



WASHOE COUNTY

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STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: December 8, 2020

DATE: November 6, 2020

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Joanne Lowden, Natural Resources Planner,
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THROUGH: Eric Crump, Operations Division Director
Community Services Department, 328-3624, ecrump@washoecounty.us

Dave Solaro, Arch., P.E., Assistant County Manager
Community Services Department, 328-3600, dsolaro@washoecounty.us

SUBJECT: Recommendation to: 1) accept the 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]; and 2) approve the Project Agreement with a grant period from the date of full execution through September 30, 2022; 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 Districts 1 and 2.)

SUMMARY

This item recommends acceptance of a Recreational Trails Program grant in the amount of \$40,000, with a County match of \$10,000 from the State of Nevada, Division of State Parks awarded on October 29, 2020. The funding would be used to construct approximately 3.5 miles of new non-motorized single-track trail. The new trail construction would complete the connection between the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead and the Thomas Creek Trailhead in south Reno.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Stewardship of our community.

PREVIOUS ACTION

August 11, 2015, the Board of County Commissioners approved a Recreational Trails Program Grant, administered through Nevada State Parks for the Sun Valley Regional Park Enhancement Project [award amount of \$140,270 with a required match of \$39,658 in indirect costs and volunteer labor] with a term to December 31, 2017; and authorized the Community Services Department Director to sign the grant agreement and all associated documents on behalf of the County; and directed the Comptroller's Office to make the appropriate budget adjustments.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

BACKGROUND

This project includes construction of approximately 3.5 miles of new native surface single-track trail to connect from the Thomas Creek Trailhead to the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead. The new connector trail would be built using USFS Sustainable Trail Design Standards and would be open to multiple uses including hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian. The Thomas Creek Trailhead currently provides access to a trail system including the Thomas Creek, Whites Creek, Jones Creek, Lower Thomas Creek, and Lower Whites Creek trails. This trail system provides an access point into the Mount Rose Wilderness Area and is the main trail system in the Galena Creek Recreation Area which includes Galena Creek Regional Park. Additional planning efforts are underway to provide a trail connection from the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead to the Michael D. Thompson (Hunter Creek) Trailhead to the north which would eventually link all of the northern and southern trail systems together along the Sierra Front.

Washoe County Parks partnered with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest to complete all required environmental clearances for the project which will cross both Forest Service and Washoe County owned lands. Washoe County currently manages the Thomas Creek Trailhead in partnership with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest under an existing agreement. Washoe County owns and manages the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead.

The proposed trail alignment is identified in the Washoe County Southwest Recreational Opportunities Plan Map and is consistent with the recreational goals outlined in the Southwest Truckee Meadows Area Plan (STMAP), a component of the Washoe County Master Plan. The proposed trail is also included as part of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Rim to Reno Trail System and is identified as a desired system trail in the draft Truckee Meadows Trails Plan.

GRANT AWARD SUMMARY

Project/Program Name: Thomas Creek to Ballardini Ranch Connector Trail

Scope of the Project: Construct approximately 3.5 miles of new non-motorized single-track trail to complete the connection between the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead and the Thomas Creek Trailhead.

Benefit to Washoe County Residents: Implementation of the project would provide additional recreation opportunities for Washoe County residents through construction of a new multi-use trail that would be open for hiking, biking, and equestrian use. The new trail would also provide a key connection between the Ballardini Ranch Trailhead and the Thomas Creek Trailhead which gives the opportunity for longer routes and incorporates the Ballardini Ranch Trails into the existing trail system within the Mount Rose and Galena Creek areas.

On-Going Program Support: Parks will continue to seek grant funding to support new trail construction and to help maintain existing trails. Washoe County Parks will also continue to utilize staff and volunteers to conduct trail maintenance as needed.

Award Amount: \$40,000

Grant Period: Date of fully executed agreement through September 30, 2022

Funding Source: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

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

CFDA Number: 20.219

Grant ID Number: 2020-14

Match Amount and Type: \$10,000 in cash match from WC-1 bond funds already spent on project planning (trail design and layout, cultural surveys and reports).

Sub-Awards and Contracts: A contract will be awarded for the new trail construction. All contract and supply purchases will follow Washoe County procurement guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT

Should the board accept this grant award and approve these amendments, the FY21 Parks Capital Projects Fund (404) budget will be increased by \$40,000 in both revenues and expenditures in the following accounts:

Cost Object	G/L Account	Amount
Increase Revenue Thomas Creek Connector Trail (IN-11793)	Federal Grant Revenue (431100)	\$40,000
Increase Expense Thomas Creek Connector Trail (PK906048)	Construction Contract (781080)	\$40,000

There is a \$10,000 cash match associated with this grant which includes WC-1 bond funds already spent on project planning (trail design and layout, cultural surveys and reports).

The grant funds will be drawn on a reimbursement basis.

No indirect cost is included in this grant.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Board of County Commissioners: 1) accept the 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]; and 2) approve the Project Agreement with a grant period from the date of full execution through September 30, 2022; 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 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]; and 2) approve the Project Agreement with a grant period from the date of full execution through September 30, 2022; 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.