



# WASHOE COUNTY

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## STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 14, 2026

**DATE:** June 15, 2026

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners

**FROM:** Joanne Lowden, Natural Resource Planner Coordinator,  
Community Services Department, 328-2039, [jlowden@washoecounty.gov](mailto:jlowden@washoecounty.gov)

**THROUGH:** Aaron Smith, Operations Division Director  
Community Services Department, 328-2172, [aasmith@washoecounty.gov](mailto:aasmith@washoecounty.gov)

**SUBJECT:** Recommendation to: 1) accept the State of Nevada, Division of State Parks, Recreational Trails Program RTP 2026-15 "Nature Loop Trail Improvements" grant [in the amount of \$100,000.00 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$25,000.00, equaling 20% of the \$125,000.00 project total]; and 2) approve the Project Agreement with a grant period from execution through September 30, 2029; and 3) authorize the Director of the Community Services Department [Eric Crump] to sign the Project Agreement and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. This grant supports trail improvements, trail bridge repairs, and sign replacement throughout the Nature Loop Trail area in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. (Commission Districts 3 and 5.) FOR POSSIBLE ACTION

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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 \$100,000.00, with a 20% of project total Washoe County match of \$25,000.00. The total project cost is \$125,000.00. This grant supports trail improvements, trail bridge repairs, and sign replacement throughout the Nature Loop Trail area in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

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

### PREVIOUS ACTION

**January 13, 2025** - The Open Space and Regional Park Commission adopted the revised 2024 Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan. Revisions included an expansion of 400 non-paved parking stalls in the North Parking Zone and language stating when new trees are added to the pasture area or the disc golf course, that Great Reno Balloon Races should be consulted on tree location and/or species to ensure no impediment on their event.

AGENDA ITEM # \_\_\_\_\_

**November 20, 2024** – The Open Space and Regional Park Commission adopted the 2024 Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan which included a prioritized project action list, implementation strategy, maintenance strategies, potential funding avenues for implementation and maintenance, and overall future park management.

### **BACKGROUND**

The Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan update was adopted by the Washoe County Open Space and Regional Parks Commission in January 2025. The Master Plan includes recommendations for improving safety, accessibility, and sustainability on existing trail systems throughout the park. The scope of work for this project is based on Master Plan recommendations and is focused on the Nature Loop Trail and surrounding multi-use circulation trails in the north part of the park. The Nature Loop Trail forms the innermost loop around Evans Creek and is designed for pedestrian use only with many interpretive signs and nature viewing areas. The outer perimeter paths are designed for multiple uses including cyclists, park maintenance, and emergency access to the surrounding Peavine Mountain Trail System.

The project scope of work includes trail improvements, trail bridge repairs, and sign replacement throughout the Nature Loop Trail area in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. The scope includes a contract for trail widening, resurfacing, and addition of drainage features; materials for Parks staff to complete trail bridge repairs including redecking and additional stringers; and redesign and replacement of wayfinding and interpretive signage at 15 locations.

### **GRANT AWARD SUMMARY**

**Project/Program Name:** Nature Loop Trail Improvements

**Scope of the Project:** This grant supports trail improvements, trail bridge repairs, and sign replacement throughout the Nature Loop Trail area in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. The scope includes a contract for trail widening, resurfacing, and addition of drainage features; materials for Parks staff to complete trail bridge repairs including redecking and additional stringers; and redesign and replacement of wayfinding and interpretive signage at 15 locations.

**Benefit to Washoe County Residents:** The scope of work for this project is based on recommendations in the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan Update (2025). Improvements will increase accessibility, safety, and sustainability of the Nature Loop Trail area, enhancing the experience for park users.

**On-Going Program Support:** The grant award will be used for trail improvements, trail bridge repairs, and sign replacement throughout the Nature Loop Trail area. Washoe County Parks will continue to manage and maintain the Nature Loop Trail area in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park using volunteers, infrastructure preservation funds, trails program funds, and dedicated parks staff including the Trails Program Coordinator, Natural Resource Field Technician, and Park Rangers.

**Award Amount:** \$100,000.00

**Grant Period:** Date of fully executed agreement through September 30, 2029

**Funding Source:** Recreational Trails Program (RTP)

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

**Assistance Listing #CFDA:** 20.287

**Grant ID Number:** RTP 2026-15

**Match Amount and Type:** Matching funds include \$12,000.00 in staff time for project management and implementation, and \$13,000.00 cash match for a total of \$25,000.00. The Recreational Trails Program grant requires a match of 20% of the project total (\$125,000.00).

**Sub-Awards and Contracts:** One construction contract will be awarded for trail improvements including tread widening, resurfacing, and addition of drainage features. All purchases will follow Washoe County procurement guidelines and grant procurement regulations.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY27 Parks Capital Fund (404) budget will be increased by \$100,000.00 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-12689 – Nature Loop Trail Improvements | 431100 – Federal Grant Revenue       | \$100,000.00   |
| IO-12689 – Nature Loop Trail Improvements | 818000 - Intrafund Transfer          | \$100,000.00   |
| PK906061 – Nature Loop Trail Improvements | 818000 - Intrafund Transfer          | (\$100,000.00) |
| PK906061 – Nature Loop Trail Improvements | 781080 – Construction Contracts      | \$89,200.00    |
| PK906061 – Nature Loop Trail Improvements | 710325 – Signs & Markers             | \$4,000.00     |
| PK906061 – Nature Loop Trail Improvements | 710310 – Parts & Supplies            | \$6,800.00     |

The FY27 budget supports the total match amount of \$25,000.00. Match includes \$12,000.00 in staff time from Open Space and Natural Resources (140405) and Trails Program (140410). Match also includes \$13,000.00 from the Parks Infrastructure Preservation account (140900), 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 RTP 2026-15 “Nature Loop Trail Improvements” grant [in the amount of \$100,000.00 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$25,000.00, equaling 20% of the \$125,000.00 project total]; and 2) approve the Project Agreement with a grant period from execution through September 30, 2029; and 3) authorize the Director of the Community Services

Department [Eric Crump] to sign the Project Agreement and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. This grant supports trail improvements, trail bridge repairs, and sign replacement throughout the Nature Loop Trail area in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

**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 RTP 2026-15 "Nature Loop Trail Improvements" grant [in the amount of \$100,000.00 with a Washoe County cash/in-kind match in the amount of \$25,000.00, equaling 20% of the \$125,000.00 project total]; and 2) approve the Project Agreement with a grant period from execution through September 30, 2029; and 3) authorize the Director of the Community Services Department [Eric Crump] to sign the Project Agreement and any subsequent documents related to the grant on behalf of the County; and 4) direct Finance to make the necessary budget amendments. This grant supports trail improvements, trail bridge repairs, and sign replacement throughout the Nature Loop Trail area in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park."