



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 25, 2024

**DATE:** May 22, 2024

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Joanne Lowden, Natural Resource Planning Coordinator,  
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**THROUGH:** Eric Crump, Director,  
Community Services Department, 328-3624, [ecrump@washoecounty.gov](mailto:ecrump@washoecounty.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to: 1) accept the State of Nevada, Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program 2024-11 "Hidden Valley Trail System Improvements Phase 1" grant [in the amount of \$87,588.00 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$21,897.00]; and 2) approve the Project Agreement with a grant period from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026; and 3) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Project Agreement and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct the Comptroller's Office to make the necessary budget amendments. (Commission District 4.)

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### SUMMARY

This item recommends acceptance of a Recreational Trails Program grant from the State of Nevada, Division of State Parks in the amount of \$87,588.00, with a County match of \$21,897.00. The funding will be used for phase 1 trail system improvements at Hidden Valley Regional Park as identified in the Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan (2022). The project includes 3-miles of trail improvements on the Highland Loop Trail, installation of four major kiosks, installation of twenty-five trail wayfinding markers, installation of two metal signs, and decommissioning of 0.6-miles of social trail. The project also includes accessibility improvements to allow better access to the trail system for those with mobility devices, strollers, or other adaptive needs including replacement of narrow gates and installation of ditch crossing platforms.

Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability – Long Term Sustainability.

### PREVIOUS ACTION

**June 21, 2022,** The Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopted the 2022 Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan. The plan, founded on stakeholder and public input, identifies opportunities and constraints, as well as a vision to guide future development of the park. The recommended improvements include adding constructed wetlands and recharge infiltration areas with a nature trail, repurposing the existing horse arena into an informal recreational turf field, adding restrooms and landscaping, reconfiguring park circulation, and developing a bike park and pump track. The plan also included an

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extensive trails component, identifying trail sections to decommission, reconfigure and add, including an ADA-accessible trail.

**July 13, 2021**, The Board approved a State of Nevada, Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program 2021-10 “Sierra Front Trail Planning” grant [in the amount of \$74,300 with a Washoe County cash match in the amount of \$18,575].

**December 8, 2020**, The Board approved a State of Nevada, Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program 2020-14 “Thomas Creek to Ballardini Ranch Connector Trail” grant [in the amount of \$40,000 with a Washoe County cash match in the amount of \$10,000].

### **BACKGROUND**

An update to the Hidden Valley Regional Park Master Plan was completed and approved by Washoe County's Board of County Commissioners in June of 2022. The Master Plan contains a Trails Plan and identifies areas of opportunity for trail improvements throughout the park's 480 acres. Hidden Valley Regional Park is one of Reno's most popular recreation destinations, drawing visitors from all of Washoe County and the Truckee/Tahoe region. Many of these visitors come to utilize the park's braided network of trails, most of which are in poor condition with little to no signage. Surveys completed as part of the master planning process indicate that trail maintenance, improvements, and enhancements are a high priority for the community. The increasing popularity of the Hidden Valley Trail System for mountain bikers, runners, hikers, dog walkers, and equestrians has placed the trails in a state of major deterioration. The Trails Plan indicates a need for: 1) Major trailhead kiosks with maps and interpretive messaging; 2) Accessibility improvements to the trail system with the replacement of narrow gates and fencing to allow access for people with mobility devices, strollers, and adaptive needs; 3) System trail identification through wayfinding signage and names for individual trails to improve navigation and safety.

Grant funding will be used for trail maintenance, enhancement, and restoration within the existing Hidden Valley Regional Park trail system. The goal is to provide a more sustainable, safe, and accessible trail system while improving wayfinding amenities. Most of the proposed trail enhancement would occur on the popular Highland Loop Trail. The scope of work includes 3-miles of trail improvement, installation of four major kiosks, installation of twenty-five trail wayfinding markers, installation of two metal signs, and decommissioning of 0.6-miles of social trail. The scope of work also includes replacement of narrow gates and installation of ditch crossing platforms to improve accessibility for those with mobility devices, strollers, or other adaptive needs.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Hidden Valley Trail System Improvements Phase 1

**Scope of the Project:** The project includes 3-miles of trail improvements on the Highland Loop Trail, installation of four major kiosks, installation of twenty-five trail wayfinding markers, installation of two metal signs, and decommissioning of 0.6-miles of

social trail. The project also includes accessibility improvements to allow better access to the trail system for those with mobility devices, strollers, or other adaptive needs including replacement of narrow gates and installation of ditch crossing platforms.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** Implementing the Hidden Valley Regional Park trail system improvements will better serve the community by addressing needs identified as priorities by the public in the Hidden Valley Master Plan (2022). This includes better accessibility, safe and sustainable trails, and improved wayfinding.

**On-Going Program Support:** The grant award will be used for trail system improvements including better accessibility and wayfinding signage. Washoe County Parks will continue to manage and maintain the trail system and trailheads at Hidden Valley Regional Park as they have in the past using volunteers, infrastructure preservation funds, park operations budgets, and park staff.

**Award Amount:** \$87,588.00

**Grant Period:** Date of fully executed agreement through September 30, 2026

**Funding Source:** Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

**Pass Through Entity:** State of Nevada, Division of State Parks

**CFDA Number:** 20.219

**Grant ID Number:** 2024-11

**Match Amount and Type:** Matching funds include \$17,600.00 in-kind staff time for project management and implementation, and \$4,297.00 cash match.

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** A construction contract will be awarded to complete trail system improvements and decommissioning. All contract and supply purchases will follow Washoe County procurement guidelines and federal procurement regulations.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY25 Parks Capital Fund (404) budget will be increased by \$87,588.00 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

<b>Cost Object &amp; Description</b>	<b>G/L Account &amp; Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
IO-12371 – Hidden Valley Trail Improvements	431100 - Federal Grant Revenue	\$87,588.00
IO-12371 – Hidden Valley Trail Improvements	818000 - Intrafund Transfer	\$87,588.00
PK906055 – Hidden Valley Trail Improvements	818000 - Intrafund Transfer	(\$87,588.00)
PK906055 – Hidden Valley Trail Improvements	781080 - Construction Contracts	\$69,938.00
PK906055 – Hidden Valley Trail Improvements	710325 -Signs & Markers	\$17,650.00

FY25 has sufficient budget authority for the total match amount of \$21,897.00. Match will include \$17,600.00 in staff time (personnel) from CSD Regional Parks & Open Space (140-0) and \$4,297.00 from the Parks Infrastructure Preservation account (C140900), Repairs and Maintenance (GL710205).

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners 1) accept the State of Nevada, Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program 2024-11 “Hidden Valley Trail System Improvements Phase 1” grant [in the amount of \$87,588.00 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$21,897.00]; and 2) approve the Project Agreement with a grant period from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026; and 3) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Project Agreement and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.

**POSSIBLE MOTION**

Should the Board agree with staff’s recommendation, a possible motion would be: “Move to: 1) accept the State of Nevada, Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program 2024-11 “Hidden Valley Trail System Improvements Phase 1” grant [in the amount of \$87,588.00 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$21,897.00]; and 2) approve the Project Agreement with a grant period from July 1, 2024 through September 30, 2026; and 3) authorize the Assistant County Manager [Dave Solaro] to sign the Project Agreement and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct the Comptroller’s Office to make the necessary budget amendments.”