

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. The shapes are primarily triangles and polygons, creating a dynamic, layered effect. The overall composition is clean and modern, with a focus on natural colors.

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

Washoe County Parks & Open Space Commission
Annual Workshop
September 25, 2020

Recreation

Widening gap



Funding

- ▶ Continued population growth in Washoe County; lack of new facilities
- ▶ Regional and municipal facilities are deteriorating
- ▶ Lack of facilities causing overcrowding and inequity of services
- ▶ Inability of governments to financially support needed facilities and services
- ▶ Deterioration of our natural systems, ie, Truckee River



Leadership- turning the Vision into Reality



Committing to a robust system of parks, trails, open spaces available to all



Insisting on a sustainably funded program of services and facilities



Providing for an informed and engaged citizenry



Seeking a healthy environment with a vibrant habitat, clean rivers, greenways and creeks

Why is a District needed?

- ▶ Opportunity to focus mutual efforts/Vision
- ▶ Governance tool to improve effectiveness, efficiency, accountability to citizens
- ▶ Region's population growth placing unmet demands on existing resources
- ▶ Unfunded deferred maintenance
- ▶ Pre-COVID economic recovery has not brought needed resources; competing interests for limited funds remain

A District defined....

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

District Examples

- ▶ Over 1,400 Park & Recreation Districts nationwide
- ▶ Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District- Truckee, CA
- ▶ Bend Metro Park and Recreation District-Bend, OR
- ▶ East Bay Regional Park District-Alameda/Contra Costa Counties-CA
- ▶ Estes Valley Recreation & Park District-Estes Park, CO
- ▶ General Improvement Districts- IVGID, SVGID

Some District financing options

- ▶ Intergovernmental revenue-city, county, state & federal
- ▶ User Fees
- ▶ Rate assessments
- ▶ Property tax/ad valorem-except in Washoe County which is capped; cannot double assess for existing funded services; requires approval of local county Board
- ▶ Contract services
- ▶ Grants/donations
- ▶ It cannot supplant existing funding it fills the gap and provides for the future.

How do we start the process?

- ▶ Often initiated by citizens, Park Commissions or elected Boards of either a County and/or City
- ▶ Development and approval of a *Service Plan with citizen input*
- ▶ Send written notice to all property owners within proposed District boundary
- ▶ Option to seek majority approval by affected property owners

Service Plan- Understanding the road ahead!



Financial feasibility analysis-outlining proposed services, financial structure, financing alternatives



Boundary map-population estimate and assessed valuation of properties within boundaries



Facility, improvement, proposed projects list-cost estimates, engineering services, proposed indebtedness, annual operation and maintenance expenses.



Intergovernmental Agreements-proposed agreements with adjacent governmental entities



Provides options- for a sustainable Regional Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation system



Taking a Leadership role

The time is Now!



- ▶ Service Plan needed to address existing and growing needs - focuses efforts to Parks, Trails, & Open Space priorities
- ▶ Engage the Board of County Commission and all local jurisdictions in process
- ▶ Provide for robust citizen engagement -involve, seek approval/feedback from citizens
- ▶ Opportunity for The Trust for Public Lands assistance