DEAR FRIENDS OF THE PARKS FOUNDATION,

We are delighted to share the results of our work in 2019. It was a dynamic year for the Parks Foundation—a year of project development, board growth, and planning for the future in a rapidly changing city. As the Truckee Meadows grows in size, density, and diversity, the role of parks in community health, recreation and culture will become even more crucial to our neighborhoods’ identity and livability.

In 2019, the Parks Foundation’s board developed a new strategic plan that concentrates on what we can do in a region with changing needs to promote the sustainability of our parks, open spaces, and trails. With an updated mission, we will work to address the immediate needs of the community while also undertaking robust, long-term projects. We will work to raise funds for exciting new projects, connect people to parks through programming, support volunteers and advocates, and place a high priority on equity and accessibility for our programs. We look forward to all that 2020 will bring and sharing it with each of you.

Sincerely,

Heidi Anderson, Sarah Chvilicek,
Executive Director Board President

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### Financials at a Glance

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<td>2018</td>
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### Programs & Events

- Healthy Parks Healthy People: Truckee Meadows initiative:

### 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.

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### Financials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2019 Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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TRUCKEE MEADOWS PARKS FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 3
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.

SINCE 2007,

Washoe County has experienced a $48 million parks and recreation budget gap. This has led to a backlog of maintenance and park capital improvement projects. If this trend continues for another 20 years, this gap could grow by another $94 million, creating a $142 million gap over a 30-year period (Washoe County Parks Master Plan).

2019 BY THE NUMBERS

- **Active Members**: 321
- **Memberships Raised** in Memberships: $44,405
- **AMERICORPS Members Placed in Northern Nevada**: 87
- **Participants Who Attended Programs/Events**: 3,315
- **Guided Walks and Hikes**: 90
- **Total Miles Walked by Participants**: 1,740
- **Volunteer Hours**: 2,257
- **Projected Population Growth**:

  - 600K
  - 550K
  - 500K
  - 450K
  - 400K

- **2007-2019 Truckee Meadows Parks and Recreation Funding**:

  - 2007: $5
  - 2008: $10
  - 2009: $20
  - 2010: $30
  - 2011: $40
  - 2012: $50
  - 2013: $60
  - 2014: $70
  - 2015: $80
  - 2016: $90
  - 2017: $100
  - 2018: $110
  - 2019: $120
  - 2020: $130

- **Projected Population Growth**

  - 2015
  - 2020
  - 2030

- **Student Engagement in Park Data Collection**: 3,887
- **Dog Waste Bags Distributed (Approx)**: 272,400
- **Science Camp Scholarships**: 282
- **Population Growth**

Washoe County has experienced a $48 million parks and recreation budget gap. This has led to a backlog of maintenance and park capital improvement projects. If this trend continues for another 20 years, this gap could grow by another $94 million, creating a $142 million gap over a 30-year period (Washoe County Parks Master Plan).
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 STEM (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 in schools teaching economically underserved Washoe County students how to collect science data on birds, insects, water and soils.

Student Stewards Spring and Summer Break Camps

For two weeks in the spring and nine weeks in the summer, students discover the natural world around them during the Parks Foundation’s spring and summer break camps. 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. These camps encourage 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.

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. In addition, longer, quarterly “Adventure Series” hikes are available for those looking for an extra challenge. By attending guided-hikes, participants can check off a few trails while learning about our region and meeting other Trails Challenge hikers.

Discover Your Parks Walks

From April through September, community members explore 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.

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 free, two-hour, park-based session provides nature and science lessons along with arts and crafts activities based on the session’s theme. Through the Junior Naturalist Passport, children explore a different park each month focusing on varying habitats found around Northern Nevada.

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. Walks are held every Tuesday in partnership with the Alzheimer’s Association, Dementia Friendly Washoe County, and the Sanford Center for Healthy Aging.

2019 Event Highlights

Healthy Parks Healthy People 5K Fun Run & Walk

Over 200 community members joined the Parks Foundation to celebrate our regional parks and open spaces, while improving their health and wellness. The event includes a free kids obstacle course to get the next generation of park-lovers active!

Amplify Life Hike

In 2019, the Parks Foundation partnered with local non-profit, Amplify Life, to host an interpretive hike at Mayberry Park for children and adults with disabilities in our community.

Member Appreciation Events

Without support from generous members, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation would not exist. To show our gratitude, the Parks Foundation hosts member appreciation events throughout the year, including exclusive hikes and camping trips held in various parks and trails in the region.
STEWARDSHIP THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation is fortunate enough to have outstanding volunteers that engage in rewarding stewardship opportunities in our local parks. Ongoing positions and volunteer events take place throughout the year for motivated groups or individuals that want to make a positive impact on their parks, environment, and community.

2019 NUMBERS

- 2,287 Volunteer Hours
- 21,000 Pounds of Debris and Invasive Vegetation Removed
- 272,400 Dog Waste Bags Distributed
- 688 Volunteers

DOGIE AMBASSADOR PROJECT

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.

DID YOU TIE THE BAG?

Unsecured bags can still spread bacteria when dumped. Please clean up waste, tie bags, and properly dispose of pet waste to prevent the spread of harmful bacteria. Just this one action can help keep our parks, open spaces, and waterways healthy!

FISCAL SPONSORSHIP

WHAT IS FISCAL SPONSORSHIP?

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 under the Parks Foundation’s exempt status that aligns with the Parks Foundation’s mission. Through these partnerships, community members are able to get more done for local parks.

SOMERSETT 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 July of 2019, construction commenced on this stunning park that will include amenities such as a community garden, family play area, a small and large dog park and connectivity to an extensive trail system.

IN 2019, the Parks Foundation raised $26,900 for Somersett West Park.

BIGGEST LITTLE DOG PARK

In 2017, the Biggest Little Dog Park Coalition and the City of Reno teamed up 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 2019, the Biggest Little Dog Park entered Phase II fundraising efforts. Phase II funding has installed park improvements such as the “Biggest Little Dog Park” arch, artistic pet silhouettes around the perimeter fencing and additional seating. Fundraising efforts are still underway for additional landscaping features.

IN 2019, the Parks Foundation raised $34,478 for the Biggest Little Dog Park.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation is in the early planning stages of the following projects:

- Baseball Fields at Lemmon Valley Park
- Proposed Sutcliffe Community Park
- Mira Loma Park Pickleball Courts
PARKS, TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

WHY?
Our neighborhood playgrounds are in disrepair, our pools have limited operational hours and our many walking trails need to be resurfaced and renewed. Parks and recreation departments in the region are suffering from a backlog of maintenance and park capital improvement projects like never before. Despite economic recovery since the 2008 recession, parks departments continue to operate with inadequate staffing levels and pre-recession budgets resulting in significant operational issues.

WHAT CAN WE DO?
In 2017, citizens concerned with the state of our parks successfully passed legislation allowing for the formation of parks districts in Nevada (A.B. 379). A parks district will provide a dedicated funding source to sustainably maintain and enhance our parks, trails and open spaces.

A PARKS DISTRICT WILL:

**IMPROVE**
- Effectiveness, efficiency and accountability to citizens;

**ADDRESS**
- Population growth and demands on existing and new park facilities and amenities;

**FIX**
- Unfunded deferred maintenance;

**ENHANCE**
- Our trail and open space system;

**FOCUS**
- Needed attention on public lands and parks along the Truckee River.

WHAT’S NEXT?
Initiation of a ‘service plan’.

Our elected officials (county commissioners and/or city council members) must initiate a ‘service plan.’ This will determine the financial feasibility, boundaries and scope of responsibilities and description of services of a district. This service plan is just a first step to determine how a parks district would operate in northern Nevada. It alone would not create a new district—that step will follow with a vote of the people.

The Parks Foundation’s Board of Directors supports this service plan development and is actively working to develop the strategies to forward its development. Staff will continue to keep the Parks Foundation members and community advocates informed of the progress towards this important goal.

PROPOSED TRUCKEE MEADOWS NATURE STUDY AREA

In 2019, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation initiated the planning phase of restoring the property formerly known as Rosewood Lakes Golf Course to a functional wetland system. The vision is to establish and steward a publicly accessible Great Basin wetland habitat where the community can come to learn about and appreciate the importance of our natural open spaces and local parks.

With a grant from the National Parks Service and support from over 30 community partners, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation conducted multiple public forums throughout 2019 to garner community input for the design and implementation of a master plan. The master plan will be presented to Reno City Council in early 2020 with a small portion of the property opening in the late summer of 2020.

In September of 2019, AmeriCorps Wetland Restoration Technicians began their service at the proposed Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area. Members have been instrumental in beginning the restoration efforts, from removing invasive vegetation to surveying locations for future trails. The Parks Foundation’s efforts will culminate in the establishment of a publicly accessible nature study area that offers an array of educational and recreational activities for community members of all ages.

REI RESTORATION DAY

On June 15th, 120 individuals participated in an extensive community clean up at the proposed Truckee Meadow Nature Study Area. Volunteers removed over 21,000 pounds of waste, debris, and invasive plant vegetation! Participants of all ages dedicated three hours of their Saturday to invest in their open spaces and waterways. This special event was made possible through partnerships with REI and American Rivers.

YOU CAN SUPPORT THE FUTURE

Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area by donating today or volunteering at the next restoration cleanup event!

American Rivers
NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP

you can support
the future
Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area by donating today or volunteering at the next restoration cleanup event!
AMERICORPS

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 in the Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area Project. 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 2019 – 2020:
- Washoe County Health District
- Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space
- City of Reno Parks, Recreation, and Community Service

State and National Host Site Placement 2019 – 2020:
- Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful
- Desert Research Institute
- Wilbur D. May Arboretum
- Desert Farming Initiative
- The Greenhouse Project
- Urban Roots
- Envirolution
- Carson Water Subconservancy District
- River Wranglers
- Sierra Nevada Journeys
- One Truckee River

RECOGNIZING THOSE THAT GIVE BACK

Volunteers of the Year: Jeff & Eileen Bidwell
Jeff and Eileen Bidwell have been volunteering with the Parks Foundation since 2017. They started serving as two of our earliest and most dedicated Doggie Ambassador volunteers, and they routinely help with different events like invasive species removals and Reno DogFest. In 2019, Jeff and Eileen volunteered over 45 hours with the Parks Foundation. Time is our most valuable resource and we sincerely thank Jeff and Eileen for their generosity and dedication to serving at Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation.

Member of the Year: Nate Tippie
Nate has gone above and beyond in all aspects of stewardship and service throughout 2019. He is known for always lending a hand by participating in invasive species removals, community cleanups, guided hikes, and campout events. Nate has provided additional community support and outreach by volunteering at events such as Meet the Turkeys. Nate brings a warm smile and kind words to all he meets. We are so proud to work alongside such a vibrant and passionate young man in our community. Thank you, Nate!

Community Partner of the Year: Gear Hut
Family-owned outdoor gear consignment shop, Gear Hut, has been an outstanding community partner throughout 2019. Owners Rusty and Leah hosted the Parks Foundation as their non-profit partner of the month, truly share the Parks Foundations values and beliefs in protecting our parks and open spaces, and are exemplary Truckee Meadows Trails Challenge participants. Thank you, Gear Hut for being an important community partner!
With an immediate need to define the organization’s future through a multi-year strategic plan, Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation’s board of directors, advisory board, staff, and government partners participated in a one-day planning session with Deanna Ackerman of Advanced Development Executives.

The strategic planning session facilitated a common direction and a shared vision of the future. In implementing the Strategic Plan, the Parks Foundation is taking a comprehensive approach—one that recognizes the immediate need to continue programming and advocacy, while also putting resources into the future of the Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area.

THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS FOCUSED ON THREE BIG QUESTIONS:

1. **Do the Parks Foundation’s programs and projects fit within the mission?**
2. **What is the Parks Foundation doing to support parks, open spaces, trails and government partners?**
3. **How can we expand the Parks Foundation’s reach and impact?**

GOING INTO THE STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS, THE GOAL WAS TO ESTABLISH A PLAN THAT INCLUDED:

1. **Re-articulation of the mission.**
2. **Conceptualization of a focused Parks Foundation that is more purposeful in its niche.**
3. **Consensus on agreed goals for the next three years.**

The strategic planning session facilitated a common direction and a shared vision of the future. In implementing the Strategic Plan, the Parks Foundation is taking a comprehensive approach—one that recognizes the immediate need to continue programming and advocacy, while also putting resources into the future of the Truckee Meadows Nature Study Area.

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. Programs operating under the Parks Foundation’s Healthy Parks Healthy People: Truckee Meadows initiative are designed to connect community members with nature while providing outdoor experiences for some of our most vulnerable community members.

MEMBERSHIP

**Inspire lifelong connection with your outdoor spaces by donating today!**

TRUCKEE MEADOWS PARKS FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT