

# Parks, Trails & Open Space District

Washoe County Open Space and  
Regional Parks Commission

May 24, 2023

Presenters:

Alicia Reban, Executive Director, Nevada Land Trust,

Karen Mullen & Julee Conway

# Background Special District

- ▶ Legislation approved by 2017 Nevada Legislature; signed into Law in 2017-NRS Title 25 Chapter 318A
- ▶ 2013-City of Sparks Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Draft Plan
- ▶ 2019-Washoe County Parks & Open Space Master Plan Updated
- ▶ Anticipated Summer 2023-City of Reno Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan Updated
- ▶ May 16, 2023-City of Reno citizen Parks & Recreation Commission support for Service Plan

## Widening Gap

Desired Services ↔ Available Funding

- ▶ Continued population growth in the Truckee Meadows- pressure on existing facilities
- ▶ Regional and municipal facilities are deteriorating
- ▶ Lack of new facilities causing overcrowding and inequity of services; significant increase in demand
- ▶ Inability of governments to financially support maintenance of facilities; competition for resources
- ▶ Deterioration of our natural systems, ie., Truckee River Corridor





## Why is a New Approach Needed?

- ▶ Opportunity to focus mutual efforts
- ▶ New governance tool to improve effectiveness, efficiency, accountability to citizens
- ▶ Region's population growth placing unmet demands on existing resources
- ▶ District model addresses capital and long-term operating needs-to tackle deferred maintenance issues
- ▶ Post Great Recession and COVID pandemic-economic recovery has not brought needed sustainable resources; competing interests for limited funds remains

# How do we start the process in the Truckee Meadows?

- ▶ Initiated by citizens, Park Commissions or elected Boards of either a County and/or City
- ▶ Development and approval of a *Service Plan* with extensive citizen, business and community input
- ▶ Option to seek majority approval of affected property owners through election process

# Service Plan Elements- Understanding the road ahead!



**Financial feasibility analysis**-outlining proposed services, financial structure, financing alternatives



**Boundary map**-population estimate and assessed valuation of properties within boundaries



**Facility, improvement, proposed projects** list-cost estimates, engineering services, proposed indebtedness, annual operation and maintenance expenses.



**Intergovernmental Agreements**-proposed agreements with adjacent governmental entities



**Provides options**-for a sustainable Regional Parks, Open Space, Trails and Recreation system

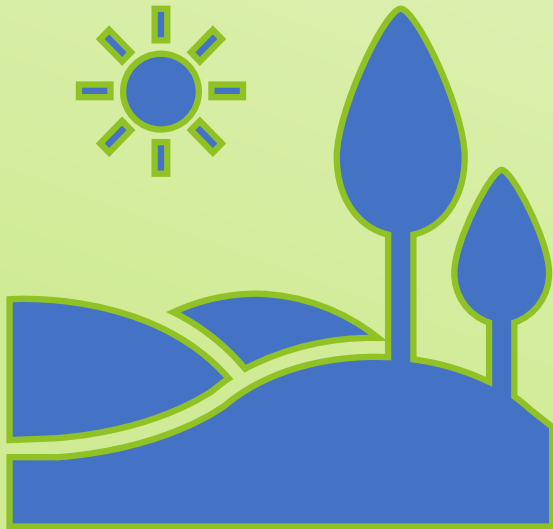


# District Examples

- ▶ Over 1,000 Park & Recreation Districts nationwide
- ▶ Truckee-Donner Recreation and Park District- Truckee, CA
- ▶ Bend Metro Park and Recreation District-Bend, OR
- ▶ Bozeman Parks and Trails Special District-Bozeman, Montana (May 2020)
- ▶ Estes Valley Recreation & Park District-Estes Park, CO
- ▶ General Improvement Districts- IVGID, SVGID

# Summary-

## What's the Next Step:



- ▶ Support Service Plan development to address existing and growing needs - focuses efforts to Parks, Trails, & Open Space priorities
- ▶ Advocate for agency electeds to budget funding in FY23/24 to mutually fund the **Service Plan** study
- ▶ Engage the electeds of all local jurisdictions to embrace a **new** approach and **new** tool to meet shared challenges
- ▶ Encourage robust citizen engagement -involve, seek involvement/feedback from citizens