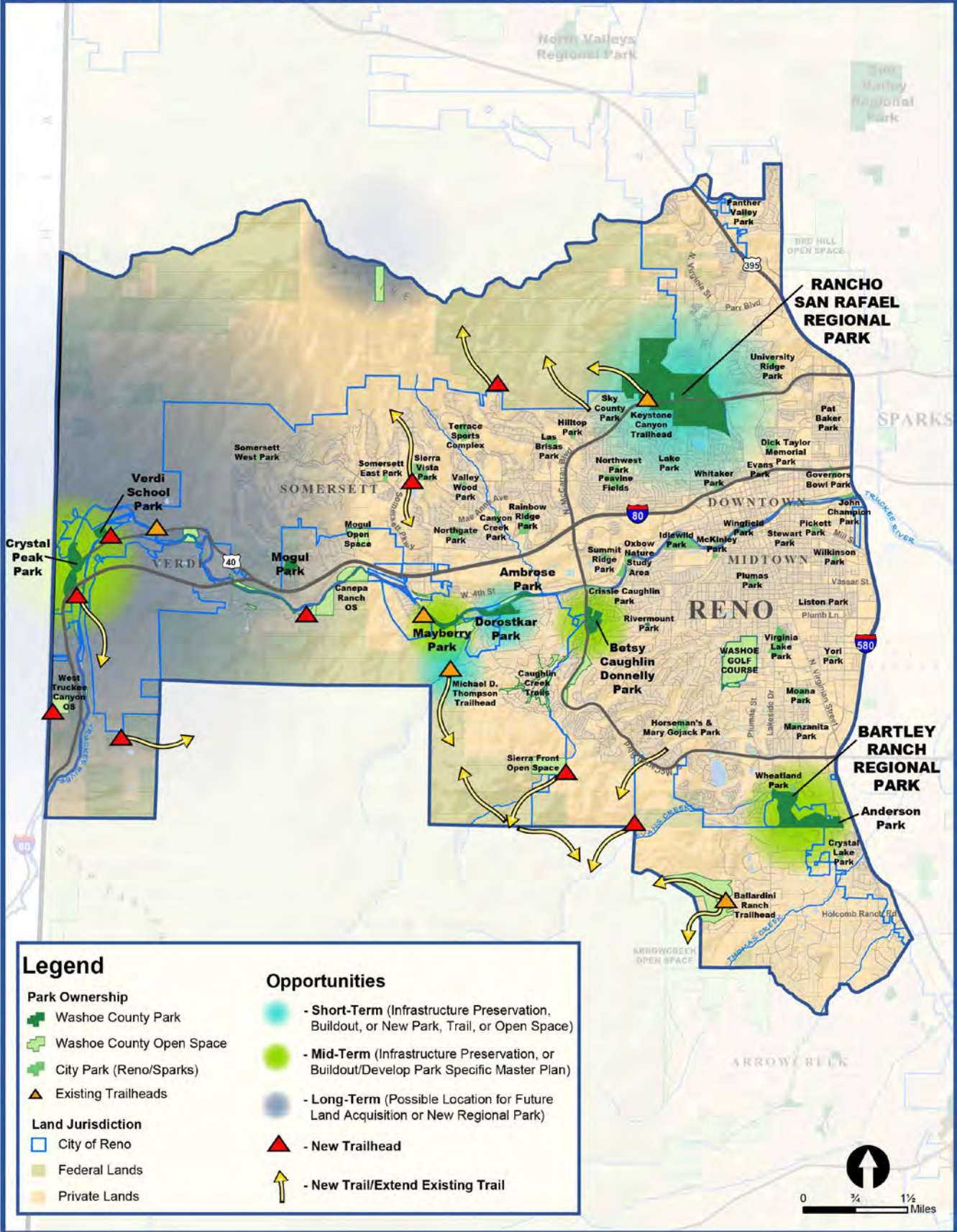
Chapter 4: Planning Areas Profiles and Implementation

from the planning area but from all over Northern Nevada. Work with local governments and other agencies to update and develop the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan.

Acquire Open Space & Connect Parks with Trails (Goal 1 & 2)

Use the Washoe County Open Space & Natural Resource Management Plan as a guide to determine locations for areas to be acquired and/or dedicated for open space. Look for opportunities to provide access to federal lands via trailheads, extend trails networks to connect to existing trails, parks and open space.

PEAVINE OPPORTUNITIES





SPANISH SPRINGS PLANNING AREA

Legend

Park Ownership

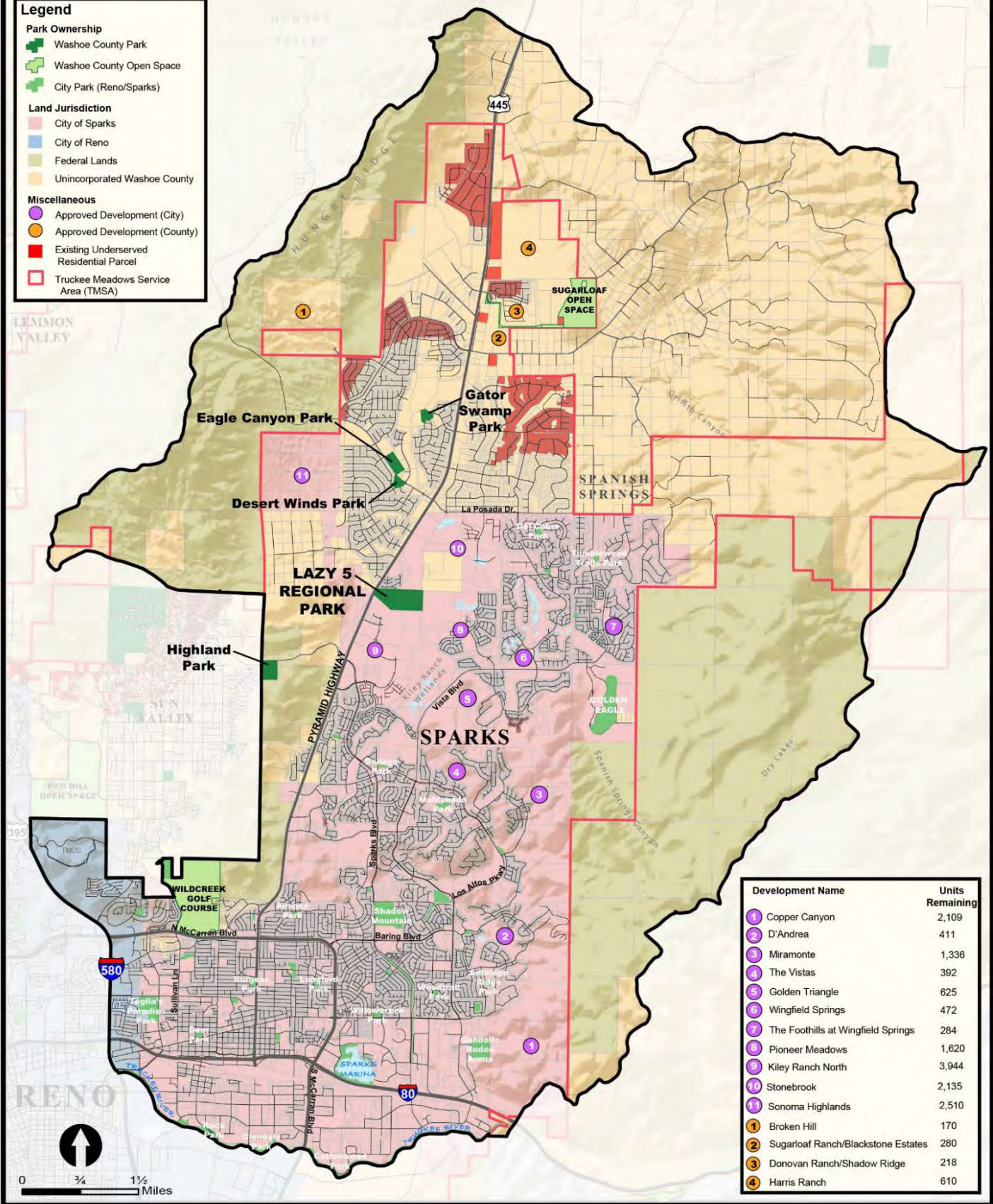
- Washoe County Park
- Washoe County Open Space
- City Park (Reno/Sparks)

Land Jurisdiction

- City of Sparks
- City of Reno
- Federal Lands
- Unincorporated Washoe County

Miscellaneous

- Approved Development (City)
- Approved Development (County)
- Existing Underserved Residential Parcel
- Truckee Meadows Service Area (TMSA)

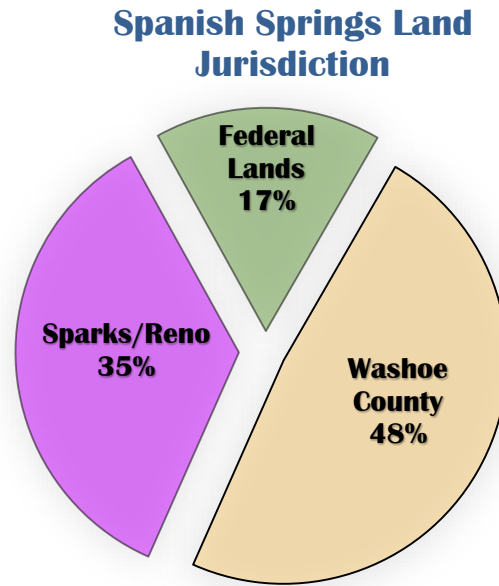


Development Name	Units Remaining
1 Copper Canyon	2,109
2 D'Andrea	411
3 Miramonte	1,336
4 The Vistas	392
5 Golden Triangle	625
6 Wingfield Springs	472
7 The Foothills at Wingfield Springs	284
8 Pioneer Meadows	1,620
9 Kiley Ranch North	3,944
10 Stonebrook	2,135
1 Sonoma Highlands	2,510
1 Broken Hill	170
2 Sugarloaf Ranch/Blackstone Estates	280
3 Donovan Ranch/Shadow Ridge	218
4 Harris Ranch	610



Spanish Springs Planning Area Profile

The Spanish Springs Planning Area is the second most populated planning area with a population of 124,635 residents and a median age of 38.1 years. Jurisdictions split between the City of Sparks, the City of Reno, and areas of federal lands leaving approximately half of the planning area within the jurisdiction of Unincorporated Washoe County. The area can be characterized by distinct urban and suburban cores along Pyramid Highway and downtown Sparks, gradually transitioning to lower density, and rural land patterns to the northeast. Sparks is largely suburban, extending from an urban and industrial core historically tied to the railroad.



Graph 9: Spanish Springs Land Jurisdiction
(Source: Washoe County GIS).

Important passive recreational features include access to trails within the nearby mountain ranges that surround the Northeast Truckee Meadows, as well as

within the wetlands found in the lower elevations around Kiley Ranch. The wetlands eventually lead to the Truckee River which borders the southern perimeter of the planning area and provides an abundance of passive and active recreational opportunities. Evidence of past and present livestock, agriculture and aggregate mining activities are still a heavy influence within the area especially to the north in the more rural neighborhoods which are home to many equestrian enthusiasts. Active recreational facilities include community and neighborhood parks with the more notable facilities including Lazy 5 Regional Park, Wildcreek Golf Course, Golden Eagle Sports Complex, Sparks Marina, and the Truckee River Water Park.

Spanish Springs Facts:

- ✓ **490 acres of parks (lowest)**
- ✓ **Second highest pop. (124,635)**
- ✓ **Median Age 38.1 years**
- ✓ **Most amount of Unincorporated County available**
- ✓ **Only one regional park (Lazy 5)**
- ✓ **88% of future development within the City of Sparks limits**

The Spanish Springs Planning Area has the second largest population and has the least number of parks per acre of any of the urban planning areas. In fact, there is only one regional park within the entire planning area, Lazy 5 Regional Park. Furthermore, based on existing approved units, there is the potential to add approximately 10,600 units over the next twenty years. Washoe County will see little of the tax revenue generated by these new homes

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because the majority of this development (88%) is located within the City of Sparks limits (refer to *Map 8*).

Several existing neighborhoods located within Unincorporated Washoe County in the north of the planning area have been identified as potentially underserved. Within this area three developments; Sugar Loaf Ranch, Donovan Ranch, and Harris Ranch, have been approved and are anticipated to be developed over the next twenty years.

Spanish Springs Park Totals
Regional Parks:
Lazy 5 Regional Park
Community Parks:
Eagle Canyon Park
Neighborhood Parks:
Desert Winds Park
Gator Swamp Park
Highland Ranch Park
Special Use Parks:
Wildcreek Golf Course

Spanish Springs Priorities and Opportunities

Buildout Lazy 5 Regional Park (Goal 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Only twelve of the eighty-five acres of the park have been developed. This is the only regional park in a planning area that is strongly lacking parks. Work with the City of Sparks and future development around the area to update and implement the full buildout of Lazy 5 Regional Park Specific Master Plan.

Address Potentially Underserved Areas and Develop New Parks (Goal 1 & 2)

The Spanish Springs Planning Area is the second most populated and Washoe County owns 119 acres of parks, by far the least amount in any urban planning area. Furthermore, a large portion of the existing population to the north is considered “underserved” by national park standards. Study these areas further to determine what facilities can best serve these neighborhoods (see [Map X Spanish Springs Opportunities Map](#)).

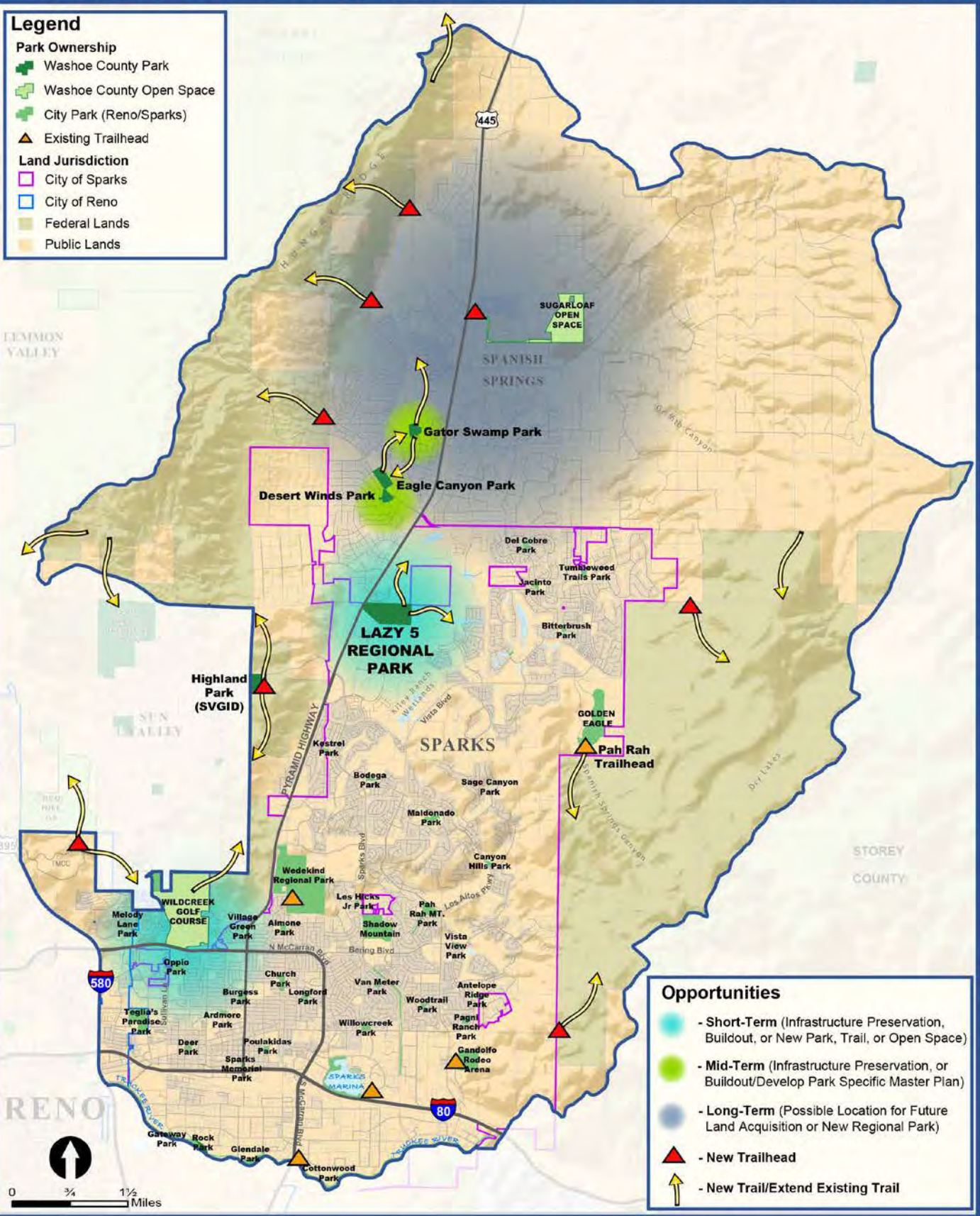
Plan a New Regional Park (Goal 1 & 2)

Nearly 125,000 people live within the planning area all of which are served by one regional park. With an estimated 10,600 units expected to be built within the next twenty years work with developers and local governments to identify a location for a second regional park in the northern portion of the planning area. Preferably north of Calle de La Plata road.

Acquire Open Space & Connect Parks with Trails (Goal 1)

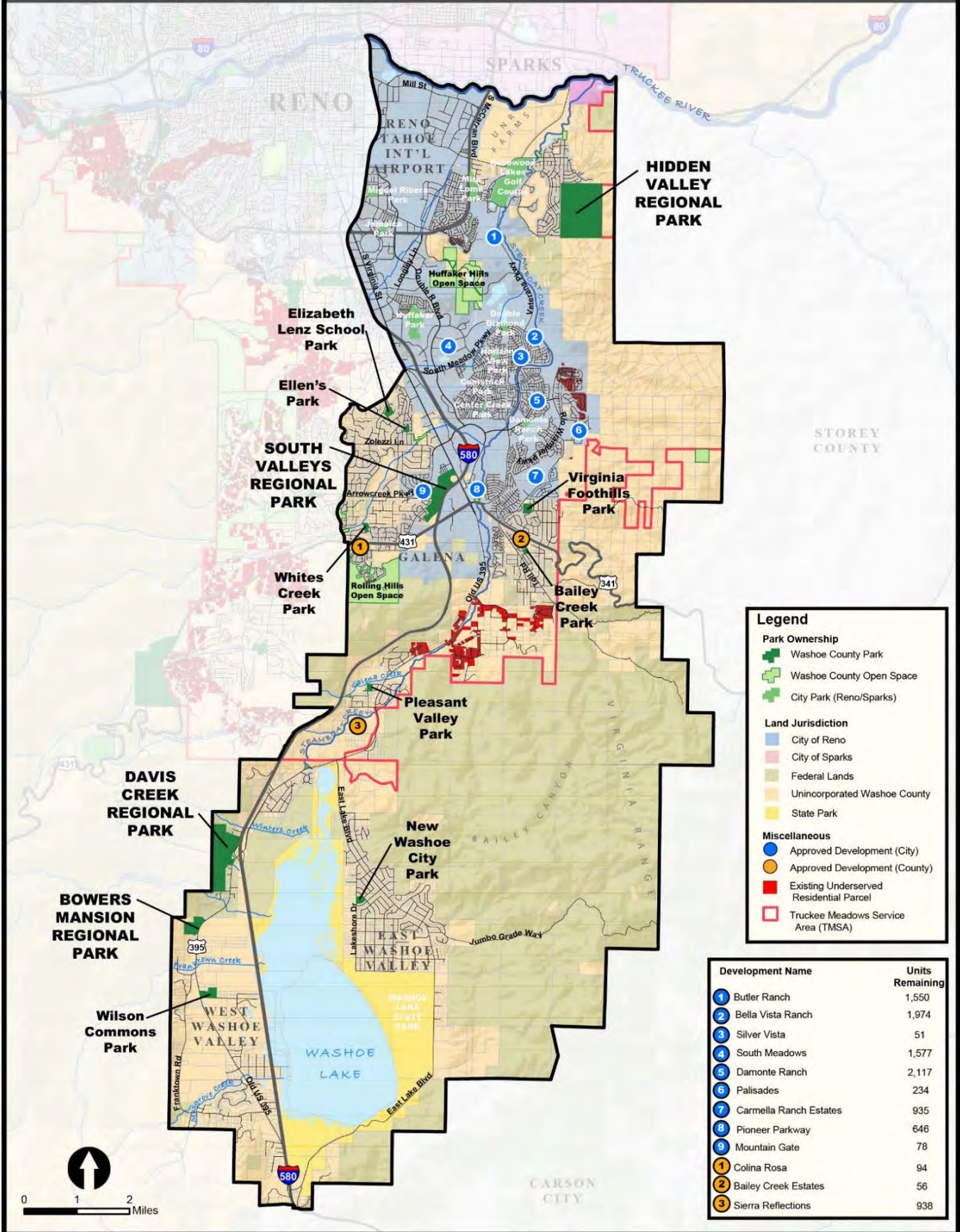
Use the Washoe County Open Space & Natural Resource Management Plan as a guide to determine locations for areas to be acquired and/or dedicated for open space and work toward connecting trails to parks.

SPANISH SPRINGS OPPORTUNITIES





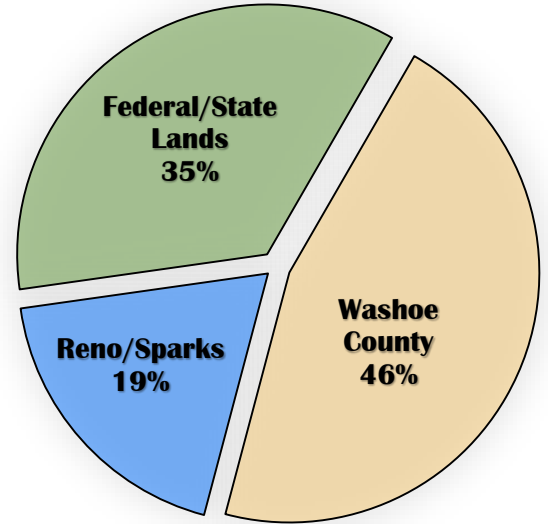
STEAMBOAT PLANNING AREA



Steamboat Planning Area Profile

The Steamboat Planning Area is bisected by the Steamboat Creek which begins at the southernmost portion of the planning area in Washoe Lake and meanders north through the southwest Truckee Meadows eventually flowing into the Truckee River which forms the northern boundary of the planning area. The area is a mix of federal and state lands, the City of Reno, and a small portion of the City of Sparks, leaving approximately 39,500 acres of Unincorporated Washoe County. The Steamboat Planning Area has the least amount of population between the four urban planning areas with a population of 69,157 and a median age of 39.1 years. This number is expected to grow in the coming years with an additional 13,652 units that have already been approved (refer to [Map 9](#)). Of those future units, only 1,088 units (8%) are being constructed within Unincorporated Washoe County.

Steamboat Land Jurisdiction



Graph 11: Steamboat Land Jurisdiction (Source: Washoe County GIS).

The northernmost section has the highest density and includes the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, large commercial and industrial developments, and high density residential that transitions to more suburban and rural residential as you move south, away from the City limits. Hidden Valley, Saddlehorn, Field Creek, Virginia Foothills, and New Washoe City neighborhoods are more suburban located within Unincorporated Washoe County with the Pleasant Valley and East/West Washoe Valley neighborhoods being the more rural neighborhoods within the planning area.

Steamboat Facts:

- ✓ **Highest number of parks per person (20 acres/1,000 people)**
- ✓ **Median Age 39.1 years (highest)**
- ✓ **Nearly half of planning area is Unincorporated County**
- ✓ **Hidden Valley is the second largest regional park**
- ✓ **13,652 future dwelling units, 92% will be within City Limits**

The southern portion can be characterized as rural, with agricultural uses and open space along Interstate 580 (I-580) near Washoe Lake. Washoe Lake is a notable water feature in this planning area and contains a state park along its borders. The State Park is adjacent to the Bureau of Land Management Virginia Range which is a popular area for off-road use and hiking opportunities. The western portion of Washoe Valley is home to Bowers Mansion and Davis Creek Regional Park nestled at the foot of Slide Mountain and the Mount Rose Planning Area. Both of these parks offer facilities that take advantage of

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the natural recreation opportunities this valley provides.

Other natural features of interest include two publicly accessible creeks, Whites Creek and Davis Creek which provide hiking opportunities to the west. An extensive network of paved trails located throughout the City of Reno provides pedestrian access along the wetlands within the south valleys area. Further north, Huffaker Hills and Hidden Valley provide additional access to hiking and open space. The Truckee River borders the northern boundary of the planning area and includes a paved path along the river connecting to downtown Reno.

Parks serving this area include four Washoe County regional parks; Hidden Valley, South Valleys, Davis Creek and Bowers Mansion Regional Park. Bowers Mansion is also a museum and cultural/historical destination operated by the Washoe County Parks Department and is listed on the national and state registers of historic places. With so many recreational opportunities and approximately 969 acres of existing Washoe County parks, this planning area should be the model for the rest of the urban planning areas.

Steamboat Park Totals
Regional Parks:
Bowers Mansion Regional Park
Davis Creek Regional Park
Hidden Valley Regional Park
South Valleys Regional Park
Neighborhood Parks:
Bailey Creek Park
Ellen's Park
New Washoe City Park
Pleasant Valley Park
Virginia Foothills Park
Whites Creek Park
Wilson Commons Park

Steamboat Priorities and Opportunities

Buildout South Valleys Regional Park (Goal 3 & 4)

Leverage existing funds and work with the City of Reno and future development to construct the remaining undeveloped portion of the South Valleys Regional Park in accordance with the South Valleys Regional Park Specific Master Plan.

Further Develop Hidden Valley Regional Park (Goal 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Despite the impressive number of park acreage within the planning area there is a shortage of park facilities to satisfy the recreational needs of the growing community. Hidden Valley is the second largest regional park in the County in size but only 65 of the 480 acres are developed. An estimated 140 acres of the park have the potential to be developed and could provide facilities such as multi-purpose flat fields for a regional sporting complex. Although existing access maybe an issue, work with local agencies and future developers to update and implement the Hidden Valley Regional Park Specific Master Plan, and look for alternative ways to access the park (see [Map X Steamboat Opportunities Map](#)).

Acquire Open Space (Goal 1)

This planning area has the least amount of open space of all the planning areas. Use the Washoe County Open Space & Natural Resource Management Plan as a guide to determine the locations for areas to be acquired for open space.

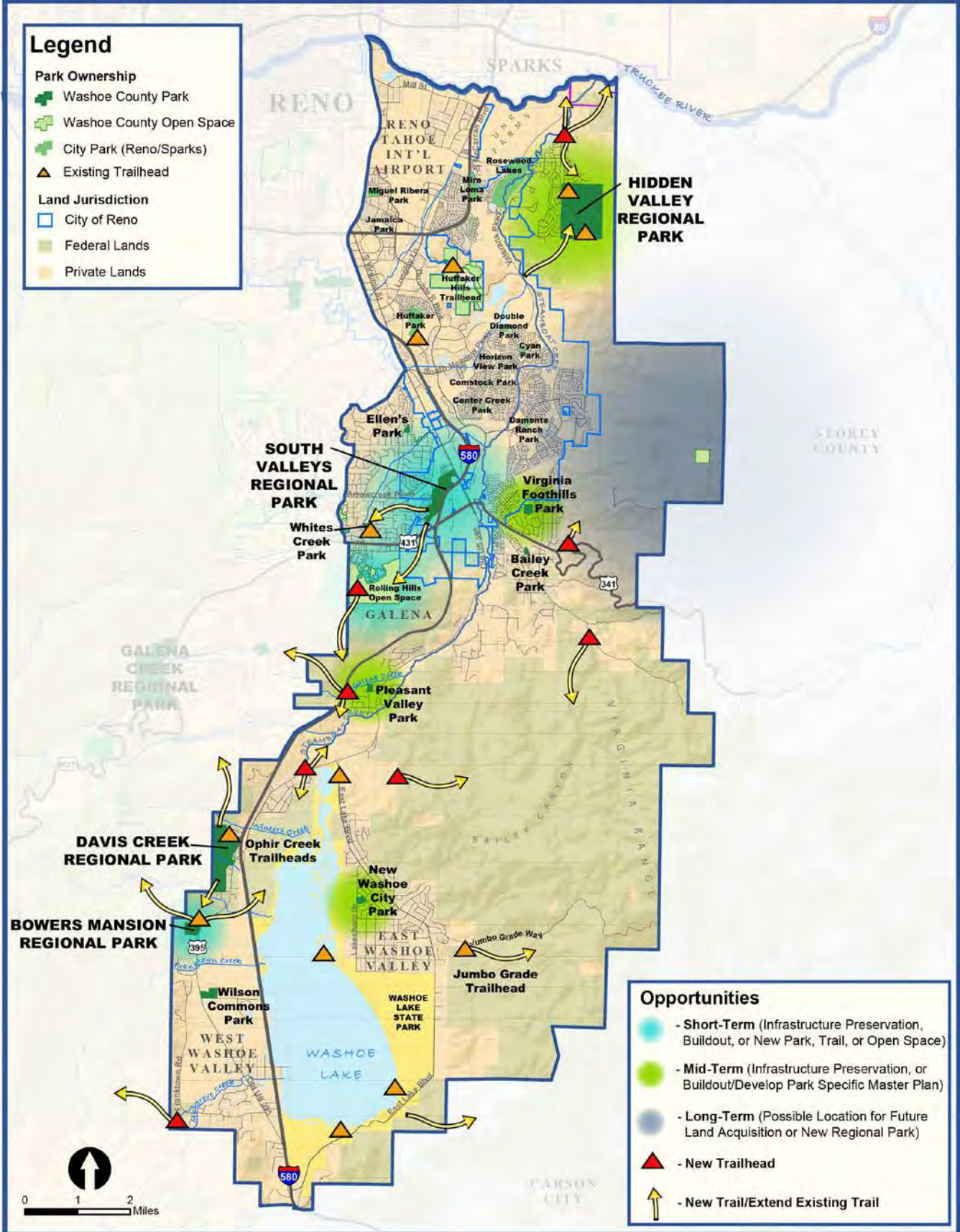
Connect Parks with Trails (Goal 1)

New development within the area has created a large network of multi-use paths. Work with local agencies and future development to continue this progress as well as to connect existing and new trails to existing park facilities.

Maintain & Update Existing Park Facilities (Goal 1 & 3)

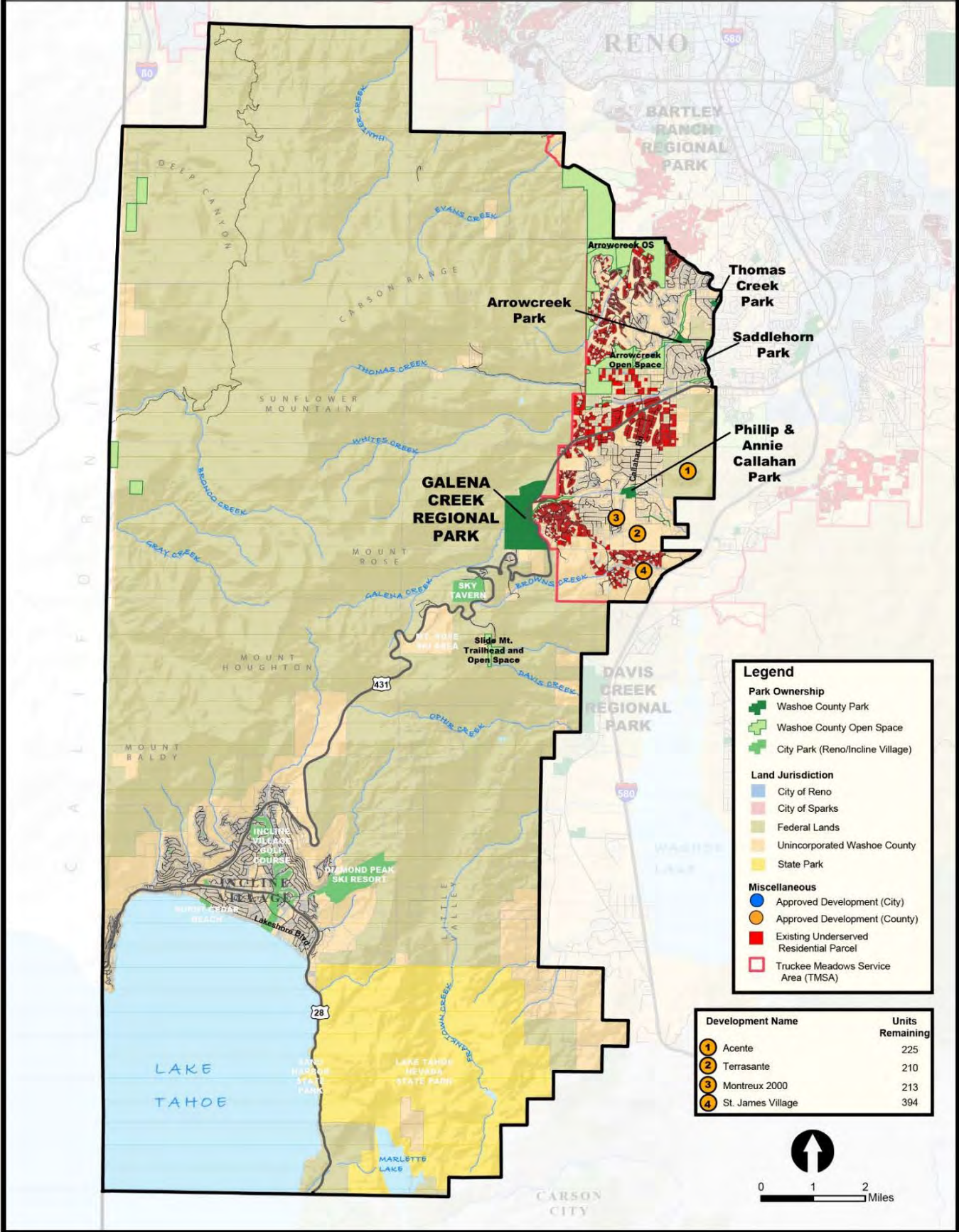
Although parks like Davis Creek Regional Park and Bowers Mansion Regional Park are located in areas that are considered rural, they are still widely used by the community. Work with the community to guarantee these facilities are maintained and updated to meet the needs of the residents.

STEAMBOAT OPPORTUNITIES





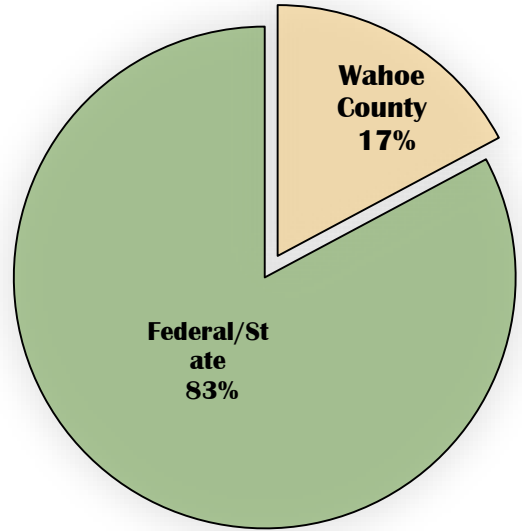
MOUNT ROSE PLANNING AREA



Mount Rose Planning Area Profile

The Mount Rose Planning Area is the most populated of the rural planning areas with a population of 18,091 and includes Arrowcreek, Montreux, and St. James Village neighborhoods in the western portion and Incline Village in the Lake Tahoe basin. A majority of the recreational attractions in this area are passive and include access to federal lands for hiking in the Mount Rose Wilderness, Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park, and the various beaches along the shores of Lake Tahoe including Sand Harbor State Park. All of the parks within the Incline Village area, including Diamond Peak Ski Resort and the Incline Village Golf Course are operated and maintained by the Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID). This will continue under this jurisdiction as part of this Master Plan. Washoe County facilities include Galena Creek Regional Park, and four neighborhood parks located in the foothills of Mount Rose.

Mount Rose Land Jurisdiction



Graph 13: Mount Rose Land Jurisdiction (Source: Washoe County GIS).

Mount Rose Priorities and Opportunities

Monitor Future Growth (Goal 1)

The area is expected to see slow growth with approximately 1,042 units anticipated to be constructed over the next twenty years. These areas should be monitored as development continues to increase to guarantee recreational needs are met.

Evaluate Potentially Underserved Areas (Goals 1 & 2)

Although many residents within the area are considered underserved by national park standards, a wide range of passive recreational opportunities currently serve the residents. Evaluate these neighborhoods to determine if any facilities need to be constructed.

Mount Rose Park Totals

Regional Parks:

Galena Creek Regional Park

Community Parks:

Phillip & Annie Callahan Park

Neighborhood Parks:

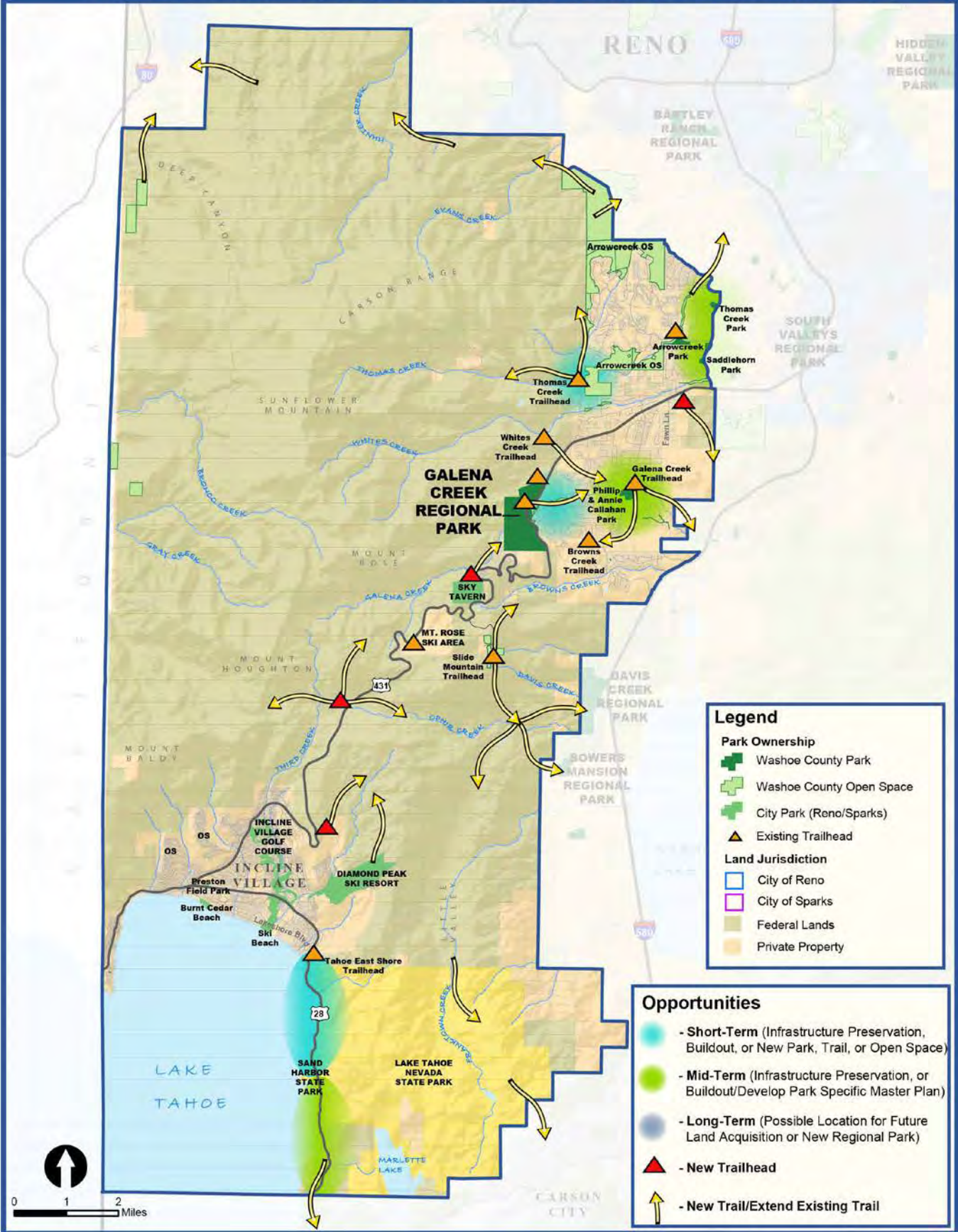
Arrowcreek Park

Saddlehorn Park

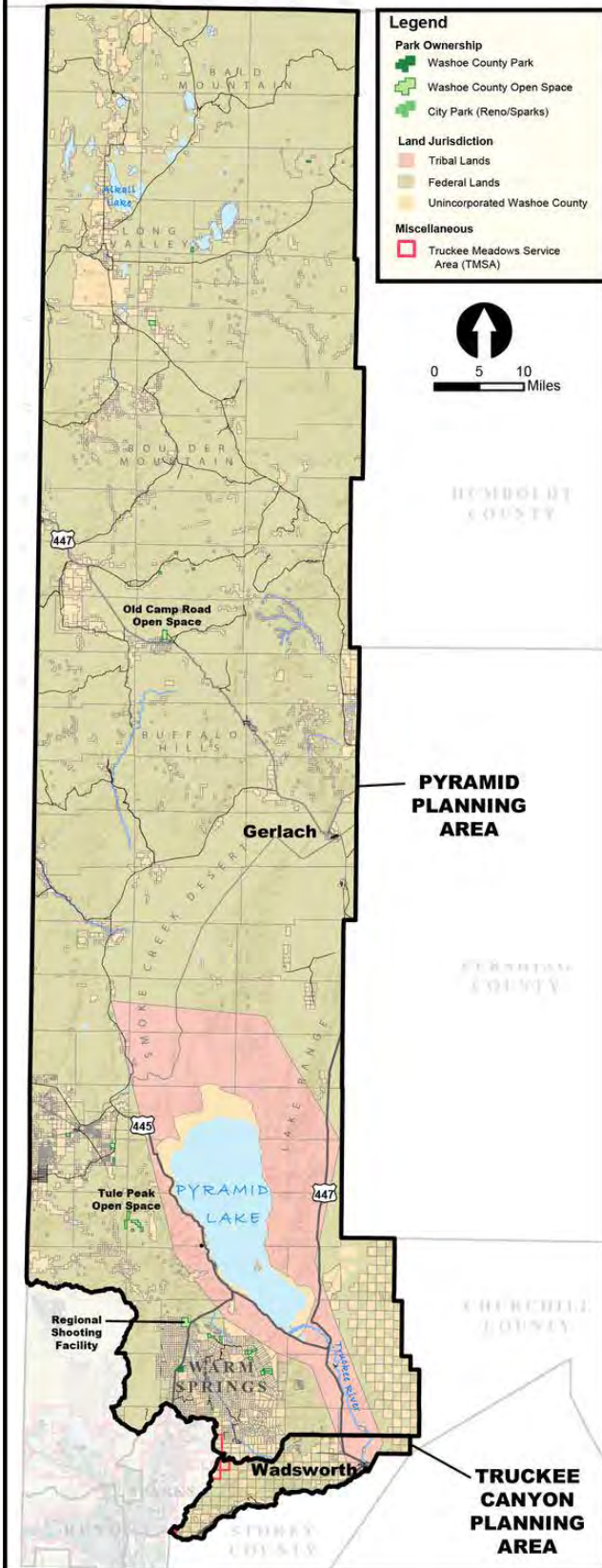
Thomas Creek Park



MOUNT ROSE OPPORTUNITIES



PYRAMID & TRUCKEE CANYON PLANNING AREAS



Pyramid Planning Area Profile

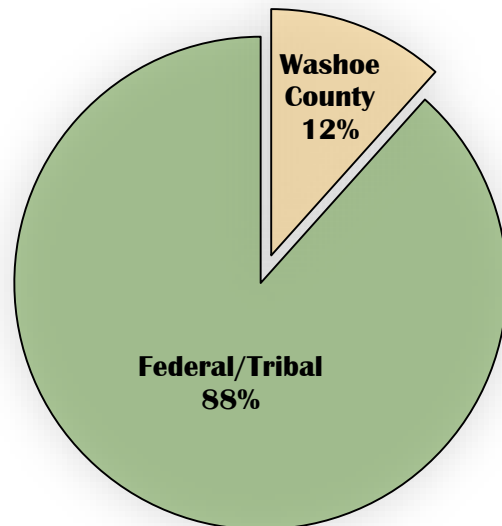
This is the largest of the planning areas by size taking up nearly 86 percent of Washoe County and is only home to 3,324 residents making it the most rural of the planning areas. It is home to the Regional Shooting Facility in Warm Springs but any other recreational facilities within the planning area are considered passive recreation. Future development will be limited to large lot residential and the need for park facilities is minimal for the foreseeable future. However, with previous approved projects such as Spring Mountain, a large development proposed within the City of Reno located near Tule Peak Open Space, this can change quickly.

Pyramid Priorities and Opportunities

Monitor Future Growth (Goal 1)

This area should be monitored for future proposed development to guarantee the recreational needs of the community are still met.

Pyramid Land Jurisdiction



Graph 14: Pyramid Land Jurisdiction (Source: Washoe County GIS)

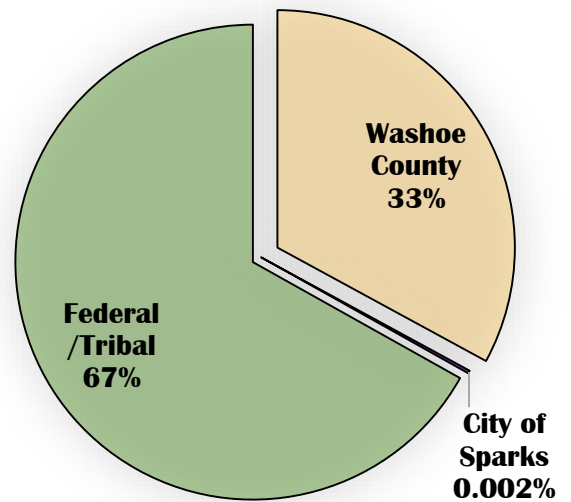
Pyramid Park Totals	
Neighborhood Parks:	
Gerlach Community Park	
Gerlach Water Tower Park	
Special Use Park:	
Regional Shooting Facility	

Truckee Canyon Planning Area Profile

Truckee Canyon is located along I-80 with the southern boundary following the Truckee River. Although there is open space, the Lockwood Trailhead is the only Washoe County park facility located within the planning area. Despite this, the Truckee River provides the most potential for passive recreation with hiking and off-road opportunities within the BLM land located in the foothills.

The town of Wadsworth currently holds a majority of the population within this planning area totaling 1,193 residents. This area was separated from the Pyramid Planning Area due to the increased potential for growth over the next twenty years with the continued growth along I-80 at the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center. The increased potential for future development within this planning area would most likely be concentrated within the town of Wadsworth which currently has no park facilities.

Truckee Canyon Land Jurisdiction



Graph 15: Truckee Canyon Land Jurisdiction (Source: Washoe County GIS).

Truckee Canyon Priorities and Opportunities

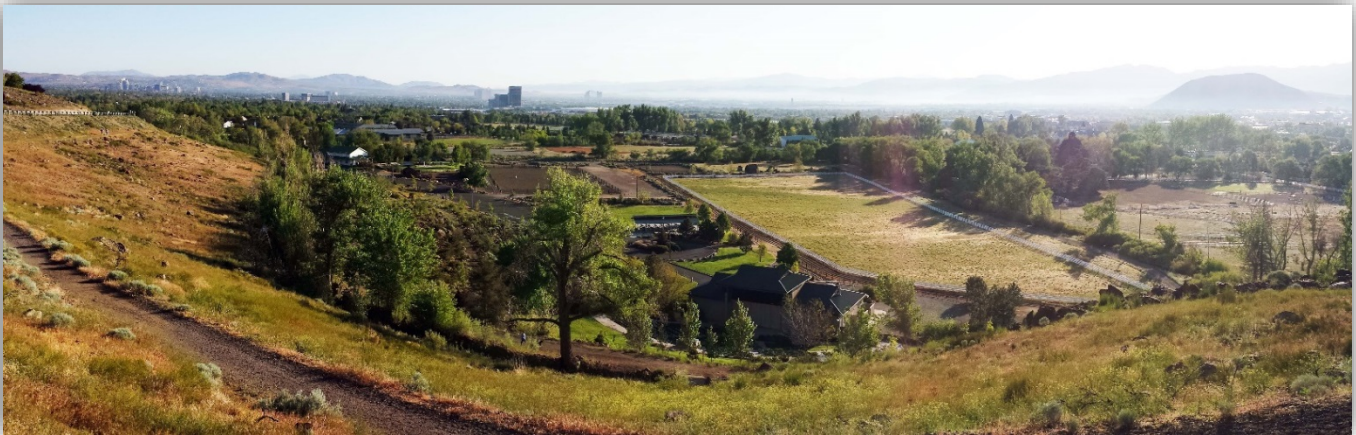
Monitor Future Growth (Goal 1)

This area should be monitored to ensure the recreational needs of the area are met as the region develops.

Park Plan Implementation and Summary

Plan Implementation and Strategies

In order for Parks to implement the goals, objectives, and strategies within the master plan; and to return the budget back to pre-recession levels Parks must establish more predictable long-term funding for both their operations and maintenance and for their capital program. There are several implementation strategies Washoe County can pursue in the future to help ensure that a sustainable funding source exists. Parks has a solid history of leveraging existing funds to help meet capital funding for the parks, trails and open space needs of the community. Parks should work to expand upon this and strive to develop a viable long-term funding base that will give Parks staff the opportunity it needs to implement the master plan and to grow the operation and maintenance budgets to meet existing needs and future growth.



The following strategies should be encouraged and implemented and are broken down into Short-Term (0-5 years), Mid-Term (5-10 years) and Long-Term (10+ years):

Short-Term:

Complete a Service Plan Study

This master plan has pointed to a number of NRPA comparisons of other similar parks and recreation departments nationally that were also hit by the great recession. In reality, the gap in funding for Parks is likely even larger for what is necessary to operate a sustainable program. The only way to truly access the gap in funding for the operations, maintenance, infrastructure preservation and capital needs is to complete a Service Plan study. This study would assist Parks in determining how to recalibrate and fund parks, trails open space and natural resource management to the level the community desires and deserve.

Chapter 5: Park Plan Implementation and Summary

The existing and future government funding may not yield any significant new dollars to be allocated toward parks and recreation to meet the demand for parks, trails, open space and resource management (O&M or Bond capacity). A Service Plan outlines four distinct areas with a thorough needs assessment:

- ✓ It includes an analysis of the fiscal needs to determine the ability and capacity of the existing and future resources to meet capital, operations and maintenance programs.
- ✓ It identifies an appropriate and sustainable financial structure and financing alternatives for the County.
- ✓ It performs a demographic and economic analysis to assess trends and impacts on the proposed service levels.
- ✓ It identifies long term operational strategies, including potential intergovernmental agreements or contracts, to provide a sustainable operation into the future.
- ✓ It will become increasingly difficult for any one of the three agencies to handle the growth pressures and provide a median level of service for Parks, Trails and Open Space. As parks and recreation falls further behind public demand will increase therefore it makes sense to seek answers now on how park and recreation will be funded and to what levels in the future.
- ✓ Find a collaborative multi-agency way forward to meet future demand and maintain existing facilities
- ✓ It will become increasingly difficult for Washoe County to apply for both Federal and State grant funds for new parks, trails and acquisition of open space as they struggle to maintain existing facilities which will result in lost opportunities and money left on the table.

Further Develop the Capital & Infrastructure Preservation Program

The park staff working with the Washoe County Parks Commission and the community should further flush out the Capital and Infrastructure Preservation Program. The spreadsheet when completed is meant to give a complete overview of the Capital and Infrastructure Preservation needs. This spreadsheet located in Appendix XX has been developed to provide an overview of the existing and future capital program needs. It captures the four (4) primary areas of focus for the Department; Regional Parks, Trails, Open Space and Resource Management. It also includes a Neighborhood Park section noting those parks that are in the County versus those that are within city boundaries. This becomes a working document for staff which provides not only a tally of the existing capital and infrastructure needs, list of future capital projects, identifies short term within 5 years, mid-term within 10 years and Long-Term projects that are 20 years out and; it provides some direction on alternative funding sources. The document is a useful tool, readily available, should opportunities present themselves such as private donors looking for a project or during legislative session where funding of projects is needed to be identified.

Target Key Benchmarks or Values for Success

- ✓ Determine the viability of 3 new regional parks approximately 100 acres each in northern Spanish Springs Planning Area, the North Valleys Planning Area (Cold Springs) and in the Peavine Planning Area to meet future growth.
- ✓ Continue Washoe County's efforts to acquire interest in lands along the river and its watershed that protect or enhance the river corridor for recreation, wildlife and for Truckee Meadows water quality.
- ✓ Continue the strategy for neighborhood parks that are to be maintained by Washoe County shall only be those that are 15-25 acres in size that can serve the County's larger residential land use patterns and neighborhood service area.
- ✓ Target 1 mile of trail per 1,000 residents seeking to provide trails that connect communities to U.S. Forest Service and BLM lands, to their local open space areas, regional parks and neighborhood parks. Continue the goal of creating a larger system of interconnected rim trails around communities and to promote health and wellness through walking and hiking in each community. Work to adopt the Truckee Meadows Trail plan and assure that it interconnects existing and planned trails in Washoe Counties Area Plans. Once adopted by Parks include trails in future updates of the County Area Plans and update trail standards for consistency.
- ✓ Continue developing an asset management strategy that will help staff better understand the cost of maintaining existing and future infrastructure.
- ✓ Seek to attain or exceed the NRPS median level of annual operating expenditures for developed park land \$3,515/acre.
- ✓ Update park specific master plans and review the amenities to include, where appropriate, amenities that will provide additional revenue. for example, group picnic areas, splash parks at regional sports complexes or if there is a reconfiguration of campsites to meet today's camping needs at Davis Creek, a 1968 facility, you can create additional revenue. Targeting new and existing revenue to meet a 21% level of revenue to expenditure in a parks budget.
- ✓ Work with RTC and Community Development on any updates of Bicycle and Pedestrian facilities to assure connectivity of parks and local schools in Washoe County.
- ✓ Continue to seek alternate locations and potentially acquisition of regional park lands that can be utilized for special events that will disperse events and the pressure on Rancho San Rafael. Potentially, look to a partnership with Reno on the lands near McCarran, Pembroke area for a site.
- ✓ Encourage the further development of specific policies to guide the acquisition, planning, development and implementation of parks, trails, open space and natural resource management.
- ✓ Work regionally with the 3 main sewer purveyors to encourage the application of treated/reclaimed water where possible on park land for flat sports fields or for the development of wetland areas within parks or open spaces.

Mid-Term:

Develop Facilities & Programs That Generate Revenue

NRPA notes that the typical park and recreation agency generates \$847,396 in non-tax revenue on an annual basis. Although this amount can vary greatly based on agency size, services and facilities offered by the agency. Washoe County Parks generates \$999,449 which is 18% of its operating budget. A target for agencies serving area such as Washoe County would be 21% of its budget (difference is \$198,576). Currently, Parks is not focused on typical recreation programming which often brings in a higher revenue streams such as recreation classes or before and after school programs, but they do have other programs such as event rentals and splash pads. In order to close this gap Parks could balance developing more facilities that would bring in additional revenue with those that do not produce revenue. This could be done over time by targeting the development of facilities/programs that generate revenue while meeting the primary mission of the regional parks, trails and open space program. It is recognized that it will be difficult with existing staffing levels and service and supplies budget to handle new facilities or programs without a corresponding approach to fixing the structural inadequacy of the operating budget. As noted in Chapter 1, finding solutions to long term funding of the operation and maintenance of Parks is critical and directly impacts funding of future capital needs.

Educate Policy Makers to Recognize the Benefit of Funding Recreation

Recent NRPA studies have shown consistently solid support for public parks and recreation. Nine in ten respondents agreed that parks and recreation is an important service provided by their local government. This level is comparable to public safety, education and transportation nationally. Three-quarters of the respondents indicated they would support their local governments increasing their financial contribution to their local parks and recreation agencies. This data is reflected in the public survey associated with this master plan and outlined in Chapter 2. However, the support of public parks and their funding is a bit more modest among government officials according to a NRPA commissioned study. It indicated that 99% of the elected and appointed government officials responding agree that their communities' benefit from public parks, but they only see parks and recreation as a moderately important local government service. Consequently, they consider parks and recreation as the most discretionary line item in their budgets, (2018 NRPA Agency Performance Review- Park and Recreation Agency Performance Benchmarks).

Here in Nevada NRPA indicates the impact of local park and recreation agency spending on our states economies is 1.4 billion in economic activity generating over 11,000 jobs. There are additional economic benefits such as visitor spending, economic development, health and wellness, conservation and resiliency through protection of land and property values. Nationwide the impact of recreation on the economy is now being tracked federally and in the 2019 Nevada State Legislature AB 486 which was signed by the Governor, establishes a commission on Outdoor Recreation. Parks staff should continue to speak to the economic benefits of parks, trails, and open space and educate the elected officials to help them to understand the economic benefits of a well-funded Parks department what it can bring to the region.

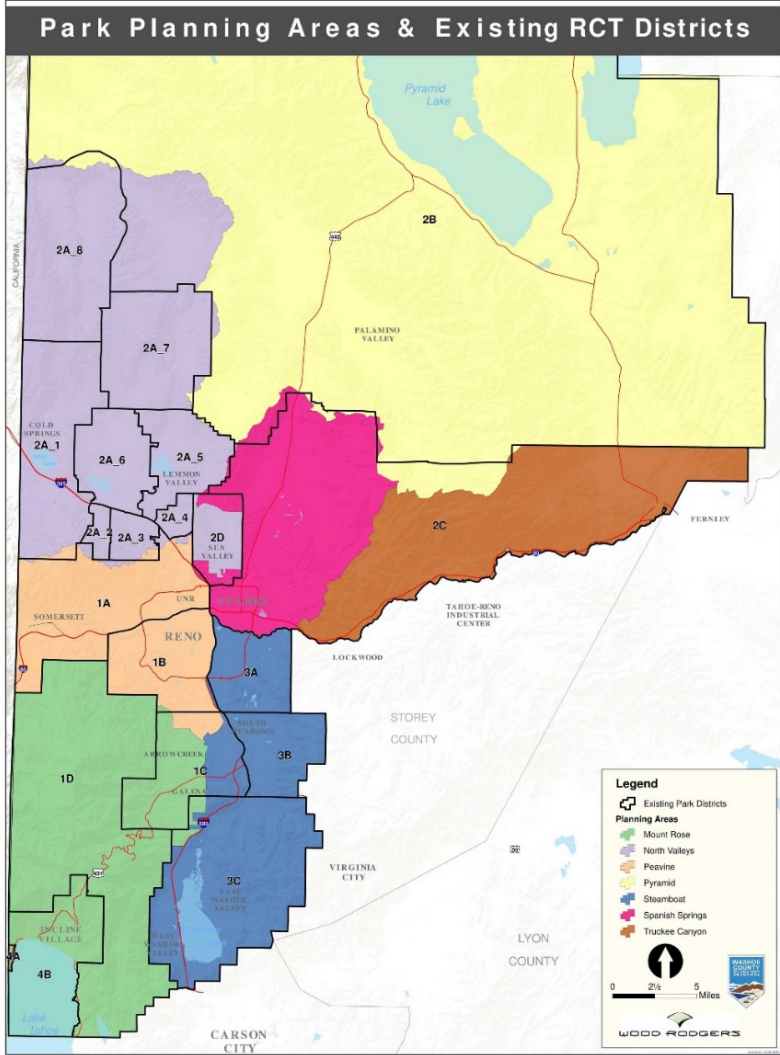
Utilize Existing Legislation

In 2017 State legislation was passed that makes it possible to create a park district to serve the region. If a parks district were to be established voters could approve a funding source(s) that would provide a stable long-term funding source for capital programs, operations and maintenance of facilities. A Park District could potentially benefit the entire region in providing sustainable parks, trails, open space, recreation and conservation opportunities. Parks staff in collaboration with the cities and community members should explore the benefits and feasibility of creating a regional park district for the region.

Reconfigure the RCT Districts

The Residential Construction Tax (RCT) was created to establish funding for new neighborhood parks with the construction of new dwelling units. However, as discussed in Chapter 1 the funds generated through RCT have limitations. To reduce the limitation the RCT districts were collapsed in the 1990s from 46 districts to 4 districts with 19 sub-districts. Since then the Reno and Sparks City Limits have expanded further reducing the size of the current districts. Reconfiguring the RCT Districts will allow Parks greater flexibility.

Parks staff should prepare the necessary County Code changes along with the financial reports for each district to reconfigure the RCT districts to match the planning area boundaries established in this Master Plan. Once this initial work has been completed the Board of County Commissions would then need to approve the new districts and make the necessary County Code changes. Although, it is a cumbersome task, having the districts reflect the planning areas would give Washoe County greater flexibility with the funds and would help provide the community with new park facilities. The current RCT districts to be consolidated to the boundaries of the seven planning areas with the exception of the existing Sun Valley General Improvement District (SVGID), and Incline Village General Improvement District (IVGID).



Long-Term:

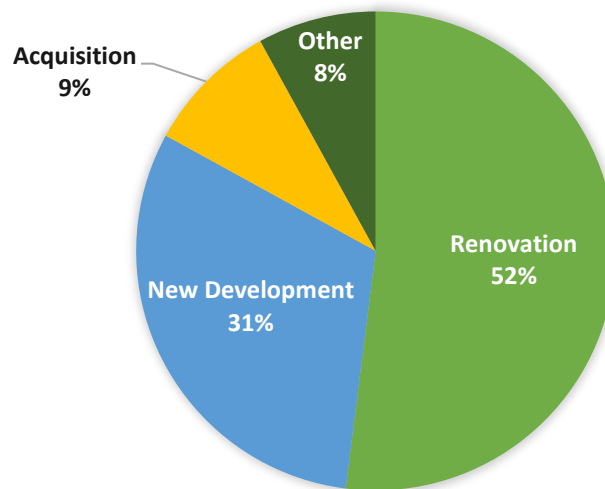
Continue the Vision & Mission for Future Parks, Trails, & Open Space

- ✓ Continue Washoe County's commitment and the citizen's desire for to regional parks, trails, open space and natural resource management.
- ✓ Review and update Chapter 95 governing parks concurrently with review an update of existing policies regarding parks and natural resource management to capture emerging issues regarding preservation of stream areas, trail connectivity, requests for easements or disposal of lands, national scenic byway corridors, and urban interface issues.
- ✓ Review and modify the Residential Construction Tax (RCT) districts to align with the community's growth patterns and the neighborhood service areas.
- ✓ Collaborate with the cities to realign ownership of existing neighborhood parks that are within cities to allow access to RCT funds for future improvement of their neighborhood service area

Rebalance and Distribute Capital Expenditures

As Washoe County recalibrates for future growth it is suggested that they consider the targets for Capital Expenditures based on NRPA standards which are as follows:

PROPOSED PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURES



Promote Economic Vitality

- ✓ Seek or continue partnerships that further the implementation of regionally significant plans that provide a large economic benefit to the region:
 - SR 28 National Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan providing safe access to Tahoe's recreation assets for our residents and visitors such as the extension of the Tahoe East Shore Trail.

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- Mt. Rose Highway Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan which provides for new opportunities and a look at safe access for visitors to scenic vista points along the highway and trailhead connectivity to nationally significant trails like the Tahoe Rim Trail, Incline Flume Trail and other National Forest Trails and historic points of interest.
- Washoe Valley’s Scenic Corridor Plans which looks to develop a family friendly ADA accessible trail system on the V&T railbed. This significant trail would connect Bowers Mansion visitors to the Scripps Wildlife area. It would connect through Washoe Canyon along old rail bridges connecting Pleasant Valley and Washoe Valley and eventually to the Galena rail stop. The Canyon is regionally significant and should be protected while offering visitor and residents an outdoor recreation experience for residents and visitors.
- ✓ Encourage a partnership with either the Trust for Public Lands and/or the National Recreation and Parks Association to assess the region’s economic impact and benefits of parks, trails, and open space for the region.
- ✓ Develop partnerships with EDAWN, RSCVA, and potentially the State’s new Outdoor Recreation Commission to tell the story of our outdoor recreation, healthy lifestyles and the benefits of our region’s parks, trails and opens to enhance their work brining new business or visitors to the region.

Implementation Matrix

Short-Term
Complete a Service Plan Study
Further Develop the Capital & Infrastructure Preservation Program
Target Key Benchmarks or Values for Success
Mid-Term
Develop Facilities & Programs That Generate Revenue
Educate Policy Makers to Recognize the Benefit of Funding Recreation
Utilize Existing Legislation
Reconfigure the RCT Districts
Long-Term
Continue the Vision & Mission for Future Parks, Trails, & Open Space
Rebalance and Distribute Capital Expenditures
Promote Economic Vitality

Summary

Washoe County has a unique opportunity to provide the leadership in developing a new strategy for the future of parks, trails and open space in the region. The vision established in the early 1960s was to protect the open space from development and to provide Washoe County residents with recreational opportunities through regional parks, trails and open space. Public outreach associated with this master plan has established that this vision is more alive today than it was nearly 60 years ago. Through the history of the parks department and with the support of the public and elected officials this vision has become a reality and it's through the support of the community and the dedication of Parks staff that this vision is alive today.

The Park staff has had success in building partnerships at the federal, state and local levels. They have had tremendous success in leveraging public dollars to provide some of the most sought-after recreational opportunities in the region. Washoe County Regional Parks and events alone draw in 4.9 million visitors annually. The visitation is regional, national and international. The parks, trails, and open space are a main drive in the region's economy fueling the desire for business and their employees to live here.

Throughout the planning process a reoccurring thread to recalibrate has become clear as Parks is emerging from the impacts of the Great Recession. The challenges have been significant yet the growing population is seeking parks and recreation opportunities in greater numbers. It is the purpose of this master plan to continue the vision established nearly 60 years ago and to carry it forward for the next 20 years. This master plan is not a static plan. It was created with the intention of being updated as priorities within the planning areas shift as the community continues to grow. This master plan should be re-evaluated every three to five years to ensure the opportunities and strategies are still relevant. Together with the support of the Board of County Commissioners, the community and with the leadership of Parks staff, the goals, strategies and opportunities presented in this master plan can be accomplished. This master plan will allow Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space to adequately acquire, construct, operate and maintain the future and existing parks for all Washoe County residents and visitors to enjoy, for this generation and the ones to come.