



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: June 10, 2025

DATE: May 21, 2025

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Eric Crump, Director, Community Services Department,
775-328-3625, ecrump@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Dave Solaro, Assistant County Manager

SUBJECT: Recommendation to adopt Resolution R25-44, to initiate proceedings pertaining to formation of a Park District pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 318A.070; and if adopted, approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno to reimburse the City of Reno for costs associated with development of a Service Plan to investigate the feasibility of a regional Park District required by NRS 318A.090 [in the amount of \$100,000.00]. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

The Open Space and Regional Parks Department of Washoe County, as well as the Cities of Reno and Sparks were severely impacted by the recessionary economy in 2008 and 2020, primarily due to a lack of funding and reliance on each jurisdiction's General Fund. Regionally, these public service entities continue to remain vulnerable to periodic economic downturns. Consequently, identifying stable and sufficient funding is critical to the future success of regional parks, recreation centers, and open space in our community.

In 2017, the Nevada State Legislature approved Assembly Bill No. 379, creating the Nevada Parks, Trails and Open Space District Act and added to Nevada Revised Statutes as Chapter 318A. NRS 318A provides for the creation of parks, trails and open space districts that serve a public use.

NRS 318A – Parks, Trails, and Open Space Districts identifies the process to initiate the creation of a district as well as the requirement to create a service plan. There are two ways the creation of a park district can be initiated, one is by a resolution adopted by a governing body of any county, or city; and the other is by a petition submitted by any owner of property proposed to be located in the district to the governing body of a county or city.

In order to consider a Park District, NRS 318A.070 requires a Resolution to be adopted by the governing body, in this case, the Board of County Commissioners, to set forth the proposed name, powers, purpose and boundaries of the proposed park district.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

Following adoption of a resolution, a Service Plan will be created to investigate the feasibility, outline funding strategies, services, and facilities to be provided, explore the governance structure and to establish a service boundary before the Board can make a determination on the creation of a Park District.

The Interlocal Agreement with the City of Reno allows Washoe County to participate in the creation of the Service Plan. Washoe County will reimburse the City of Reno (not to exceed \$100,000) for costs associated with the City's Agreement for Park District Service Plan with PROS Consulting, Inc. The full scope of services is included as Attachment A to the Interlocal Agreement and includes data gathering and project management, a situational analysis, action plan development and completion of a Service Plan pursuant to NRS 318A.090.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability:
Long-term sustainability.

PREVIOUS ACTION

On June 10, 2025, The Board will consider, pursuant to NRS 244.14505, Commission District Special Fund disbursements from District 3 in the amount of [\$20,000] for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 to Washoe County's Community Services Department for the creation of a Service Plan for the potential creation of a Park District.

On May 24, 2023, the Open Space and Regional Park Commission recommended the Board of County Commissioners (Board) adopt a resolution to initiate the creation of a park district pursuant to NRS 318A.070; and directed staff to create a Service Plan for the proposed district pursuant to NRS 318A.090 – 318A.130.

On April 25, 2023, a non-action Presentation was given at the Joint/Concurrent Meeting of the City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, the City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission and the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission regarding the potential of a regional park district, the benefits it could provide the area, and the necessary next steps to move forward in the information-gathering process.

On September 24, 2019, the Board approved the 2019 Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

BACKGROUND

In 2017, the Nevada State Legislature approved Assembly Bill No. 379, creating the Nevada Parks, Trails and Open Space District Act and added to Nevada Revised Statutes as Chapter 318A. NRS 318A provides for the creation of parks, trails and open space districts that serve a public use.

During the April 25, 2023, Joint/Concurrent meeting between City of Reno Recreation and Parks Commission, City of Sparks Parks and Recreation Commission and Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission, a presentation on the possible creation of a park district was provided. During the meeting, several park commissioners from the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commissioner, expressed a

desire to have an action item at a future meeting to discuss the creation of a potential park district. During the May 24, 2023, meeting, the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Park Commission recommended the Board of County Commissioners adopt a resolution to initiate the creation of a Service Plan for a potential Park District serving the region.

The 2019 Parks Master Plan identifies existing priorities (development of regional parks and trails, open space acquisition, and natural resource management), but also identifies some of the biggest challenges, including current funding/staffing levels and a growing population with increasing demands, as well as strategies for overcoming challenges and fulfilling goals.

Washoe County's funding for park and recreation is derived primarily from Washoe County's General Fund. The funding gap identified in the 2019 Washoe County Parks Master Plan was estimated at \$48 million in 2019 and estimated to be \$94 million by 2038 based on projected budget. The Parks Master Plan also identifies the completion of a park Service Plan and Feasibility Study for a Regional Park District as a short and mid-term strategy.

The collective jurisdictions in the Truckee Meadows have overarching goals that include enhancing the community's living experience through the arts, public parks and trails, and historical resources. To further these goals, it is necessary to establish and identify dedicated funding sources for parks and recreation as a regional priority.

NRS 318A (Parks, Trails and Open Space Districts) allows for the formation of a Park District(s) within the Truckee Meadows. Creation of Park District(s) requires the completion of a Parks Trails and Open Space Service Plan which must include a financial survey showing how the proposed services are to be provided and financed. The plan must also include a map of the boundaries of proposed districts and an estimate of the population and assessed valuation of the proposed district. Description of proposed facilities, improvements or projects with estimated costs must be included.

Administration and funding management of districts would be carried out by an elected body, independent of the County Commission and City Councils, however interests would be represented in an intergovernmental agreement and by Board of Trustee of the proposed District.

FISCAL IMPACT

Budget authority for the Interlocal Agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County exists in FY 25 budget in CSD Parks (140100), Professional Service (710100) \$100,000.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended the Board of County Commissioners adopt Resolution R25-44, to initiate proceedings pertaining to formation of a Park District pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 318A.070; and if adopted, approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno to reimburse the City of Reno for costs associated with development of a Service Plan to investigate the feasibility of a regional Park District required by NRS 318A.090 [in the amount of \$100,000.00].

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be:
"Move to adopt Resolution R25-44, to initiate proceedings pertaining to formation of a Park District pursuant to Nevada Revised Statute (NRS) 318A.070; and if adopted, approve an Interlocal Agreement between Washoe County and the City of Reno to reimburse the City of Reno for costs associated with development of a Service Plan to investigate the feasibility of a regional Park District required by NRS 318A.090 [in the amount of \$100,000.00]."