



WASHOE COUNTY

Integrity Communication Service
www.washoecounty.gov

STAFF REPORT

BOARD MEETING DATE: *February 10, 2026*

DATE: Thursday, February 5, 2026

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Gabrielle Enfield, Community Reinvestment Manager
Office of the County Manager, genfield@washoecounty.gov

THROUGH: Kate Thomas, County Manager
Office of the County Manager, kathomas@washoecounty.gov

SUBJECT: Recommendation to approve a fund agreement with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to enable acceptance of funds for the Rancho San Rafael Amphitheater Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide support for the development and construction of a community amphitheater in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. (All Commission Districts.)

SUMMARY

Staff has worked with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada (CFNN) to develop a fund agreement so that funds may be accepted into the Rancho San Rafael Amphitheater Fund. The purpose of the fund is for the development and construction of a community Amphitheater at the Washoe County Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

Washoe County Strategic Objective supported by this item: Fiscal Sustainability

PREVIOUS ACTION

No previous action.

BACKGROUND

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park is one of the largest and most diverse parks in Washoe County, offering a rich blend of natural beauty, recreational amenities, and cultural heritage. Located where McCarran Boulevard crosses Sierra Street and Virginia Street and spanning hundreds of acres, the park includes everything from scenic hiking trails and open meadows to a renowned arboretum and varying play amenities. It serves as a community hub for outdoor activities, events, and education, attracting visitors of all ages. The park's vast landscape provides opportunities for both active recreation and quiet reflection, making it a vital green space for the region.

In 2024 the Community Services Department implemented a Master Plan Update process for the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. The park has undergone two master planning efforts prior to this one. The first in 1982 with a subsequent Master Plan update completed in 1990. In June of 2002, an Implementation Plan of the park was completed.

AGENDA ITEM # _____

An updated master plan, accurately reflecting the current community and stakeholder input, was required to move forward with any park development to ensure conformity with the community's current and future recreational needs. This Master Plan update will drive Washoe County's long-range goals, policies, and guidelines and prioritize strategies in the park. All recommendations in this plan come from the extensive Public and Stakeholder outreach completed during the Master Plan process. The updated Master Plan was needed to act as a current guiding document for future development and redevelopment of the park, its facilities, open space management, accessibility, recreation programming, and amenities over the next 10-20 years.

Included in the San Rafael Regional Plan 2024 Master Plan is the recommendation for a newly renovated amphitheater designed to accommodate approximately 2,000 spectators, offering a vibrant space for performances and events within the park. A covered pavilion will provide shade and weather protection, enhancing comfort for visitors. Additionally, a reimagined picnic area will include food trucks and picnic tables, creating a lively social hub for families and friends to gather.

On September 17, 2024, the Board of County Commissioners approved an allocation of \$1,000,000 of ARPA State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds for the Rancho San Rafael Community Events Space Phase I, engineering, design, and site prep only, for an open-air multi-purpose stage and community events space for performances, and educational programs.

The Capital Projects Division of the Community Services Department has initiated the project, with preliminary design and engineering for the construction of the Amphitheater. Preliminary estimates for the project's construction are expected to range from \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000. The intent is to develop this community asset as a public-private partnership through community donations for the construction cost of the Amphitheater Project.

FISCAL IMPACT

Per the fund agreement, the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada shall hold, manage, invest and reinvest the assets of the Rancho San Rafael Amphitheater Fund for the purpose primarily to provide support for the development and construction of a community amphitheater in Rancho San Rafael Park.

All disbursements will be made to Washoe County and may include principal, income, interest, dividends, and capital gains. Disbursements from the Rancho San Rafael Amphitheater Fund through the CFNN will be deposited into the Capital Improvements Fund (402), RSR Amphitheater CFNN (IO20567). Expenditures for the project will be recorded in the Capital Improvement Fund (402), RSR Amphitheater CFNN (PW920876).

Per section 6 of the fund agreement, in consideration of the philanthropic services provided to the Fund by the Foundation, the Fund shall be charged an administrative fee of 1.5% annually of the average daily balance of the fund. This fee will be reduced or adjusted, should the Fund exceed \$2.5 million or other thresholds per the Fee and Fund Policy. Fees are calculated on the daily average fund balance for the most recent month and paid monthly by automatic deduction from the Fund balance.

RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation to approve a fund agreement with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to enable acceptance of funds for the Rancho San Rafael Amphitheater Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide support for the development and construction of a community amphitheater in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

POSSIBLE MOTION

Should the Board agree with staff's recommendation, a possible motion would be: *“move to approve a fund agreement with the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to enable acceptance of funds for the Rancho San Rafael Amphitheater Fund. The purpose of the Fund is to provide support for the development and construction of a community amphitheater in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.”*