Dear Friends of the Parks Foundation

We are happy to be writing to you today with the year of 2020 behind us. As fear, worry, and stress seemed to consume our daily lives, we knew our parks and open spaces were going to play a vital role in our community’s healing. The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic recession have created a multitude of barriers to mental and physical health but embracing our green spaces is a key step to our recovery.

Amongst it all, we are proud to say the Parks Foundation was able to keep our programs running and continued to engage with our students, community members and volunteers. Our Student Stewards program turned virtual right alongside our school districts and our Trails Challenges, Discover Your Park walks and Junior Naturalists program became self-guided as materials were delivered to community members. Our AmeriCorps members transitioned to serving from home, something that has never been done before. Together, the Parks Foundation communicated, planned, laughed, cried, and created a truly unique experience for our community during our toughest year yet.

As we hope to see the light soon, we know our members are eager to get back to our regular programming, and we are excited to do just that—and more. This year showcased the deep need of outdoor spaces and the lack of resources for communities. The Parks Foundation knows this recession will continue to affect Parks and Recreation state and federal budgets and we stand ready, with the help of our supporters, to continue to advocate for our open spaces.

We are delighted to share the results of our hard work in 2020 and all that was accomplished.

Sincerely,

Heidi Anderson, Executive Director

Sarah Chvilicek, Board President
MISSION
Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation protects and enhances our communities’ livability through public engagement, education, and the sustainability of our parks, open spaces, and trails.

GOALS

PROVIDE
innovative park-based programs for families, community groups and schools

CULTIVATE
awareness, appreciation and stewardship of our parks

INSPIRE
community members to take a proactive volunteer role in the preservation and improvement of our parks.

SERVE
as a fiscal sponsor for community-led initiatives to enhance park infrastructure.

STRENGTHEN
the bond between community members and their parks

FINANCIALS AT A GLANCE

2020 Expenditures

Revenues & Expenses

2018 | $1,041,243
2019 | $1,422,824
2020 | $1,747,994

2018 | $980,109
2019 | $1,391,249
2020 | $1,692,479

15% Admin Costs
2% Fundraising
83% Programming

Revenue
Expenses
AMERICORPS MEMBERS

Alayna Wood
Communications Coordinator

Alex Shahbazi
Parks Project Coordinator

Alexandra Sheehan
Wetland Restoration Outreach Coordinator

Bridget Mulkerin
Programs and Events Coordinator

Caitlin Amburgey
Community Programs Educator

Camille Iannacchione
Membership Coordinator

Camille Verendia
Wetland Restoration Technician

Cara Schaefer
Community Programs Educator

Colleen Searcy
Naturalist Educator

Cortney Arrington
Resource Development Coordinator

Danny Whitaker,
Naturalist Educator

Haley Grable
Student Stewards Outreach Coordinator

Kayleigh Dearstyne
Naturalist Educator

Keaton Aldrich
Naturalist Educator

Kristina Lee,
Naturalist Educator

Macklin McSorley
Lead Wetland Restoration Technician

Matthew Poindexter
Wetland Restoration Technician

Micah Beck
VISTA Leader

Rachel Dunn
Naturalist Educator

Spencer Cox,
Community Engagement Coordinator

Rachel Kieffer
Lead Wetland Restoration Technician

Sam Lee
Wellness Education Coordinator

TRUCKEE MEADOWS PARKS FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT | 5

AmeriCorps
THE STATE OF OUR PARKS

Parks departments in the Truckee Meadows continue to operate on a fraction of their pre-recession budgets. This has led to severe service reductions and infrastructure deterioration at our local facilities.

In 2020, the role of the Foundation became even more relevant as the nation, region and local governments faced the economic effects of the global pandemic. Meanwhile, citizens sought refuge in our local parks, trails, open spaces to find renewal and peace and continued to work towards their fitness goals in a safe, outdoor environment. Compounded by the reduction in tax revenue receipts, municipal and county parks and open space department budgets are projected to be reduced even further through 2022 and beyond.

FACILITIES AND AMENITIES
Community demand to fill the gaps and provide more

Comparison of Availability of Select Amenities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common feedback</th>
<th>Not enough pools</th>
<th>Need more flat field space</th>
<th>Not enough dog parks</th>
<th>Not enough rec centers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Projected Population Growth</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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Rancho San Rafael Park, October 2020
Photography by Amber Joiner
2020 BY THE NUMBERS

3,500 Outdoor Education Hours

83 Photo Submissions

24,203 Video Views

107 Americorps Members Placed in Northern Nevada

154 Science Camp Scholarships

461,400 Dog Waste Bags Distributed

$1,670,218 Secured to Support Park-Based Programs & Events

343 Active Members

2,055 Volunteer Hours

$77,775 Raised for Fiscal Scholarship
STUDENT STEWARDS PROGRAM

The Student Stewards Program turns local parks into learning laboratories where students are able to connect with nature and practice hands-on science outdoors. The Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and Next Generation Science Standards-based curriculum is designed to inspire young students to care for our parks, trails and open spaces throughout their lives. AmeriCorps Naturalist Educators are hard at work teaching economically underserved Washoe County students how to collect science data on birds, insects, water and soils.

2020 DETOUR: The Student Stewards Program transitioned to a virtual model and continued serving our students and families. Educators created distance learning packets and a Student Stewards Science YouTube channel. Videos cover a variety of STEM topics from geology to Nevadan history.

STUDENT STEWARDS SPRING BREAK AND SUMMER CAMPS

Most years, camp is held for two weeks in the spring and nine weeks in the summer, helping students discover the natural world around them. These STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math)-based camps in Idlewild Park support educators, parents and students by providing highly impactful experiences that expand on classroom content. Camp encourages students to develop curiosities, uncover passions and begin a lifelong love of and appreciation for the natural world. Need-based scholarships are available for children who could not otherwise attend camp.

2020 DETOUR: Unfortunately Spring Break Camp was cancelled, but despite continued challenges, a reduced capacity Summer Camp was still run during the summer of 2020. During an unprecedented year of social isolation, one parent told the Parks Foundation, “We’ll never be able to measure how your camp impacted the children in our community, but I am certain the effects are vast, far-reaching, and life long.”

TRUCKEE MEADOWS TRAILS CHALLENGE

Community members of all ages can harness the power of the outdoors to benefit their physical and mental health through the self-guided, goal-oriented Truckee Meadows Trails Challenge. As part of the Trails Challenge, the Parks Foundation hosts monthly guided hikes that engage participants in the exploration of local natural and cultural history while getting out and getting healthy.

2020 DETOUR: The Parks Foundation remained dedicated to providing Trails Challenge participants with interactive educational materials to inspire exploration of their local trails, both virtually and in-person. Trails Challenge participants were encouraged to set a goal, explore their open spaces, and reap the benefits that parks have on their physical, spiritual, and mental health.

DISCOVER YOUR PARKS WALKS

From April through September, community members explored the natural and cultural history of our region through the weekly Discover Your Parks Walks. Participants build healthy habits, while connecting with new outdoor spaces every Thursday evening. Walks are free, approximately one-mile and one-hour long.

2020 DETOUR: Walks continued when able, and allowed community members of all ages and abilities to visit local parks, trails and open spaces in the Truckee Meadows. When unable to host in person walks, activities became virtual and participants were encouraged to get outdoors on their own.
JUNIOR NATURALIST PASSPORT PROGRAM

Children of all ages and backgrounds investigate their public lands and participate in hands-on science each month during the Junior Naturalist Passport Program. Each session provides nature and science lessons along with arts and crafts activities. With a Junior Naturalist Passport, children explore a different park each month focusing on varying habitats found around Northern Nevada.

2020 DETOUR: Participants were encouraged to continue exploring with their passports and emailed monthly with additional self-guided crafts and activities.

DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY NATURE WALKS

Every week, individuals living with dementia and their carepartners are able to connect with the natural world through the Dementia-Friendly Nature Walks. These free, interpretive walks take participants through an exploration of seasonal change along the Truckee River.

2020 DETOUR: All Dementia-Friendly Nature Walks turned into virtual newsletters, where participants got the chance to continue exploring the seasonal changes of flora and fauna.

2020 EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

GREAT COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP & TRUCKEE RIVER CLEAN-UP

Every year the Parks Foundation hosts KTMB’s Great Community and Truckee River Cleanups at Idlewild Park. This year, 48 volunteers removed 70 bags of invasive species and mulched over 50 trees.

BLUE MOON HIKE

On Halloween, the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation invited the community to the proposed Nature Study Area to observe and learn all about the Blue Moon! Participants took a guided sunset hike around the wetland property then watched the Blue Moon rise over the eastern hilltops.

FALL PLANTEMONIUM

The Parks Foundation was excited to host an outdoor and socially distanced volunteer opportunity again for the community. Over 60 volunteers planted 750 native species of willows, cottonwoods, buffalo berries and sedges at the Nature Study Area.
Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation was fortunate to have continued outstanding volunteers during 2020. While opportunities were more limited, the Doggie Ambassador Project, Regional Park Research, and a Plantemonium event kept our volunteers engaged.

Ongoing positions and volunteer opportunities take place throughout the year for motivated groups or individuals that want to make a positive impact on their parks, environment, and community.

### IN 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Volunteer Hours</strong></th>
<th>2,055</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pounds of green waste and trash removed from the proposed Nature Study Area and Idlewild Park</strong></td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Parks Researched</strong></td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Doggie Ambassadors</strong></td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Doggie Ambassador Project mitigates pet waste in parks, trails and open spaces, with a major focus on deterring pollution of the Truckee River watershed. The project is a volunteer-driven initiative to help maintain dog waste stations throughout the City of Reno, City of Sparks and Washoe County. Volunteers service over 70 stations in 40 local parks and trails. With the help of volunteers and the community, we are significantly improving our outdoor spaces, and promoting a healthy environment for current and future generations who utilize our parks, trails and open spaces.
## Fiscal Sponsorship

### What is Fiscal Scholarship?
Fiscal Sponsorship is a formal agreement in which Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation sponsors a community project that lacks tax-exempt status.

### Why is it Important?
The Parks Foundation’s Fiscal Sponsorship agreements allow motivated groups of community members to seek grants, hold fundraisers and solicit tax-deductible donations that align with the Parks Foundations mission. Through these partnerships, community members are able to get more done for local parks.

### Biggest Little Dog Park
Since 2017, the Biggest Little Dog Park Coalition and the City of Reno have worked with Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation to develop a unique dog park in downtown Reno. In July of 2018, the dog park opened to provide a place for people and dogs to exercise as well as to create a positive atmosphere that will encourage economic growth.

**In 2020,** the Biggest Little Dog Park has continued to fundraise for ongoing landscape needs. The Biggest Little Dog Park mural has been completed with local pets featured along the park mural.

**Over 400 Pets have now been painted at the Biggest Little Dog Park mural!**

### Somerset West Park
The Somersett Owners Association and the City of Reno partnered with Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation to create a multi-use, multi-generational neighborhood park in West Somersett.

**In 2020,** a community garden, family play area, small and large dog park, and connectivity to an extensive trail system was built.

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## Parks, Trails and Open Space District

The need to plan for the funding of our parks, trails, open spaces and recreation facilities is no different than the planning of our sewer, water, and road infrastructure that is routinely dealt with by our cities and county. Effective planning that includes funding (such as a Parks, Trails, and Open Space District) is critical to the long-term health and future of our park & open space systems.

### Future Plans
The development of a region-wide Service Plan remains a top priority for the Parks Foundation Board. This Service Plan will establish how a Parks, Trails and Open Space District could function in Northern Nevada. Although the Parks Foundation can be instrumental in securing the funding needed to support the development of the Service Plan, it is up to the local governmental agencies to decide to initiate the process and complete the Plan, either individually or collectively.
TRUCKEE MEADOWS PARKS FOUNDATION IS WORKING TO REHABILITATE the area formerly known as the Rosewood Lakes Golf Course to a functional wetland system. This will be accomplished through the efforts of AmeriCorps members, Parks Foundation Staff, and our partners. Through these efforts the property will reopen as a public space where community members can learn about the environment and spend time in nature.

In 2020, 18 AmeriCorps restoration technicians applied treatments on 144 acres of wetland and showed improvement on 52 acres of upland, and riparian habitat, improved 1.87 miles of trail, planted over 1,000 competitive, native species, distributed 7 acres of native seed mix, and engaged 591 community members though programming, volunteer events, and educational videos.

Technicians are continuing to remove undesirable, non native plant species and establish native, ecologically appropriate vegetation throughout the property.

AmeriCorps Wetland Restoration Technicians built and installed 6 floating gardens and 15 bird nesting boxes.
What is AmeriCorps?
AmeriCorps is a network of national service programs that each take a different approach to improving lives and fostering civic engagement. Members commit their time to address critical community needs such as increasing academic achievement, mentoring youth, fighting poverty, sustaining national parks, and preparing for disasters.

AmeriCorps at the Parks Foundation:
Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation recruits AmeriCorps members from around the country through the State and National program and the VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) program.

State and National Members:
State and National members provide direct service as Naturalist Educators in the Student Stewards Program and Wetland Restoration Technicians at the Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area. The Naturalist Educators focus on getting students excited about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and teaching them how to become young stewards of their local parks. The Wetland Restoration Technicians focus on restoring a wetland habitat where the community can come to learn about and appreciate the importance of our natural spaces and local parks.

VISTA Members:
VISTA members build capacity for the organization by coordinating programs, events, volunteers, members, fundraising, and other essential components that keep the Parks Foundation functioning behind-the-scenes.

Site Placement:
The Parks Foundation places AmeriCorps VISTA and State and National members at partnering organizations. These members support the mission of the Parks Foundation in collaboration with their organizational placement.

VISTA Site Placement 2020-2021:
Envirolution
Lahontan Audubon Society
Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space
City of Reno Parks, Recreation, and Community Service
Sierra Nevada Journeys

State and National Host Site Placement 2020-2021:
Nevada Department of Wildlife
Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful
Desert Research Institute
Wilbur D. May Arboretum
Desert Farming Initiative
The Greenhouse Project
Envirolution
Carson Water Subconservancy District
River Wranglers
One Truckee River
Volunteer of the Year: Ben

Ben is an active volunteer with the Student Stewards Program, the Nature Study Area and other programs and events. As a biologist and avid birder, Ben helped design and implement bird survey protocols, taught AmeriCorps technicians how to identify local birds, and consulted on many avian related questions. Ben is also a frequent guest speaker at Summer Camp, teaching students about chickadees, caching, and what it is like to be a biologist. Beyond his birding knowledge, Ben jumps in with whatever the Parks Foundation is in need of from event preparation, park clean-up, donating media for virtual programming, or guest interpreting for a Discover Your Park Walk. Thanks for being a park pal, Ben!

Community Partner of the Year: Nevada Bugs & Butterflies

Nevada Bugs and Butterflies has been an advocate for the Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area since the project began. Nevada Bugs and Butterflies Board President, Kevin Burls, continues to be involved as a Nature Study Area Advisory board member and is a priceless resource for answering the array of questions from staff and AmeriCorps members. Kevin advises on noxious weed management practices, as well as spearheading the planning of the pollinator garden, building a butterfly house and implementing butterfly monitoring at the wetland.

Members of the Year: Colt and Betsy Stewart

Colt and Betsy Stewart are both enjoying their retirement and spending their free-time supporting access to Truckee Meadows open spaces. They have a long history of supporting community science within the Student Stewards program and advocating for underserved youth in their community. Colt and Betsy are also supporters of the Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area and have helped contribute to the area’s success. Often, you will find them enjoying a “Discover Your Park” walk and are still hoping to see those informative TMPF Talks make a comeback. We couldn’t do what we do without members like them!
MEMBERS

Alan Gubanich
Alisa McWilliams & Ted Lambert
Allen Flanigan
Amber & Justin Shore
Amy & Gaston Leyak
Amy Cavannaugh
André & Chase Stigall
Angela Kluck
Anita Morales
Annice Bradford
Armando Ornelas
Audubon Society
Barbara Guerin
Barbara Hier-Johnson
Barbara Novak
Barbara Ristine
Belen Figueroa-Cazares
Betty & John Stanko
Bev Lyles
Beverlee Starr
Beverly & David Eiswert
Bill & Gaye Wallace
Bill Fant
Bill von Phul & Lynda Knepper
BJ Amrose
Bob Schichnes & Dawn Durbin
Brett and Brittney Jenkins
Bridget Speer-Loring
Bruce & Kelley Gombert
Bruce Woodworth
Byllie Andrews
Carl & Marcie Iannacchione
Carol & Sam Coleman
Carol Hunt
Carole King
Carrie Tichenor
Caryn Neidhold
Catherine & Maarten Kalisvaart
Catherine Schmidt
Cathy and Ed Smith
Caughlin Ranch Homeowners Association
Celia & Robert McGinty
Charlene Rio
Cherie Williams
Cheryl Daniel
Chris Davis
Christian Villagomez
Christine Mattison
Christopher & Karly Bristol
Christopher Henry
Christopher Tong
Chuck Coronella
Cindy Ainsworth
Cl Gleason
Colleen Wallace-Barnum
Cotl & Betsy Stewart
Connor & Haley Kirby
Craig Conrath & Brooke Walker
Dan & Elaine Carrick
Dan and Pat Bouweraerts
Dana Shelton
Daniel Goodnow
Daniel Sierra
Darcy & Ralph Phillips
Darla Lee
Dave & DeLores Aiazzi
Dayene Kaplan
David & Debbie Jickling
David von Seggern
Dawn Brisbane
Dawn Smith
Dean DeGidio
Deanna Ackerman
Debbie Smith
Debra King
Deborah Brown
Debra Zalmana
Denise & John Miller
Denise Ruprecht-Price
Dennis and Sherron Ellidge
Deri Bowen
Diana & Samuel Sprain
Diana Peralta
Diana Perkins
Diane & Joseph Pilloud
Don & Claire McFall
Don & Jean Molde
Don Colton
Donald Abbott
Douglas Sanford & Connie Ann
Nelson-Sanford
Elayne Frank
Elisa Cafferata
Elsi & Dick Reinhardt
Emily Lande-Rose
Emily Montan
Eric & Joan Larsen
Eric March
Eric Roberts
Ernie Baragar
Esther Walters
Evan LaGuardia
Frankie Sue Del Papa
Gail and Mark Moore
Gail Matyas
Genet & Ronald Sauer
George & Carole Hess
Glee Willis
Gloria Tomich
Gordon & Ann Milldrum
Gregory & Becky Short
Gregory Knott
Hazel Bowen
Heidi & Cory Anderson
Helena Russell
Interpretive Gardens
Irene Babcock Drews
Israel Gonzalez
Jacque & Ernest Lowery
Jaime Rusche
Jaime Schroeder
Jaime Villarino
James & Laura Dickey
James & Vicki Gardner
James Feensta
James Noriega
Jane Burnham
Jane Scott
Janet Hand
Janice Pine
Jean Green
Jeanie Onitsuka
Jeanne Moline
Jeanne Tribble
Jeff & Eileen Bidwell
Jeff & Laura Reinig
Jeni McMahon
Jennifer & Brian Root
Jennifer & Chris Cochran
Jennifer Carr
Jennifer Hallett
Jessica Duran
Jessica Mahon
Gail Matyas
Jill Short
Jim & Betty Hulse
Jim Bernardi & Duane Dooley
JoAllan Ferris
Jocelyn Waite
Joe Decaria
On the heels of an economic collapse caused by COVID-19—that is said to have triggered the most unequal recession in modern U.S. history—we have launched our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force.

The extent to which the pandemic has affected minority households in our community is beyond comprehension. BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) communities have always faced disparities, and these can no longer be ignored. While minorities and low-income families continue to struggle to get back on their feet, the Parks Foundation is committed to ensuring our Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces are available as a mental and physical health resource for all.

In 2021 Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation will

- Increase our programming and materials that are available in Spanish
- Participate in the equity learning community
- Invest in training for Staff and AmeriCorps members
- Incorporate native history into our programming in partnership with Northern Nevada Native Tribes
- Adjust recruitment methods to expand access to AmeriCorps, staff, and board member positions to reach all communities
- Continue to lift up environmental BIPOC leaders

With the help of the Equity Learning Community we aim to create waves that ripple across the region. We will continue to have tough conversations that will help build racial equity in our community. We will complete our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion action plan. We will create a brave space for our staff, AmeriCorps members, and Board members to learn and grow.
Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation is a private, non-profit organization committed to raising awareness and appreciation of parks, open spaces and trails through in-park programs offered free-of-cost to community members. In 2020 we saw the critical need for our programs more than ever. More community members connecting with their local nature and more students needing our STEAM education programs.

Program Sponsorship Membership
Become a member by making a direct donation to sponsor one of the following programs:

☐ **$125** Sponsor 75 children to get outdoors with a Junior Naturalist lesson.

☐ **$275** Support a classroom learning vital STEAM education through the Student Stewards Program.

☐ **$550** Provide supplies for one week of Summer Science Camp.

☐ **$800** Contribute to the installation of a 3-mile trail at the proposed Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area

Annual Membership Levels
☐ **$50** Individual

☐ **$100** Family

☐ **$250** Park Pal

☐ **$500** Park Steward

☐ **$750** Park Patron

☐ **$1,000** Park Champion

Choose your own $___________

Sustaining Member $___________*

*Amount we charge your card each month

Payment Information

Name on Card ____________________________

Card # ____________________________

Amount $ ________________ CC Type (i.e. Visa) ________

Exp ________________ CSV Code ____________

Signature ____________________________