

Appendix A: Park and Recreation Facility Inventory



Table A-1: Sparks Parks & Facility Inventory by Classification

PARK CLASSIFICATION	Total Park Acres ¹	SPORTS FIELDS ^{L = Lighted}				OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES ^{L = Lighted}										INDOOR FACILITIES				AQUATIC FACILITIES			TRAILS		AMENITIES							OTHER AMENITIES AND FACILITIES	
		Baseball Field	Youth Ball Field	Softball Field	Multi-Use Field	Basketball Court	1/2 Court Basketball	Tennis Court	Handball Court	Volleyball Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Bocce Ball Courts	Backstop	Par Course	Playground	Skate Park	Gym	Meeting Room	Fitness Center	Other	Pool	Tot Pool	Waterfront Access	Multi-Use	Walking Path	Restrooms	Concessions	Parking	Picnic Area	Grills	Canopy		Benches
Regional Park (RP)																																	
Golden Eagle Regional Park	447.8	4 ^L	2 ^L	6 ^L	3 ^L	-	-	-	-	4	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	•	•	•	•	•				•	Pro Shop and restaurant, overlook viewpoint
Wedekind Regional Park	270.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	•	•			•	•			•	Leased from BLM; 2 trailheads, disc golf, outdoor classroom, historic/interpretative signage	
<i>Regional Park Subtotal</i>	<i>718.3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>		
Community Parks (CP)																																	
Pah Rah Mountain Park	16.5	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	4	-	1	1	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•			•	•	•	•	•	•	Canopies (2)
<i>Community Parks Subtotal</i>	<i>16.5</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>		
Neighborhood Parks (NP)																																	
Aimone Park	3.6	-	-	1	-	-	-	2 ^L	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	Tables
Antelope Ridge Park	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	Shade structure (large)
Bitterbrush Park	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•						
Bodega Park	2.4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	
Burgess Park	6.1	-	-	1	-	-	-	3 ^L	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•		•		•	•			•	•	
Canyon Hills Park	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	Canopies (3)
Church Park	2.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-					•					•	Adjacent to Senior Center; across street from Recreation Center
Coyote Springs Park	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•					•	
Del Cobre Park	5.1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Jacinto Park	3.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Kestrel Park	2.7	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•				•	•			•	•	
Les Hicks Jr Park	1.8	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Longford Park	4.3	-	-	-	-	-	1	2 ^L	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Maldonado Park	25.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	Canopies (3); on vista; adjacent to elementary school
Oppio Park	5.2	-	-	-	1	-	-	3 ^L	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•			•	•			•	•	Amphitheater, pool demolished in 2012/13
Pagni Ranch Park	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	Canopies (3), Historic building
Pelican Park	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•				•	•	Climbing rock, canopies
Poulakidas Park	3.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	
Red Hawk Park	1.0	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•				•	•	
Sage Canyon Park	12.9	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Shelly Park	4.1	-	-	-	-	1	-	2 ^L	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Tumbleweed Trails Park	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Van Meter Park	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Village Green Park	1.6	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Vista View Park	2.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	
Willowcreek Park	5.3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•			•	•	Historic building
Woodtrail Park	2.6	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•	•	•	•	•	•	
<i>Neighborhood Parks Subtotal</i>	<i>118.7</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>13</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>20</i>		
Pocket Parks (PP)																																	
Bandstand Park	0.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Gazebo across from Transit Center
Lillard Park	0.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Climbing rock
Sparks Memorial Park	0.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Gazebo, stream
Wildcreek Park	20.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•				•				•	•	
<i>Pocket Parks Subtotal</i>	<i>22.2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>		

APPENDIX A: PARK AND RECREATION FACILITY INVENTORY

PARK CLASSIFICATION	Total Park Acres ¹	SPORTS FIELDS ^{L = Lighted}				OUTDOOR RECREATION FACILITIES ^{L = Lighted}										INDOOR FACILITIES				AQUATIC FACILITIES			TRAILS		AMENITIES							OTHER AMENITIES AND FACILITIES			
		Baseball Field	Youth Ball Field	Softball Field	Multi-Use Field	Basketball Court	1/2 Court Basketball	Tennis Court	Handball Court	Volleyball Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Bocce Ball Courts	Backstop	Par Course	Playground	Skate Park	Gym	Meeting Room	Fitness Center	Other	Pool	Tot Pool	Waterfront Access	Multi-Use	Walking Path	Restrooms	Concessions	Parking	Picnic Area	Grills	Canopy		Benches		
Special Use Parks (SU)																																			
Alf Sorensen Community Center	2.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	1	1	1	1				•		•								Kitchen
Ardmore Park/Larry D. Johnson Community Center	3.7	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	2	1	2	-	-			•	•		•	•			•	•		Dance/aerobics room, The Club (teen center operated by Boys & Girls Club)	
Deer Park	3.3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-			•	•		•	•	•	•	•		Stage; historic cottonwood trees		
Gandolfo Rodeo Arena	40.6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				•		•	•		•			Rodeo arena, holding pens; site leased to association		
Recreation Park/Recreation Center	5.4	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	-	-	-	-				•		•	•		•			Canopies (4)		
Rose Garden Park	1.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•		•			•	•			•		Gazebo; stream; rose garden		
Sparks Senior Center	1.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				•		•						Operated by Washoe County Senior Services Department (WCSSD); adjacent to Church park		
Shadow Mountain Sports Complex	49.5		10	4	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-				•	•		•							
Sparks Marina Park	109.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	2	-							•	•	•	•	•	•	•		•	•		Beaches (2), fishing pier, dog park; canopies (2), lake (77 acres)		
Victorian Square (Plaza and Amphitheater)	N/A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-			•	•		•					•	Entire Square with roads closed is 30 ac in size, including the Plaza. Amphitheater reopened in 2013 after several years closure.		
<i>Special Use Parks Subtotal</i>	<i>216.1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>			
Riverfront Parks (RFP)																																			
Cottonwood Park	6.0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•		•		•	•	•						
Fisherman's Park	5.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•					•							
Gateway Park	4.1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•					•							
Glendale Park	10.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•		•		•	•	•						
Rock Park	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•		•		•	•					Whitewater Park; pavilions (3)		
<i>Riverfront Parks Subtotal</i>	<i>30.3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>				
Greenbelts (GB)																																			
Eastland Hills Greenbelt	3.3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-														
Sparks Boulevard Greenbelt	14.2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		•												
Truckee River Greenbelt	37.4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•												
<i>Greenbelt Subtotal</i>	<i>54.9</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>				
Total Parks and Facilities	1,176.9	4	12	12	8	9	19	15	0	2	16	20	2	3	4	57	1	2	5	2	5	2	1	8	11	33	17	3	43	37	7	31	28		

¹The total park acreage includes the entire park parcel that is owned by the City of Sparks. (Source: Sparks GIS and Parks & Recreation Department)

Table A-2: Inventory of Parks & Recreation Facilities Provided by Other Agencies

	Park Acres	Reservable	SPORTS FIELDS ^{L = Lighted}				OUTDOOR ATHLETIC / RECREATION FACILITIES											INDOOR FACILITIES			AQUATIC FACILITIES			TRAILS		AMENITIES					NOTES				
			Baseball Field	Youth Ball Field	Softball Field	Multi-Use Field	Basketball Court	1/2 Court Basketball	Tennis Court	Handball Court	Skate Park	Volleyball Courts	Horseshoe Courts	Bocce Ball Courts	Backstop	Other Facility	Par Course	Playground	Gym	Meeting Room	Fitness Center	Pool	Tot-Pool	Water Front Access	Multi-Use	Walking Path	Restrooms	Concessions	Picnic Area	Grills		Canopy	Benches		
Washoe County School District																																			
Agnes Risley ES	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									Multi-use field is for soccer	
Alice Maxwell ES	-		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-										
Bud Beasley ES	-		-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-										
Florence Drake ES	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-										
Greenbrae ES	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-										
Jerry Whitehead ES	-		-	-	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									Multi-use fields are dirt	
Kate Smith ES	-		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-										
Katherine Dunn ES	-		-	-	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	•									Raymond Jayo Memorial Park; soccer (overlay) 1 field; Track	
Lena Juniper ES	-		-	-	-		-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									Multi-use fields are dirt	
Lincoln Park ES	-		-	-	-	1	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	•									Open grass area	
Lloyd Diedrichsen ES	-		-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-									Open play area	
Marvin Moss ES	-		-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	•										
Miguel Sepulveda ES	-		-	-	-		3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-										
Robert Mitchell ES	-		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-										
Dilworth MS	-		-	2	-	2	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	•									Multi-use fields (1) soccer (overlay), (1) football	
Mendive MS	-		-	2	-	2	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	•									Multi-use fields (1) youth softball, (2) soccer (overlay), Track, youth ball fields are (1) baseball (1) youth softball	
Sparks MS	-	•	-	4	-	3	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	•	•								Multi-use fields (2) soccer (overlay), (1) T-ball field	
Reed HS	-		-	2	2	2	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									Multi-use fields (1) football, (1) soccer (overlay), Track	
Sparks HS	-		1	-	1	1	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-									Multi-use fields (1) football, Track, baseball field is stadium	
<i>School District Subtotal</i>		-	1	13	3	18	18	10	5	-	-	1	-	-	10	1	-	14	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
Other Jurisdiction Parks																																			
Fisherman's Park (Reno)	10.2		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	•										
Teglias Paradise Park (Reno)	38.4	•	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-										Activity center, community garden
Lazy 5 Regional Park (Washoe)	84.9		-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	-										County library, meeting space
Pinion Park (State)	0.9																																		
BLM	142.9																																		
<i>Other Jurisdiction Parks Subtotal</i>		277.3	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	3	1	-	-	-	-		
Total Other Recreation Resources		-	2	13	3	19	18	10	5	0	1	1	0	0	10	2	1	17	19	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	0		

Appendix B: Program and Events Criteria



EVENT EVALUATION SCORECARD

Category	Criteria
What is/are the objectives?	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote tourism <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance the City's economy <input type="checkbox"/> Stimulate civic pride
What is the scale?	<input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> Local
What is the event tenure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Legacy <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> New
How many event days will it create?	
<i>For events intended to promote tourism or enhance the City's economy</i>	
Anticipated number of visitors from outside Sparks	
Anticipated number of volunteers	
Projected number of hotel nights	
Event location	
Event dates or timeframe	
Does Sparks recommend TourMark funding?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>For events intended to stimulate civic pride</i>	
Anticipated number of attendees	
Anticipated number of volunteers	
Is sponsor or partner experienced with event production?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Event location	
Does the event target any of these target populations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Families <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> At risk youth/families
Does the event have a tie to health and wellness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the event help create neighborhood identity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

PROGRAM EVALUATION SCORECARD

Category	Criteria
What is/are the objectives?	<input type="checkbox"/> Promote tourism <input type="checkbox"/> Enhance the City's economy <input type="checkbox"/> Stimulate civic pride
What is the scale?	<input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Regional <input type="checkbox"/> Local
What is the event tenure?	<input type="checkbox"/> Legacy <input type="checkbox"/> Emerging <input type="checkbox"/> New
How many event days will it create?	
<i>For events intended to promote tourism or enhance the City's economy</i>	
Anticipated number of visitors from outside Sparks	
Anticipated number of volunteers	
Projected number of hotel nights	
Event location	
Event dates or timeframe	
Does Sparks recommend TourMark funding?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<i>For events intended to stimulate civic pride</i>	
Anticipated number of attendees	
Anticipated number of volunteers	
Is sponsor or partner experienced with event production?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Event location	
Does the event target any of these target populations?	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth <input type="checkbox"/> Families <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic/Latino <input type="checkbox"/> At risk youth/families
Does the event have a tie to health and wellness?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the event help create neighborhood identity?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Appendix C: Park Development Guidelines



Appendix C. Park Development Guidelines

The Park Development Guidelines provide direction and best practices for park improvements and development. The guidelines are based on the goals and recommendations of the Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan and set forth specific design and development parameters to assist City staff, developers and the public with future investments to the park system.

This appendix presents general guidelines for all parks first, followed by specific guidelines for neighborhood and community parks.

Application and Intent

These guidelines apply to park renovation and development within the City of Sparks. The purpose of the guidelines is to encourage well-designed public spaces and support maintenance and management efficiencies. These guidelines should be used during the development review process for new parks to plan capital projects at existing parks and to supplement the City's existing *Design Standards Manual* where applicable.

General Guidelines

The general guidelines apply to all park development and renovation projects.

A. SITING AND LAND QUALITY

- A-1. Ensure that the park site is of a size and shape suitable for park use. Proposed park sites that include non-contiguous parcels or that are of an irregular shape not conducive to park use should not be considered.
- A-2. Avoid acquiring land with conditions or elements that restrict the function, development or usability of the land, such as underground or overhead utilities, easements or other development restrictions. In addition, avoid acquiring park land with brownfield designation or other known environmental risks.
- A-3. Ensure that adequate water is available at potential park sites, whether through the municipal water system or through other means such as an on-site well, joint-use well or water rights.
- A-4. Ensure that sites are visible from adjacent streets.

- A-5. Where feasible, locate each park site adjacent to planned off-street trails to enhance park access and connect recreation facilities to the non-motorized system.
- A-6. Locate each park site in an area that is reasonably central to the neighborhood or area it is intended to serve. Where feasible, locate new parks adjacent to schools or other publicly owned facilities to maximize usability.
- A-7. Where feasible, incorporate unique or significant natural elements such as hillsides, cultural features or historical elements within parks for recreation and preservation.

B. PLANNING AND DESIGN

- B-1. For each proposed park, prepare a site master plan or site design involving all key players in the master planning and design process. Include nearby neighbors, schools, interest groups, maintenance and recreation staff, so that the following considerations are addressed:
 - Maintenance;
 - Lifecycle costs;
 - Public safety;
 - Recreation programming;
 - ADA accessibility; and
 - Public desires and recreation trends.
- B-2. When master planning and designing parks, be responsive to local conditions including topography, weather and natural lighting, site context and neighborhood character.
- B-3. Ensure that all buildings and structures—including facilities planned to be leased, managed or used by other groups—are consistent with the character and style of the park and are adequate to meet the need for which they were created.
- B-4. Locate buildings and structures to conserve energy and resources. Incorporate daylighting into built structures, but minimize heat gain. Where possible, incorporate solar panels.
- B-5. Locate amenities, such as playground equipment and basketball courts, to be highly visible from adjoining streets while considering impacts on adjacent land uses, including impacts associated with noise, traffic and lights. Locate active

recreation amenities, such as basketball courts and sports fields, away from neighboring homes.

- B-6. Locate restrooms in highly visible areas (to reduce vandalism risks and increase safety) and close to the recreation facilities they are intended to serve.
- B-7. Position play spaces a minimum of 50' from street or parking areas, when park configuration permits. When play areas are closer than 25' to arterial or collector streets, consider incorporating a fence, at a maximum of 3' in height.
- B-8. Design sports fields and sports courts with a north-south orientation where feasible.
- B-9. Preserve and enhance existing viewscales.

C. SITE ELEMENTS AND AMENITIES

- C-1. Provide site identification signage and appropriate site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.) for the intended size, scale and use of the park.
- C-2. Ensure that a sufficient number of restrooms or stalls are provided to meet typical average capacity for the park during regular programmed use. Additional portable restrooms may be provided for special events that exceed regular park attendance.
- C-3. Design lighting systems and select fixtures that minimize light pollution and conform to adopted City standards.
- C-4. Provide lighting where appropriate in parks to extend the use of outdoor facilities, such as event venues, sport fields, skate parks, basketball courts and children's play areas. Avoid lighting in neighborhood parks where it would impact neighboring homes.
- C-5. Provide concrete slabs under and around picnic tables, water fountains, information kiosks/signage, trash receptacles, etc., where foot traffic is likely to damage surrounding turf.
- C-6. Include slab anchors for furnishings that must be chained for security, to avoid chaining park furnishings to trees.
- C-7. Integrate shade into all parks through the use of shade structures and vegetation. Provide shade near or over playgrounds, picnic areas and seating areas to encourage prolonged use. Provide shade in parking areas to reduce heat island

effects. Ensure that there is shade dispersed throughout the park, along pathways and near other use areas.

- a. Plant trees with dense foliage and wide-spreading canopies to incorporate natural shade into parks.
- b. Use shade structures to compliment natural shade. Consider wind conditions and other use factors to determine whether to use permanent structures (shelters, pergolas and verandas), demountable shade (marquees and tents), adjustable systems (awnings), shade sails or portable shade structures.

C-8. Consider reflected UV radiation when selecting ground surfaces. For example, consider using brick, crushed rock or grass instead of smooth concrete around shade structures and in high-use areas to reduce reflection and glare.

C-9. Emphasize drought-tolerant plant species in landscape plans.

C-10. Blend landscaping ecologically and visually with the existing native vegetation. When appropriate, provide non-native trees and plants fully adaptable to the area's environmental conditions that are visually compatible, provide beauty and avert losses caused by overdependence on a single species.

C-11. Provide turf only where it contributes to recreation opportunities. Consider lawn substitutes which require less fertilizers, water consumption and mowing than traditional lawns.

C-12. Prioritize water conservation technology in irrigation systems, drinking fountains, water features and restrooms, exceeding minimum requirements where feasible. Where appropriate, integrate rainwater harvesting features into park landscapes.

C-13. Create designated special event areas within parks to provide necessary electrical and water infrastructure and minimize the impact of vehicles on lawns, tree roots and plants.

D. ENTRY/ACCESSIBILITY

D-1. Provide a main gateway or entry point which gives a sense of arrival and entry. Larger parks may warrant more than one gateway.

D-2. Place the site identification signage at each park gateway (entry road, pedestrian entrance or driveway) to be visible from the public right-of-way.

- D-3. Design attractive, inviting park entrances with wide entries that are easily accessible and not obstructed by park support amenities (such as portable restrooms, trash receptacles, fencing, etc.).
- D-4. Connect parks to surrounding neighborhoods by sidewalks, bike routes and/or off-street trails to provide multiple ways of accessing parks. Where possible, locate a park entry near a bus stop or crosswalk.
- D-5. Design parks using universal access principles to facilitate access and movement within parks for people of all ages and abilities. Ensure that elements such as playgrounds, picnic tables, drinking fountains and benches are accessible to all users and abilities and meet the most current ADA requirements.
- D-6. Connect elements within the park with an accessible hard-surfaced trail.
- D-7. Design at least one pathway to accommodate maintenance and emergency vehicle access. When appropriate or needed, include a separate entry for maintenance vehicles away from the main entry and away from active play areas.

Neighborhood Park Guidelines

Neighborhood parks are small parks that provide recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance (generally a half mile) of residents. These parks are designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities and play, and are not intended to serve visitors or to draw people from throughout Sparks. Examples of neighborhood parks in Sparks include Aimone Park, Del Cobre Park, Van Meter Park and Woodtrail Park.

INTENT

Neighborhood parks should:

- Provide close-to-home recreation opportunities for residents of all ages;
- Contribute to neighborhood character and identity;
- Serve the recreation needs of families;
- Support individual health and wellness; and
- Provide green space and shade.

SIZE AND ACCESS

Neighborhood parks should conform to the following size and access guidelines.

- **Location:** The park should be reasonably central to the neighborhood or area it is intended to serve, unless it is co-located near an existing school, public facility, or off-street trail.
- **Park Access:** Site access should be provided via a local street with sidewalks, not an arterial.
- **Residential Access:** If residential uses abut the park site, additional access points from the adjoining neighborhood should be provided.
- **Minimum Size:** Two acres, all of which should be relatively level, developable and usable as recreation space. Site may incorporate additional acreage as open space, slopes, or natural areas.
- **Frontage:** Site should front at least one local street. Provide two street frontages if feasible.

MINIMUM REQUIRED RESOURCES

Neighborhood parks should contain all of the following minimum resources.

- NP-1. Playground equipment or comparable creative play environment for ages 2-5 and ages 6-12 (or combined), including climbing apparatus and swings.
- NP-2. Flat, open turf area for unstructured play.
- NP-3. At least one small picnic/shade shelter with picnic tables (accommodating at least 16-20 people).
- NP-4. An additional activity area. Examples include a community garden, off-leash dog area, sports court, sports field or other resources listed as compatible.
- NP-5. Appropriate site furnishings (benches, bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, picnic tables, etc.) for the intended size and use of the park. Seatwalls offer an alternative to benches.
- NP-6. General landscape improvements (including tree planting for shade and windbreaks).
- NP-7. Accessible pathway connecting all park elements.
- NP-8. Hard-surfaced looped pathway, preferably a measured distance. The looped pathway may incorporate or serve as the accessible pathway connecting park elements.

COMPATIBLE RESOURCES TO CONSIDER

The following park and recreation resources are compatible with the purpose of neighborhood parks, if provided at an appropriate scale.

- Community garden.
- Off-leash dog area.
- Sports field for practice or games (soccer, baseball, softball), youth-sized. Lighting may be considered, if it does not impact neighbors.
- Sports court, one or more (basketball, tennis, volleyball, bocce, shuffleboard). Lighting may be considered, if it does not impact neighbors.
- Other small-scale active recreation resources (e.g., climbing rock, horseshoes, skate spot).
- Additional or larger picnic area (covered by a shelter structure or uncovered).
- Berm for use as tumbling hill, hillslide or viewpoint.
- Public art or decorative site amenities that represent the cultural, historical or environmental character of the site or its context.
- Permanent, single occupancy restrooms that are distinctive and separate from other park buildings.
- Off-street parking.

RESOURCES TO AVOID

Some park and recreation resources should be avoided at neighborhood parks because they are inappropriately scaled, require too much maintenance or are incompatible with the neighborhood park purpose. The following resources should be avoided at neighborhood parks:

- Swimming pools;
- Recreation centers;
- Sports complexes;
- Amphitheaters;
- Display gardens or arboreta; and
- Other recreation facilities intended to draw a community-wide audience or attract visitors.

Community Park Guidelines

Community parks are medium-sized parks that include a mix of active and passive recreation facilities that serve multiple neighborhoods and may attract people from throughout the city, as well as visitors to Sparks. Community parks include recreation facilities found in neighborhood parks and support large group activities, organized recreation and self-directed activities. They require more support amenities such as parking, restrooms, etc., than neighborhood parks. Their service area is approximately one to two miles. Pah Rah Mountain Park is the City's only community park.

INTENT

Community parks should:

- Provide a diversity of recreation opportunities to appeal to all ages and support a variety of interests;
- Have a distinct identity to foster community livability and civic pride;
- Support individual and community health and wellness;
- Provide opportunities for group gatherings and social and cultural activities; and
- Provide green space.

SIZE AND ACCESS

Community parks should conform to the following size and access guidelines.

- **Location:** The site should be reasonably central to the area it is intended to serve (residences within 1 to 2 miles of the site).
- **Park Access:** Site access should be provided via a collector or arterial street with sidewalks and bicycle lanes. The park should be connected to the off-street trail network, if feasible.
- **Residential Access:** If residential uses abut the park site, additional access points from the adjoining neighborhood should be provided.
- **Minimum Size:** 10 acres, all of which should be relatively level, developable and usable. Larger parks (e.g., 15-18 acres) are preferred.
- **Frontage:** The site should front a collector or arterial street.

MINIMUM REQUIRED RESOURCES

Community parks should contain all of the following minimum resources.

- CP-1. Large, unique, thematic or innovative play equipment for ages 2-5 and ages 6-12, including climbing apparatus and swings.
- CP-2. Flat, open turf area for unstructured play.
- CP-3. One large group picnic area, with shade shelter, tables, barbecues and appropriate amenities to serve a minimum of 75-100 people.
- CP-4. At least one small group picnic area, sized to serve a minimum of 16-20 people.
- CP-5. One or more sports field(s), suitable for games and practices. Lighting is preferred. Artificial turf may be considered. As of the 2013 Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan, Sparks had a great need for soccer/multi-use fields. Until Sparks increases its inventory, soccer/multi-use fields should be the priority for fields in community parks.
- CP-6. One or more sports courts (basketball, tennis, volleyball, bocce, shuffleboard).
- CP-7. At least one additional recreation resource. See the list of “Compatible Resources to Consider” for options.
- CP-8. Permanent, single occupancy restrooms that are distinctive and separate from other park buildings.
- CP-9. Accessible pathway connecting park elements.
- CP-10. Hard-surfaced looped pathway, preferably a measured distance. The looped pathway may incorporate or serve as the accessible pathway connecting park elements.
- CP-11. General landscape improvements (including tree planting for shade and windbreaks).
- CP-12. Public art, decorative site amenities or thematic park structures that represent the cultural, historical or environmental character of the site or its context.
- CP-13. Appropriate site furnishings (picnic tables, benches, covered bike racks, drinking fountains, trash receptacles, etc.). Seatwalls offer an alternative to benches.
- CP-14. Off-street parking to meet the average demand generated by park elements. Site uses to share parking and maximize parking lot efficiency/use.

COMPATIBLE RESOURCES TO CONSIDER

The following recreational resources should be considered within the design and development of community parks. All compatible resources should fit with the intended scale and character of the site and neighboring uses.

- Swimming pool¹
- Indoor recreation center¹
- Sports complex¹
- Sprayground or waterplay area
- Disc golf course
- Skate park
- Bike facility (skills area, pump track, BMX course, mountain bike trail)
- Off-leash dog area
- Community garden
- Destination/thematic playground (custom-designed)
- Other small-scale active recreation resources (e.g., climbing rock, horseshoes, skate spot)
- Other recreation facilities intended to draw a community-wide audience or attract visitors.
- Additional picnic areas (covered by a shelter structure or uncovered)
- Outdoor amphitheater or band shell
- Berm for use as tumbling hill, hillside or viewpoint.
- Infrastructure to support events and programs (electricity, water)
- Concession stand/snack bar
- Interpretive exhibit/feature
- Winter recreation facilities (sledding hill, seasonal ice rink)
- Storage or maintenance buildings: If visible, these should be architecturally compatible with other park elements. Any exterior work areas should be screened from view.

¹ Business plan required.

Appendix D: Capital Projects List



Table D-1: Sparks Capital Projects List

PARK CLASSIFICATION	PARK ACRES		CAPITAL PROJECT TYPE						CAPITAL PROJECTS PLANNING-LEVEL COSTS	ANNUAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		Notes
	Developed	Total Park Acres	Master Planning/Business Planning	Design and Construction Documents	New Development	Major Renovation	Major Maintenance and Reinvestment	Transfer		Classification	Allowance ²	
Regional Park (RP)												
Golden Eagle Regional Park	100.0	447.8				•		\$ 14,000,000	Revenue-Generating	\$ 800,000	Add new multi-purpose fields. Resurface fields when turf wears out.	
Wedekind Regional Park	10.0	270.4					•	\$ 250,000	Natural Area	\$ 10,000	Maintain as natural area. Reinvest in trail system to maintain its usability.	
<i>Total</i>									\$ 14,250,000	\$ 810,000		
Community Parks (CP)												
Pah Rah Mountain Park	16.5	16.5					•	\$ 3,273,000	Standard	\$ 82,500	Reinvest in site assets.	
Community Park CP1 ³	18.0	18.0	•	•	•			\$ 7,300,000	Standard	\$ 90,000	Build per recommended Development Guidelines.	
Community Park CP2 ³	18.0	18.0	•	•	•			\$ 7,300,000	Standard	\$ 90,000	Build per recommended Development Guidelines.	
Community Park CP3 ³	18.0	18.0	•	•	•			\$ 7,300,000	Standard	\$ 90,000	Build per recommended Development Guidelines.	
Community Park CP4 ³	18.0	18.0	•	•	•			\$ 7,300,000	Standard	\$ 90,000	Build per recommended Development Guidelines.	
<i>Total</i>									\$ 32,473,000	\$ 442,500		
Neighborhood Parks (NP)												
Aimone Park	3.6	3.6		•		•		\$ 745,000	Standard	\$ 18,000	Renovate this park and upgrade the amenities within it	
Antelope Ridge Park	3.0	3.0				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 15,000	Reinvest in this parks and upgrade the amenities within it	
Bitterbrush Park	2.0	2.6				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 10,000	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Bodega Park	1.6	2.4				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 7,800	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Burgess Park	6.1	6.1		•		•		\$ 526,000	Standard	\$ 30,500	Better pedestrian crossing of Pyramid Way at NE corner; sports courts and field improvements and lighting, new picnic shelter and restroom.	
Canyon Hills Park	1.3	3.0				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 6,600	Update the amenities within this park.	
Church Park	2.3	2.3				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 11,700	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Coyote Springs Park	0.6	0.6				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 3,100	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Del Cobre Park	4.4	5.1				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 21,900	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Foothills Future Park #1 ³	2.0	2.0	•	•				\$ 963,000	Standard	\$ 10,000	Build per recommended Development Guidelines.	
Foothills Future Park #2 ³	2.0	2.0	•	•				\$ 963,000	Standard	\$ 10,000	Build per recommended Development Guidelines.	
Jacinto Park	3.4	3.4				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 17,000	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Kestrel Park	2.7	2.7				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 13,400	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Les Hicks Jr Park	1.8	1.8				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 9,000	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Longford Park	4.3	4.3		•		•		\$ 745,000	Standard	\$ 21,500	Add sports fields with lighting, sports courts, picnic shelter and restrooms.	
Maldonado Park	5.0	25.5				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 25,000	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Oppio Park	5.2	5.2		•		•		\$ 526,000	Standard	\$ 26,200	Add shelter and restroom, upgrade sports fields.	
Pagni Ranch Park	5.0	5.0				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 24,800	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Pelican Park	4.0	4.0				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 20,000	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Pioneer Meadows Future Park #1 ³	2.0	2.0	•	•				\$ 963,000	Standard	\$ 10,000	Build per recommended Development Guidelines.	
Poulakidas Park	3.5	3.5				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 17,500	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Red Hawk Park	1.0	1.0				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 5,100	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Sage Canyon Park	2.7	12.9				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 13,500	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Shelly Park	4.1	4.1				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 20,500	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Silverton Shores Future Park ³	2.0	2.0	•	•				\$ 963,000	Standard	\$ 10,000	Build per recommended Development Guidelines.	
Tumbleweed Trails Park	3.3	3.3				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 16,500	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Van Meter Park	2.0	2.0				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 9,800	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Village Green Park	1.6	1.6				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 7,900	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Vista View Park	2.0	2.0				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 10,000	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Willowcreek Park	4.7	5.3				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 23,700	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
Woodtrail Park	2.6	2.6				•		\$ 219,000	Standard	\$ 13,000	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.	
<i>Total</i>									\$ 11,431,000	\$ 459,000		

APPENDIX D: CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST

PARK CLASSIFICATION	PARK ACRES		CAPITAL PROJECT TYPE						CAPITAL PROJECTS PLANNING-LEVEL COSTS	ANNUAL GROUNDS MAINTENANCE		Notes
	Developed	Total Park Acres	Master Planning/Business Planning	Design and Construction Documents	New Development	Major Renovation	Major Maintenance and Reinvestment	Transfer		Classification	Allowance ²	
Pocket Parks (PP)												
Bandstand Park	0.3	0.3						•	\$ -	Beautification Area	\$ -	Reclassify as Beautification Area.
Lillard Park	0.4	0.6						•	\$ -	Beautification Area	\$ -	Reclassify as Beautification Area.
Sparks Memorial Park	0.5	0.5						•	\$ 38,000	Standard	\$ -	Reinvest as assets reach the end of their life.
Wildcreek Park	0.5	20.8						•	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	Decommission site.
<i>Total</i>									\$ 38,000		\$ -	
Special Use Parks (SU)												
Alf Sorensen Community Center	2.2	2.2	•					•	\$ 200,000	Revenue-Generating	\$ 17,700	Invest in wayfinding improvements. Building/swimming pool renovation costs are not included.
Ardmore Park/Larry D. Johnson Community Center	3.7	3.7	•					•	\$ 154,000	Standard	\$ 18,500	Develop business plan to reprogram site, transfer Park & Recreation Administration to this site, retain and reprogram neighborhood park function of Ardmore Park.
Deer Park	3.3	3.3	•	•			•		\$ 2,500,000	High Visitation	\$ 23,100	Reinvest in site assets, including swimming pool.
Gandolfo Rodeo Arena	15.0	40.6						•	\$ -	N/A	\$ -	Continue lease agreement.
Recreation Park/Recreation Center	4.9	5.4	•					•	\$ 403,000	High Visitation	\$ 34,000	Transfer Park & Recreation Administration offices and demolish this building. Continue to reinvest in grounds and site as recreation programming hub. Cost to renovate the gym is not included.
Rose Garden Park	1.4	1.4						•	\$ -	Beautification Area	\$ -	Reclassify as Beautification Area or transfer. No recreation value.
Sparks Senior Center	1.0	1.0						•	\$ 20,000	Standard	\$ 5,000	Continue practice of operation by Washoe County Senior Services Department. Do not contribute towards operations costs, but consider sharing asset reinvestment costs.
Shadow Mountain Sports Complex	24.4	49.5	•					•	\$ 1,069,000	High Visitation	\$ 171,100	Reinvest in sports fields. Consider dog park on hillside area, with added parking for access.
Sparks Marina Park	32.2	109.0	•					•	\$ 2,260,000	Revenue-Generating	\$ 258,000	Reinvest in this highly visited site according to a customized major maintenance plan.
Victorian Square (including amphitheater)	-	30.0	•	•				•	\$ 1,568,000	Revenue-Generating	\$ 40,000	Reinvest in the site to support its business plan as an event hub. Re-roof amphitheater.
<i>Total</i>									\$ 8,174,000		\$ 567,400	
Riverfront Parks (RFP)												
Cottonwood Park	3.0	6.0						•	\$ 60,000	Standard	\$ 15,100	Reinvest in trail
Fisherman's Park	5.4	5.4						•	\$ 54,000	Standard	\$ 27,000	Reinvest in trail
Gateway Park	0.6	4.1						•	\$ 41,000	Standard	\$ 3,100	Reinvest in trail
Glendale Park	1.9	10.3						•	\$ 103,000	Standard	\$ 9,400	Reinvest in trail
Rock Park	2.4	4.5	•					•	\$ 534,000	High Visitation	\$ 17,100	Business plan and parking management strategy to maximize benefit of the white water park. Add heated restroom and related improvements.
<i>Total</i>									\$ 792,000		\$ 71,700	
Greenbelts (GB)												
Eastland Hills Greenbelt	3.3	3.3						•	\$ 33,000	Natural Area	\$ 3,300	Reinvest in trail
Sparks Boulevard Greenbelt	14.2	14.2						•	\$ 142,000	Natural Area	\$ 14,200	Reinvest in trail
Truckee River Greenbelt	37.4	37.4						•	\$ 374,000	Natural Area	\$ 37,400	Reinvest in trail
Proposed Trail Fund ⁴	4.5	4.5	•	•					\$ 990,000	Natural Area	\$ 4,500	Develop new local trails and regional connectors.
<i>Total</i>									\$ 1,539,000		\$ 59,400	

¹ The total park acreage includes the entire park parcel that is owned by the City of Sparks. (Source: Sparks GIS and Parks & Recreation Department)

² Maintenance costs are for regular grounds maintenance, and does not include special events costs or costs for beautification errors, which are tracked separately.

³ The acreage and costs noted for proposed parks are based on an assumption for park size as per the Park Development Guidelines in Appendix C. The actual park size and level of development will be affected by agreements approved in developer handbooks.

⁴ The acreage and costs noted for proposed trails are based on a set-aside amount to apply toward trail construction and corridor acquisition (where needed) for local and regional off-street trails.

* The costs used in the table are based on general estimates and based on 2013 dollars and should not be used for budgeting purposes. Costs will change over time, due to inflation, escalations in materials costs and fluctuations in land costs. Costs do not reflect City administration and staff time.

Table D-2: Project Type Cost Assumptions*

	Master Planning/Business Planning Cost Unit	Design and Construction Documents Cost Unit	New Development Cost Unit	Major Renovation Cost Unit	Major Maintenance and Reinvestment Cost Unit
Community ¹	\$ 100,000 /plan	10% /developed cost	\$ 2,700,000 /site ³	50% /new development cost	25% /new development cost
			\$ 3,845,000 /package ⁴	50% /new development cost	25% /new development cost
Neighborhood ²	\$ 40,000 /plan	10% /developed cost	\$ 400,000 /site ³	50% /new development cost	25% /new development cost
			\$ 475,000 /package ⁴	50% /new development cost	25% /new development cost
Pocket Parks	-	10% /developed cost	\$ 250,000 /site ³	50% /new development cost	15% /new development cost
Special Use Parks	\$ 80,000 /plan	12% /developed cost	\$ 200,000 /acre ⁵	50% /new development cost	25% /new development cost
Riverfront Parks	\$ 40,000 /plan	10% /developed cost	\$ 200,000 /acre ⁵	50% /new development cost	25% /new development cost
Greenbelts	\$ 40,000 /plan	10% /developed cost	\$ 200,000 /acre ⁵	50% /new development cost	25% /new development cost

¹ Assumes 18-acre community park based on Park Development Guidelines.

² Assumes 2-acre neighborhood park based on Park Development Guidelines.

³ Assumes 200,000 per acre for land improvements (clearing, grading), infrastructure (parking, roads, pathways, water and sewer), and general landscaping (seeding, trees). Assumption for a package of recreation amenities based on Development Guidelines. Does not include cost of land.

⁴ Assumes a package of park amenities based on Park Development Guidelines.

⁵ Assumes 200,000 per acre, plus customized allowances for special features.

* The costs used in the table are based on general estimates and based on 2013 dollars. More detailed cost estimates should be prepared as part of the master planning and design development process, and used to refine and update the capital project list. Costs do not reflect City administration and staff time.

APPENDIX D: CAPITAL PROJECTS LIST

Table D-3: Recreational Facilities and Maintenance Cost Assumptions*

Amenity Type	Neighborhood Park Package	Community Park Package	Cost	Unit	Notes
Sports Fields					
Standard Ball Field			\$ 300,000	/field	
Enhanced Ball Field			\$ 1,200,000	/field	Artificial Turf and Lights
Standard Multi-Purpose Field	1		\$ 200,000	/field	-
Enhanced Multi-Purpose Field		2	\$ 1,000,000	/field	Artificial Turf and Lights
Artificial Turf Field Replacement			\$ 1,000,000	/field	
Sports Courts					
New basketball or tennis court		2	\$ 160,000	/court	Tennis/Multi-sports Court
Resurface basketball or tennis court			\$ 20,000	/court	1/2 Basketball Court
Playgrounds					
Large Playground - includes safety surfacing		1	\$ 300,000	/playground	
Small Playground - includes safety surfacing	1		\$ 100,000	/playground	
Picnic Shelters					
Replace/Add Shelter – Community Park Scale		1	\$ 150,000	/shelter	
Replace/Add Shelter – Neighborhood Scale	1	1	\$ 75,000	/shelter	
Trails and Greenways					
New 10-foot Paved Pathway			\$ 360	/linear foot	
Resurface 10-foot Paved Pathway			\$ 200	/linear foot	
Greenway Landscaping			\$ 10,000	/acre	
Skatepark			\$ 500,000	/facility	In-ground concrete skate park
Dog Park			\$ 50,000	/facility	Small, fenced off-leash facility
Restrooms					
Small Restroom			\$ 250,000	/each	Unisex building to City standards
Large Restroom		1	\$ 500,000	/each	Larger scale Men's/Women's restrooms with multiple fixtures
Community Park Additional Amenity Allowance		1	\$ 500,000	Allowance	
Neighborhood Park Additional Amenity Allowance	1		\$ 100,000	Allowance	
Neighborhood Park Amenity Package (small playground, small shelter, standard multi-use field and \$100,000 allowance for an additional amenity)			\$ 475,000	/park	
Community Park Amenity Package (large playground, 1 large and 1 small shelter, 2 courts, 2 enhanced multi-use fields, 1 large restroom and \$500,000 allowance for additional amenities)			\$ 3,845,000	/park	
Maintenance Costs By Category			Cost		
Natural Area			\$ 1,000	/acre	
Beautification Area**				/acre	Estimated at \$3,000-\$4,000
Standard			\$ 5,000	/acre	
High Visitation			\$ 7,000	/acre	
Revenue Generating			\$ 8,000	/acre	

* The costs used in the table are based on general estimates and based on 2013 dollars. More detailed cost estimates should be prepared as part of the master planning and design development process. and used to refine and update the capital project list. Costs do not reflect City administration and staff time.

**Maintenance costs for beautification areas are not shown here. These are tracked separately from costs for park land.

Appendix E: Potential Funding Sources



Appendix E. Potential Funding Sources

The City of Sparks has a number of funding sources to draw from to build, operate and maintain the park and recreation system. This appendix lists potential funding sources for park and recreation improvements and system operations available to the City. Most sources are limited in scope and can only be used for a specific purpose or specific area of the city. Because of these limitations, the City of Sparks will have to carefully consider all funding options to determine the best strategy for implementing system improvements. This is especially true for projects that will increase the need for future maintenance and operations funding.

This appendix is organized by a summary of existing funding sources, followed by potential funding sources for park operations and capital projects.

Funding Overview

Parks and recreation funding in Sparks has been provided through several different funds, as described below.

GENERAL FUND

Property taxes are the largest single source of revenue for the City's General Fund. In the FY12, approximately 5% of General Fund dollars were designated for Culture and Recreation. These monies (\$2.7 million) primarily supported parks maintenance functions, which were transferred from Parks & Recreation to the Community Services Department in FY12. As part of this transfer, park maintenance funding is now provided through the General Fund, rather than the Parks & Recreation Fund. The Sparks Parks & Recreation Department has received minimal General Fund support since that transfer.

General Fund revenue is comprised of six primary sources:

- **Intergovernmental Revenue:** Includes Consolidated Tax Revenue (CTAX) funds (sales tax, real property transfer tax, cigarette tax, liquor tax and the Governmental Services Tax).

- **Property Taxes**
- **Licenses & Permits:** Includes business licenses, permits and franchise fees assessed against all entities doing business in the city.
- **Charges for Services:** Includes charges from capital project funds, special revenue funds (recreation program fees) and General Fund.
- **Fines & Forfeits**
- **Miscellaneous Revenue**

SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

Specific revenue funds account for the proceeds of sources that are restricted for specific expenditures, other than major capital projects. Currently, there is one Special Revenue fund that supports parks and recreation: the Parks & Recreation Fund (Account 1221). The Parks & Recreation Department receives the majority of its operations funding from the Parks & Recreation Fund. This Special Revenue Fund is fed primarily by parks and recreation fees and charges. On occasion, this fund is also used to support capital projects.

CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS

Capital projects for parks and recreation are supported through a City-wide fund and three district funds. In the past, monies from Sparks Grants & Donations Fund (1204) and R/A Revolving Account (3401) have helped fund park capital improvements as well.

- **Park & Recreation Project Fund (1402):** This fund supports personnel and projects for “specific parks and recreation purposes.” Funding is provided by a portion of franchise fees. Sources of revenue include franchise fees from gas, electric and concessions, as well as reservation fees, gifts and bequests and interest.
- **Parks and Recreation Project Fund (Districts 1-3) (1406 - 1408):** Three funding districts were created to provide for the improvement and expansion of public parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities within the City. Financing is provided by a residential park construction tax and interest fees, which must be spent in the district where it was collected. Within Nevada, residential construction taxes may be

used to provide neighborhood parks and facilities for parks which will serve nearby neighborhoods.

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** The City relies on grants from the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a wide variety of projects. These funds are mainly used for projects and programs in the low and moderate income areas of the City.
- **Victorian Square Room Tax:** The City charges a 2.5% room tax on all lodging in Sparks and is designated for new, tourism-enhancing capital projects in Victorian Square. This source has potential for use to revitalize facilities within the Square.

Potential Funding Sources

Potential funding sources include new or alternative sources that the City may consider to fund park operations and improvements, as well as potential adjustments to existing resources used currently.

TAXES AND FEES

- **Park and Recreation Impact Fees:** An impact fee is a fee paid by developers for the impact of their residential project on the existing park system. Impact fees must be based on the current level of service to ensure that new development does not pay for any existing deficiencies in park development. Impact fees can be based on the City's cost for construction, infrastructure needs (water or sewer service), planning and land acquisition. Nevada allows cities to impose an impact fee for park development from designated service areas.¹ Currently the City of Sparks requires impact fees in the City's Northern Sphere of Influence. However, these could be considered for other areas of the city where park improvements are planned.
- **Parkland Dedication:** Sparks currently requires a park land or playground dedication as a condition of subdivision approval. The City should also consider

¹ NRS 278.4981: [the City must adopt] standards determining the amount, quality and location of land that is required to be dedicated which are based upon the number and type of dwelling units or structures, apartment houses or mobile home lots, or any combination thereof, included in each subdivision or development and give due consideration to the relative desirability and market value of the land that may be included within the area of any particular proposed subdivision or development.

requiring the dedication of land or payment of fees in lieu thereof (or a combination of both) when residential land is subdivided. The land and/or fees should be used for developing new parks or rehabilitating existing developed parks or recreational facilities to serve subdivided areas. These fees cannot be used for maintenance and operations. Any fees collected shall be committed within five years after payment or the issuance of building permits on one-half of the lots created, whichever occurs later.

- **General Obligation Bond:** These are voter-approved bonds with the assessment placed on real property. The money can only be used for capital improvements and not maintenance. Bonds generate funding through property taxes and are levied for a specified period of time (usually 15-20 years). Major disadvantages of this funding option are the high approval requirement and the interest costs. Sparks could consider placing a bond in front of voters to fund system operations and maintenance. Prior to considering a bond, the City would have to conduct thorough polling with voters to help confirm potential interest in passing such a measure.
- **Revenue Bond:** These bonds are sold and paid from the revenue produced from the operation of a facility. These bonds can help support facility development or improvements that support the collection of user fees, such as community centers, swimming pools, and sport complexes. The City has to guarantee the repayment of these bonds, even if the amount of revenue generated is not enough to cover the necessary payments.
- **Tourism and Marketing Fees:** Sparks currently collects tourism and marketing fees (TourMark funding) that funnel money from the Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA) into paying for special events in the city. Tourism and marketing activities in Sparks are funded by room taxes generated locally and subsequently funneled back to the city through the RSCVA. The money has a Legislative mandate for its use and must be used for the marketing of tourism and redevelopment. The City could consider whether an increase in these charges is beneficial to help offset costs associated with tourism, such as promoting, organizing and holding special events.
- **Facility Use Charges:** Facility charges generate revenue for parks by charging for the use of City facilities (e.g., sport fields, picnic shelters, meeting rooms, community garden plots). These charges may cover direct costs generated by facility

use, such as field lighting or trash removal. Rates may also be set higher to subsidize parks maintenance and address the long-term impacts of facility use. Sparks can increase revenue for park services through a number of strategies outlined in Chapter 5, including simplifying the fee structure and setting fees based on blocks of time rather than by the hour.

- **Programming Fees:** User fees for recreation programming generate revenue by charging users for some or all of the costs of providing services and materials. Charges for programming are often based on a cost-recovery strategy determined by the City. Some program areas, such as youth and senior programs, may be partially subsidized, while programs for adults may be more suitable for higher fees and charges. Some programming fees also include built-in charges for facility use and maintenance. In many cases non-residents pay an additional surcharge on the program fee. The City will have to determine which fees should be adjusted (decreased or increased) as recommended in Chapter 5.
- **Entry Fees:** Park entry fees, day-use fees, or parking fees are used by some jurisdictions to generate revenue for parks. Entry fees can be charged for facility use (swimming pool or drop-in community centers) and parking or gate fees can be collected at large special events. These fees should be based on the scale of event and potentially event tenure (legacy, emerging and new). The decision to increase entry, parking or gate fees at all events should be based on the City's cost recovery goals as discussed in Chapter 5.
- **Permits and Licenses:** Some cities require licenses and permits to engage in specific activities in parks. Examples include liquor licenses, peddler's license, model airplane fly permit, temporary vendor permit, public entertainment permit, special event permit, fireworks stand permit, etc.
- **Concessions:** Contract concessionaires that operate programs, food services or other revenue-generating facilities in parks can also generate excess revenues to support the park system. The City can arrange specific arrangements with vendors and concessionaires for these services, whether it is a licensing fee and/or fees based on the amount of vendor sales. These rates should be based on the recommended business plans developed for each major facility.

- **Marketing/Advertising Fees:** The City’s recreation guide generates revenue from classified ads and advertisements. Besides advertising fees, the City may impose charges to publish recreation schedules and registration information for independently-offered programs and facilities. (However, some agencies provide this service without charge as a service to the community.) Sparks currently receives modest revenue from recreation advertising fees which could be increased to help offset program costs.
- **Miscellaneous Rentals:** Many cities are evaluating a variety of opportunities to generate revenue in parks. For example, some communities have created agreements to rent space for cellular phone towers in parks. Another option is to lease vendor pads with hookups, where carts can be parked, typically on a temporary basis for events and tournaments. (This rental space is different from taking a portion of proceeds from vendor sales, as described above.) Especially if water, electricity, and trash removal services are provided to vendors or concessionaires, the fee should at a minimum cover these direct costs.

Regional and Local Volunteer Resources

Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful

Lahontan Audubon Society

Nevada Conservation Corps

Nevada Wetlands

Scenic Nevada

Sierra Club

Silver State Striders

Swan Lake Advisory Board

Tahoe Pyramid Bikeway

Truckee Meadows Trail Association

Great Basin Institute

Procrastinating Pedalers

COLLABORATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Partnerships with volunteers and other organizations (public and private) are an effective solution to supporting parks and recreation operations.

- **Volunteers:** Volunteers can increase the quality and quantity of public services at a minimal cost to the City, while driving public ownership of the park and recreation system. Studies suggest that for every \$1 invested in volunteers, a town or city can realize as much as \$10 in benefits.² Volunteer programs include individuals or groups who agree to take on specific tasks

² www.volunteeringinamerica.gov

or perform certain services, such as maintenance, restoration, programming, capital development, and special event support. Volunteers may provide direct and indirect support to the park system. For example, a volunteer clean-up crew directly saves on paid maintenance tasks. Volunteer safety patrols (community groups) may indirectly reduce facility damage and vandalism, protecting City assets.

- Partnerships (Businesses and Non-Profits):** Partnership agreements allow the City to work with private businesses or non-profit entities to help fund, build and/or operate public facilities. Generally, the three primary incentives the City can offer potential partners are free land to place a facility (usually a park or other piece of public land), certain tax advantages and access to the facility. For example, some cities have partnered with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Clubs or private health clubs to build multi-purpose recreation centers/aquatic facilities at city parks. These facilities are larger or more comprehensive than the city could have developed alone. In other cases, a business non-profit may be contracted to manage and operate a city-owned facility. Partnerships can also be developed with foundations such as the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation which can help leverage private support and funding for the park system.

Potential Partners
Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority
University of Nevada
Truckee Meadows Community College
American Land Conservancy
The Nature Conservancy
Nevada Land Conservancy
Truckee Meadows Water Authority
Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation
Washoe County Conservation

- Partnerships with Neighborhood Associations:** Sparks can develop agreements with various neighborhood associations for park operations and maintenance. Neighborhood groups may also volunteer to take on basic maintenance tasks, such as mowing and litter removal.
- Donations and Endowments:** The donations of labor or cash by service agencies, private groups or individuals are a popular way to raise small amounts of money for specific programs or projects. Unless restricted, donations can be used to support capital development or operations. Endowments can be used to establish long-term

care of a specific site or larger cause. For example, service agencies such as Lions Club and Rotary often fund small projects such as playground improvements. Chapter 5 provides more specific guidance on donation policies that should be considered by the City.

- **Trusts, Estates and Exchanges:** Private land trusts such as the Trust for Public Land and the Nature Conservancy employ various methods, including conservation easements, to work with willing owners to conserve important resource land. Land trusts assist public agencies in various ways. For example, land trusts may acquire and hold land for eventual acquisition by the public agency. An estate is an agreement between a landowner and the city that gives the owner the right to live on the site after it is sold to the city, while an exchange of property is the transfer of ownerships between a private landowner and the city, or an organization acting on behalf of the city.
- **Park Sponsorships/Facility Naming Rights:** The City may solicit sponsors who are willing to pay for advertising, signage, facility naming rights, etc., generating funds to support operations. In addition, sponsors are often sought to support a particular event or program.

GRANTS

There are a variety of federal, state, non-profit and private grants that offer potential funding for parks and recreation. These funding opportunities are often difficult to find and equally difficult to secure because of open competition. In addition, many ongoing grants available in years past have been eliminated due to budget cuts. Several specific resources are described below.

- **Land and Water Conservation Funds:** This grant program is funded by the National Park Service and administered by Nevada State Parks. In the past this was one of the major sources of grant money for local agencies. In the 1990s, federal funding was severely cut and has never been restored to previous levels. Grant funds require a 50% match and can be used for acquisition and development of outdoor facilities.
- **Urban Forestry Grants:** There are several grant programs that provide money for urban forestry projects. One is funded by the U.S. Small Business Administration

and provides grants to purchase and plant trees. This program sometimes funds urban street tree planting programs.

- **US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS):** FWS may provide technical assistance and administer funding for projects that enhance water quality, including debris removal, flood mitigation and enhancements to water crossings.
- **Nevada Division of State Lands:** The Nevada Division of State Land administers \$65.5 million in grant funding for eligible projects throughout the state, oriented toward habitat conservation, open space planning and river restoration. This resource requires a 50% match by local agencies.
- **Nevada Division of State Parks:** Nevada State Parks administers federal funding to local agencies through the Recreational Trails Program (RTP). The program provides reimbursable funding assistance to build and maintain recreational trails for both motorized and non-motorized uses. Each year the Federal Highway Administration distributes funds to each state based on gasoline tax revenue from registered off-road vehicles in the state. Nevada received approximately 0.6% of the total apportionment, or \$1-\$1.5 million. For FY 2013, the program offered over \$1.2 million. Applications are extremely competitive and typically due around April each year.
- **Nevada Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program:** The Nevada Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program provides funding to schools and local governments for projects that increase the ability and opportunity for children to walk and bicycle to school. Program funding is also available for development and implementation of projects and activities that will improve safety and reduce traffic, fuel consumption and air pollution within two miles of the school. The SRTS application requires local governments applying for grant funding to coordinate the application process with local school districts. For infrastructure related project funding, the project must be within two miles of an affected school.

Surface Transportation Program (STP): The Northern Nevada Regional Transportation Commission oversees the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) that provides Surface Transportation Program (STP) funding for area municipalities. STP Enhancements funding can be used for construction of facilities for

pedestrians, bicycles, acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites, landscaping preservation of abandoned railway corridors and other improvements.

Appendix F: Baseline Service Assessment (September 2012)





COMPREHENSIVE PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Baseline Service Assessment

September 2012

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Appendix A: Park and Recreation Facility Inventory

BASELINE SERVICE ASSESSMENT

In the July 2012, the City of Sparks began updating its *Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan*. As part of this planning effort, the Baseline Service Assessment takes stock of the current assets and operations of the Parks and Recreation Department, including staffing, parks, facilities, programs and funding resources. More specifically, this document:

- Describes the planning context, including the planning area, demographics, and related planning documents;
- Provides an overview of the organizational structure of the City departments and staff providing park and recreation services;
- Presents the current parks and facility inventory organized by park classification;
- Defines the major program areas for City recreation services, including numbers of program participants; and
- Provides an overview of existing park and recreation funds, including changes in revenues and expenditures for the Parks and Recreation Department in the last five years.

This information provides a foundation for all future efforts in the four-phased planning process (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Planning Process



I. PLANNING CONTEXT

A thorough understanding of the planning context is important in creating a *Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan* that reflects the unique character and realities of the City of Sparks. The planning area, demographics, and related planning efforts are defined below.

PLANNING AREA

The City of Sparks is located in western Nevada in the northwestern corner of Washoe County. The City includes 35.8 square miles, situated at the eastern end of the Reno/Sparks metropolitan area. However, the City's sphere of influence is much larger, encompassing approximately 93 square miles. The City's location near Reno, Lake Tahoe, Pyramid Lake and the Tahoe National Forest help contribute to its tourism industry.

Physical Geography

Sparks is situated in the Truckee Meadows on the eastern slope of the Sierra, between the Carson and Virginia mountain ranges. At an elevation of approximately 4,500 feet, Sparks' climate is influenced by its elevation and topography. The climate is sunny and mild, with cool winters and hot, dry summers. Humidity, rainfall, and snowfall are low. On average, the City receives five inches of precipitation annually. The climate creates four distinct seasons that support outdoor recreation year round.

The southern edge of the City is marked by the Truckee River, which is partially protected by a greenbelt corridor. Public access to the river is provided at four parks, including the Rock Park, where a new whitewater facility was added as part of an ongoing effort for urban revitalization and river corridor beautification. Various wetlands and water bodies through the city also support recreation opportunities, such as the Sparks Marina Park, built on a 77-acre lake that is recharged with water from an underground aquifer.

Regional Attraction and Growth

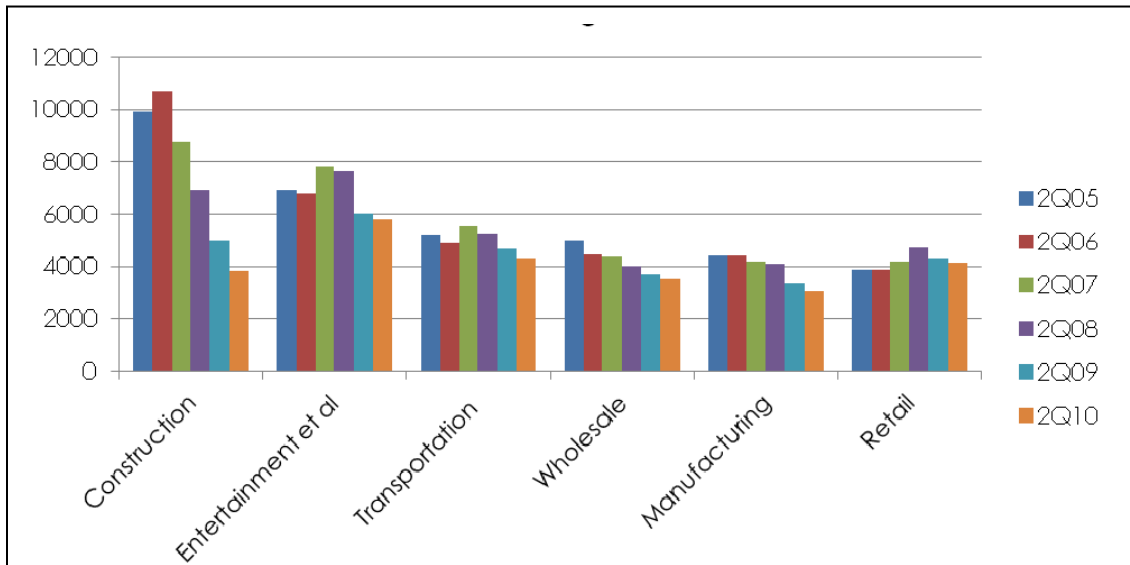
Since the 1970's, Sparks has grown tremendously, offering residents and visitors a wide array of services and activities. The City's population has grown on average 4% annually during the last three decades. Between 2000 and 2010, Sparks grew by 36 percent, adding approximately 23,900 people. This growth has slowed in recent years, with population decreasing slightly since 2008 (see Demographics). Between 1999 and 2008, Sparks was reported as the fastest growing city in Nevada.

The City's location and growth have helped position Sparks as a premiere special events venue for northern Nevada. Victorian Square attractions bring thousands of visitors to annual events such as Hometown Farmer's Market, Hot August Nights, Best in the West (Nugget) Rib Cook-off and Hometown Christmas. Locally and regionally-focused parks, recreation facilities, programs and events have played an important role in attracting people to Sparks.

Economic Vitality and Recession

Sparks derives its overall economic success from its ability to maintain a strong and diverse base of jobs, ample supply of housing choices, a range of services and shopping opportunities, and facilities and events that promote tourism.¹ Since the 1950s, with the railroad industry in decline, the City worked to diversify employment opportunities and increase retail services inside the city limits. The number of jobs in Sparks continued to increase until 2007, when the economic recession began affecting growth and development patterns. In 2007, the City peaked at 48,443 employees. Jobs dropped to the lowest point for that decade in 2010, when 36,066 employees worked in Sparks. Figure 2 illustrates the five-year shift in what were the top employment categories in 2005.

Figure 2: Top Employment Categories in Sparks (2005-2010)



Source: City of Sparks, Draft Comprehensive Plan 2012; Center for Regional Studies (UNR).

The result of the recession is a more diverse workforce and changes in the ranking of top employment categories. By percentage of the workforce, the top categories in 2010 in ranked order are:

¹ This information is taken from the City's Draft Comprehensive Plan (in progress).

- Entertainment, Hotel, Food Services (16.1%)
- Transportation & Utilities (12.0%)
- Retail Trade (11.5%)
- Education, Health & Social Services (10.9%)
- Construction (10.6%)

This represents a shift in employment categories from construction, manufacturing and wholesale trade to more service oriented industries (entertainment, health) that have strong affinities to parks and recreation services.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Sparks is an attractive, family-oriented city of 91,195 residents (2011 estimate).² The City of Sparks, like other cities across the country, has undergone demographic changes that have affected the demands placed on City services, including services provided by the Parks and Recreation Department.

In recent years, the City's population has remained at a population plateau (rather than continuing the high rate of growth from previous years)³, and has also retained its demographic diversity. Approximately 74.5% of Sparks' residents are White, and 26.3% are Hispanic or Latino. While the median age is 35.5, more than 45% of the population is under 19 or over 60 years old. Gender distribution is consistent with national patterns, with an even split between males (49.4%) and females (50.6%).

Further discussion of demographic characteristics such as age, ethnicity, language, and household income, as well as forecasted population growth, is included below.

Age

There are well-documented correlations between age and participation in different types of recreation activities. In general, youth tend to participate in recreation activities more frequently than any other age group. Youth generally favor more active and competitive activities, and represent the greatest participation in organized sports (basketball, soccer, baseball) and swimming. Older adults and seniors today are staying active longer, often have more discretionary income, and are

² U.S. Census Bureau. Unless otherwise noted, demographic statistics are based on 2010 U.S. Census data.

³ In 2008, the State Demographer-certified 2008 population was 91,684, and the 2010 population was 90,264.

engaged in social and outdoor activities, health programs, volunteerism, and life-long learning.

Table 1 summarizes the age distribution for the City of Sparks.

TABLE 1: AGE DISTRIBUTION, CITY OF SPARKS
(2010 CENSUS)

Category	% of Population	Age Cohort (years old)	% of Population
Youth	28.5%	Under 5	7.2%
		5-9	7.1%
		10-14	7.3%
		15-19	6.9%
Adult	54.8%	20-24	7.0%
		25-34	13.8%
		35-44	13.9%
		45-54	14.2%
		55-59	5.9%
Older Adults & Seniors	16.8%	60-64	5.5%
		65-74	6.5%
		75-84	3.5%
		85 and over	1.3%

Ethnicity and Language

Cultural and ethnicity can influence recreation preferences. How facilities are used, the types of activities pursued, and the types of recreation instructors preferred may vary greatly in an ethnically diverse community. As noted in Table 2, more than a quarter of the City's population is Hispanic or Latino. Census data indicates that more than 25% of residents speak a language other than English at home. This diversity should be taken into account in planning for City needs.

From 2000-2010, the Hispanic/Latino population in Sparks grew by 81% (Table 3), increasing in its percentage of the City's total population. In comparison, the non-Hispanic/Latino population grew approximately 25% during that same time.

TABLE 2: HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE, CITY OF SPARKS
(2010 CENSUS)

Selections	% of Population
White alone	61.4%
Hispanic or Latino (of any race)	26.3%
Black or African American alone	2.4%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.0%
Asian alone	5.7%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.6%
Some other race alone	0.1%
Two or more races	2.6%

TABLE 3: SPARKS POPULATION GROWTH, HISPANIC/LATINO
AND NON-HISPANIC/LATINO, 2000-2010 (2010 CENSUS)

	2010 Census		2000 Census		2000-2010 Change	
	Count	%	Count	%	Change	%
Total Population	90,264	100.0%	66,346	100.0%	23,918	36.1%
Persons of Hispanic or Latino Origin	23,698	26.3%	13,068	19.7%	10,630	81.3%
Persons Not of Hispanic or Latino Origin	66,566	73.8%	53,278	80.3%	13,288	24.9%

Households and Housing

Demographers are seeing trends in changing housing preferences and household composition that are affecting parks and recreation across the nation. Nationally, the number of owner-occupied traditional single family residential housing units is declining, in part because family composition is changing and in part because more people are living in rental housing.

The City of Sparks has 33,502 total households (up from 31,070 in 2008). Of these, 67.5% are family households and 32.5% are families with children under age 18. However:

- 47.7 are husband-wife families (21.6 % with children under 18);
- 13.0% are single female households (7.4% with children under 18);
- 6.8% are single male households (3.8% with children under 18);
- 7.5% are sharing homes with other relatives (non-spouse or child);
- 7.3% are sharing homes with non-relatives;
- 22.8% of all households have individuals 65 years of age an older;

- 58.5% are owner-occupied housing units with an average household size of 2.7 individuals; and
- 41.5% are renter-occupied housing units, also with an average household size of 2.7 individuals.

As parks and recreation departments strive to provide more multi-generational, family-oriented activities, it's important to plan for larger groups of extended families as well as friends who may live and recreate together.

Income

In general, people with higher incomes have more options when it comes to recreation, and this group may pursue higher cost activities. Due to financial constraints, lower-income residents may face limitations in recreation participation, but also may rely more heavily on public recreation services. Since the recession, many people are finding that they have less discretionary income to pay for recreation activities. However, this has also increased the number of people taking advantage of “staycations” and local events, in lieu of traveling farther away for entertainment.

From 2008-2010, the median household income in Sparks dropped from \$60,622 to \$56,775. The percentage of people below poverty level has been consistent, averaging 11% between 2006 and 2010.

Forecasted Growth

Using a historical Consensus Forecast methodology that averages the population/employment forecasts, the City of Sparks has developed population forecasts for the years 2010 – 2030. As noted in Table 1, approximately 112,000 residents are anticipated to live in Sparks in 2020, and nearly 129,000 are anticipated in 2030.

TABLE 4: SPARKS POPULATION FORECAST, 2010-2030

	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030
Population	90,264	101,200	112,100	123,000	128,974

Source: City of Sparks Comprehensive Plan, Washoe County Consensus Forecast (August 2010).

RELATED PLANNING EFFORTS

The City of Sparks has undertaken a variety of planning efforts that will influence the *Comprehensive Parks and Recreation Master Plan*. Key plans are noted below:

- *Comprehensive Plan (in process)*: In 2009, the City of Sparks began updating its 7-chapter Comprehensive Plan. Several sections, including Chapter 4: Livable City, Chapter 5: A Connected City, and Chapter 6: A Sustainable City, contain elements that pertain to the provision of parks, recreation facilities, greenbelts/natural areas, special events and programs.
- *City of Sparks Strategic Plan, 2012-2017 (in process)*: As part of the process of updating their Comprehensive Plan, the City of Sparks has recently updated its vision, mission, core values, goals, and citywide objectives for services. These include goals related to financial stability and employee relations, plus objectives relating to safety (including flood management), special events, strategic alliances, sustainability, and quality of life. Four objectives specifically target parks and recreation in a effort to promote quality of life:
 - 5.1. Increase revenue through sponsorships to develop quality of life initiative.
 - 5.4. Develop a safety plan for the parks.
 - 5.5. Rebuild budget to support recreational services/activities.
 - 5.6. Develop Park Maintenance Plan to avoid further decline.
- *Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment Report (2009)*. This report updated the needs assessment originally prepared as part of the 1997 *Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan*. This 2009 effort included a community questionnaire regarding priorities, an assessment of park land needs based on access, and recommendations on desired level of service.
- *Sustainability Action Plan (2009)*: The plan provides a framework for increasing economic and environmental sustainability in Sparks, as well as for working with neighboring communities to advance sustainability initiatives within the region. It identifies short-term and long-term initiatives to achieve this goal.

- *Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan (1997)*: This plan identified community needs to set forth an adopted city standard for the provision of park land and facilities, plus recommend improvements for parks, trails, specialized facilities, sports fields, administration, programs and services.

Since the Sparks Parks and Recreation Department works within a region and has provided regional park services, the following document is also important:

- *Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Strategic Plan with Status Updates, 2010-2012 (2012)*: This plan updates their 2007-2010 *Strategic Plan*, noting the County's mission, vision, strategic priorities, overall Department goals and supporting goals for parks and open space in 2010-11. Their goals include collaborating with other departments, agencies and organizations for open space acquisition and natural resource management.

RECENT CHANGES

The City of Sparks has experienced a variety of changes in the last few years that affect the way the Parks and Recreation Department conducts business. Overarching changes in the economy, city growth and development, and community priorities and strategic planning have influenced Department organization and services such as the acquisition, maintenance, management, staffing and funding of parks, facilities, events and programs. The rest of the document addresses these elements, focusing on the changes that will continue to affect the provision of park and recreation services in the future.

II. SPARKS PARK AND RECREATION SERVICES

The City of Sparks is administered by a Mayor and five City Councilors, supported by a City Manager and Assistant City Manager. These City leaders oversee five departments:

- Police
- Fire
- Financial Services
- Community Services
- Parks & Recreation

PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

The Parks & Recreation Department provides the citizens of Sparks with an enhanced quality of life through the provision of high quality recreational services, special events, and facilities. It ensures the dedication and preservation of natural resources to support leisure experiences.

As noted in the *City Budget, Fiscal Year 2011-2102*, key service areas include:

- *Administration.* Provide direction and planning for Parks and Recreation operations, including policies/ procedures, budget development, oversight of resource management and expenditures, customer service, grant management and planning.
- *Parks Administration.* Ensure a safe, aesthetic and functional parks system through the oversight of maintenance and safety requirements, and plan, coordinate, and implement improvements and renovations.
- *Project Development.* Provide additional programming and open space opportunities through innovative facility/park development projects.
- *Facility Management.* Operate indoor and outdoor recreational facilities (daily usage and rentals) at City parks and eight school sites.
- *Recreation Programs/Services.* Develop, administer and coordinate programs and services for all ages and abilities ranging from youth/adult sports, kids out of school programs, community classes, swimming lessons/aquatic programs, arts and programming for people with disabilities.
- *Special Events.* Facilitate, produce, manage, coordinate and support family-oriented events at Victorian Square, Sparks Marina and sports complex venues for residents and visitors to the area.
- *Marketing.* Broaden awareness of parks and recreation services, programs and events and their related benefits to encourage community participation.
- *Community Giving.* Facilitate partnerships, donations, grants, and volunteer opportunities for businesses, community organizations, foundations and residents to support parks and recreation services and facilities.

ORGANIZATIONAL SHIFT

Prior to FY 12, the Parks & Recreation Department was also charged with park maintenance. Under Sparks Sustainable Services Initiative (SSSI), this service moved to the Maintenance & Operations Services Division within the Community Services Department. Given the interrelationship between parks maintenance, management, programming and use, parks maintenance will be addressed in the *Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan*—even though it is no longer a service of the Parks & Recreation Department.

The SSSI had other impacts on the structure and administrative staffing of the Parks & Recreation Department. For example, the Parks Development Supervisor was reclassified as the Parks Development and Operations Manager to provide a critical link between parks administration (Parks & Recreation) and parks maintenance and operations (Community Services). Additional staffing changes include the elimination of the Senior Administrative Analyst position, the reclassification of the Aquatics Supervisor to an Administrative Supervisor, and the elimination of the position of Recreation Superintendent. Additional adjustments in staff duties for the remaining recreation/administrative/special event positions were needed to more efficiently and effectively manage the recreation services with available resources.

CURRENT ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

On the next two pages, Figures 3 and 4 illustrate the current organization of the Parks & Recreation Department, as well as the Fleet & Facilities Division and Maintenance & Operations Division of the Community Services Department. Together these staff members are in charge of providing park and recreation services, including park and facility administration, development, programming and maintenance.

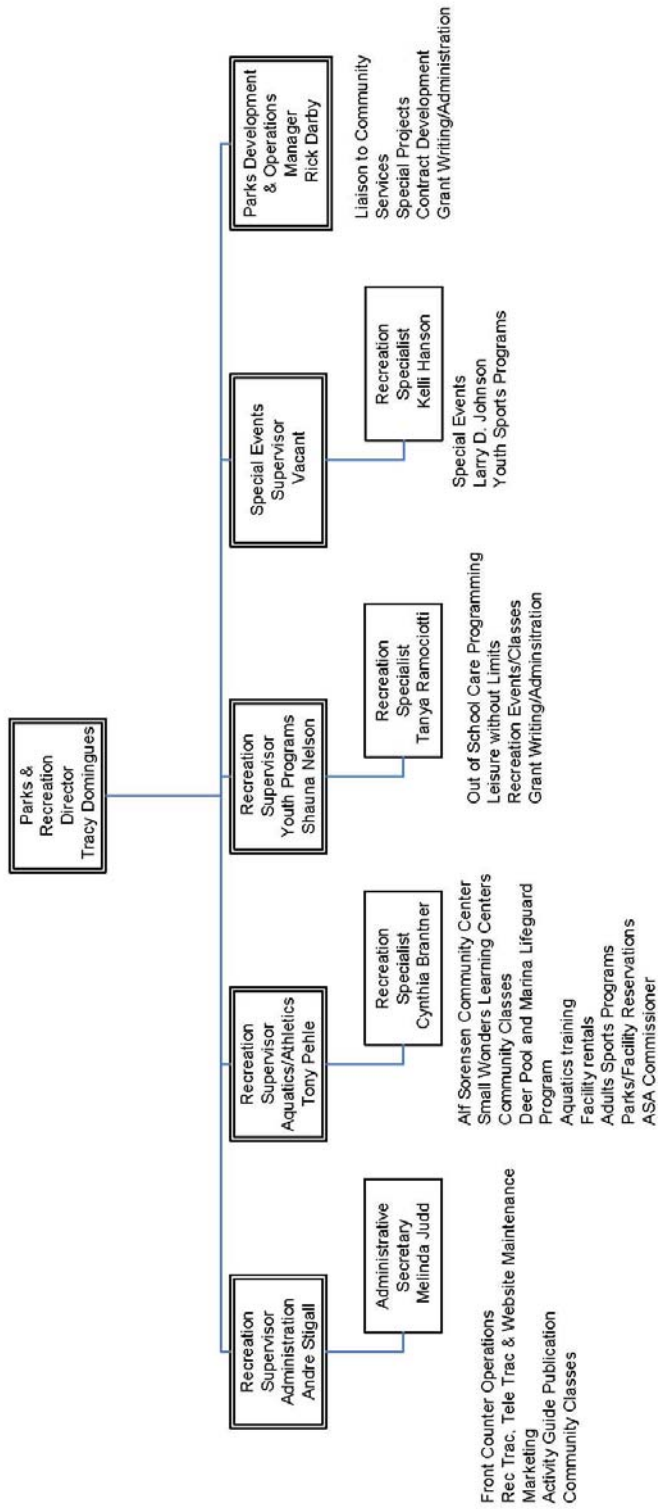
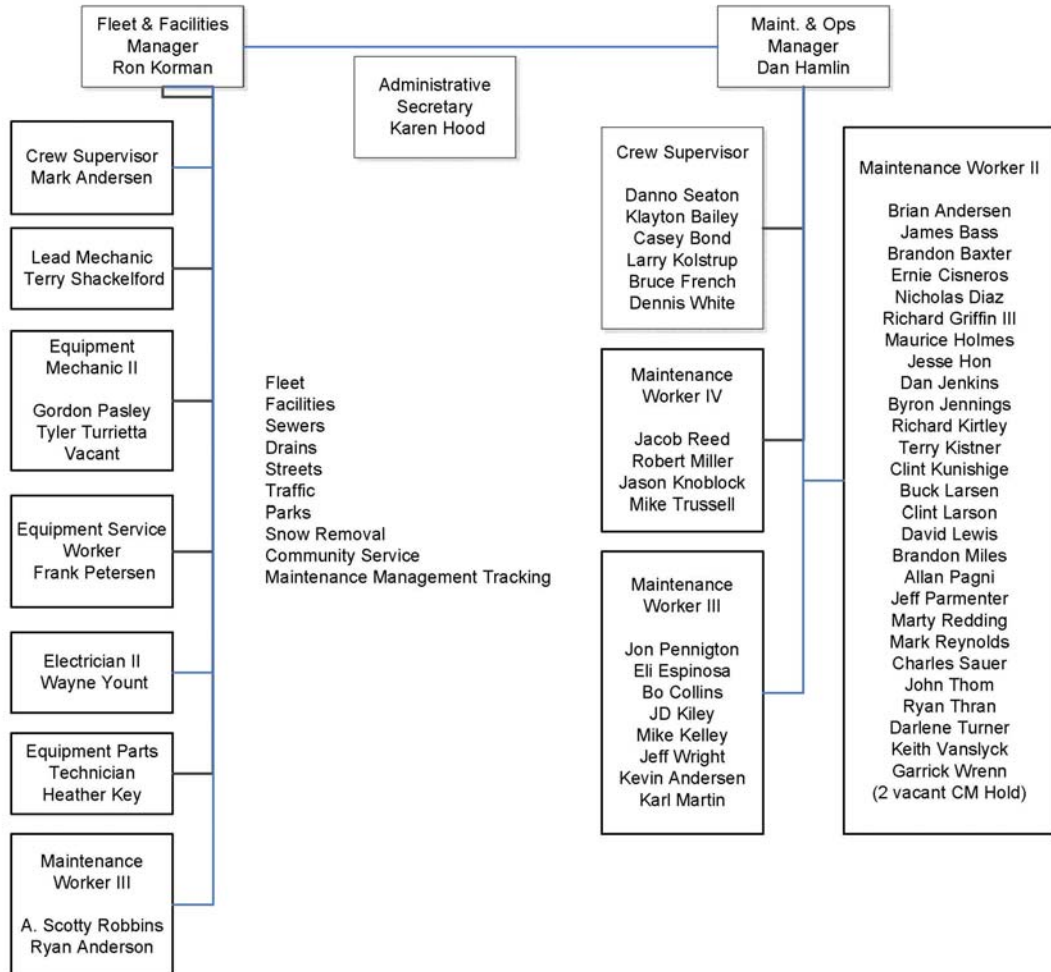


Figure 3: Parks & Recreation Department Organization (2012)

Figure 4: Organization of the Fleet & Facilities Division and Maintenance & Operations Division of the Community Service Department (2012)



III. PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

The City of Sparks provides parks and facilities to support indoor and outdoor recreation. This section summarizes the supply of public parks and recreation facilities in Sparks that serve city residents and visitors. A full park inventory is presented alphabetically by site and park classification in Appendix A.

CITY PARK CLASSIFICATIONS

The City of Sparks provides a variety of park land, ranging from large regional parks to small pocket parks. In park and recreation planning, parks are identified by park type to ensure that a variety of recreation opportunities are provided. Parks are planned, acquired, developed and managed to serve different purposes and meet different recreation needs.

Developed Park Land

City park and recreation resources were classified in the 1997 *Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Master Plan* and refined in the 2009 *Parks and Recreation Needs Assessment*. The proposed classification system (below) has been revised into seven park classes, reflecting the current inventory and anticipated future directions in park development. Park types include:

- *Regional Parks.* A regional park is a large park that serves the recreation needs for the entire City and beyond. Typically 100+ acres in size, regional parks attract visitors with regional-scale recreation facilities and, frequently, unique natural or cultural features. These parks may include both active and passive recreation areas, as well as open space. Regional parks accommodate large group activities and often have infrastructure to support sporting events, festivals, or other revenue-generating events to enhance the City's economic vitality and identity. Examples include Golden Eagle Regional Park and Wedekind Regional Park.
- *Community Parks.* Community parks are medium-sized parks that include a mix of active and passive recreation facilities to serve most of the city or a substantial portion of the community. Typically 10 to 40 acres in size, community parks include recreation facilities found in neighborhood parks, plus specialized facilities that support organized or large-group activities or unique recreation opportunities for all ages. They also require more support amenities such as parking, restrooms, shade shelters, etc. Community parks may also include natural open

space. Their service area is approximately one to two miles. Pah Rah Mountain Park is the City's only community park.

- *Neighborhood Parks.* Neighborhood parks are small parks that provide recreation opportunities within walking or biking distance (generally a half mile) of residents in one or more neighborhoods. Typically 3-7 acres, neighborhood parks are designed primarily for non-supervised, non-organized recreation activities and play. Typical facilities include, but are not limited to, a children's playground, open turf area, sports courts (e.g., basketball, tennis, horseshoes, volleyball), picnic area and loop trail. Examples include Aimone Park, Del Cobre Park, Van Meter Park and Woodtrail Park.
- *Special Use Parks.* Special use parks provide specialized facilities designed to meet a specific recreation need. These include single-purpose sites, such as sports complexes, aquatic centers, community centers, urban plazas, equestrian facilities, etc. Since special use parks vary widely in function, their size and service area will vary, although these sites may attract park users from throughout the community. Special use parks should include appropriate amenities and facilities to support their intended purpose. Examples include Alf Sorenson Community Center, Gandolfo Rodeo Arena and Sparks Marina Park.
- *Pocket Parks.* Pocket-parks are small, single purpose sites designed to provide public open space, passive recreation opportunities, or green space in an otherwise built-out area. Typically less than an acre in size, these parks may serve as plazas, monuments and memorials, gardens, historical sites, trailheads, etc. Facilities will vary depending on the intended purpose of the site. Amenities may include shelters, benches and landscaping. Examples include Bandstand Park, Lillard Park and Sparks Memorial Park.
- *Riverfront Parks.* Riverfront parks provide public access to the Truckee River. They are typically linear in shape and may vary in size from small, single access points (boat ramps or beaches) to larger sites with mixed facilities and open space. Riverfront parks often support passive recreation and river-based recreation opportunities. For this reason, these parks may include facilities such as picnic areas and shelters, trails and trailheads, viewpoints, and swimming, fishing, rafting or boating areas. Riverfront parks may also include restored natural areas to protect the river corridor. Examples include Cottonwood Park, Glendale Park and Rock Park.
- *Greenbelts.* Greenbelts are linear parks that provide trail corridors and/or undeveloped buffers between land uses. Greenbelts typically follow linear features such as creeks/waterways, streets, railroad rights-

of-way, power lines, and other elongated features. They also may protect irregular-shaped natural or undeveloped areas in the community. These corridors often contain hard- or soft-surfaced trails, along with amenities such as viewpoints, benches, and interpretive signage. They may provide public access to natural features, preserve open space and support trail-related recreation and transportation. Examples include the Sparks Boulevard Greenbelt and the Truckee River Greenbelt.

Future Parks

In addition to developed park land, the City has identified potential “future parks” to meet adopted level of service guidelines at build-out. While this land has not been acquired, it is anticipated that these sites will be set aside as park land when specific residential areas are developed (as per park land dedication requirements). The actual acreage and locations of these sites will be determined when the land is platted for development. Some of these future parks have been named, and some are referenced by the name of the subdivision. Examples include Eagle Canyon Future Parks (#1, #2, and #3) and Silverton Shores Park.

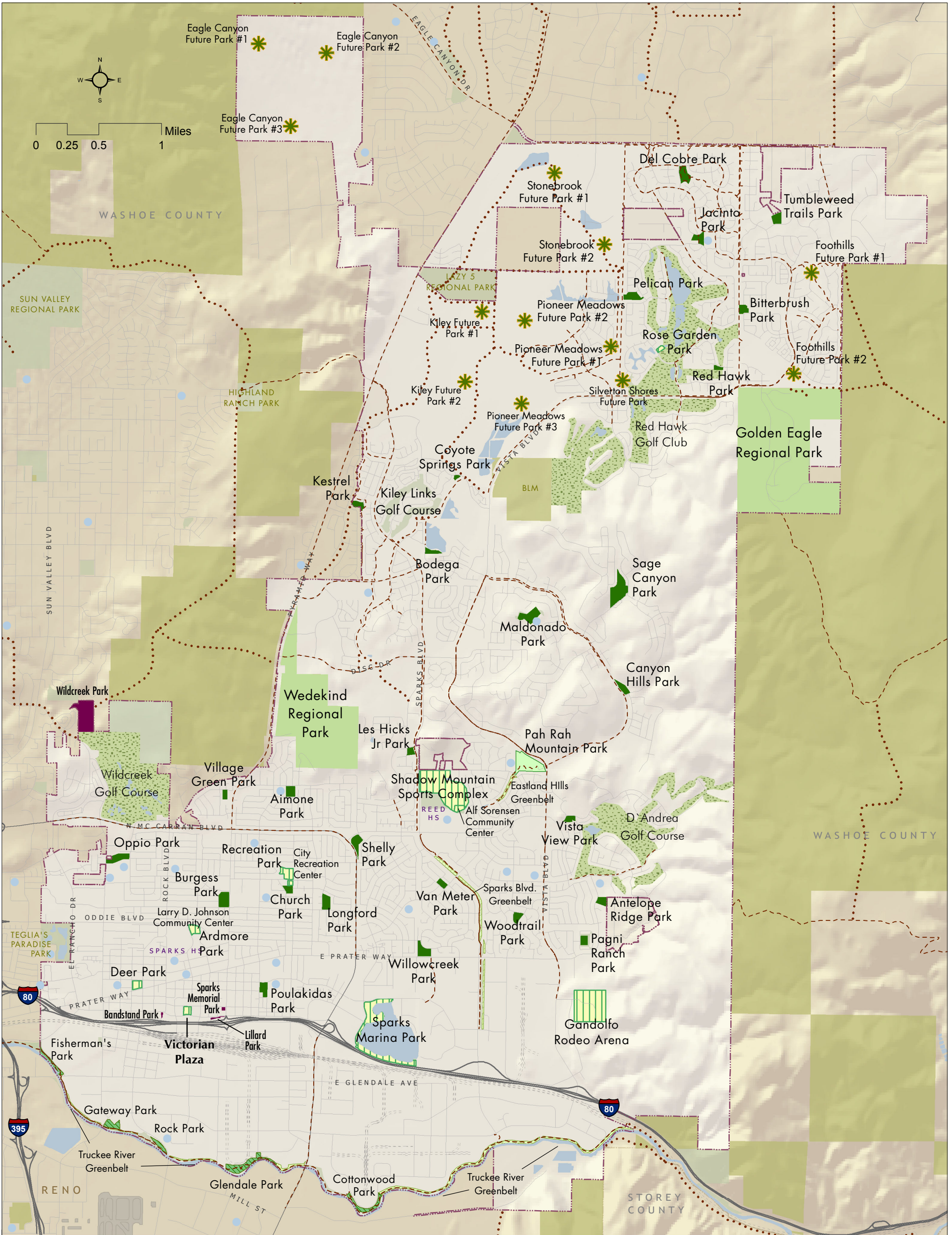
CITY PARK AND FACILITY INVENTORY

Park Land

The Parks & Recreation Department provides 50 parks around town to meet recreation needs. Map1 illustrates the location of these sites, as well as the proposed locations of 13 future parks. Table 5 summarizes the inventory of existing parks by classification, based on the best available data at this time.

The Parks & Recreation Department manages approximately 614 acres of developed park land, which is maintained by Community Services. As shown in the table, the amount of park land owned and managed by the City of Sparks is considerably greater, totaling 1,196 acres. The total acreage is based on the aggregate of all park parcels, including parking lots (that serve the park site), undevelopable lands (such as slopes and wetlands) and land protected within park boundaries as open space. The City of Sparks does not traditionally count this acreage in their park inventory. (Note: This inventory methodology is not typical. Many other towns and cities count total acreage as park land, though they may also track developed acres for maintenance budgeting purposes.⁴)

⁴ Exceptions include municipalities that classify and manage natural/open space areas separately from park land.



Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Plan

Existing Park Facilities

M I G 9.25.2013 | Data Sources: City of Sparks and Washoe County GIS NAD83 State Plane Nevada West

City Parks

- Regional Park
- Community Park
- Neighborhood Park
- Pocket Park
- Special Use Park
- Riverfront Park

Future Neighborhood Park

- Other Public or Private Lands
- Greenbelt
- Golf Course
- Reno Park
- Federal Land

Existing Trails

- Proposed Trails
- Railroad
- Fwy/Hwy
- Arterial Road
- Local Road
- Reno

High School

- Middle School
- Elementary School
- Other Schools
- City Limits
- County
- Water Feature

TABLE 5: EXISTING PARK LAND BY CLASSIFICATION (2012)

Park Classification	# of Existing Sites	Developed Acres ¹	Total Acres ²
Regional Parks	2	350.0	718.3
Community Parks	1	13.1	16.5
Neighborhood Parks	29	98.4	143.3
Special Use Parks	6	82.1	210.4
Pocket Parks	4	1.7	22.2
Riverfront Parks	5	13.4	30.3
Greenbelts	3	54.9	54.9
Total	50	613.5	1,195.9

¹ Developed park acreage excludes parking lots, undevelopable lands, and designated open space or natural areas.

² Total park acreage includes the entire park parcel owned by the City.

Source: Sparks GIS and Parks & Recreation Department.

Note: The City counts in their inventory all lands managed as park land, including land owned by the School District at the Shadow Mountain Sports Complex and land leased from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at Wedekind Regional Park.

Looking at developed park land alone, large regional parks account for more than half of the City's existing acreage. This includes Golden Eagle Regional Park (100 developed acres) and the Wedekind Regional Park (250 developed park acres), which soon will provide trailheads, viewpoints, playgrounds and picnic areas to attract visitors and serve nearby neighbors. On the other hand, small neighborhood parks account for more than half of individual sites (29 of 50), and comprise the second largest park class in terms of developed acreage. The system is rounded out by parks with a more specialized focus (greenbelts, special use parks, riverfront parks, and pocket parks), along with one community park.

Together existing developed parks provide a level of service (LOS) of 6.7 acres per 1,000 residents.⁵ The existing "level of service" measures the amount of park land provided in an area by comparing the existing acreage to the existing population. In planning, the measurement is presented as a ratio of acres to 1,000 people served.

The City's adopted LOS standard for developed park land is 6.0 acres per 1,000 residents. It appears the City is exceeding that amount. However, the City's existing LOS would only be 4.0 acres per 1,000 residents if the open space with trails at Wedekind Regional Park was not counted. In

⁵ The existing LOS is calculated using the 2011 population of 91,195 residents.

contrast, the City’s existing LOS would be 13.1 acres per 1,000 residents all park acres were counted in the calculation (total acreage).

Recreation Facilities

The City provides a variety of recreation facilities, ranging from sports fields to walking paths. Table 6 summarizes the inventory of existing facilities located in City parks, based on the best available data at this time. While most facilities are counted by numbers of facilities (by type), water access, multi-use trails and walking paths are inventoried by the number of sites where these are provided.

TABLE 6: EXISTING RECREATION FACILITIES (2012)

Sports Fields	Total
Baseball Fields	7
Youth Ball Fields	12
Softball Fields	12
Multi-use Fields ¹	7
Outdoor Recreation Facilities	Total
Basketball Courts	9
1/2 Court Basketball	19
Tennis Courts	15
Handball Courts	2
Volleyball Courts	16
Horseshoe Courts	20
Bocce Ball Courts	2
Backstops	3
Par Course	4
Playgrounds	57
Skate Parks	1
Specialized Facilities ²	11
Indoor Recreation Facilities	Total
Gym	2
Meeting Room	6
Fitness Center	2
Aquatic Facilities	Total
Pool	2
Tot Pool	1
Water Access	8 sites
Trails	# Parks
Multi-Use Trails	11 sites
Walking Paths	32 sites

¹ These are rectangular fields that support sports such as soccer, football, and/or lacrosse.

² Specialized facilities include amphitheater/stage (1), climbing rock (2), swimming beaches (1), dog park (1), fishing pier (1), whitewater park (1), pro shop (1), and equestrian arena (1).

There are several cases where current data are being cross-checked, and numbers will be updated. For example, the City of Sparks is compiling data to map and inventory its trail system in GIS. Map 1 illustrates the tentative location of existing and proposed trails, including alignments with additional Washoe County trails, based on available data. At this point, it unknown how many miles of trails is provided by the City.

Recreation Amenities

All City parks include amenities that support recreation experiences and allow people to stay longer. Park amenities are summarized in Table 7.

TABLE 7: EXISTING PARK AMENITIES (2012)

Amenities	# of Parks Where Amenity is Present
Restrooms	14
Concessions	3
Grills	4
Parking	41
Picnic Areas	34
Canopy	29
Benches	22

While park amenities are generally taken for granted as established park features, it is especially important to park users to keep amenities such as restrooms, picnic areas, and concession stands clean, well-maintained and in good repair. Details such as canopies and shade structures not only enhance park experiences, but they provide health benefits in terms of protecting people from the heat and sun. While not all amenities are inventoried, the quality and associated upkeep of elements such as water fountains, trash receptacles, and picnic tables are important as well.

PARKS/FACILITIES PROVIDED BY OTHERS

The City is not the sole provider of parks, recreation facilities and open space in Sparks. The School District, Washoe County, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and private providers also supply parks and facilities that help address the community’s demand for recreation opportunities. Many of these providers provide park land, facilities, or programming partnerships in conjunction with the Sparks Parks & Recreation Department:

- *Washoe County School District.* The Washoe County School District has 14 elementary schools in Sparks, three middle schools and two high schools with a variety of recreation facilities such as gyms, sports fields,

sports courts, playgrounds, and indoor space for youth programs. While their primary use is for school services, Sparks Parks and Recreation and the School District have a reciprocal agreement for secondary facility use.⁶ As part of this agreement, the City of Sparks schedules sports field use at three middle schools (Dilworth, Sparks, and Mendive) and six elementary schools (Maxwell, Beasley, Dunn, Lincoln Park, Diedrichson, and Moss). The Shadow Mountain Sports Complex is a co-owned, joint-use property. Reed High School schedules its use through the Sparks Parks & Recreation Department. The Parks & Recreation Department also runs the Kid Konnection before/after school program at all 13 elementary school sites provided by WCSD(see Programs).

- *Washoe County*. The Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Department manages the Lazy 5 Regional Park in Sparks. The 85-acre park includes a 5,000 square foot community center with an outdoor patio and barbeque area, a children's playground, 3 large group pavilions (capacity 100-300 people), a small shelter (capacity 30 people), individual picnic areas, volleyball courts, horseshoe pits, multi-purpose field and a water play area. Washoe County also co-operates the Sparks Senior Citizens Center. The Parks & Recreation Department and Community Services Department provides exterior grounds maintenance. The facility is located next door to the City Recreation Center.
- *Bureau of Land Management (BLM)*. The City of Sparks leases the land associated with the Wedekind Regional Park and Golden Eagle Regional Park from the BLM. In addition, the BLM maintains a 143-acre open space area to the south and west of the Red Hawk Gold Club.
- *Reno Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority (RSCVA)*. RSCVA is an organization that supports tourism and travel in the Sparks, Reno and the Lake Tahoe area. Their marketing focuses on experiencing indoor and outdoor recreation with an emphasis on skiing and golfing, cultural and performing arts, tournament bowling, and history while seeking to attract as many conventions as possible. In Sparks, RSCVA manages the Wildcreek Golf Course.
- *Private Providers*. Private providers offer facilities such as the Red Hawk Golf Club and Resort (two 18-hole courses, Swim & Fitness Center), the Kiley Links Golf Course (9-hole course), and private gyms, health clubs and fitness centers. It also includes the Emmanuel First Baptist Church (near Ardmore Park), which provides a turf field to the Sparks Park & Recreation Department for a \$1 long-term lease for programming.

⁶ Priorities for use are assigned based on the type of facility (indoor vs. playground and sport fields) and whether the facility has been solely or jointly developed.

Economic constraints have affected the provision of private recreation facilities as well as public ones in Sparks. The D'Andrea Golf Club closed in March 2012 when the D'Andrea Home Owners Association refused to subsidize the course, which was operating at a loss. A new facility manager is anticipated to take over the course in the future.

In addition to the agencies noted above, it is important to recognize the role played by the City of Reno. Adjacent to Sparks, the City of Reno provides a variety of recreation opportunities, including two parks that are contiguous to the Sparks city limits. As an extension of the Sparks park of the same name, Reno's Fisherman's Park provides a picnic area and access to the Truckee River. Teglia's Paradise Park, north of I-80 on the west side of Sparks, provides a community garden, activity center, reservable picnic areas, playground and parcourse.

IV. RECREATION PROGRAMS

Recreation programs and social and cultural events are critical to the quality of life for residents in Sparks. The City recognizes in its *Strategic Plan* that the Parks & Recreation Department plays an essential role in promoting quality of life by supporting recreation programs and services.

PROGRAM SERVICE AREAS

The City of Sparks Parks & Recreation Department offers numerous recreation programs for people of all ages and abilities, including residents and visitors. Currently, recreation programs and services are provided at three community centers, three swimming pools, two sports complexes and multiple school sites. Programs are provided in nine service areas, as described below.

- *Kids Out-of-School Programs.* Sparks provides youth programming year round for kids ages 3-12 (preschool to 7th grade). Programs include options such as the Kid Konnection before/after school program, school vacation camps and programs, the Small Wonders Learning Center (2 locations), Kids Klub, and a free Neighborhood Playground Program.
- *Senior Programs.* Senior programs are offered at the Sparks Senior Citizens Center and Alf Sorenson Community Center. Activities include dance and fitness classes, games (bingo and cards), reserved seating at minor league baseball games and field trips.
- *Special Populations.* The Parks & Recreation Department has created the Leisure Without Limits Program for people with disabilities.

Participants not ready for full inclusion in regular programming can participate in recreation activities that are hosted in a safe and supportive environment. Activities include art classes, bowling, dance, special outings and events.

- *Community Classes.* A variety of classes support lifelong learning for youth, teens and adults in subjects such as drawing, painting, performance arts, dance (ballroom, swing, tango and tap), holiday events, American Sign Language, English as a Second Language, interior design, dog obedience and aerobics.
- *Youth Sports.* Youth sports offered by the City in the Spring/Summer season include soccer, volleyball, tennis, golf, track and field, baseball and basketball. During the Autumn/Winter season, sports camps are offered during school breaks and include flag football, basketball, soccer, football, golf and tennis.
- *Adult Sports.* Adult sports offered by the Parks & Recreation Department are offered to individuals 18 years and older. During all seasons, adults can sign up for kickball, dodge ball, softball (men's, women's and co-ed), golf, and volleyball.
- *Aquatics.* Aquatics programming is provided year round. Deer Pool is heated and offer swim lessons May through October, and recreation swim schedules June through August. The Alf Sorenson Community Center Pool offers swim lessons, aquatic exercise classes, life guard training and recreation swimming year round.
- *Special Events.* Sparks hosts a wide variety of special events throughout the year including summer festivals, holiday gatherings, fun runs and events for kids. The Recreation Department's special events staff manages the production, marketing and sponsor recruitment for City events. Additionally the Department manages logistics and services for events produced by private promoters. Examples are noted below.
 - *Parks and Recreation Department Events*
 - Arts in Bloom Festival
 - Farmer's Market at Victorian Square
 - Hot August Nights
 - A Free Day of Fishing
 - Sparks Turkey Trot
 - Top O' the Mornin' Run
 - Moonlight Run

- Sparks Hometowne Christmas Celebration
- *Logistics and Support Services*
 - Cinco de Mayo
 - Street Vibrations
 - Star Spangled Sparks
 - Hot August Nights
 - Best in the West Nugget Rib Cook-Off
- *Community Giving*. Sparks actively seeks community support through volunteerism and donations. Programs such as Adopt-A-Park, Donate a Tree, Create a Splash, and Make a Pitch for Sports have been designed to foster community involvement and giving.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Activity Guide

The Department advertises recreation programs in its Activity Guide, which is also posted on the City's website. Information is presented in English.

Registration and Fees

The City offers four options for registering for programs: walk-in, phone, fax and online. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis, and participants are warned to register early, since classes fill up.

Classes and activities are offered at two different rates, with non-residents paying approximately 20% more than residents. Proof of residency (physical address in city limits as noted on a driver's license, sewer bill or power bill) is required for all registrations claiming Sparks residency rates. Youth scholarship assistance is available for children who cannot otherwise participate due to financial limitations. The Activity Guide also lists a myriad of special events by date/location. While some are noted as free, costs for others are not specified.

Walk-in registration is available at the Parks & Recreation Office. Participants in adult sports leagues and programs held at the Alf Sorensen Community Center may register at that community center. Participants in classes and programs held at the Larry D. Johnson Community Center may register at that community center. The community centers do not handle registration for programs at other sites.

Online registration is available on a convenient 24-hour basis. Most programs are available for online registration, but some—such as Kid Konnection—are not. Eligible classes have a computer symbol next to the class description in the Activity Guide. To use this system, you first must first email or call the Parks & Recreation Department office to receive an assigned household ID number. You must also show/establish proof of residency (when the ID number is assigned) to claim resident rates.

Partnerships and Sponsorships

The Sparks Parks & Recreation Department provides many successful programs in cooperation with other agencies, sponsors and partners. A few are noted below:

- *Boys & Girls Club.* The Club at the Larry D. Johnson Community Center is a teen site operated by the Boys & Girls Club of Truckee Meadows. Open weekdays, teens can play pool, work out, do homework in the quiet area/computer lab, interact with other members, and participate in special programs.
- *Washoe County School District.* The Kid Konnection before/after school program is provided at 14 elementary schools. The before-school program is provided by Sparks Parks and Recreation; the after-school program is provided by the Washoe County School District's 21st Century TEAM UP program.
- *Nell J. Redfield Foundation* supports a free neighborhood park drop-in program for elementary school children living near Ardmore Park. Playground leaders coordinate organized outdoor games, arts and crafts, sports, and other special activities. Free lunch is provided.
- *Scheels.* Scheels is a local sporting goods store that sponsors several events and activities organized by the Parks & Recreation Department each year, such as the Scheels Turkey Trot at the Sparks Marina, the Scheels Kids Klub, the Kids Triathlon, and Paddle Sport Demo Day.

PARTICIPATION AND FACILITY USE

The Sparks Parks & Recreation Department tracks participation in its programs, as well as visitors to major facilities. These data are useful as performance measures in decision-making, helping to measure programming success and to determine which types of programming to offer in the future.

Table 8 shows changes in total participation over the last five years. While participation dipped slightly in FY 09 and 10, it has increased the last two

years. The opening of the Sparks Senior Center in November 2011 accounts for the higher bump in participation in FY12.

TABLE 8: EXISTING PARK LAND BY CLASSIFICATION (2012)

Fiscal Year	Recreation Program Participants	Average Use of Sparks Community Centers
FY12	394,434	660 ¹
FY 11	367,546	585
FY 10	359,426	522
FY 09	370,000	597
FY 08	371,817	588
Average	372,645	590

¹ FY12 includes the addition of Sparks Senior Center in November 2011.

V. BASELINE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

A key element of the planning process will be developing strategies for the Parks & Recreation Department to be able to continue to provide quality services despite recent budget and staffing reductions. It is important to have a solid strategy for dealing with limited resources in the short term, but also to have a longer-term strategy for increasing services as the recession lifts. The purpose of this section is to identify current funding sources and funding trends to provide a baseline for further analysis. Unless otherwise noted, information is taken from the *City of Sparks Final Budget Fiscal Year 2011-2012*.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Parks and recreation funding in Sparks is provided through several different funds, as described below.

General Fund

In the FY12, approximately 5% of *General Fund* dollars were designated for Culture and Recreation. These monies (\$2,731,816) primarily support parks maintenance, which was moved from Parks & Recreation into Community Services in FY12. As part of this transfer, park maintenance funding is now provided through the *General Fund*, rather than the *Parks & Recreation Fund*. The Sparks Parks & Recreation Department has received minimal *General Fund* support since that transfer.

Special Revenue Funds

Specific Revenue funds account for the proceeds of sources that are restricted for specific expenditures, other than major capital projects. Currently, there is one Special Revenue fund that supports parks and recreation.

- *Parks & Recreation Fund (1221)*. The Parks & Recreation Department receives the majority of its operations funding from the Parks & Recreation Fund. This Special Revenue Fund is fed primarily by parks and recreation fees and charges. On occasions, this fund is also used to support capital projects.

In the past, monies from *Sparks Grants & Donations Fund (1204)* and *R/A Revolving Account (3401)* have helped fund park expenditures as well.

Capital Project Funds

Capital projects for parks and recreation are supported through a Citywide fund and three District funds.

- *Park & Recreation Project Fund (1402)*: This fund supports personnel and projects for “specific parks and recreation purposes.” Funding is provided by a portion of franchise fees.
- *Parks and Recreation Project Fund (Districts 1-3) (1406 - 1408)*: Three funding districts were created to provide for the improvement and expansion of public parks, playgrounds and recreation facilities within the City. Financing is provided by a residential park construction tax and interest fees, which must be spent in the district where collected.

REVENUES

Revenues that support parks and recreation have generally decreased over the last five years. While the FY2013 Budget projects slightly more revenue than in 2012, fluctuations in both capital and operations revenues from year to year make it too early to anticipate major changes in income. Changes in revenues by fund are noted below.

Parks & Recreation Fund Revenues

The Parks & Recreation Fund (1221) is supported by a variety of fees, charges, grants, and donations (Table 9). As shown in the table, these revenues have decreased more than \$400,000 since 2010. In part, this represents a drop in income associated with Recreation Program Fees, gifts and bequests. However, it also highlights the variable amounts of revenue from other sources. It is worth noting that revenues from Special Events and Facility Reservation Fees have increased since 2009.

TABLE 9: PARKS & RECREATION FUND (1221) REVENUES, FY 2009- FY2013

Account	PY Actuals 2009	PY Actuals 2010	PY Actuals 2011	FY12 Unaudited Actuals	FY13 Budget
Concession Franchise Fees	0	0	(17,060)	(25,359)	(22,200)
Federal Grants - LEPC	0	0	(7,900)	0	0
Housing & Urban Development (HUD)	0	0	(241,375)	0	0
Interfund - Charge for Services	(65,304)	(199,757)	(53,301)	(59,039)	(64,234)
External - Charge for Services	(174,653)	(217,352)	(216,670)	0	(125,000)
Facility Development Fee	(41,360)	(40,599)	(35,190)	(29,680)	(32,000)
Facility Reservation Fees	(83,528)	(90,396)	(112,765)	(101,761)	(115,384)
Non-resident Fee	(7,560)	(7,265)	(6,540)	(5,515)	(6,000)
Recreation Program Fees	(2,337,910)	(2,272,179)	(2,218,955)	(2,247,892)	(2,153,036)
Recreation Advertising Fees	(50,900)	(510)	(21,565)	(21,065)	(20,000)
Administrative Service Charges	(4,913)	(5,399)	(5,669)	(4,916)	(5,000)
Kiosk Panel Rentals	0	0	0	0	0
Special Events Receipts	(31,044)	(18,514)	(39,071)	(66,283)	(76,476)
Interest Earned	(5,228)	(15,625)	(389)	(121)	(182)
Rebates	(1,802)	0	(2,623)	(4,890)	0
Gifts & Bequests	(109,585)	(102,184)	(36,734)	(3,632)	(1,500)
Recoveries/ Reimbursements	(211)	0	(131)	0	0
Cash Variations	279	(19)	31	(95)	0
Rental/Event Insurance	(6,345)	(5,814)	(5,311)	(4,650)	(4,176)
Miscellaneous Revenue	(83,957)	(62,109)	(7,822)	(31,028)	0
Total	\$(3,004,022)	\$(3,037,721)	\$(3,029,043)	\$(2,605,926)	\$(2,625,188)
Transfer from General Fund	5,078,000	4,533,000	2,614,285	313,557	375,000
Total with GF dollars	\$(8,082,022)	\$(7,570,721)	\$(5,643,328)	\$(2,919,483)	\$(3,000,188)

Source: City of Sparks Financial Services

Note: Revenues are noted in parentheses in City data.

Baseline Service Assessment

As noted at the bottom of Table 9, this fund has been supplemented by General Fund dollars. Since maintenance was transferred to Community Services in FY12, the amount of General Fund dollars that have been transferred to the Parks & Recreation Fund (1221) has decreased substantially.

Capital Fund Revenues

Revenues associated with the four capital project funds have varied over the last five years. Table 10 illustrates how revenues associated with Project Fund 1402 have fluctuated as much as \$1 million from year to year with changes in funding sources.

TABLE 10: PARKS & RECREATION PROJECT FUND (1402) REVENUES, FY 2009- FY2013

Account	PY Actuals 2009	PY Actuals 2010	PY Actuals 2011	FY12 Unaudited Actuals	FY13 Budget
Electric Franchise Fees	(485,486)	(577,748)	(636,006)	(725,712)	(800,000)
Gas Franchise Fees	(206,894)	(287,530)	(293,876)	(263,947)	(325,000)
Concession Franchise Fees	(10,800)	(8,840)	0	(94,663)	(100,000)
Parks Fees	0	0	0	(44,636)	0
Bid Fees	(1,250)	0	0	(1,085)	0
Facility Reservation Fees	0	0	0	(38,103)	(25,000)
Recreation Advertising Fees	0	0	0	(5,433)	(5,000)
Interest Earned	(8,308)	(6,927)	(5,411)	(6,307)	(2,700)
Gifts & Bequests	0	0	0	0	0
Recoveries/Reimbursements	(1,100,000)	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenue	(61,696)	(386)	0	0	0
Total	\$(1,874,433)	\$(881,431)	\$(935,293)	\$(1,179,884)	\$(1,257,700)

Source: City of Sparks Financial Services

Note: Revenues are noted in parentheses in City data.

Table 11 notes revenues for the three District Project Funds supported by a residential construction tax. District 3 has collected the most revenues in the last five years. However, all three funds have decreased as construction has slowed.

TABLE 11: CAPITAL PROJECT FUND REVENUES BY DISTRICT,
FUNDS 1406-1408, FY 2009- FY2013

Account	PY Actuals 2009	PY Actuals 2010	PY Actuals 2011	FY12 Unaudited Actuals	FY13 Budget
Project Fund (District 1) (1406)	(48,715)	(11,584)	(10,624)	(13,538)	(8,400)
Project Fund (District 2) (1407)	(67,141)	(58,259)	(43,440)	(94,890)	(35,000)
Project Fund (District 3) (1408)	(407,941)	(176,019)	(51,812)	(105,480)	(50,000)
Total	\$(523,796)	\$(245,862)	\$(105,877)	\$(213,908)	\$(93,400)

Source: City of Sparks Financial Services

Note: Revenues are noted in parentheses in City data.

EXPENDITURES

Given the decline in revenues over the last several years, it is not surprising that expenditures have decreased as well. Table 12 presents expenditures for the Parks & Recreation Department by service area for the last five years.

The substantial drop in total expenditures in FY12 is due to the transfer of maintenance to the Community Services Department. For this reason, the last row of the table calculates total expenditures without Parks Maintenance and Facility Maintenance. Not including maintenance, other recreation expenditures have decreased by more than 30% between FY09 and FY12. The forecasted budget for FY 2013 shows a slight increase in expenditures based on an anticipated increase in revenues this year.

Between FY09 and FY13 (as budgeted), significant reductions in expenditures are noted for Administration, Youthwatch, Sports, and the Larry D. Johnson Community Center Programs. It also appears that support for City Grants was discontinued. Fluctuations were seen in Special Events (both internally and externally produced) and Alf Sorensen Community Center & Aquatics, but no trending budget reductions are noted in those areas.

TABLE 12: EXPENDITURES BY TYPE/SERVICE
 PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT¹, FY 2009- FY2013

Service	PY Actuals 2009	PY Actuals 2010	PY Actuals 2011	FY12 Unaudited Actuals	FY13 Budget
Administration	1,738,426	1,566,312	1,240,004	1,045,001	1,029,234
City Grants	114,895	156,894	394,780	0	0
Youthwatch	1,276,746	969,248	786,038	805,055	932,381
Special Events (outside producers)	35,442	143,818	139,443	52,741	48,200
Special Events (internally produced)	70,894	51,528	59,304	77,471	58,920
Sports	309,624	205,073	89,204	236,286	219,612
Contractors	42,858	40,259	46,225	61,250	50,129
Parks Maintenance	3,354,081	2,646,812	2,391,512	0	0
Facility Maintenance	263,906	230,742	199,169	0	0
Alf Sorensen Community Center & Aquatics	595,781	631,281	469,754	591,175	608,432
Larry D Johnson Community Centers	208,944	233,051	252,481	135,836	126,899
Capital Projects	825	0	0	0	133,993
Department Total²	\$8,012,421	\$6,875,019	\$6,067,914	\$3,004,815	\$3,207,799
Total Without Maintenance	\$4,394,434	\$3,997,465	\$3,477,233	\$3,004,815	\$3,207,799

Source: City of Sparks Financial Services

¹This table represents expenditures funded through Parks & Recreation Fund 1221.

²Expenditures decreased abruptly in FY12, when parks maintenance was transferred to Community Services.

Parks and Recreation Department (By Fund)

Another way to evaluate total overall expenditures for the Parks & Recreation Department is by fund. While Table 12 noted expenditures associated with Parks & Recreation Fund (1221) only, Table 13 notes all expenditures associated with parks and recreation for the last five years. As shown in the Table, no expenditures associated with Capital Project Funds are forecasted in the FY13 Budget, and operations funding is substantially lower than in 2009 (even if the maintenance shift is taken into consideration).

TABLE 13: EXPENDITURES BY FUND,
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT, FY 2009- FY2013

Funds	PY Actuals 2009	PY Actuals 2010	PY Actuals 2011	FY12 Unaudited Actuals	FY13 Budget
Sparks Grants & Donation (1204)	0	0	0	236,537	0
Parks & Recreation (1221)	8,012,421	6,875,019	6,067,914	3,005,903	3,202,799
Parks & Recreation Projects (1404)	0	32,005	32,306	0	0
Park & Recreation District 3 (1408)	276,342	1,000	0	0	0
R/A Revolving (3401)	569,629	430,146	338,450	248,136	330,746
Department Total	\$8,858,393	\$7,338,170	\$6,438,670	\$3,490,576	\$3,533,545

Source: City of Sparks Financial Services

Note: Expenditures decreased abruptly in FY12, when parks maintenance was transferred to Community Services.

Maintenance

Given the shift in the way maintenance expenditures are tracked, Table 14 notes parks maintenance expenditures based on old and new accounting systems. Maintenance expenditures decreased nearly 42% between FY09 and FY12, but are anticipated to rebound slightly in FY13.

TABLE 14: PARKS MAINTENANCE EXPENDITURES, FY 2009- FY2013

Account	PY Actuals 2009	PY Actuals 2010	PY Actuals 2011	FY12 Unaudited Actuals	FY13 Budget
Maintenance (Parks & Recreation Fund 1221)	2,485,197	2,040,233	1,843,040	0	0
Maintenance (General Fund 1101)	0	0	0	1,449,338	1,593,931

Source: City of Sparks Financial Services

Note: These data include employee salaries/benefits, services and supplies, and capital outlay. It is unknown why these numbers differ from those shown in Table 12.

Many communities calculate their maintenance cost per developed park acre to help them benchmark and track their maintenance expenditures. Based on FY12 Actuals (\$1,449,338) and the City's developed park acreage (363.5 acres)⁷, the City of Sparks is spending approximately

⁷ This calculation does not include acreage for Wedekind Regional Park, or funds for the maintenance of major park buildings (e.g., recreation and community centers)

\$3,987 per acre for the maintenance of park grounds and amenities.⁸ This number is low in comparison to many other communities that provide specialized facilities such as sports complexes and equestrian arenas. It is particularly low if park maintenance is performed in park open space areas (which are not counted here).

VI. CONCLUSIONS/NEXT STEPS

The purpose of this document is to provide a baseline assessment of resources, by summarizing information relevant to the planning process. A secondary purpose is to evaluate this information for accuracy and completeness to ensure that a solid foundation is set for further analysis. The assessment uncovered a need for further discussion and/or research into the following:

- *Park and Facility Inventory:* A standardized methodology is needed to track and count park acreage and facilities. This will affect Needs Assessment calculations based on level of service standards for parks and facilities.
- *Staffing/Volunteers:* Information on staff and/or volunteers FTEs is forthcoming. These numbers will be good measures of department growth or reductions over time.
- *Program Participation:* Information on recreation participation by program area is forthcoming. These data will help us identify program strengths for the Parks & Recreation Department in terms of numbers of people served.
- *Maintenance Funding:* Although maintenance is now supported by General Fund dollars and provided within the Community Services Department, quality maintenance is critical for supporting programming and park use. An additional look at maintenance is needed to identify and benchmark park maintenance cost per acre, park acreage maintained per staff FTE, and facility maintenance costs per square foot.

The Baseline Assessment will be reviewed by the Parks & Recreation Commission and Technical Advisory Committee to identify other issues or fill gaps in information for the planning process.

⁸ If the audited FY11 actuals shown in Table 12 are used in the calculation, the City's maintenance cost per acre increases to \$6,579.

Next Steps

The data presented in this document provide a baseline for discussions with the Parks & Recreation Commission, the Technical Advisory Committee, staff and park stakeholders. Discussions with these groups will help identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges for parks and recreation in Sparks. Feedback will be combined with information from this document to identify trends affecting Sparks parks and recreation services. These trends will be interpreted in an easy-to-read State of Sparks Parks and Recreation Report, which is anticipated to be available in early November for review and discussion.

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