



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 25, 2023

**DATE:** January 19, 2023

**TO:** Open Space and Regional Park Commission

**FROM:** Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent  
Community Services Department, 328-2181, [cwallace@washoecounty.gov](mailto:cwallace@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Eric Crump, Division Director, Operations  
Community Services Department, 328-3625, [ecrump@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ecrump@washoecounty.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Possible recommendation of topics for the joint meeting with Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission, City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, and City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission on February 21, 2023, 6:00pm-8:00pm at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center Auditorium. Staff recommends the following agenda items: 1. Updates to the major park projects or park additions by all agencies 2. Discussion on the formation of a regional park district 3. Potential land swaps between agencies.

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### SUMMARY

During the Open Space and Regional Park Commission meeting on November 1, 2022, participation in the joint commission meeting between the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County was confirmed. There was discussion on what topics could be discussed at the joint commission meeting. Washoe County staff, has worked with Park staff at the City of Reno and City of Sparks and have made recommendations for three potential agenda items.

### BACKGROUND

There has been a joint Park Commission meeting held between the City of Reno, the City of Sparks, and Washoe County every other year since 2015. The last joint meeting was in 2019. We did not meet in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are always regional issues facing all of the Parks departments. It is beneficial to continue meeting every other year so the Park Commissions can work together and have discussions about how to best address the needs of the citizens of the greater region.

At the previous Open Space and Regional Parks Commission meeting on November 1, 2022 several topics were suggested as possible agenda items. The following topics were suggested:

- discussion on the formation of a regional park district encompassing all three jurisdictions
- consolidation of services agreement
- interest in creating a dedicated funding source for the acquisition and preservation of open space parcels
- potentially having all three jurisdictions adopt modern trail standards
- updates of the major park projects or additions by all agencies
- cooperative agreements by agencies for maintenance
- potential land swaps between agencies
- need for an additional dog park in South Reno
- a conversation among the agencies on the need for recreation in new developments

### **PREVIOUS ACTION**

November 1, 2022 – The Open Space and Regional Parks Commission discussed a variety of topics and approved a joint meeting with City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission and Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission to be held on February 21, 2023, 6:00pm-8:00pm at McKinley Arts and Culture Center Auditorium.

December 6, 2016 – The Open Space and Regional Park Commission approved topics for discussion at the joint meeting to be held on January 18, 2017 from 6pm – 8pm at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center Auditorium.

January 6, 2015 – The Open Space and Regional Park Commission approved coordinating a joint meeting and discussed some regional topics to be addressed. The meeting is to be held on March 3, 2015 from 5:30pm-7:30pm at the McKinley Arts and Culture Auditorium.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Open Space and Regional Park Commission recommend the following topics for the joint meeting with Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission, City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, and City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission on February 21, 2023, 6:00pm-8:00pm at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center Auditorium: 1. Updates to the major park projects or park additions by all agencies 2. Discussion on the formation of a regional park district 3. Potential land swaps between agencies.

### **POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with the recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to recommend the following topics for the joint meeting with Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission, City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, and City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission on February 21, 2023, 6:00pm-8:00pm at the McKinley Arts and Culture Center Auditorium: 1. Updates to the major park projects or park additions by all agencies 2. Discussion on the formation of a regional park district 3. Potential land swaps between agencies.”