

JANUARY 2, 2025

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan Update

WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA



Acknowledgments

The Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan Update was made possible by the generosity, knowledge, expertise and passion of many who were involved in this project. In addition to the group and organizations listed here, the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan Update benefited from the tremendous love by the community for this park, its history, and what it provides to the greater Washoe County community.

Stakeholders

- University of Nevada, Reno
- City of Reno
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- Reno-Sparks Visitor’s Authority
- Washoe County Commissioners
- Washoe County Sheriff’s Office
- Reno Disc Golf Association
- Momentum Trails
- US Forest Service - Carson District
- Silver State Striders
- Truckee Meadows Trails
- May Arboretum Society
- Wilbur D. May Museum
- Wilbur May Foundation
- Great Reno Balloon Race
- Biggest Little Trail Stewardship
- Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation
- Artown
- Washoe County Parks + Staff

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- Board of County Commissioners Liaison** | Mariluz Garcia, District 3

Washoe County Community Service Department

- Faye-Marie Pekar, Project Manager/Park Planner
- Joanne Lowden, Natural Resource Planning Coordinator
- Christina Thayer, Trails Coordinator
- Colleen Wallace Barnum, Park Operations Superintendent
- Aaron Smith, Operations Division Director
- Eric Crump, Director of Community Services

Consultant Team:

Dig Studio | Lead Consultant
Brandon Sobiech, PLA, ASLA | Principal
Lauren Jarrett, PLA, ASLA | Project Manager

DOWL Engineering | Civil Engineering
Silas Callahan, PE, LSI | Project Manager

Lake|Flato | Architect
Matt Wallace, AIA, LEED AP BD+C | Partner

BerryDunn | Web Outreach
Rich Neumann | Senior Consultant



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The background of the slide is a solid orange color with a faint, white line-art map of a city. The map shows various streets, building footprints, and parks. The title 'Executive Summary' is centered over the map in a large, white, serif font.

Executive Summary

» About the Plan

- » What is the Purpose of this Master Plan?

» Master Plan Process

- » Information Gathering + Analysis
- » Stakeholder + Public Outreach
- » Program Inventory + Trends
- » Recommendation + Implementation
- » Final Master Plan

About the Plan

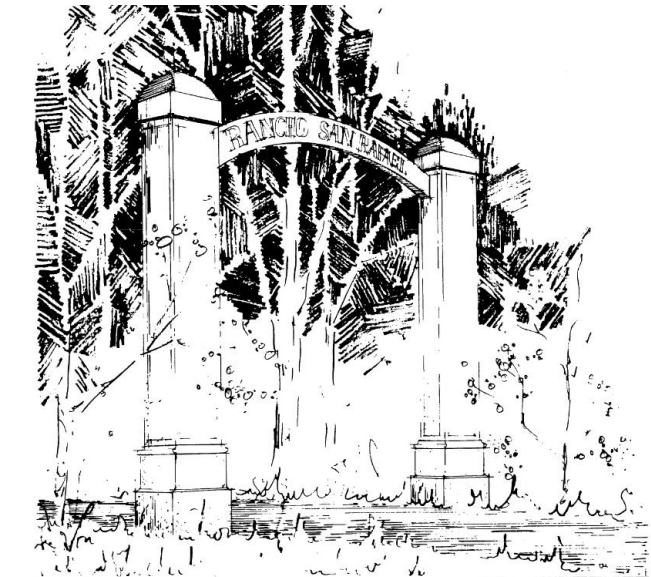
Rancho San Rafael Regional Park is one of the largest and most diverse parks in Washoe County, offering a rich blend of natural beauty, recreational amenities, and cultural heritage. Located where McCarran Boulevard crosses Sierra Street and Virginia Street and spanning hundreds of acres, the park includes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

What is the Purpose of this Master Plan?

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park has undergone two master planning efforts prior to this one. The first in 1982 with a subsequent Master Plan update completed in 1990. In June of 2002, an Implementation Plan of the park was completed. An updated master plan, accurately reflecting the current community and stakeholder input, is required to move forward with any park development to ensure conformity with the community’s current and future recreational needs.

This Master Plan update will drive Washoe County’s long-range goals, policies, and guidelines and prioritize strategies in the park. At the end of this document, a Funding and Implementation Plan, in matrix format, identifies how the County can implement recommendations, based on specific funding options that are available to Washoe County. All recommendations in this plan come from the extensive Public and Stakeholder outreach completed during the Master Plan process.

Overall, an updated Master Plan is needed to act as a current guiding document for future development and redevelopment of the park, its facilities, open space management, accessibility, recreation programming, and amenities over the next 10-20 years.



Top: Existing Site Photo from the Nature Walk on the north side of McCarran Blvd; Bottom Left: Sketch of Entry Monument from 1990 Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan; Bottom Right: Existing shaded bridge in the May Arboretum

The background image is a landscape photograph. It shows a dirt path or road in the foreground, leading into a field of dry, yellowish-brown grass. In the distance, there are rolling hills under a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The overall scene is bright and sunny.

Land Acknowledgment

The consultant team respectfully acknowledges that Rancho San Rafael Regional Park is located on the ancestral lands of the Washoe Tribe, who have lived harmoniously with these lands for thousands of years. We honor their enduring connection to this region and recognize the rich cultural heritage, past, present, and future of all Indigenous peoples who have called this area home.

As we envision the park's future, Washoe County is committed to integrating and honoring Indigenous culture, history, and stories through every aspect of its development. This will include weaving storytelling, traditional knowledge, and historical context into park interpretation, highlighting Indigenous names for significant features, and using art to convey cultural heritage. Washoe County aims to work closely with local Indigenous communities and/or representatives from Reno Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC) to ensure these stories and contributions are meaningfully represented, from signage and exhibits to landscape and art installations throughout the park, as a testament to their enduring legacy.

Our approach seeks to foster an inclusive environment that respects and celebrates Indigenous people's cultural traditions while educating park visitors and promoting stewardship of the land. By collaborating with Indigenous communities, we are dedicated to creating spaces that honor their history and look to the future, inspiring all visitors to appreciate and care for these lands as previous generations have.

Master Plan Process

The Master Plan Update required a comprehensive approach, examining all aspects of the existing facility and surrounding community. This involved assessing the park’s existing physical assets, understanding the community’s needs and evaluating the County and Community’s vision, values and culture regarding this specific park and its use.

Elements of the physical system, County operations, and local culture were carefully examined and evaluated throughout the following phases:

1. Information Gathering + Analysis

In this initial phase, a thorough analysis of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park’s opportunities and constraints was completed. This included utilizing GIS to collect and interpret spatial data to go beyond on-site data gathering.

It was also essential to complete an immersive on-site exploration. Our team completed site walks to verify the condition assessment of existing facilities in the park including but not limited to the Highland Ditch and the multi-use pasture and trials. The consultant team also worked with the Trails Coordinator to confirm the existing trail system and any proposed improvements. During these site walks, the consultant team evaluated site elements contributing to the park’s character. From

furnishings to lighting and access points to art installations, forming a comprehensive foundation for decision-making.

This on-site exploration went hand-in-hand with studying previous planning efforts and planned park improvements, creating a thorough foundation for future plans to be developed.

Historic and social research unveiled the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park’s evolution, current, and past traditions, revealing community identity and cultural heritage.

2. Stakeholder + Public Outreach

To ensure an inclusive and equitable master planning process, a robust public engagement strategy was implemented including three key parts.

Stakeholders and Internal Leaders: The master plan update process consisted of two formal and several smaller informational stakeholder meetings. The consultant team met with four key stakeholder groups. These groups were categorized into Trails and Open Space, Adjacent Agencies, Events and Facilities, and Internal Staff. This included the Washoe County Parks and Open Space team, Washoe County Commissioners, The May Arboretum Staff, Wilbur D. May Museum Staff, event coordinators, administrative team members,

and key staff. Their insights into site history, current challenges, desired amenities and potential future uses were vital for effective planning and implementation.

On-Site Community Outreach Meetings: Facilitating in-person community events as part of our strategy was key to reaching the community. The consultant team utilized interactive tools including large maps to place pins of ideas, idea boards, and a children’s coloring sheet to gain initial ideas and guide us towards concepts.

Once concepts were created, the consultant team were able to take these back to the community and utilize paper and on-line surveys to gain feedback on the direction of the plan to confirm the overall vision and refine final recommendations.

Interactive Project Website: In collaboration with County staff, the consultant team managed a custom project website using Social Pinpoint. This interactive on-line platform was used to help keep stakeholders and the public informed, fostered input sharing, and cultivated diverse feedback. Various on-line tools were used, including surveys, mapping, and idea walls, which accomplished the County’s goals of capturing vast community feedback.



View of the Irwin Overlook

3. Program Inventory + Trends

To assess potential programs for the San Rafael Regional Park, our team developed an inventory of existing programs for youth, adults, and seniors. The consultant team then subsequently compared the inventory to feedback collected during the community engagement process.

4. Recommendation + Implementation

Visioning + Alternatives Development: Based on the site analysis and stakeholder and community feedback gathered, the consultant team prepared alternatives for improvement recommendations. This consisted of a series of “base line” recommendations as well as a few alternatives for specific zones within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. Prior to drafting these recommendations, the consultant team, with the County, crafted a vision reflecting community and stakeholder input to guide our recommendations.

Implementation Plan: Once the final Outreach had been completed, the consultant team refined the final recommendations. These recommendations were then placed in a high-level implementation plan. This plan includes strategies, priorities and an analysis of budget support and funding mechanisms for the short-, mid- and long-term improvements to Rancho San Rafael Regional Park,

open space, trails and recreation programs and services. The implementation plan will prioritize strategies by their level of impact on social, health, and environmental outcomes.

5. Final Master Plan

The culmination of this collaborative journey with Washoe County resulted in the creation of this document: The 2024 Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan. This document encapsulates the collective vision, thoughtful analyses, and strategic planning efforts dedicated to revitalizing and sustaining the park into the future longterm.

The final master plan was presented to the Regional Parks and Open Space Commission on November 20, 2024 marking the culmination of a thorough and inclusive planning process.



Farm Day Event 2024 | Community surrounding the large scale map and placing their ideas with pins

Project Process

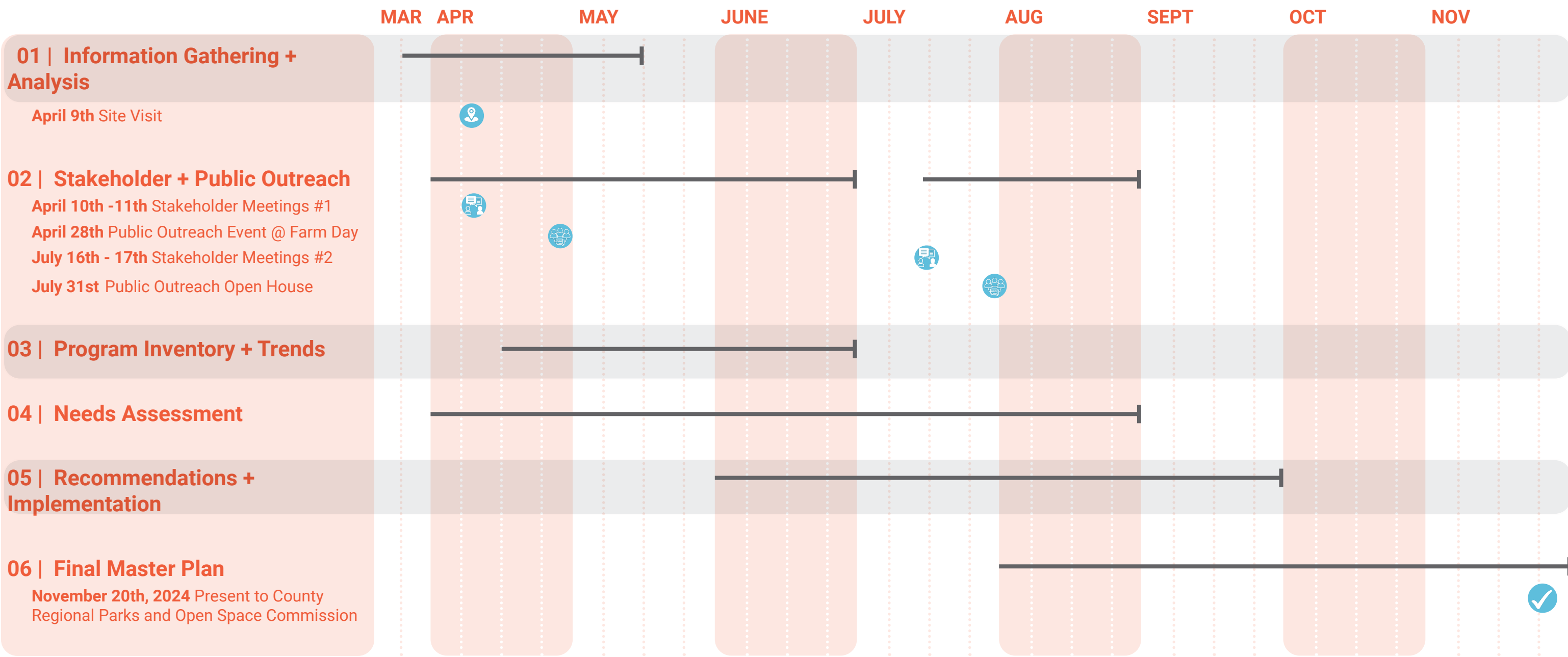




Image Credit: Great Reno Balloon Races



The background of the entire page is a light orange map of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. The map features various geographical elements: winding lines representing trails or roads, irregular shapes indicating fields or meadows, and clusters of small squares and rectangles representing buildings or structures. The map is oriented with a north arrow pointing towards the top left.

Rancho Today

- » Introduction
- » Land Ownership
- » Why Invest in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park?
- » Past Plans
- » Context // Local Culture + Heritage
 - » Ranching Heritage
 - » Festivals + Celebrations
 - » Architectural Charm
 - » Great Basin Adventure

- » Context // Ecology + Environment
- » Inventory of Existing Conditions
 - » Character Areas
 - » The Hills
 - » The Ballfields
 - » The Preserve
 - » Disc Golf
 - » The Pasture
 - » The Park
 - » The Arboretum
 - » Great Basin / Nevada Farms + Families
 - » The Pockets
 - » Garden Drive

Introduction

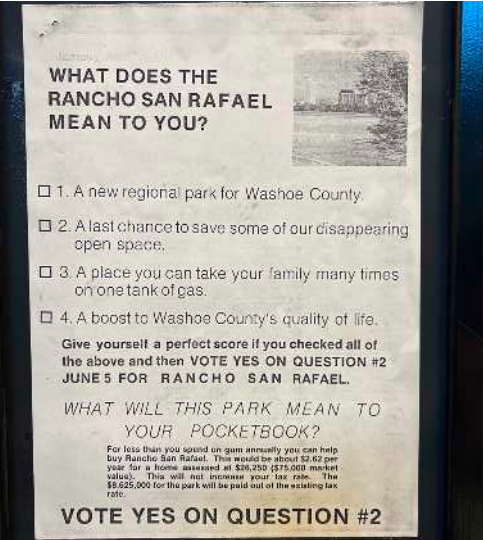
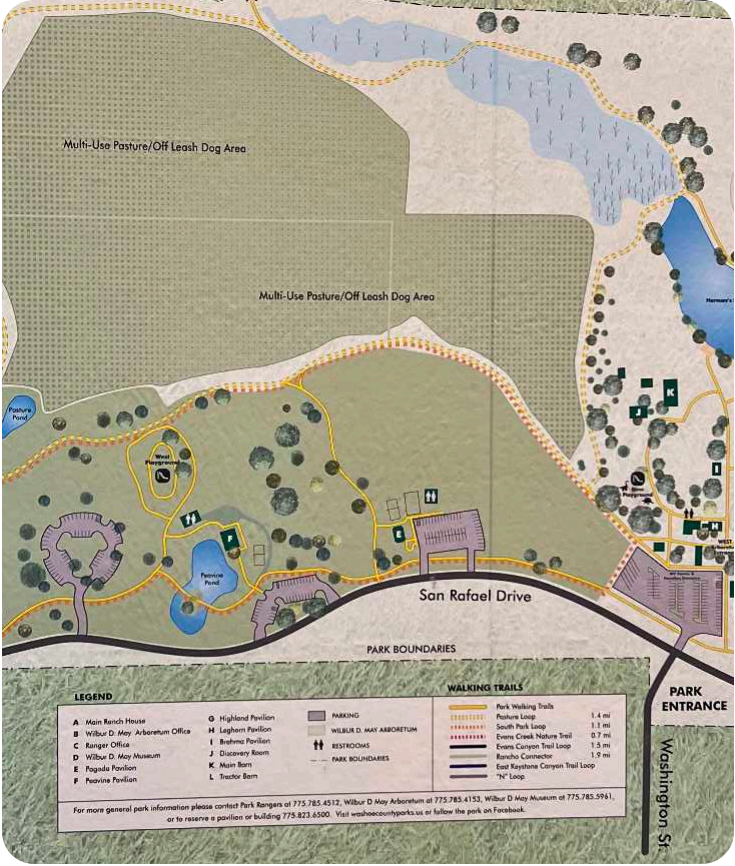
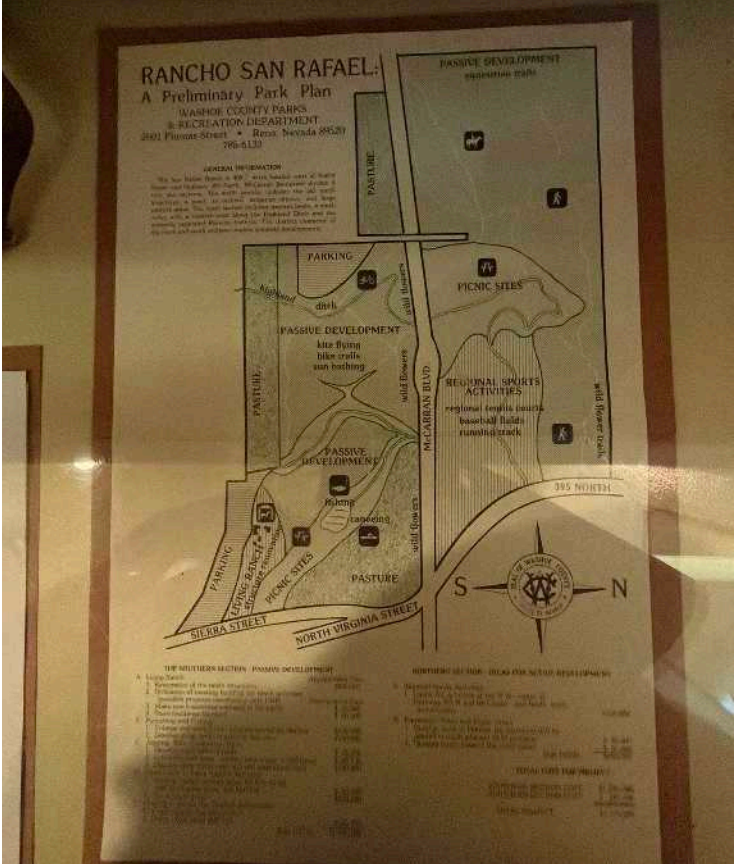
Rancho San Rafael Regional Park has a rich history that predates its establishment as a public space in 1982. Originally founded as a ranch in 1897 by the Pincolini family, the land changed hands several times before being purchased by Dr. Raphael Herman in 1927, after whom the park is named. The Herman family maintained ownership until 1976, when the land was put up for sale. In a collaborative effort, Washoe County and the Nevada Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) acquired the 408 acres in 1979, thwarting plans by land developers and securing the area for public use. The transformation of this former ranch into a beloved park was spearheaded by a citizen-led steering committee, paving the way for the park’s official opening in July 1982.

The park’s inaugural celebration, which included a parade and hot air balloons, laid the groundwork for what would become an annual tradition—the Great Reno Balloon Races. Throughout the 1980s, Rancho San Rafael Regional Park grew into a vibrant community resource, with the addition of the Wilbur D. May Arboretum, botanical gardens, and a museum. Great Basin Adventure, a popular children’s attraction that included pony rides and a mining exhibit, was also developed during this time, though it closed in 2010 due to high maintenance costs. Today, the park preserves the legacy of the original ranch with the Herman family’s ranch house, which still stands and serves as a reservable venue for special events.

Overtime the exact boundaries have changed, today the park sits at 570 acres. The surrounding land ownership further shapes the park’s identity. Adjacent properties managed by the U.S. Forest Service, the City of Reno, private landowners, and the Truckee Meadows Water Authority contribute to the park’s evolving relationship with its neighbors, highlighting the importance of collaboration in future development and conservation efforts. This master plan seeks to honor the park’s history while charting a path forward that embraces both community engagement and ecological stewardship.

The last master plan for Rancho San Rafael Regional Park was completed in 1990, with an Implementation Plan completed in 2002. A lot has changed in the last 20+ years, and Washoe County is excited and determined to update the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan to meet the modern needs of the community today and into the future.

This master plan will serve as a guide for maintenance, improvements, and development within the park for the next 10-20 years.



Land Ownership

The Rancho San Rafael Regional Park land ownership consists of eight combined parcels that have evolved into a unified park space. The vast land is what creates a unique collection of program elements and uses. The southern portion of the park is primarily bordered by single-family residential neighborhoods, providing a direct connection to the adjacent community. To the north, the park neighbors both City of Reno property and lands managed by the United States Forest Service, adding ecological connectivity and conservation emphasis.

This diagram illustrates the park’s ownership, helping guide future developments and ensuring thoughtful management of the existing park in context to adjacent land owners.

Legend

Owner: Washoe County

Owner: City of Reno

Owner: United State Forest Service

Owner: Truckee Meadows Water Authority

Owner: Private Entity

Owner: University + Community College System NV

Park Boundary

An aerial map of the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park area in Reno, Nevada. The map is overlaid with a semi-transparent map showing land ownership. A red dashed line outlines the park's boundary. The map is divided into several colored regions: a large yellow region in the northwest, a large blue region in the center and south, a green region in the northeast, and a small orange region in the center. A white box with an arrow points to a small white area within the blue region, labeled "THE 'N'". The map includes labels for major roads such as McCarran Blvd, Virginia St, Sierra St, Washington St, and Coleman Dr. The University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) is labeled in the southeast. The map also shows various residential streets and landmarks like a baseball field.

Washoe County | Dig Studio | January 2, 2025 11

Why Invest in Rancho San Rafael Regional Park?

In recent years, Washoe County, particularly the City of Reno, has experienced significant growth due to several key factors:

Economic Development and Job Growth: Reno and the surrounding Washoe County have benefited from strong economic growth, driven by diverse sectors such as technology, advanced manufacturing, logistics, and healthcare. Major companies like Tesla, Google, and Apple have established a presence in the region, fostering job creation and attracting new residents. The resulting and expected job growth in the area is substantial, outpacing national averages.

Tourism: Tourism continues to play a vital role in Reno's economy, bolstered by its reputation for outdoor recreation, arts, and cultural events. The nearby Lake Tahoe area, the rise of Reno as a destination for adventure sports, and major annual events such as Burning Man, contribute to a thriving tourism industry.

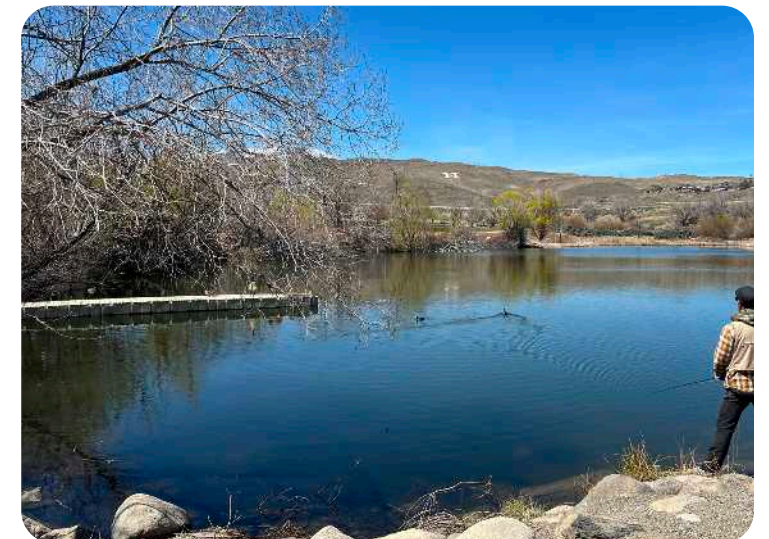
Community Planning and Development: Washoe County and Reno have implemented comprehensive planning strategies to manage proactively. The Truckee River Vision Plan, for example, aims to enhance the livability of the region by improving connectivity, public spaces, and sustainability. Ongoing zoning updates and investments in infrastructure are geared towards supporting balanced growth while maintaining the area's natural beauty.

As Washoe County continues to grow, careful planning and investments in public improvements—such as parks, trail systems, and placemaking initiatives—will be critical to maintaining a high quality of life for its residents.

Past Plans

The previous Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan, completed in 1990, laid the foundation for the park's development over the past three decades. At the time, the plan was instrumental in guiding the initial layout of recreational amenities, trails, and open spaces within the park. However, as Washoe County and the City of Reno have experienced substantial growth, the needs and expectations of park visitors have evolved. While many of the core elements from the 1990 plan, such as the open spaces and central park amenities, remain integral to the park's identity, new challenges—ranging from increased foot traffic and maintenance demands to accessibility concerns—have emerged.

The updated Master Plan addresses these modern-day needs by revitalizing outdated facilities, enhancing sustainability efforts, and expanding the park's offerings to better serve a growing and diverse community. This revision will not only build on the strengths of the original plan but also ensure that Rancho San Rafael Regional Park continues to be a vibrant, inclusive space for future generations.



Top: Peavine Picnic Pavilion; Bottom Left: Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Monument Sign at Sierra Street and Putnam Drive; Bottom Right: Hermon Pond

Context // Local Culture and Character

Park Overview

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park consists of over 500 acres that forms one of the largest landscaped parks in northern Nevada. The park is located northwest of downtown Reno, where North McCarran Blvd bisects the park into a northern and southern section. The park includes several distinct parcels, two of which are adjacent to open space parcels administered by the United States Forest Service. These continuous parcels continue the park’s extensive trail system, consisting of the Keystone Canyon and Evan Canyon trailheads at the base of Peavine Mountain.

In 2022, the park had over 3.5 million visitors and is well known regionally as the site of numerous regional and community events including the Great Reno Balloon Race, Dragon Lights, Farm Day, and other special events throughout the year. Overall park amenities include the Wilbur D. May Museum and Wilbur D. May Arboretum, the visitor center, historic Ranch House, Nevada Farms and Families Area, Herman’s Pond, a disc golf course, a multi-use pasture area for off-leash dog use, miles of trails, five reservable picnic pavilions, two reservable buildings, five reservable gardens, dozens of individual sites, a Basque Sheepherder Monument, Reno Sports Complex, and a new fitness court.

Ranching Heritage

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park was the last ranch in northwest Reno and the initial 408 acres for the park was purchased with a nine million dollar bond issue approved by Washoe County voters in 1979 protecting the land from private development. In 1993, the park was enlarged by 120 acres as a result of a gift by William and Barbara Thornton, and in 1998, a land exchange added another 46 acres in Keystone Canyon to the west of the park.

Basque Sheepherder Heritage

The Basque sheepherder heritage in Nevada, particularly in the Reno area, is deeply rooted in the region’s history and culture. Basque immigrants began arriving in the American West in the late 19th century, seeking opportunities in agriculture and livestock industries. Many Basque men found work as sheepherders. Connecting to the land became an integral part of their identity, and over time, the Basque people established a significant cultural presence in Nevada. Their contributions were not only economic but also cultural, influencing the development of Nevada’s rural communities. The Basques brought with them their unique customs, language, and traditions, which are still celebrated today through festivals, food, and dance. Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, honors this heritage with the Basque Sheepherder Monument.



Top: Existing Site Photo, view over the Disc Golf; Bottom Left: Basque Monument; Bottom Right: Historic Ranch House

Festivals and Celebrations

Regional Park hosts a variety of vibrant festivals throughout the year, including the famous Great Reno Balloon Race and Dragon Lights. Other cultural celebrations, such as Basque festivals, are also held here, celebrating the region’s diverse heritage with music, dance, food, and traditional activities. These events make Rancho San Rafael Regional Park a community hub for both locals and tourists, blending recreation with cultural appreciation.

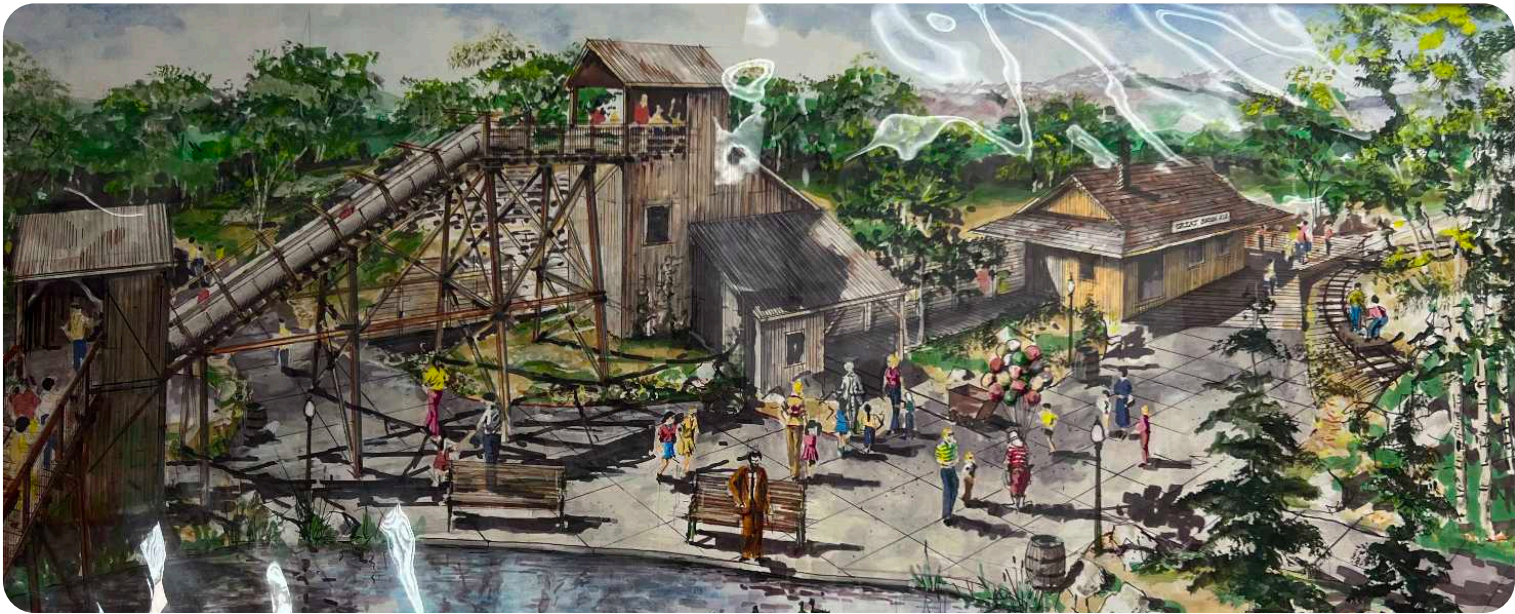
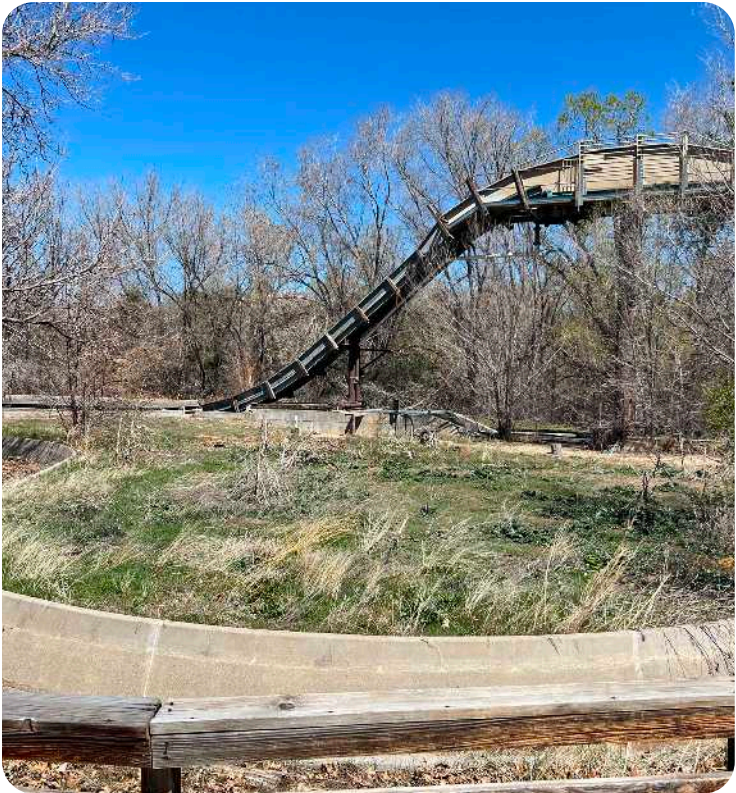
Architectural Charm

The architectural charm of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park lies in its preservation of historic ranch structures, such as the Rancho San Rafael Ranch House. Originally a private residence, the house and surrounding barns reflect the agricultural past of the area, offering a glimpse into early ranch life in Nevada. Today, these buildings serve as event spaces and educational facilities, blending rustic ranch aesthetics with modern functionality. The architectural heritage adds a layer of human and cultural history to the park, complementing its natural beauty.

Great Basin Adventure

The Great Basin Adventure at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park was once a popular interactive and family-friendly attraction that brought Nevada’s natural environment to life. Tailored to younger visitors, the adventure park featured exhibits showcasing the unique flora and fauna of the Great Basin region. Highlights included a petting zoo, a dinosaur-themed discovery center and playground, a mining-themed building with a gold-panning station, and the renowned log flume ride. This educational and entertaining destination was a favorite for children and families eager to learn about the region’s ecology in a fun, engaging way.

However, over time, funding constraints limited the park’s ability to maintain the Great Basin Adventure, leading to significant changes. Today, the area is known as Nevada Farms and Families. While the iconic log flume ride is no longer operational and poses safety concerns, many original elements still remain, such as the dinosaur-themed playground, discovery center, and exhibits that celebrate Nevada’s agricultural and cultural history.



Top Left: Historic Log Flume in current condition; Top Right: Historic photo of The Great Reno Balloon Race from the Visitors Center; Bottom: Rendering of the Great Basin Adventure

Context // Ecology and Environment

Within the over 500 acres of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, the park supports a variety of habitats, from open meadows and riparian areas to wetlands, making it an important haven for local wildlife. The Wilbur D. May Arboretum and Botanical Garden, within the park, showcases a high-desert collection of over 4,600 native and adapted plant species. This area is particularly noted for its ability to support plant life despite the region’s low annual precipitation of just seven inches and extreme daily temperature fluctuations.

The park offers diverse landscapes including native pasture grasses, wetlands, and high desert with sections that have noxious and invasive weeds. Resident birds live in the riparian areas, including raptors and owls. Late fall sees the arrival of Canada geese on the pastures and developed lawn areas. Mule deer, bobcat, and coyote are present in the northern part of the park area adjacent to the larger range.

The park is also a birding hotspot, attracting numerous bird species throughout the year, including waterfowl, songbirds, and raptors like Great Horned Owls. The Arboretum and surrounding trails offer habitats ideal for these species, especially around Herman’s Pond and the restored wetlands. This rich ecological diversity makes Rancho San Rafael Regional Park a crucial green space for both conservation and education in the Reno area.

The use and management of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park are influenced by its designation under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), a federal program that provides funding for the acquisition and protection of public lands and recreational spaces. As a recipient of LWCF funding, the park is subject to specific regulations regarding land use, ensuring it remains accessible for outdoor recreation and conservation. These protections prohibit the sale or conversion of parkland to non-recreational uses without federal approval, ensuring that the ecological and recreational value of the park is preserved for future generations. This designation helps safeguard the park’s diverse habitats, including wetlands, riparian zones, and open meadows, by providing funding for maintenance, restoration, and improvements, in line with conservation objectives.



Top: View over the multi-use pasture; Bottom Left: View over Disc Golf Course; Bottom Right: Desert Cottontail seen during a site visit

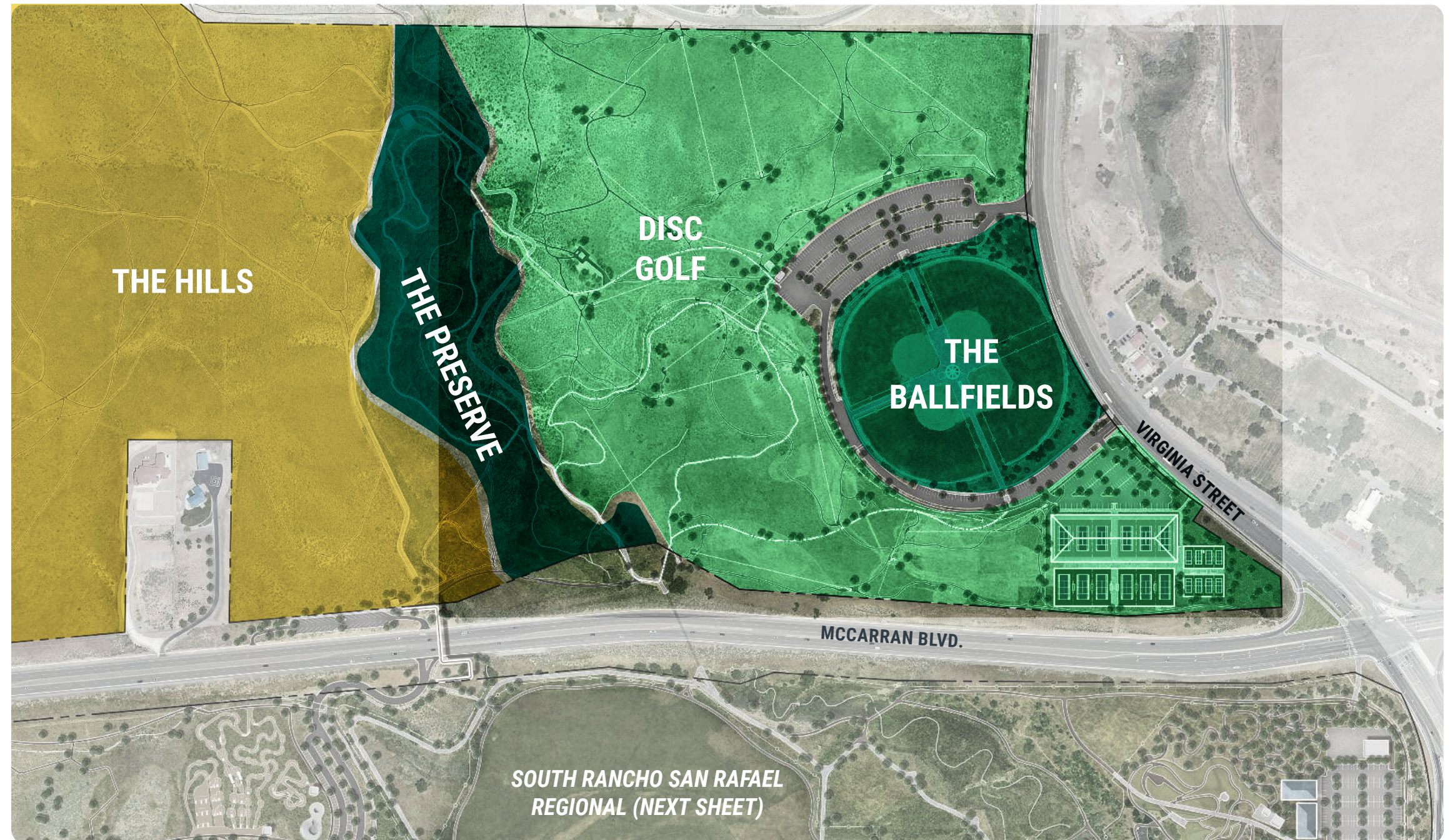
Inventory of Existing Conditions

Character Areas

The consultant team conducted an extensive inventory of the current conditions at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. It was evident that this is a beloved and frequently used space by the Washoe County community and beyond. The park boasts a variety of assets that offer unique experiences for diverse users, including a certified Level II Arboretum, a world-renowned Disc Golf Course, a ballfield complex, hundreds of miles of trails, and typical community park amenities like ramadas, open lawns, and volleyball courts.

To comprehensively analyze the site, the team used GIS technology for mapping studies, covering everything from habitat areas to transit stops and trail alignments. However, the true understanding of the park came from our on-the-ground observations. After numerous site visits, many steps, and countless photos, the consultant team divided our analysis into ten distinct character zones:

- The Hills
- Disc Golf
- The Ballfields
- The Preserve
- The Pasture
- The Park
- The Arboretum
- Great Basin
- The Pockets
- Garden Drive



Additionally, the consultant team noted the significant differences between the north and south sections of the park. The following sections will explore our findings in each of these character zones.



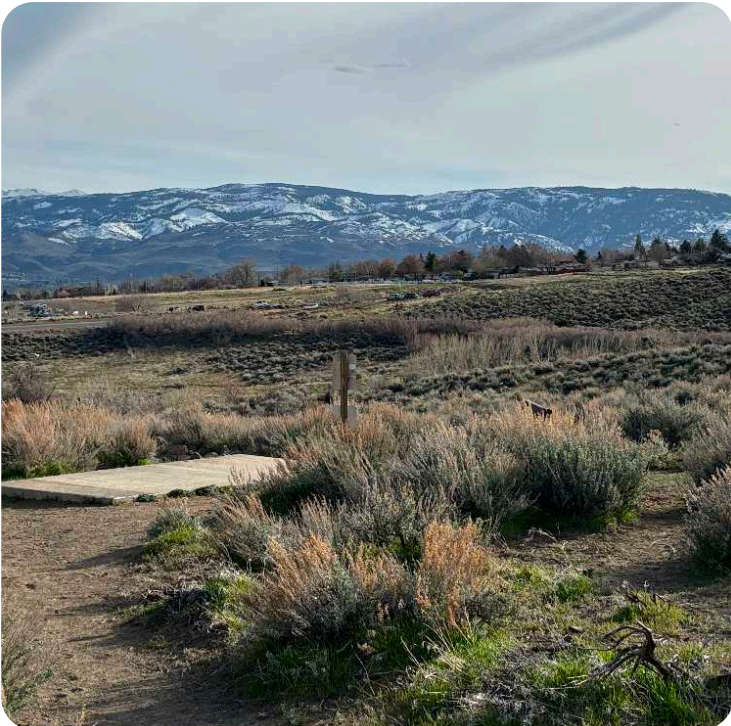
The Hills

The Hills character zone is bisected by McCarran Boulevard, with distinct differences on each side. On the north side, The Hills offers a beautiful network of hiking and biking trails, which are very popular among the community. These trails connect to an extensive trail system in the Peavine Mountain area. During our site analysis, several key observations emerged:

- Accessible Trails: Many parts of the existing trails have suffered erosion, making accessibility a challenge, especially for users with mobility challenges. The lack of paved surfaces complicates maintenance and accessibility management for the County.
- Wayfinding Issues: Navigation is difficult without prior knowledge of the trail network. There is a noticeable absence of wayfinding signage, especially near the southern park entrance, where it is unclear what lies beyond the tunnel connecting The Park to The Hills.
- Tunnel Enhancements: While the tunnel’s art installations have helped reduce graffiti, the space would benefit from added lighting and minor grade alterations at both entry points to improve visibility and safety.
- Trail Realignment: Minor adjustments to trail alignments have been discussed with the Washoe County Trails Coordinator to enhance safety and user experience.

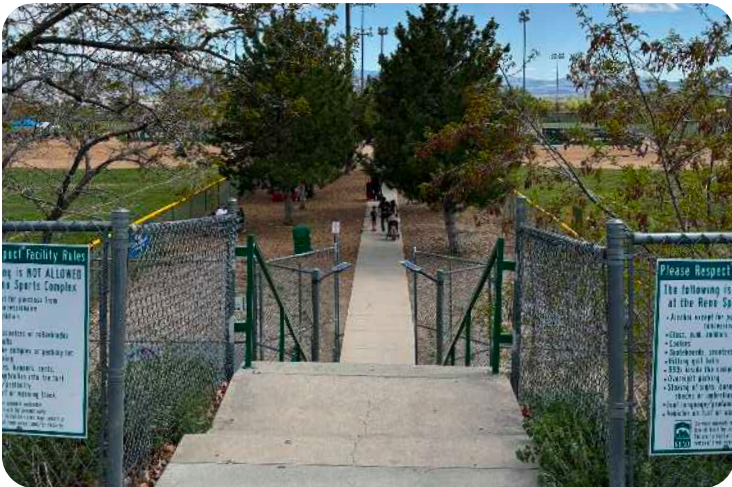


The southern side of McCarran Boulevard, within The Hills zone, remains largely undeveloped, providing a substantial opportunity for future growth. On the north side of McCarran, however, unregulated and illegal parking poses significant safety concerns. The consultant team has explored potential options for formal vehicular access on both sides of McCarran through coordination with NDOT. These options, reflected in the Recommendations chapter, represent viable designs at the time of planning but will require further refinement during the design phase. Additionally, the natural terrain and grade changes in the southern portion of The Hills make it a prime candidate for a low-impact design solution, such as a bike course that complements the area’s naturalistic character.



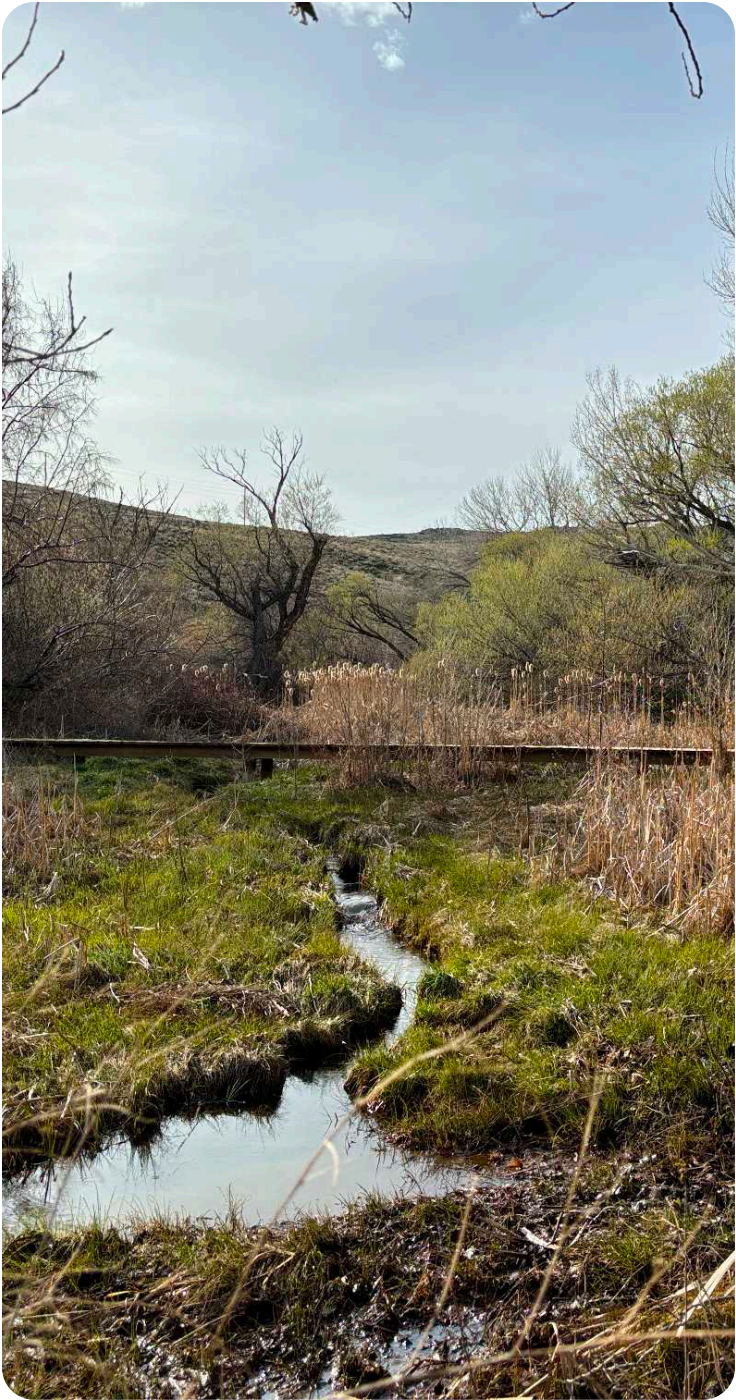
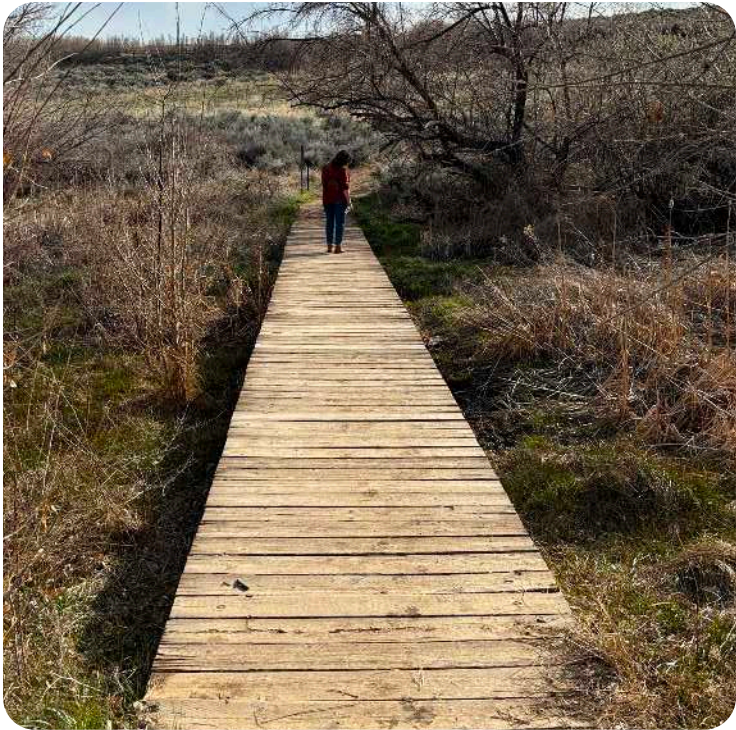
The Ballfields

The Ballfields character zone at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park serves as a hub for recreational sports, primarily baseball and softball. This section of the park is highly utilized during the sports season, drawing both organized leagues and casual users. While the ballfields are operated by the City of Reno, rather than Washoe County, the consultant team assessed the impact on overall site accessibility and parking demands. Larger tournaments often cause parking overflow, affecting access for disc golf and trail users. Additionally, the consultant team identified significant accessibility issues, as the main entry point from the parking lot is not user-friendly for those with mobility challenges or families with strollers. The designated ADA entrance is inconveniently located far from the primary parking area and leads to a dead-end, compounding the difficulty for visitors with accessibility needs.



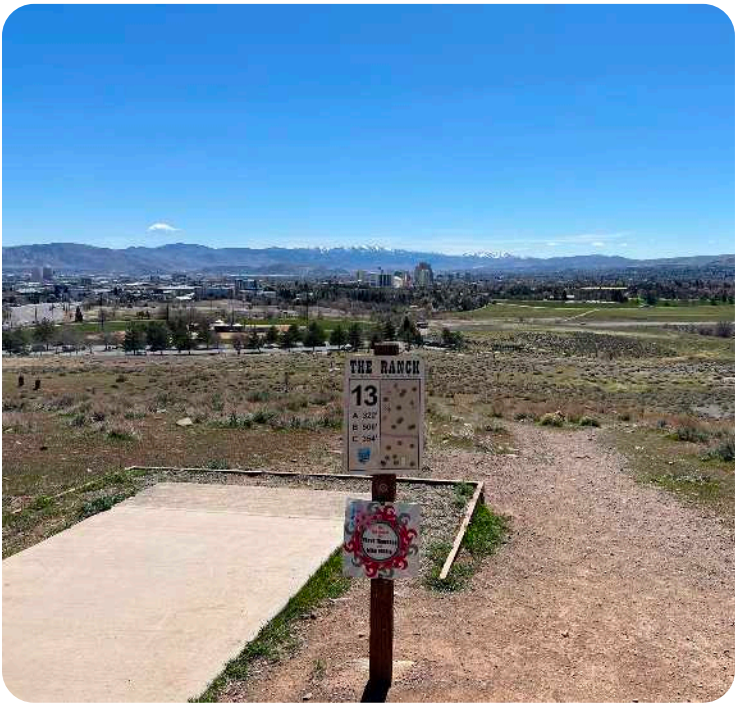
The Preserve

The Preserve character zone at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park serves as a natural refuge, showcasing native plants, wetlands, and vital wildlife habitats. This area is designed for conservation and low-impact recreation, such as birdwatching and nature walks. However, during the site inventory, it was observed that invasive plant species are increasingly encroaching on parts of the preserve, threatening its delicate ecosystem. Additionally, informal trails created by visitors are contributing to habitat degradation and disturbing wildlife areas. To maintain the ecological balance and protect the area, management strategies will need to prioritize invasive species removal, habitat restoration, and the creation of formalized pathways to mitigate further damage while ensuring the public can continue to enjoy the natural beauty responsibly.



Disc Golf

The Disc Golf character zone is a dedicated area designed for both casual and competitive players. Set against the park's natural beauty, the disc golf course features 18 holes that wind through open fields, trees, and varied topography, providing challenges for players of all skill levels. The zone's natural landscape offers an immersive outdoor experience, with players enjoying scenic views of the surrounding foothills. Recent reviews of the course suggest potential upgrades to improve accessibility and address wear and tear on the course infrastructure, ensuring that the disc golf zone continues to be a popular destination for outdoor recreation.



The Pasture

The Pasture character zone is a large, open space within the park, primarily serving as an off-leash dog area. Its broad, flat terrain makes it ideal for large regional events like The Great Reno Balloon Races. However, the area is not without its challenges. The presence of irrigation ditches poses potential tripping hazards, requiring thoughtful design solutions to enhance safety for both visitors and their pets. Additionally, the space faces ongoing drainage issues, particularly during wet seasons, which can lead to soggy, unusable conditions. Addressing these drainage concerns will be key to maintaining the versatility and functionality of this large open area, ensuring it remains safe and enjoyable year-round.



The Park

The Park character zone is the central portion of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park which serves as a key gathering space, offering amenities such as open lawns, ramadas, picnic tables, and volleyball courts. This well-used area hosts family gatherings and casual recreation, but an inventory of the amenities revealed that many are aging and in need of refurbishment. Fitness stations show considerable wear, with some posing safety hazards. Similarly, the playground, while still popular, requires repairs. Fortunately, plans for an all-abilities playground are underway, promising a more inclusive play space for children of all abilities.

In addition to aging amenities, the park’s furnishings and circulation paths need attention. Many benches, picnic tables, and other site furnishings are deteriorating and disconnected from walkways, creating a disjointed experience for visitors. A lack of a clear hierarchy of pathways contributes to confusion. Upgrading the park’s furniture, adding shade structures, and improving layout with clearly defined paths will enhance both function and aesthetics. Better maintenance alongside these upgrades will ensure Rancho San Rafael Regional Park continues to be a cherished community space.



The Arboretum

The arboretum character zone is the home of the Wilbur D. May Arboretum, a certified Level II Arboretum, features an extensive collection of trees and plants adapted to Nevada’s arid climate, serving as both an educational resource and a peaceful retreat for visitors. However, the current entry sequence is confusing, with access points located both east of the Historic Ranch House and to the north near the museum, where catering and back-of-house operations take place. These disjointed entryways not only detract from the visitor experience but also create challenges in wayfinding. A more cohesive, intuitive entry sequence is needed to guide visitors clearly toward the arboretum’s main features.

Moreover, accessibility throughout the arboretum remains a critical issue, with many pathways difficult to navigate for those with mobility challenges. Addressing these concerns will require careful planning to avoid disrupting the arboretum’s valuable plant collection. A detailed study is essential to determine where accessibility improvements can be made without compromising the collection or the integrity of the landscape. Enhancing signage, providing clearer paths, and improving access will ensure the arboretum remains a welcoming and inclusive space for the entire community.

The **Wilbur D. May Museum**, though separate from the arboretum, is intrinsically connected through their shared focus on education, nature, and cultural heritage. The museum houses a vast collection of artifacts collected by Wilbur D. May, showcasing his interests in global art, natural history, and cultural treasures. These exhibits foster an appreciation for history and the natural world, complementing the arboretum’s mission of educating visitors about Nevada’s unique flora. However, the proximity of the museum’s back-of-house functions to key entry points creates confusion, further underscoring the need for a well-defined entry and circulation plan that enhances both the arboretum and museum experiences.



Great Basin / Nevada Farms and Families

The Great Basin character area (Nevada Farms and Families), previously known as the Great Basin Adventure, once thrived as a center for family-focused educational and recreational activities. Its unique appeal came from the combination of playful, interactive exhibits—such as the dinosaur-themed playground and Discovery Center—and its ability to introduce children and families to Nevada’s natural history and agricultural roots. Over time, however, a lack of consistent funding and maintenance led to the gradual deterioration of many features. This has diminished its ability to engage visitors as it once did, turning what was a lively educational environment into a less compelling space for learning and play.

Despite this decline, several important elements remain that continue to provide valuable educational and cultural opportunities. The barn quilts scattered throughout the area offer a vibrant nod to Nevada’s agricultural heritage, using art to connect visitors with the farming traditions of the region. Additionally, the pollinator garden introduces a significant ecological and educational resource, illustrating the role of pollinators in the environment while enhancing the biodiversity of the park’s landscape. Similarly, the community garden managed by the Master Gardeners serves both as a community hub and an educational tool, promoting

sustainability and teaching visitors about local agriculture and gardening techniques.

In terms of cultural education, the Basque history area retains its significance, highlighting the contributions of the Basque community to Nevada’s cultural fabric. However, the integration of these elements, while still present, is less cohesive than it once was, as the area suffers from physical wear and a general lack of maintenance.

The area also faces several challenges related to safety and usability. The wooden playground structures, log flume, and other features show significant signs of deterioration, with exposed nails and rusted components creating potential hazards. These issues have impacted the functionality of the space and must be addressed to restore its value as a family-friendly destination.

While the Great Basin / Nevada Farms and Families area still holds historical, cultural, and ecological significance, its current state reflects a need for revitalization and better maintenance. The educational components remain valuable, but the decline in physical infrastructure undermines the area’s potential, limiting its ability to fully engage and educate visitors.





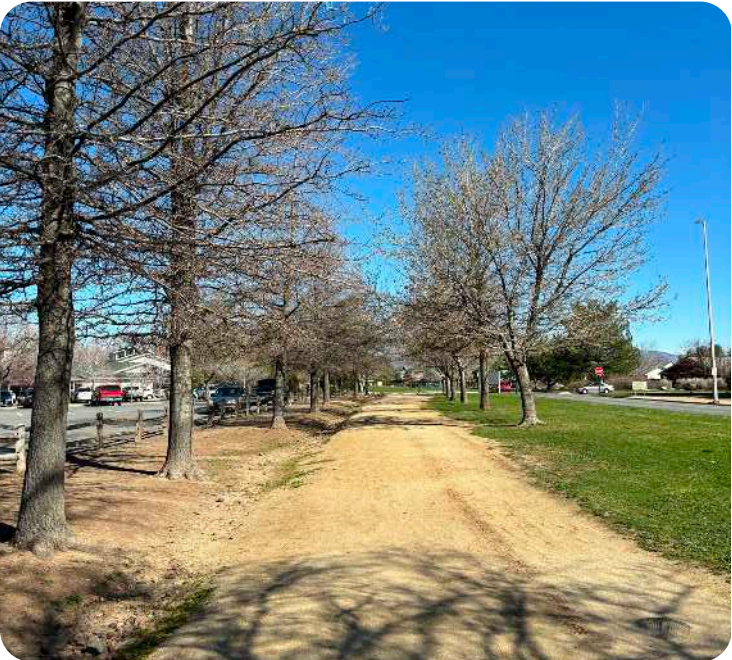
The Pockets

“The Pockets” refer to two undeveloped areas along the south side San Rafael Drive, presenting a valuable opportunity for creating small, neighborhood-sized parks. These spaces can serve the adjacent community directly and alleviate some of the demand on the larger regional park. Currently unused and disconnected from the main park, these areas offer a blank canvas for new amenities and community-centric spaces. By integrating them into the overall park plan, “The Pockets” could significantly enhance amenities for nearby residents while complementing the park’s broader offerings.



Garden Drive

The Garden Drive character serves as the main access point to the southern half of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. While functional, improvements could enhance pedestrian connectivity. The current parking layout lacks intuitive navigation, challenging visitors. Key recommendations include adding wayfinding signage, creating an accessible sidewalk along its length, and installing crosswalks linking park amenities. Additionally, converting the turf strips along the street to native grasses or other drought-tolerant plants offers a sustainable landscape opportunity; this could greatly improve water efficiency and enhance the park’s environmental quality.





Community Engagement

» Introduction

- » Overview + Purpose

» Stakeholder Workshop #1

- » Stakeholder Groups
- » Stakeholder Meetings
- » Input Summary
- » Key Themes

» Community Event Farm Day 2024

- » Input Summary
- » Key Themes

» Website Survey Results

Introduction

The Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan Update placed a high priority on inclusive and equitable community engagement to ensure that the diverse needs and desires of Washoe County’s growing population were accurately captured. To achieve this, a comprehensive public engagement strategy was implemented, consisting of three key components: stakeholder meetings, on-site outreach events, and an interactive project website.

The process began with formal and informal meetings with stakeholders, categorized into four major groups: Trails and Open Space, Adjacent Agencies, Events and Facilities, and Internal Staff. These discussions included key figures from the Washoe County Parks and Open Space team, County Commissioners, the May Arboretum, the Wilbur D. May Museum, event coordinators, and other essential staff. Their insights into site history, current challenges, and future opportunities provided a critical foundation for the planning process.

On-site community meetings further expanded public involvement, incorporating interactive activities such as large maps, idea boards, and children’s coloring sheets to gather ideas and engage a broad audience. Once conceptual designs were developed, feedback was collected through surveys—both paper-based and online—to refine and validate the community’s vision.

Finally, a dedicated project website, powered by Social Pinpoint, allowed ongoing community engagement. This interactive platform featured mapping tools, idea walls, and surveys, enabling the public to share their input and stay informed throughout the planning process, ensuring that the Master Plan Update was truly reflective of the community’s aspirations.

Overview + Purpose

Community input was recognized as a crucial aspect of the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan Update from the very beginning. Since the completion of the previous Master Plan in 1990, the demographics of Washoe County and the surrounding community have experienced significant changes. This evolving community landscape necessitated a comprehensive approach to ensure that the updated Master Plan reflects the current needs, desires, and vision of park users and residents alike. To achieve this, the consultant team, in collaboration with Washoe County, designed a multifaceted Community Engagement Plan that prioritized inclusive and accessible participation.

The Community Engagement Plan was structured around three key components:

- Stakeholder and Internal Leader Workshops
- On-Site Community Meetings
- Interactive Project Website

Stakeholder and Internal Leader Workshops served as the initial step, bringing together representatives from diverse groups who have a vested interest in the park’s future. The workshops provided an opportunity for direct dialogue, helping to identify preliminary concerns, aspirations, and potential conflicts. The input gathered from these discussions laid the groundwork for broader community engagement and helped shape the content and focus of subsequent outreach efforts.

The first Community Event took place at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park during Farm Day 2024, a beloved community gathering that provided an ideal platform to launch the engagement process. During the event, the planning team set up an interactive booth where attendees could learn about the project, participate in activities, and provide feedback on initial ideas. Additionally, team members distributed business cards and flyers containing QR codes to drive traffic to the newly launched Interactive Project Website. This website, which debuted on the same day as the event, featured an on-line survey, interactive mapping tools, and project updates, enabling community

members to participate at their convenience.


This two-pronged strategy—combining face-to-face interaction with digital engagement—ensured a robust level of participation, reaching a diverse audience and encouraging continued involvement throughout the planning process. The insights gathered from both in-person and on-line engagement will be instrumental in guiding the development of the Master Plan, ensuring that it reflects the collective vision of the community while addressing current and future needs.

After this phase was complete, the team compiled the results, which you’ll see in the following pages prior to diving into the second phase of community engagement.



HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE!






Scan the QR Code with your smart phone's camera. This will take you to the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Public Engagement Website where you can provide YOUR INPUT!

VISION PLAN UPDATE
Washoe County is looking for input to guide the future of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.

GET INVOLVED! Take a survey, share your ideas, and concerns on an interactive map! Use the QR Code or visit:
<https://engageberrydunn.mysocialpinpoint.com/rancho-san-rafael-regional-park-master-plan>

KEEP INFORMED Additional input will be needed once vision and alternatives have been developed!



What is next for Rancho?

Stakeholder Workshops #1

Stakeholder Groups

Adjacent Agencies

- » University of Nevada, Reno
- » City of Reno
- » Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- » Reno-Sparks Visitor's Authority
- » Washoe County Commissioners
- » Washoe County Sheriff's Office

Open Space

- » Reno Disc Golf Association
- » Momentum Trails
- » US Forest Service - Carson District
- » Silver State Striders
- » TMT Trails

Facilities and Events

- » May Arboretum Society
- » Wilbur D. May Museum
- » Wilbur May Foundation
- » Great Reno Balloon Race
- » Biggest Little Trail Stewardship
- » Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation
- » Artown

Internal Staff

- » Washoe County Parks + Staff

Stakeholder Meetings

Stakeholder meetings were organized by group categories, with sessions held at the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Historic Ranch House. Each meeting followed a structured, workshop-style format. After introductions from both the project team and attendees, an overview of the project goals was provided to ensure clarity and focus.


The core of these sessions revolved around a “Rose, Bud, Thorn” exercise, designed to elicit targeted feedback. Stakeholders identified “roses,” or existing elements of the park that are functioning well; “thorns,” representing current challenges or issues; and “buds,” which highlighted opportunities for improvement or visions for future

success. This exercise fostered open dialogue, allowing participants to map out specific areas on large aerial images of the park, marking spots that require attention, areas that need protection, or where new ideas could be implemented. The feedback gathered from these discussions was essential in shaping the future direction of the park.



Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Vision Plan Update 2024

Stakeholder Input




Rose

Highlights, positives, major success.

What is working?

What makes our family want
return is the old feel of the
park. It's family and everyone
including the Park Rangers that
make him. Keep it old but make it new
and UPDATED. Good Luck!




Thorn

Challenges, difficulties, what needs improvement.

What's not working?

Safety for Runners in Back country
on Summit. Signage Improvement.



Bud

New ideas, looking to the future, growth, potential.

What would define success for this plan?

Parking Increased, Would be nice
to have a better area for SMT
Finish for Race Goats. Increase
more Race Events. Foot Race & Bike.
Frequency or D.O more evaluation of
trail improvement.





Key Themes Identified

Celebrate the Park as a Regional Hub (Trails + Recreation):

- Establish a shaded trailhead pavilion with amenities (restroom + bike repair station)
- Increase accessible trail network
- Expand parking options + access points to trail network

Preserve Passive Open Space:

- Maintain “openness”
- Respect views, nature, and habitat

Restore the discovery, intrigue and imagination of Great Basin Adventure:

- Bring back the excitement and wonder of the GBA
- Bring back animals and link to the historic ranching heritage

Support and Facilitate Community Events:

- Support ongoing community and regional events to the degree where it does not degrade the park
- Bolster park infrastructure - electrical, lighting, restrooms - to support and improve daily function.

Increase Public Access:

- Provide safer pedestrian crossing at across Sierra St. to University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) and shopping
- Explore additional access points along McCarran Blvd. and Sierra St.
- Provide additional and more convenient parking options

Establish Long Term Funding Support and Partnerships:

- Identify long term, sustainable funding support for improvements, operation, and maintenance

Critical Planning Relationships Identified

Pastoral Landscape vs. Active Recreation:

- Balance the responsibility to maintain ‘openness’ and a pastoral passive landscape, with integration of new community amenities

Large Community + Regional Events vs. Daily Use:

- Provide the appropriate infrastructure to host large events that define the park and draw visitors, but in a way that minimizes impact to the park landscape, the adjacent neighborhoods and local community

North Park vs. South Park:

- Understand the fundamental differenced in how each park ‘area’ serves the community (through program and landscape character) and work to stitch them together in a more meaningful way

Public Land vs. Private Funding:

- Weave a delicate balance of creating community public space that may (or already does) rely on private funding and maintenance. Understand the public perception of fee systems for certain aspects of the park that require more substantial operational costs

Potential User Conflicts:

- Large Events (Flex Parking) vs. Arboretum Expansion and new amenities
- Hikers vs. Bikers vs. Disc Golf vs. Gun Owners

Operational Conflicts:

- Turf Use (Cooling + Program) vs. Native Vegetation
- Lighting + Electrical Upgrades vs. Park Hours

Community Event Farm Day 2024

The Farm Day Event provided multiple interactive opportunities for the community to engage in the feedback process. A variety of activities were set up to ensure that all attendees, regardless of age or familiarity with the planning process, could easily contribute their thoughts and ideas.

One of the main attractions was the large 6'x4' map, where participants could place 3D pins to indicate specific areas of the park they wanted to comment on or suggest improvements. These visual markers allowed for a clear and organized way to highlight locations of interest or concern.

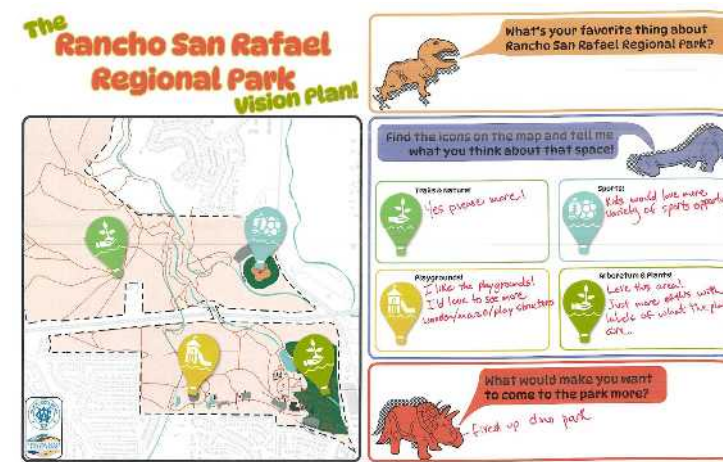
Additionally, idea boards were displayed, categorized by character areas of the park. This setup allowed participants to share thoughts and aspirations for distinct zones, helping to gather feedback on a granular level.

To encourage tech-savvy attendees and those who preferred digital interaction, QR codes were provided, linking them directly to the project's website. This ensured that even those who couldn't stay long at the event had the opportunity to engage online at their convenience.

To make the experience inclusive for families, children were invited to participate through a special “coloring sheet” activity. Kids could color and interact with the consultant team or their parents, sharing what they envisioned for the park’s future. This simple but engaging exercise captured

the creative perspectives of younger park users, which is often overlooked in traditional planning processes.

By offering a range of feedback methods—from physical maps and idea boards to digital QR codes and family-friendly activities—the event made it easy for everyone to participate, ensuring that a diverse set of voices could contribute to the future of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.



Key Themes Identified

A Beloved Park, Layered with Meaning:

- Overall a positive and welcoming reaction to the outreach event and the park. Many memories have been made here and conversations triggered storytelling.

Desire for a Aquatic Amenity:

- Previous plans have reinforced a need in this community for an aquatic facility and that was reinforced by several requests for a pool.
- A splashpad was also of significant interest to offer summer programming.

“Bring Back the Log Flume! ... and the animals!”

- Bring back the excitement and wonder of the old Great Basin Adventure Park.
- Bring back animals and link to ranching heritage.

“I didn’t know that was the Park”:

- A good portion did not realize how large the park was, or that it even stretched across McCarran Blvd. Several folks mentioned that lighting in the bridge would be great, or even a pedestrian overpass.
- Improve connections out from the park (across Sierra Street)

“Pump it up”:

- Very positive response to all things skate park and pump track related. The Southwest quadrant can easily fit these needs.

Integration of Arts:

- Many comments reflected a desire to create a “sculpture walk” and continue to integrate arts in the park. This reinforces the regional reputation as an art destination.

Additional Courts:

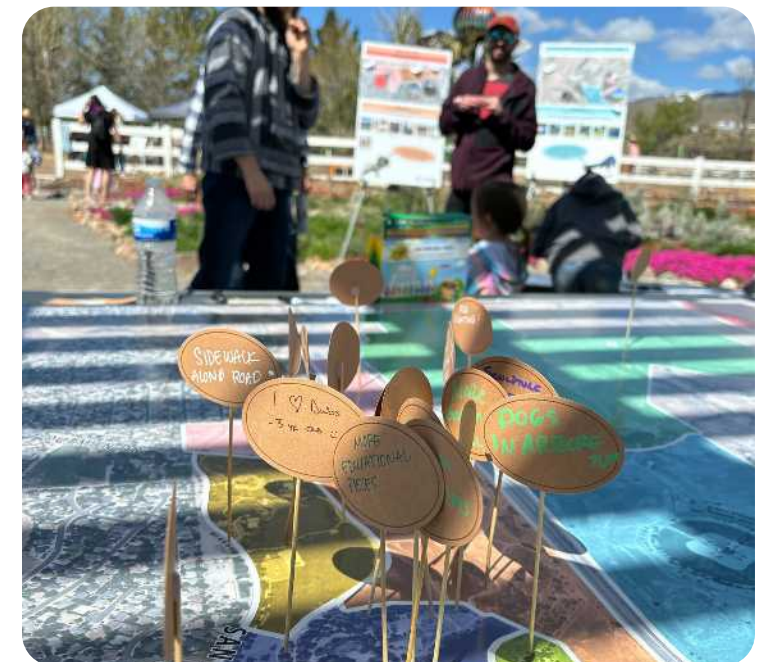
- This will be one to track through the on-line survey. There was some interest in pickleball and basketball, but wasn’t an overwhelming majority. There was consensus that the area to the southwest could support that expansion.

Playgrounds:

- Although one playground is in the works, there was a repeated comment to fix / replace several of the current playgrounds including the wood structure, the dinosaurs, and the central play space.

Trail Access + Amenity:

- Provide more trail access and better wayfinding and signage.



Website Survey Results

Purpose:

Gain valuable insights into community needs regarding Rancho San Rafael Regional Park’s amenities, facilities, programs, and operations.

Method:

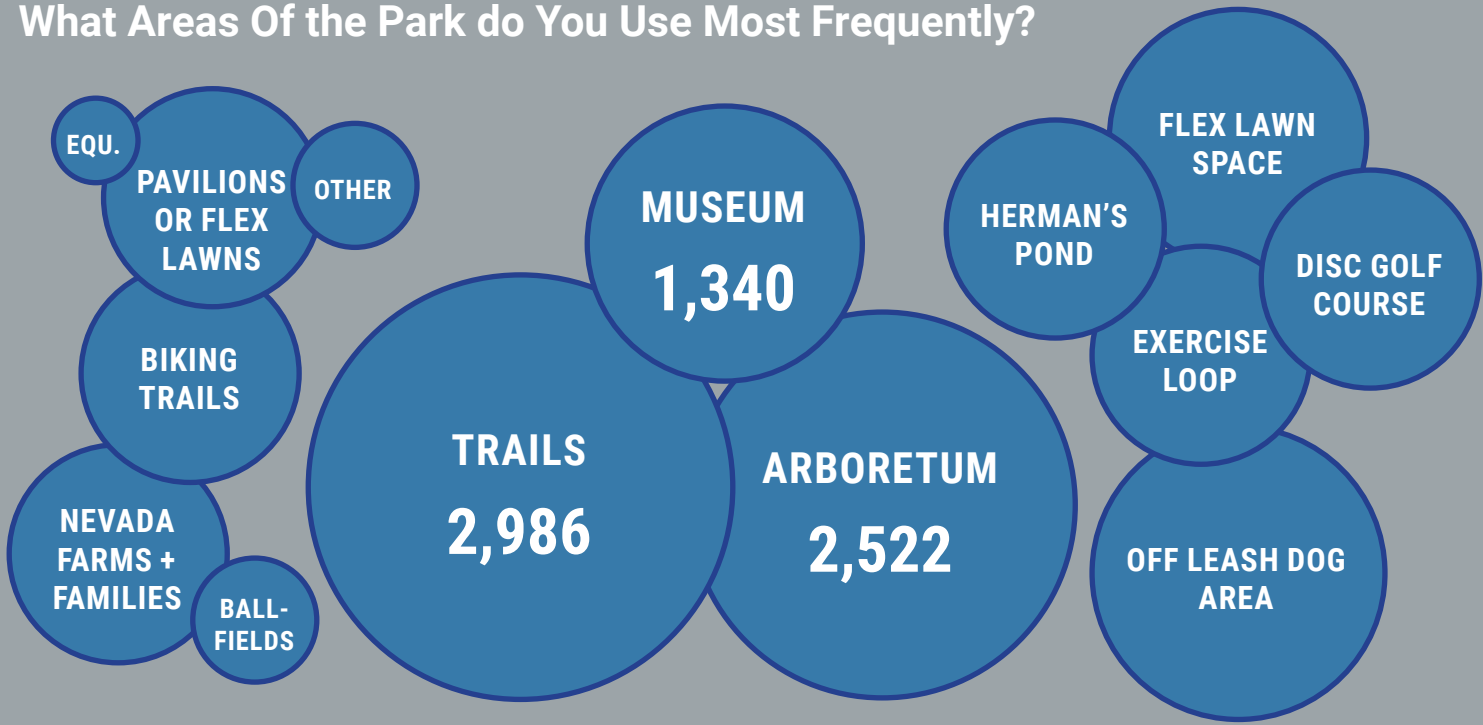
An interactive engagement website, survey, social map, and ideas wall.



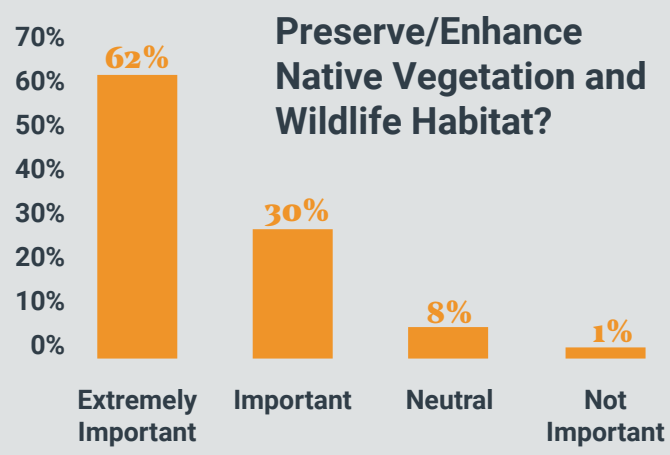
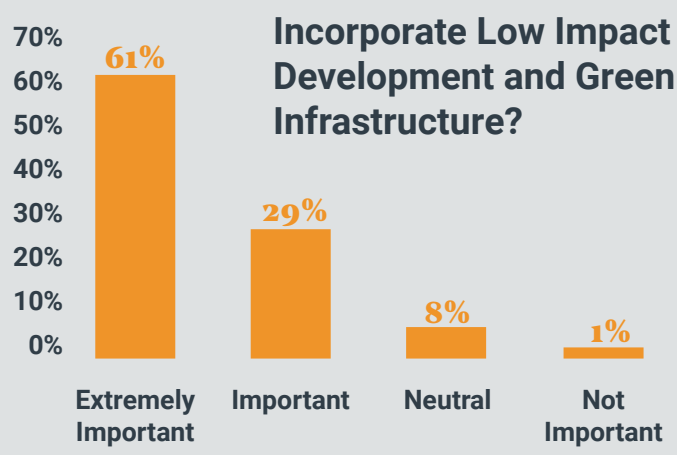
What The consultant team Learned:



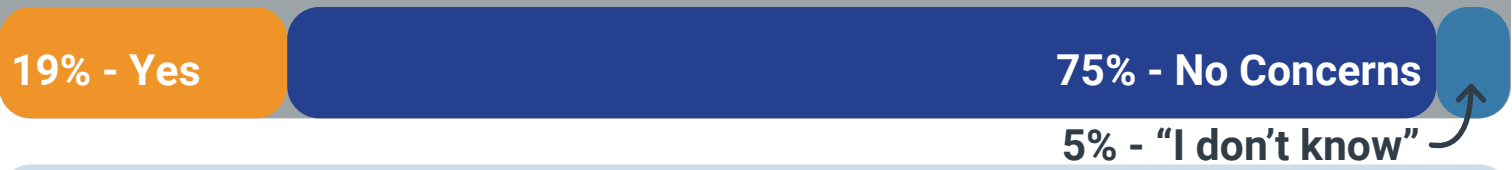
What Areas Of the Park do You Use Most Frequently?



How important is it to...



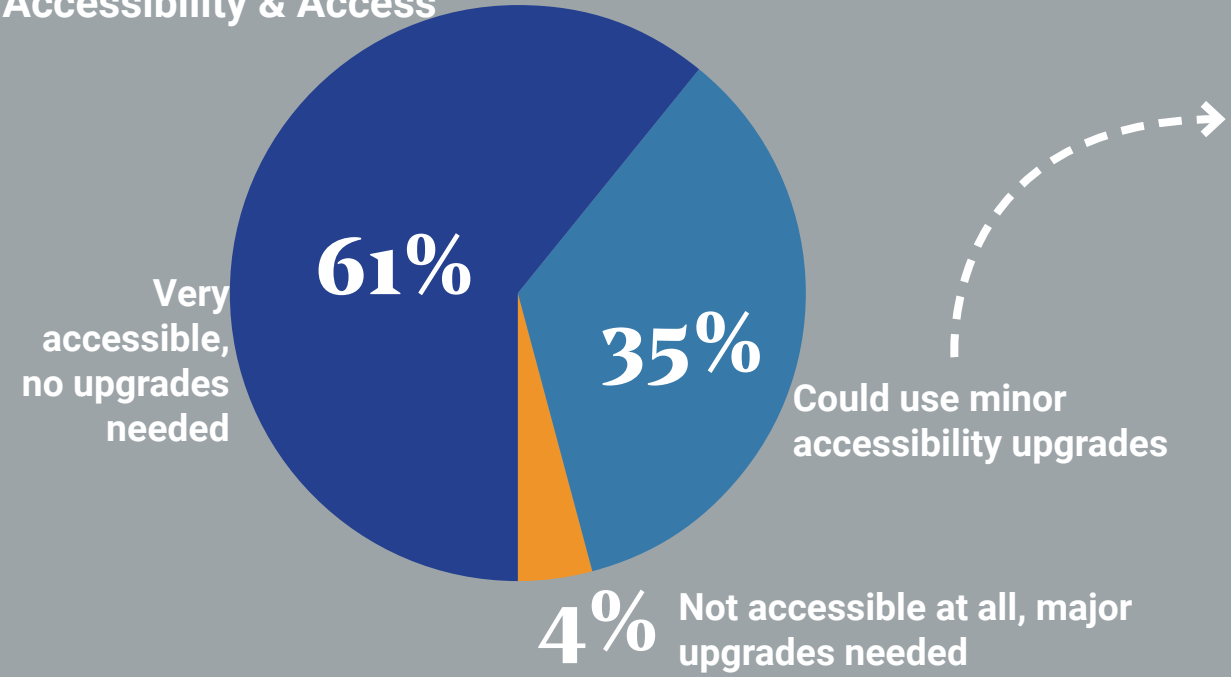
Do You have Concerns about maintenance and upkeep?



Top Three Areas that Need Improvement:

- Updated Restrooms
- More Site Lighting
- More Trash/Recycling Receptacles

Accessibility & Access



You said you need _____ to make the park more accessible.

- ✓ MORE SIGNAGE
- ✓ BETTER ACCESS TO BUILDINGS, BATHROOMS, & TRAILS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- ✓ MORE RESTROOMS AND WATER STATIONS
- ✓ BETTER TRANSIT, PEDESTRIAN AND CYCLE ACCESS TO THE PARK

Stakeholder Workshops #2 Summary

During the second round of stakeholder meetings, the consultant team reviewed the draft recommendations with each group, following the same format presented at the second public engagement event, The Open House. This structure included baseline recommendations, along with alternatives to refine the feedback gathered from phase one. These meetings provided stakeholders the opportunity to express concerns and issues regarding the recommendations, enabling the consultant team and the County to collaboratively address concerns and brainstorm potential solutions for the park.

Adjacent Agencies

- Ensure the pedestrian bridge does not create constraints for running and biking events utilizing this crossing.
- Support improvements for the McCarran and Virginia intersection and mid-property crossings, with a preference to focus on the underpass for better utilization and safety.
- Address challenges related to pedestrian event traffic management, particularly with bridge and tunnel widths for two-way traffic during events.
- Consider overflow parking strategies to enhance visibility around potential bridges.

- Expand Indigenous visibility throughout the park by highlighting Peavine Mountain’s significance to the Indigenous community, incorporating educational components in partnership with the Reno Sparks Indian Colony, and integrating Indigenous art throughout the park.



Trails & Open Space

- **Bike Route Adjustments:** Consider extending the bike route around the edge of the Nature Loop to maintain bike-free zones. Provide an alternative loop for bikes off the accessible loop, ensuring emergency access routes are clearly identified on maps.
- **Restroom Facilities:** Add an additional restroom near the south side trailhead on the west side of the park.
- **Youth Training Course:** Design a progressive track for young riders that integrates higher skill levels for advanced users.
- **Overflow Parking:** Level and gravel a strip of unused space along Virginia Street for overflow parking, potentially for special events.
- **Disc Golf and Tennis Facility Conflict:** Address concerns from the disc golf community regarding the proposed tennis facility, acknowledging the significant investment in disc golf while finding a solution that accommodates both interests.
- **Amenity and Traffic Enhancements:** Support “The Pockets” as a local amenity, with plans to move the road from the existing dirt lot to the dog park. Consider traffic calming measures with this new road, such as adding a median with vegetation rather than speed bumps.

- **Maintenance Facility Relocation:** General agreement that relocating the maintenance facility makes sense for public accessibility and operational efficiency, though concerns were raised about the current facility being overloaded.
- **Visitor Center:** Strong support for a new visitor center and green space at the corner of McCarran and Virginia, seen as a valuable amenity for park users.
- **North Side Scenic Viewpoint:** Expressed support for transforming the north side’s “N” into a monument, with potential interest from the Burning Man Association for art installations, while addressing concerns about vandalism and maintenance.
- **Art in the Park:** Support for a more robust park art program, particularly in the disc golf area, in collaboration with Burning Man.
- **Running Trail Enhancements:** Suggestions to add a 2-foot decomposed granite strip along paved trails to accommodate runners preferring softer surfaces.
- **Wayfinding and Signage:** Emphasis on improving signage and branding within the park, possibly using segmented colors or icons for different zones to enhance navigation.

Events & Facilities

- Major concerns regarding temporary/flex parking for major regional-scale events, like the Great Reno Balloon Race, following the full build-out of the master plan.
- Discussion on parking and access across Sierra, including restrictions on left turns.
- Support for the Arboretum design that is an alternative to the recent master plan, with concerns regarding fencing, vandalism protection, and potential admission charges.
- Importance of differentiating and branding areas within the park for clearer wayfinding and maintenance understanding.
- Concerns about Dragon Lights event parking and ensuring clear and safe pedestrian routes to the event.
- Request to create and study a parking lot diagram.
- The Arboretum's significance to Reno was highlighted, aiming for higher accreditation with a new succulent garden.
- Concerns about irrigation and infrastructure maintenance, with staff diverted to fix failing systems.

Internal Staff

- Concerns regarding the long-term cost and maintenance of paved trails, especially for large events and runners.
- Request to explore alternative trail materials, such as decomposed granite.
- Emphasize maintaining parking capacity in the maintenance yard.
- The maintenance yard requires better protection and more space for equipment, likely needing additional room for new programs added to the park.
- Acknowledgment of the benefits of consolidating arboretum and park maintenance staff, while exploring the idea of keeping rangers at the park entry point.
- Positive feedback on the formalized small dog park.
- Assessment needed for parking demands related to any new amenities added.
- Request for the skate park to have high visibility to mitigate concerns about graffiti and trash commonly associated with skate facilities.

- Explore connecting the pump track and turf fields to existing water systems due to concerns about future drought conditions and the reliance on domestic or wastewater for irrigation.
- Positive feedback on integrating mining structures and elevated play areas using existing topography and concrete.



Public Open House Input Summary

On July 31st, the consultant team hosted the second public outreach event for the Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Master Plan Update at the Wilbur D. May Museum. This open house-style event offered the public an opportunity to engage with the latest developments in the park’s master plan and provide valuable feedback. Display boards highlighted the progress made since the first round of outreach, and attendees could ask questions directly to the consultant team and representatives from Washoe County. Attendees were encouraged to complete a survey, available both online and in hard copy, with results feeding into the overall community input.

The primary goal of this outreach was to gather confirmation on the park’s identified goals and key principles based on the initial round of feedback. The consultant team sought specific input on four key areas of the park: the potential tennis and pickleball facility at the northwest corner of McCarran Boulevard and Sierra Street, the proposed enhancements for “The Pit” near the all-abilities playground, recommendations for the bike and skate facility, and programming for the west side of the park. Additionally, the consultant team explored more detailed questions related to program and facility upgrades for the Nevada Farms + Families area (formerly known as Great Basin Adventure) and the planned expansion of the Arboretum.

The event received positive verbal feedback, with strong community support for the direction of the master plan, especially regarding the tennis and pickleball facility, which was further confirmed by survey responses. The feedback the consultant team collected helped refine our recommendations and guided us toward the final phase of the master plan—developing the implementation and funding strategies to bring these ideas to life. Results from the digital survey and in-person input are summarized in the following sections.

Rancho San Rafael Vision Plan Update

Stakeholder + Community Engagement Summary

Stakeholder Outreach

KEY THEMES

Celebrate the Park as Regional Hub (Trail + Recreation):

- Establish a shaded trail head: Pavilion / Amenities (BB + Bike Fix)
- Increase accessible trail network
- Expand parking options + access points to trail network

Preserve Passive Open Space:

- Maintain “openness”
- Respect views, nature, habitat

Restore discovery, intrigue and imagination of OBA:

- Bring back the excitement and wonder of the old GBA Park
- Bring back animals and link to ranching heritage

Support and Facilitate Community Events:

- Support ongoing community and regional events to the degree where it does not degrade the park
- Upgrade park infrastructure - electrical, lighting, restrooms - to support events and increase daily function

Increase Public Access:

- Provide a safe crossing across Sierra St to Hill and Shopping
- Explore additional access points along McCarran Blvd. and Sierra St
- Provide additional and more convenient parking options

Establish Long Term Funding Support and Partnerships:

- Identify long term, sustainable funding support for improvements, operations and maintenance

CRITICAL PLANNING RELATIONSHIPS

Pastoral Landscape vs. Active Recreation:

- Define the responsibility to maintain “openness” and a pastoral passive landscape, with integration of new community amenities

Large Regional Events vs. Daily Use:

- Provide the appropriate infrastructure to host large events that define the park and draw visitors, but in a way that minimizes impact to the park landscape, the adjacent neighborhoods and local community

North Park vs. South Park:

- Understand the fundamental differences that each park area serves the community (through program and landscape character) and work to stitch them together in a more meaningful way

Public Land vs. Private Funding:

- Weave a delicate balance of creating community public space that may (or already does) rely on private funding and maintenance. Understand the public perception of fee access for certain aspects of the park that require more successful operational costs

Potential User Conflicts:

- Large Events (Flex Parking) vs. Arboretum Expansion and new amenities
- Hikers vs. Bikers vs. Disc Golf

Operational Conflicts:

- Trail Use (Cycling – Program) vs. Native Vegetation
- Lighting + Electrical Upgrades vs. Park Hours



Community Outreach Event + Online Survey

KEY THEMES

Revised Park, Layered with Meaning:

- Overall a positive and welcoming reaction to the outreach event and the park. Many memories have been made here and conversations triggered storytelling

Desire for a Aquatic Amenity:

- Previous plans have reinforced a need in this community for an aquatic facility and that was reinforced by several requests for a pool
- A local pool was also of significant interest to offer summer programming

“Bring Back the Log Flume ... and the animals”

- Bring back the excitement and wonder of the old GBA Park
- Bring back animals and link to ranching heritage

“I didn’t know that was the Park”

- A good portion did not realize how large the park was, or that it even stretched across McCarran Blvd. Several folks mentioned that flying in the bridge event, at night, or even a pedestrian overpass
- Improve connections out from the park (cross Sierra Street)

“Pump It Up”

- Very positive response to all things skate park and pump track related. The Southwest quadrant can easily fit these needs

Integration of Arts:

- Many comments reflected a desire to create a “sculpture walk” and continue to integrate arts in the park. This reinforces the regional reputation

Additional Courts:

- This will be one to track through the online survey. There was some interest in pickleball and basketball, but wasn’t an overwhelming majority. There were comments that the area to the southwest could support that expansion

Playgrounds:

- Although one playground is in the works, there was a renewed comment to fix a large extent of the current playgrounds (including the wood structure, the discgolf, and the entire play area)

Trail Access + Amenity:

- Provide more trail access and better wayfinding and signage



Design Principles (Goals for the Project)

1. Preservation First:
Preserve views, open space, and existing programs such as the butterfly and disc golf. Preserve pastoral landscape and historic ranch aesthetics.

2. Enhance Ecology:
Mitigate invasive species, improve native vegetation and habitat. Transition man-made structures to provide or enhance native ecosystem solutions.

3. Provide Clarity:
Create footcords, improve signage and wayfinding and add dedicated bike and pedestrian trails. Add times and custom loop trails. Provide clarity for Museum and Arboretum entry experiences.

4. Increase Accessibility:
Provide greater accessibility to nature and amenities through paved main pathways and improved connection to parking areas, additional access points and expanded parking opportunities.

5. Celebrate History:
Provide greater access to the Basque Monument. Share full history of this area, especially the Indigenous Cultures and explore the area through improved signage and wayfinding, play, and marking of celebration spaces. Remember the mining and agricultural connections.

6. Revitalize the OBA:
Reinvigorate structures, provide new amenities, create new wonder and excitement.

7. Revitalize and Augment Family Amenities:
Provide safe and upgraded playgrounds, more teen activities, updated restrooms, updated site furnishings (including seating and trash cans) and splash pad.

8. Facilitate Regional Events:
Design for feasibility, limit major obstructions. Increase power and lighting capabilities so the park can continue to host major regional events such as the Great Reno Balloon Race.

9. Support Arboretum Growth:
Leverage the success of the Arboretum and continue to support their growth into a regional and national destination.

10. Increase Connectivity to the East (UMA + Retail):
Create additional and safer pedestrian connection across Sierra St and to Hill and Shopping.





Scan the QR Code with your smartphone camera. You will be taken to the project page for Rancho San Rafael Regional Park Public Engagement Materials where you can provide public input.



Rancho San Rafael Vision Plan Update

Park Activities | Alternatives



Rancho San Rafael Vision Plan Update

Amenity Zone Enlargement | Great Basin Adventure



Rancho San Rafael Vision Plan Update

Amenity Zone Enlargement | Arboretum



Website Survey Results

Purpose:
Gain valuable insights into community preferences on proposed recommendations for the future of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park’s development. Specifically when it comes to new amenities.

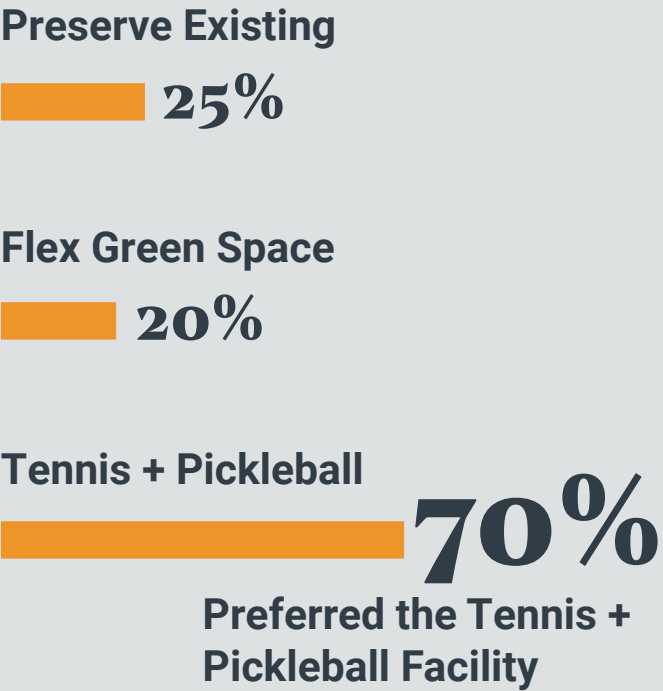
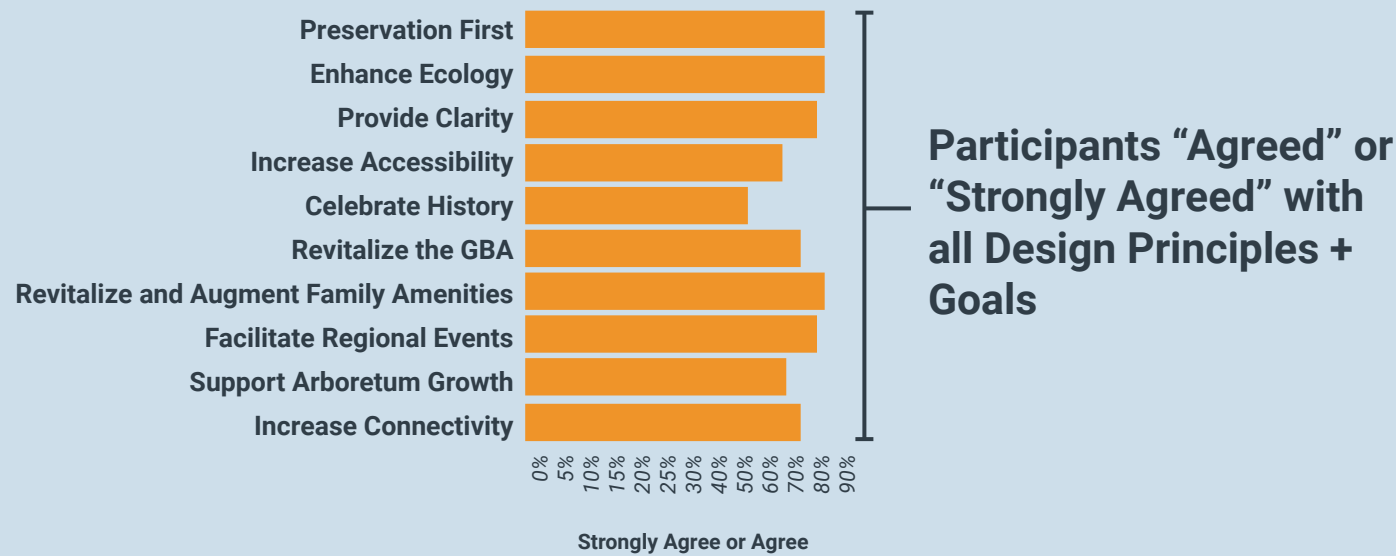
Method:
An interactive engagement website survey with multiple questions to rate preferences and provide open ended feedback.



Nearly **80%** of participants wanted to see the northwest corner of McCarran Blvd and Virginia Street programmed!

- Park Amenity Alternative:**
- Prioritize the following recommendations for the Northwest Corner of McCarran Blvd. And Virginia Street:
1. Preserve the three existing Disc Golf Course holes and regrade certain areas to allow for overflow event parking.
 2. Implement flex green space to be used for warmups, practice, events and/or overflow parking.
 3. Implement, in partnership with University of Nevada Reno, a new indoor / outdoor Tennis and Pickleball facility at the northwest corner of McCarran and Virginia (reroute three Disc Golf Holes).

What We Learned



Park Amenity Alternative:

Prioritize the following recommendations for the northwest development of the park.

- 1. Small scale beginner Pump Track / Bike Course
- 2. Regional Bike Park facility with access and parking off McCarran Blvd.

Preferred

- 1. Neighborhood (smaller) Skate 'Spot' integrated into the southern 'Park' area.
- 2. Regional Skate Park with Access and parking of McCarran Blvd.
- 3. No Skate Amenity.



Arboretum and Great Basin Program and Amenity Preference

Please rank each recommendation based on priority. (Low being 1 and High being 5). It is important to note not all specific recommendations are listed here, but these recommendations will guide the overall implementation plan.

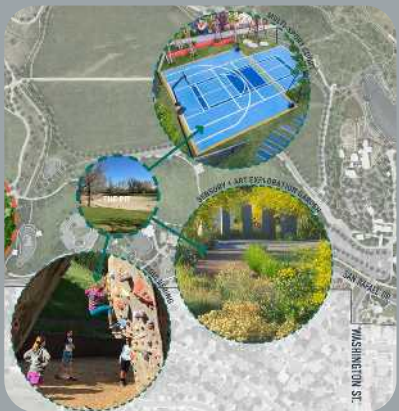
Provide upgraded lake edge and dock experience.	3.4	
Create a new picnic area with concessions and/or food trucks.	3.0	
Provide covered stage with lawn amphitheater for community events.	3.7	
Preserve the Farms Area, Community and Pollinators Gardens.	4.0	
Create a destination exploratory children's garden play experience within the old footprint of the Great Basin Adventure Park and bring a new sense of discovery and adventure.	3.6	
Relocation of 'back of house' services by the Historic Ranch House and the creation of a new community courtyard for events, markets and other public activities.	3.5	

Park Amenity Alternative:

Prioritize the following recommendations for the existing sand basin adjacent to the new all-inclusive playground.

- 1. Climbing/Bouldering Amenity
- 2. Sensory and Art Garden
- 3. Multi-Sport Court

Tied!



Would you support a modest fee to access a portion of The Arboretum as it expands, to help with long-term funding, maintenance, and protection of the collection?

71% Strongly Support, Support of Have No Opinion



The background of the slide is a solid blue color with a white line-art map of a city. The map shows various streets, building footprints, and parks. The title 'Shared Vision' is centered over the map in a large, white, serif font.

Shared Vision

- » The Shared Vision
- » Design Principals + Goals

The Vision for the Future

The Shared Vision for Rancho San Rafael Regional Park is built on the collective input from community members, stakeholders, and design professionals, as outline in the previous chapter. The purpose of this approach was to ensure that the future of this beloved park aligns with the values and needs of those who use it and those who want to use it. The goal was to update the master plan to reflect the values and needs of the community today, vs. 1990 when the previous plan was completed.

Through extensive engagement and thoughtful planning, this Master Plan Update seeks to both preserve the park’s rich history and natural beauty while introducing improvements that will make the park more accessible, functional, and enjoyable for future generations. The goal is to create a balance between ecological preservation and enhancements that will benefit the growing and diverse communities in the Reno area.

At the heart of this vision is the principle of **preservation**—of views, open spaces, and the park’s unique identity. Whether it’s the expansive trail network, the historic ranch feel, or the cultural significance of the Basque Monument, each piece of this park has been carefully studied. At the same time, there are necessary improvements that must be made -- including trail enhancements, accessibility improvements, ecological protections, overall wayfinding and signage, upgraded amenities, and dilapidated infrastructure to be

removed and replaced to revitalize the park’s spaces without sacrificing its core values.

Ultimately, this Shared Vision provides a framework for the continued evolution of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. By enhancing ecological resilience, creating spaces for new recreational opportunities, and fostering deeper connections to the park’s cultural heritage, this vision not only preserves the park’s legacy but also positions it to serve the needs of a growing, dynamic community for decades to come.

A scenic view of a park. In the foreground, there's a paved path on the left, a metal railing, and a rocky area with some small green plants. In the middle ground, there's a grassy area with some trees and a wooden structure in the background. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Ranch San Rafael Regional Park Vision Statement

The vision for Rancho San Rafael Regional Park is to preserve its natural beauty and cultural significance while enhancing accessibility, ecology, and recreation for all. Through thoughtful design, the park will continue to serve as a cherished community space that honors its history and evolves to meet the needs of future generations, providing a harmonious balance between conservation, recreation, and cultural celebration.

Design Principals + Goals



North

- » **Preservation First:** Preserve views, open space, and existing programs such as the ballfields and disc golf.
- » **Enhance Ecology:** Mitigate invasive species, improve native vegetation and habitat.
- » **Provide Clarity:** Create trailheads, improve signage and wayfinding, and add dedicated bike and pedestrian trails.
- » **Increase Accessibility:** Provide greater accessibility to nature and amenities through paved main pathways and improved connection to parking areas.
- » **Celebrate History:** Provide greater access to the Basque Monument. Illustrate and integrate the history of the area, specifically the Indigenous Cultures and Basque Heritage through improved signage and wayfinding.

South

- » **Preservation First:** Preserve pastoral landscape feel and Historic Ranch aesthetics.
- » **Enhance Ecology:** Mitigate invasive species, improve native vegetation and transition non-programmable turf to native or alternative water conscience solutions.
- » **Provide Clarity:** Create central trailhead. Mark the Museum as the Main Park entry. Improve signage and wayfinding. Add fitness and pasture loop trails.
- » **Revitalize the Great Basin Adventure:** Retire outdated structures, provide new amenities, create awe, wonder, and excitement.
- » **Revitalize and Augment Family Amenities:** Provide safer and upgraded playgrounds, more teen activities, updates restrooms, updated site furnishings (including seating and trash cans).
- » **Amplify the Site History:** Remember the mining and agricultural connections. Celebrate history through play, live animals, signage, and wayfinding.
- » **Facilitate Regional Events:** Design for flexibility, limit major obstructions, increase power, and lighting capabilities.
- » **Support Arboretum Growth:** Leverage the

- » success of the Arboretum and continue to support their growth into a regional and national destination.
- » **Increase Connectivity to the East (UNR + Retail):** Create additional and safer pedestrian connection across Sierra Street to UNR and retail.

(Note: Design principles and goals are not listed in priority order)





Recommendations

- » Key Recommendations
- » Access + Circulation
- » Program
- » Landscape + Ecology
- » Signage + Wayfinding
- » Recommendations by Character Zone



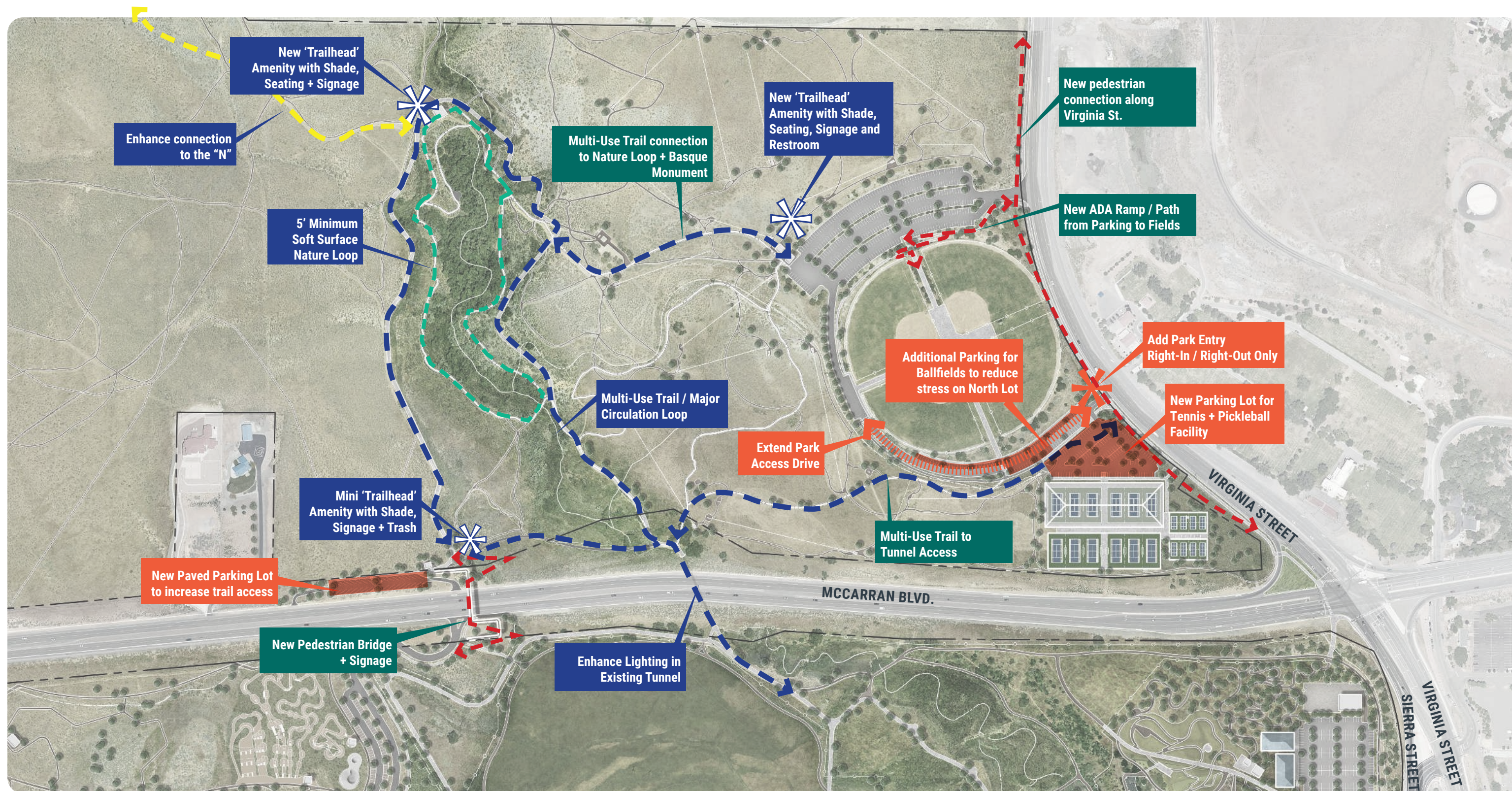
Key Recommendations

The Key Recommendations section is designed to present a comprehensive and visual overview of proposed improvements and enhancements to Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. These recommendations are organized through a series of diagrams and renderings, carefully divided into key focus areas. The consultant team begin by addressing access and circulation, which is split between the northern and southern portions of the park for greater clarity and ease of understanding. These diagrams include proposed pedestrian circulation sections to highlight pathways and key routes that will enhance connectivity across the park.

Following circulation, the consultant team explore program recommendations for both the northern and southern areas, detailing how these spaces can better serve the community and meet future needs. The subsequent sections delve into landscape and ecology improvements, focusing on preserving the park's natural beauty while enhancing ecological health. In addition, the consultant team introduce strategies for updated signage and wayfinding to improve navigation, as well as concepts for incorporating public art that reflects the park's cultural and historical significance. The section concludes with a utility diagram to ensure that all improvements are supported by the necessary infrastructure, ensuring long-term sustainability and operational success.



Access + Circulation North



Access + Circulation Legend

- Callout

Pedestrian Recommendation
- Callout

Vehicular Recommendation
- Callout

Trail Recommendation
- 

Recommended Trailhead Location
- 

New Vehicular Entrance
- 

Parking Recommendation
- 

Flex Parking Recommendation
- 

Multi-Use Trail, 14' Wide
- 

Hard Surface Sidewalk, 8' Wide
- 

Soft Surface Nature Loop, 5' Wide
- 

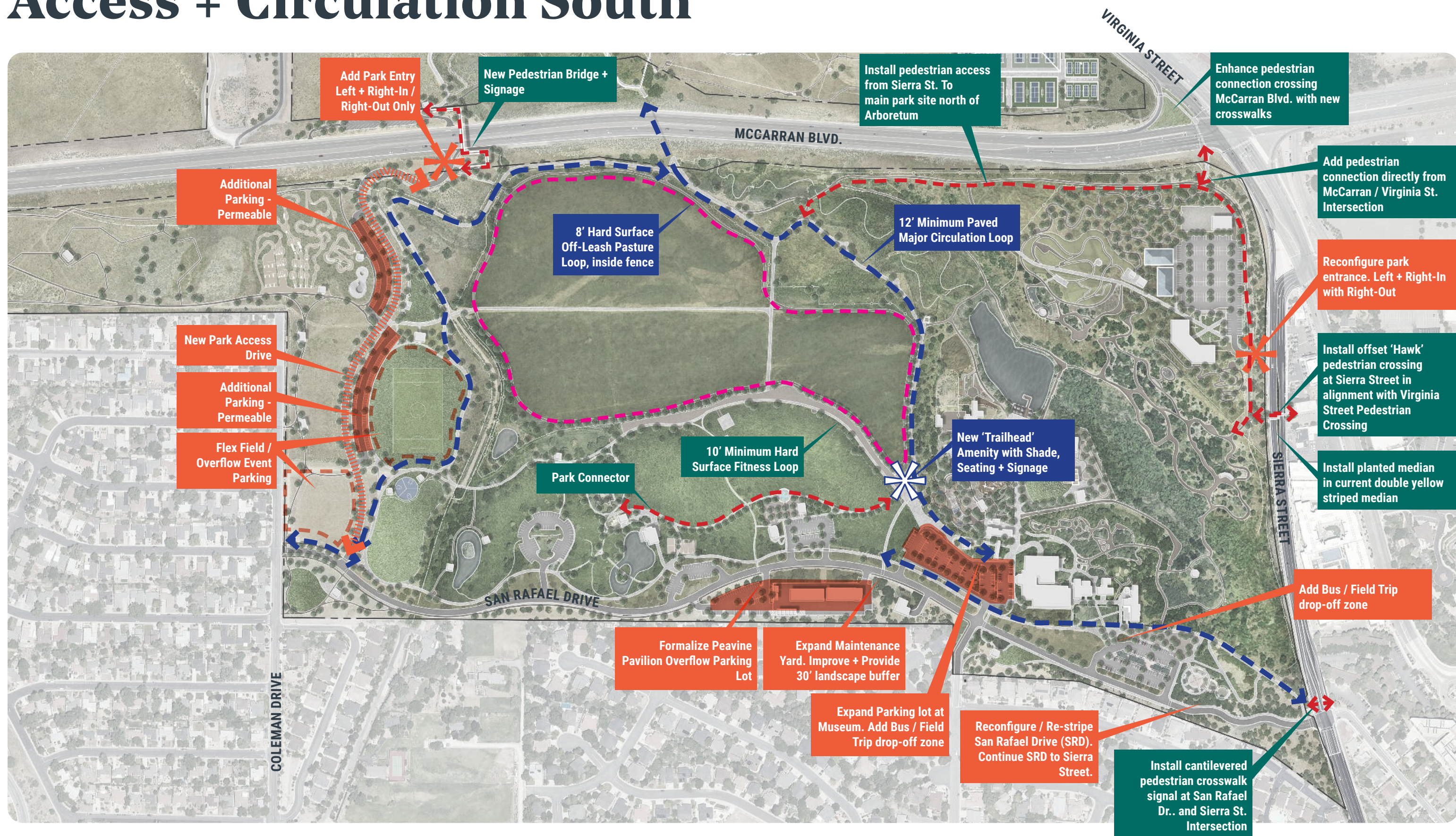
Trail Improvement
- 

Hard Surface Fitness Loop, 10' Wide
- 

Pasture Loop, 8' Wide



Access + Circulation South



Access + Circulation Legend

- Callout

Pedestrian Recommendation
- Callout

Vehicular Recommendation
- Callout

Trail Recommendation
- 

Recommended Trailhead Location
- 

New Vehicular Entrance
- 

Parking Recommendation
- 

Flex Parking Recommendation
- 

Multi-Use Trail, 14' Wide
- 

Hard Surface Sidewalk, 8' Wide
- 

Soft Surface Nature Loop, 5' Wide
- 

Trail Improvement
- 

Hard Surface Fitness Loop, 10' Wide
- 

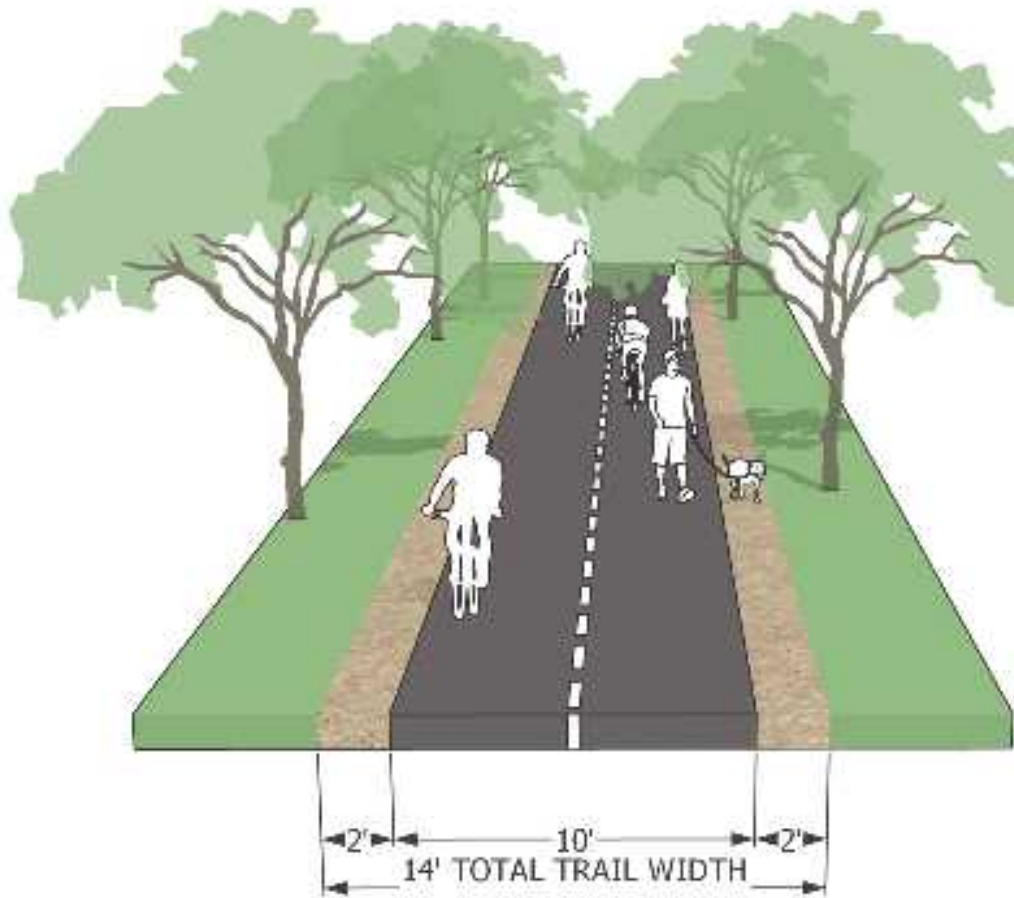
Pasture Loop, 8' Wide



Pedestrian Circulation Typical Sections

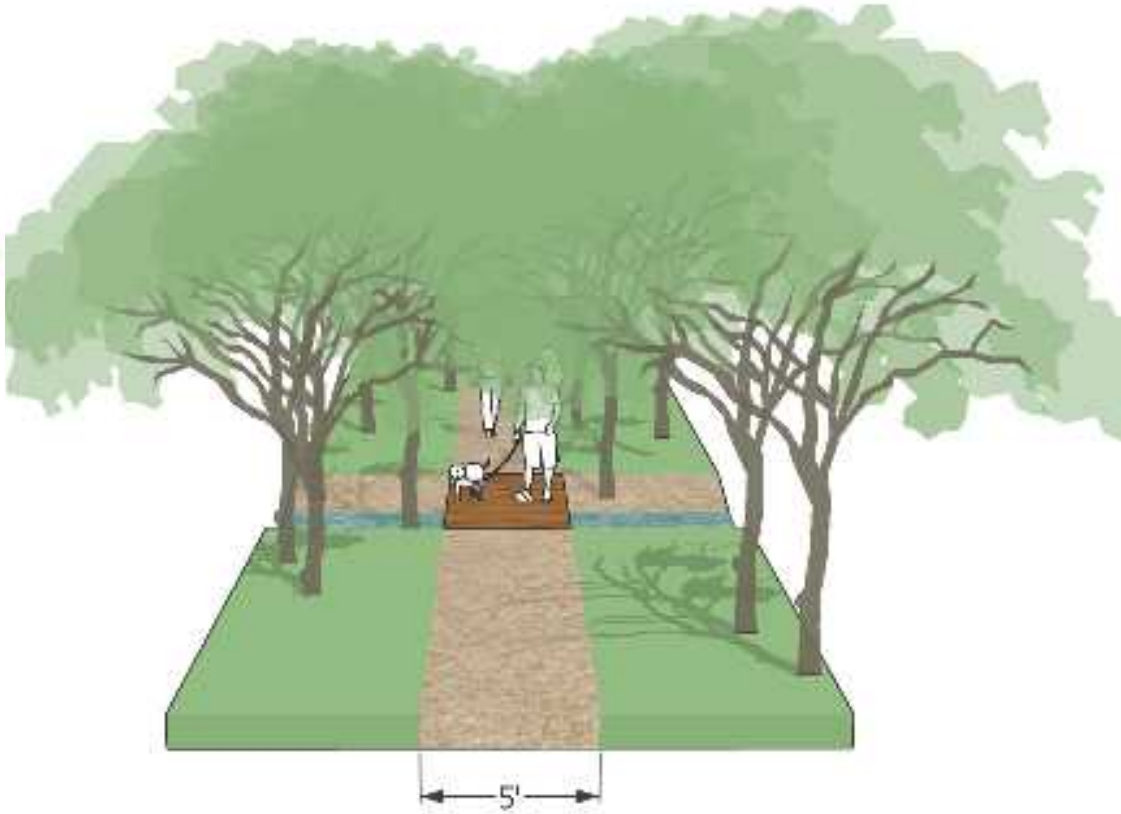
Pedestrian Circulation Improvements

As identified in the analysis, one of the key concerns is the lack of clear pathways throughout the site. To address this, the consultant team propose a two-part solution. First, a comprehensive wayfinding and branding system will be designed and implemented to enhance navigation, which will be detailed in a later section. Second, the consultant team recommend establishing a clear hierarchy within the pedestrian circulation network. The previous diagrams outline the layout of this network, and the following pages present the proposed trail and sidewalk standard sections for implementation.



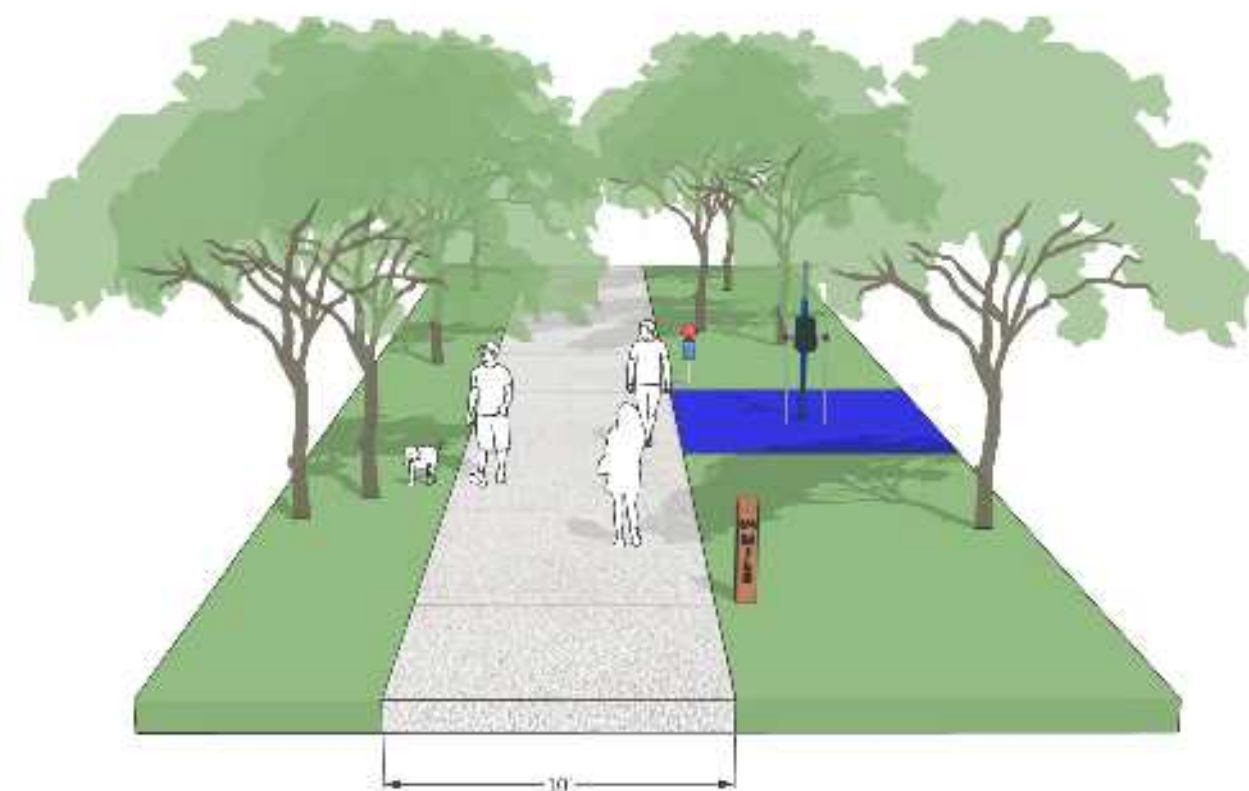
Multi Use Trail ← — →

The proposed multi-use trail should have a minimum width of 12 feet to accommodate diverse user needs. This width includes a 10-foot-wide hard surface main trail for general use, such as walking, running, and biking, as well as 2-foot-wide shoulders of a soft surface material on both sides. These soft surface shoulders provide a preferred option for runners and cyclists who seek a more forgiving surface while enhancing overall accessibility. By integrating both paved and soft surface elements, the trail design maximizes usability for a range of recreational activities and promotes accessibility for users of all abilities.



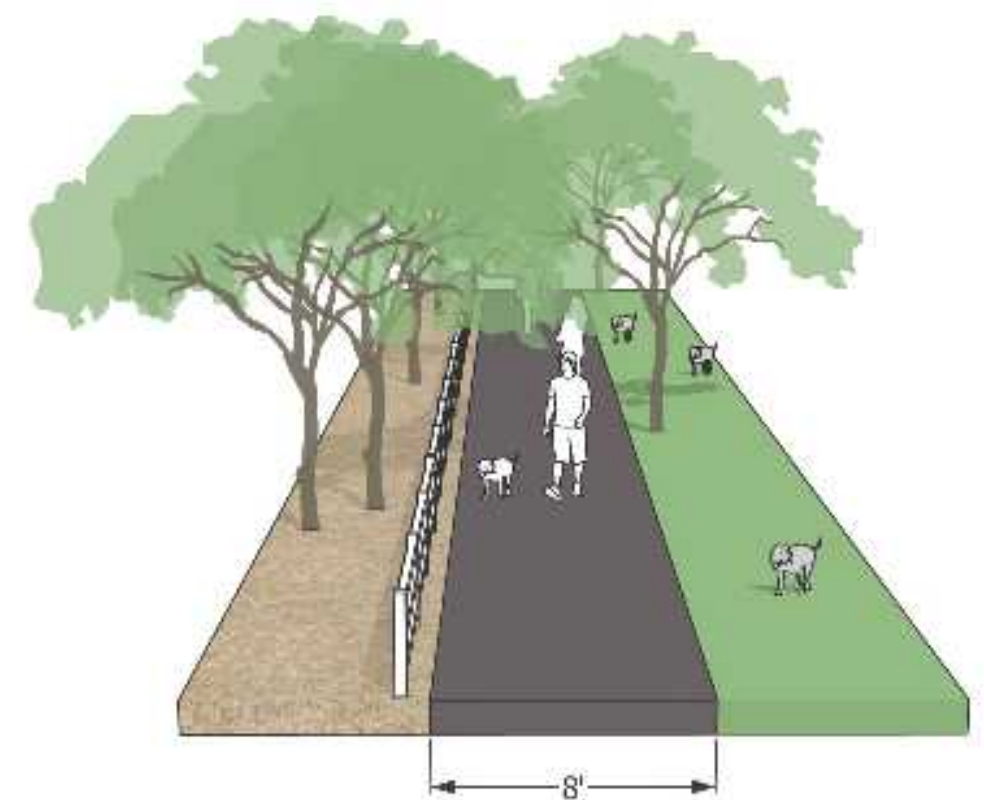
Nature Loop ← — →

The nature loop trail should feature a clear, 5-foot-wide soft surface to maintain a natural, accessible path. Where the trail crosses the existing ditch, a footbridge with a minimum width of 5 feet should be installed to minimize erosion and protect the surrounding environment. Along the length of the trail, seating options and nature lookout nodes should be provided where space allows, giving users opportunities to rest and observe the landscape. Additionally, interpretive signage should be placed along the trail to educate visitors about the local ecology and history, enhancing the overall experience.



Fitness Loop ← — →

The proposed fitness loop will feature a 10-foot-wide hard surface path, stretching approximately 1 mile in length. Along the loop, strategically placed fitness stations will provide opportunities for exercise, each outfitted with fall surface materials to ensure safety. Signage should clearly mark the fitness loop and include distance markers every eighth of a mile for ease of use. Additionally, each fitness station should be accompanied by instructional signage, explaining proper usage of the equipment and outlining general safety guidelines and rules for the stations. This loop is designed to promote health and wellness, integrating fitness seamlessly into the park experience.



Pasture Loop ← — →

The pasture loop should be 8 feet wide hard surface material, which will aid in reducing erosion and help with long-term maintenance in this area. The existing fence around the off-leash dog area/pasture will remain on the outside of the loop, and a wire mesh infill panel should be added to prevent dogs from running through.

Program North



Existing Amenity (to Remain)

1. Disc Golf Course
2. Ball Fields
3. Parking Lot

Existing Amenity (Enhanced)

4. Nature Loop (Access Improvements)
5. The 'N' (Access Improvements + Seating)
6. Existing Tunnel (Improve Lighting)

Proposed New Amenities

7. Loop Road with Parking
8. Tennis and Pickleball Facility Location - Reroute 2 Disc Golf Holes
9. Parking Lot and Trailhead
10. Trailhead with Shade
11. Trailhead with Restroom
12. Pedestrian Bridge
13. Observation Tower



11



6



12



13



8



10

Program South



Existing Amenity to Remain

1. Nevada Family Farms Area
2. Herman's Pond
3. May Arboretum
4. Off-Leash Dog Pasture
5. Flex Turf Lawn
6. Parking Lot

Existing Amenity Enhanced

7. Parking Lot (expanded or formalized)
8. Picket Fencing (Add Infill Mesh)
9. Dog Pond (Add Liner to Reduce Mud)
10. Expanded Maintenance Facility

Proposed New Amenities (In Progress)

11. Cactus and Succulent Garden
12. Inclusive All-Abilities Playground

Proposed New Amenities

13. Children's Garden + Adventure Play
14. Community Amphitheater with Pavilion
15. Picnic Area with new Fishing Deck
16. Neighborhood Skate Spot
17. Regional Bike Park
18. Flex Sport Field / Overflow Parking
19. Fitness Loop with Station Upgrades
20. Upper Trail with Overlooks (Shade)
21. Small Dog Park
22. Permeable Parking Lots
23. Arboretum Expansion / Visitor's Center
24. Trailhead (Shade + Signage + Seating)
25. "The Pockets" Park: Shade + Tot Play + Lawn
26. Community Basketball Court
27. New Ramadas w/Seating
28. Nature Watching Nodes
29. Community Plaza - Orchard
30. Community Plaza - Splash Pad
31. New Restroom
32. Electronic Gate



Landscape + Ecology



Landscape + Ecology Recommendations

1. Seek sustainable funding to develop and manage an invasive weed management plan.
2. Develop Partnership with City of Reno to maintain and control invasive weed populations on properties upstream of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.
3. Integrate Green Infrastructure best management practices on all proposed hard surface vehicular drives and parking lots.
4. New surface parking lots shall be designed to out of permeable surfaces (permeable pavers / gravel).
5. Transition non-programmable turf areas to native grassland and rain garden landscapes.
6. Add native shade trees along Pasture loop.
7. Add native shade trees throughout The Park zone.
8. Add strategic native shade trees throughout Disc golf course at tee boxes as to not impede open views.
9. Alternative flex field planting (tall fescues for lower water use).
10. Preserve native / natural landscape.



Signage + Wayfinding



Existing Signage to be Enhanced

1. Provide new park entry signage at each access point.
2. Refresh interpretive signage throughout.

Proposed New Signage

3. Provide park entry signage at each new access points and all access points that do not have existing signage.
4. Develop standard trail marker design that includes distance, elevation gain, difficulty and permitted trail users.
5. Provide informal trail markers to delineate public trails north of McCarran Blvd.
6. Integrate mile markers on loop trails to assist with distance tracking.
7. Provide 'kiosk' style park program and trail network pillars at key park nodes.

Signage and wayfinding are crucial elements for ensuring that visitors can easily navigate a park as large and diverse as Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. Given the range of activities and zones within the park, our two primary recommendations focus on improving the user experience through cohesive branding and better-defined navigation systems.

First, the consultant team propose the creation of a unified district brand and park logo for Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. This branding will not only help establish a clear identity for the park but also serve as an umbrella under which all the various programs and operators within the park can be represented. As part of this effort, the consultant team recommend dividing the park into well-defined character zones, each with distinct program offerings. These zones will help users intuitively understand the park’s layout and navigate more efficiently based on their interests.

Second, the branding and wayfinding package should feature universally recognizable signage and a cohesive design language. This approach will provide a consistent visual guide for visitors, improving overall awareness of the park’s extensive offerings while making navigation more intuitive for both first-time visitors and regular users.

This system will enhance the user experience, creating a more organized and enjoyable journey through Rancho San Rafael Regional Park’s diverse landscapes and amenities.



Public Art



Public art is deeply valued in the Washoe County community. The following diagram illustrates recommended locations and types of public art installations that could be implemented within Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. To enrich these installations, the consultant team suggests creating an art program in collaboration with Washoe County Arts, local art organizations, and local Indigenous communities. Working closely with Indigenous artists and cultural representatives is essential to reflect the local heritage and ensure that the art resonates with the park’s landscape and history. Art placements throughout the park will be thoughtfully integrated to enhance visitor experience, celebrate the park’s character, and honor its historical significance. The recommendations envision a range of art forms, from large sculptural pieces at entry points to interactive features in gathering spaces, helping to enrich both active and passive areas of the park with a true sense of place, culture, and respect for the land’s original stewards.

Public Art Recommendations

- 1. Temporary, Rotating Art Installation
- 2. Iconic Public Art Installation (Permanent)
- 3. Mural Art Installation
- 4. Discovery Art Installation
- 5. Functional Art Installation

Utilities + Infrastructure



Note: Utility diagram is conceptual and preliminary based on initial utility research. Detailed design will need completed at the time of any infrastructure project.

Throughout Rancho San Rafael Regional Park, various utility and infrastructure improvements have been identified and noted in earlier sections. This diagram provides an overview of the major infrastructure upgrades needed, including enhancements to water, power, and drainage systems across the park. Each improvement shown is essential for supporting both current operations and future developments. However, these upgrades will require further detailed studies and engineering assessments, to be conducted once funding becomes available. These future studies will ensure that the infrastructure improvements are strategically implemented for long-term sustainability.

Utility Recommendations

1. New Restroom
2. Upgraded Restroom
3. Pedestrian Light Poles — — — — —
4. Art Piece Lighting (uplights or integrated)
5. Tunnel Lighting
6. Splash Pad Amenity
7. Pavilion/Stage Utility Infrastructure
8. Concession Infrastructure
9. Arboretum Visitor Center
10. Tennis Facility
11. Electronic Gate
12. Event Power Pedestal

Major Existing Utility Lines

- — — — — Existing Water Line
- — — — — Existing Sewer Line
- — — — — Existing Power Line

Major Event Parking Diagram



Paved Parking Lots

Lot Description	Stall Count
1. Ballfield Complex Parking Lot	350 Stalls
2. ‘The Park’ Playground Lot	63 Stalls
3. Peavine Pavilion Lot	36 Stalls
4. Chinese Pagoda Lot	47 Stalls
5. The Museum Lot	120 Stalls
6. The South Arboretum Lot	83 Stalls
7. Ballfield Complex Drive Extension	86 Stalls
8. Tennis + Pickleball Facility Lot	130 Stalls
9. North McCarran West Lot	32 Stalls
10. West Parking Lot #1	78 Stalls
11. West Parking Lot #2	96 Stalls
12. The Arboretum Visitor Center Lot	210 Stalls
13. Formalized Peavine Pavilion Overflow Lot	58 Stalls

Flex Parking Lots

Lot Description	Stall Count
14. West Flex Parking Upper	403 Stalls
15. West Flex Parking Lower #1	465 Stalls
16. West Flex Parking Lower #2	222 Stalls
17. Museum Flex Parking	339 Stalls
18. North Flex Parking	824 Stalls

NORTH PARKING ZONE
1,422 STALLS
(598 PAVED + 824 FLEX)

SOUTH WEST PARKING ZONE
1,264 STALLS
(174 PAVED + 1,090 FLEX)

SOUTH CENTRAL PARKING ZONE
746 STALLS
(407 PAVED + 339 FLEX)

SOUTH EAST PARKING ZONE
210 STALLS
(210 PAVED)

Total Parking Counts for Final Build Out:

Type of Parking	Stall Count	+/-
Paved	1,389 Stalls	+732
Flex	2,253 Stalls	-629
Total	3,642 Stalls	+103

Total Parking Counts Existing:

Type of Parking	Stall Count	+/-
Paved	657 Stalls	NA
Flex	2,882 Stalls	NA
Total	3,539 Stalls	NA

* Flex parking is calculated by square foot, assuming the average space needed per stall is 325 sf (including square footage for parking stall, drive aisles, and walking space).

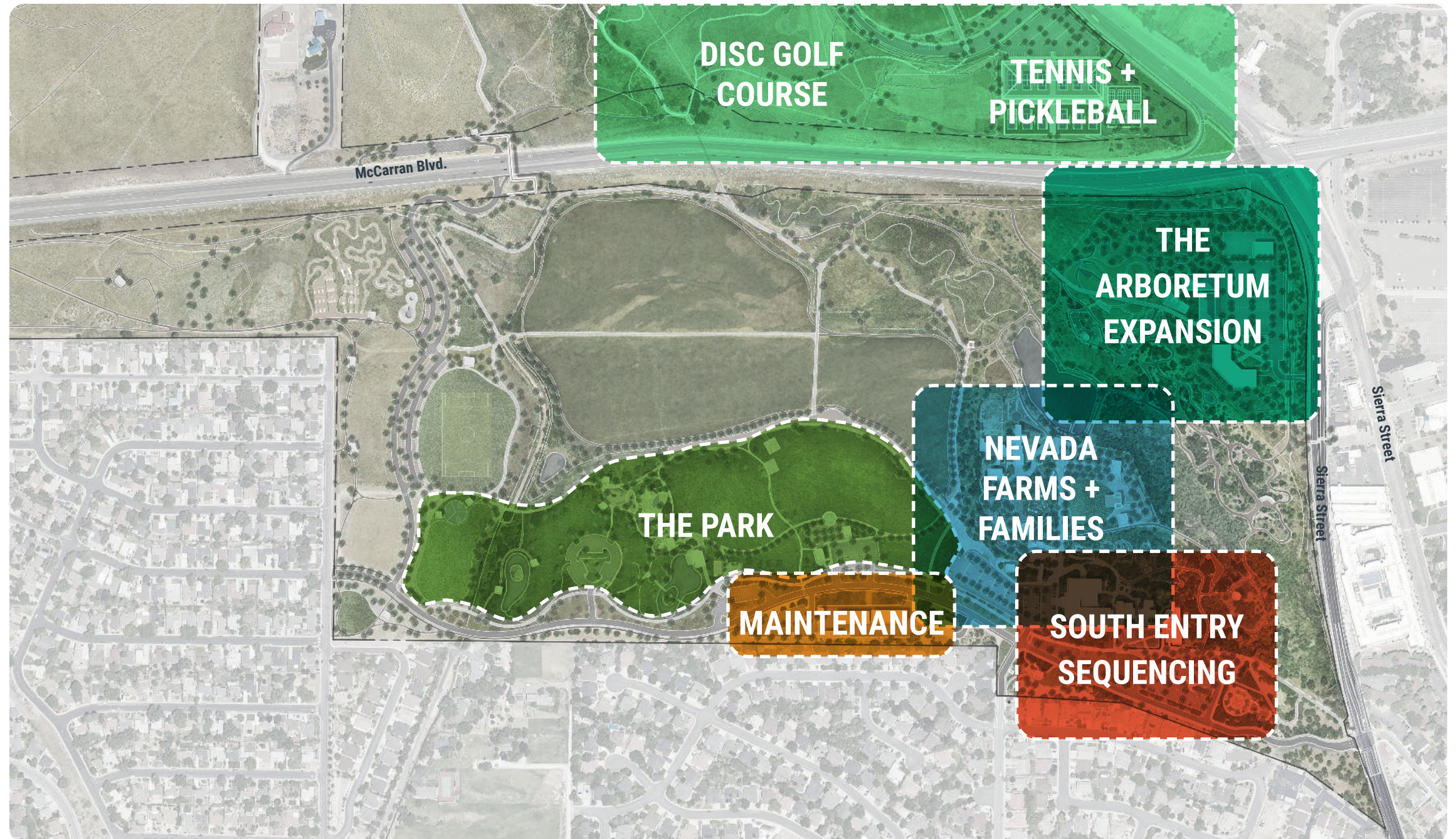
Any park improvements that effect current flexible parking stalls need to be coordinated between Washoe County and Great Reno Balloon Races.



Detailed Recommendations

When compiling all the recommendations for the Master Plan Update, it was clear there were specific areas that needed an extra level of detail. In this section, those detailed recommendations will be outlined of the following enlargement areas:

- Tennis + Pickleball Facility
- Disc Golf Course Adjustments
- Nevada Farms + Families
- South Entry Sequencing
- Arboretum Expansion
- “The Park”
- Maintenance Yard



Disc Golf // Tennis + Pickleball Facility



Proposed New Amenities

1. Extend drive to create loop access around ballfields with parking
2. Extend sidewalk
3. New Parking Lot (130 stalls)
4. Six Indoor Tennis Courts
5. Six Outdoor Tennis Courts
6. Eight Outdoor Pickleball Courts
7. Realign Disc Golf Course in coordination with Reno Disc Golf Association (see diagram)
8. Native Landscape
9. Regrade area to provide flexible event parking

Design and program are preliminary, reflecting initial stakeholder coordination and public input. Detailed design will further address public needs at the time of construction and involve close coordination with UNR as a partner in bringing the project to life.

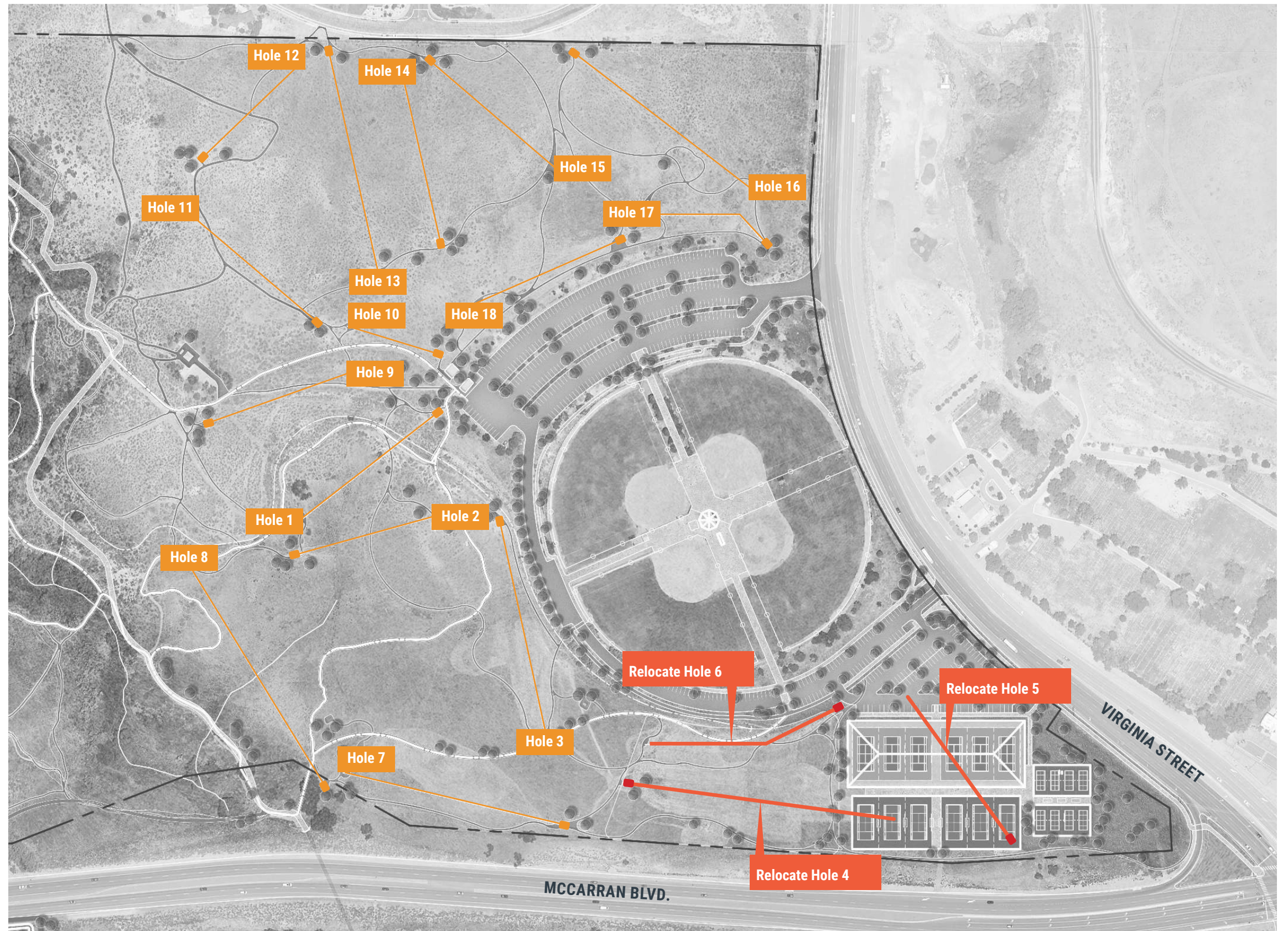
Key Map



Disc Golf and Tennis Facility Implementation

In order to accommodate the tennis facility in the northwest corner of the McCarran Blvd. and Virginia St. Intersection, there are two holes of the existing disc golf course that will need to be relocated.

This attached diagram has been coordinated with the Reno Disc Golf Association. During the planning process, this should be coordinated with the Reno Disc Golf Association to limit the amount of disturbance to the course and assist in realignment work necessary.



Nevada Farms + Families



“What about the Log Flume?”

The Log Flume was once a cherished feature within the community, enjoyed by visitors of all ages. Unfortunately, over the years, this amenity has deteriorated beyond repair. This outcome is the result of the structure gradually becoming unsustainable for the county to maintain.

This Master Plan recommends the removal of the existing Log Flume to eliminate any potential safety risks associated with its current condition. In its place, the Plan envisions a reimagined Nevada Farms and Families area that will continue to offer a sense of adventure, discovery, and joy to the community. The new design will incorporate sustainable maintenance and funding requirements that align with Washoe County's long-term capacity.

Key Map



Nevada Farms + Families (to remain)

1. Community Garden, Pollinator Garden, and animal stalls to remain as areas for volunteers to participate in continued evolution. Develop sustainable funding source to maintain more animals on-site and staff.

Proposed New Amenities

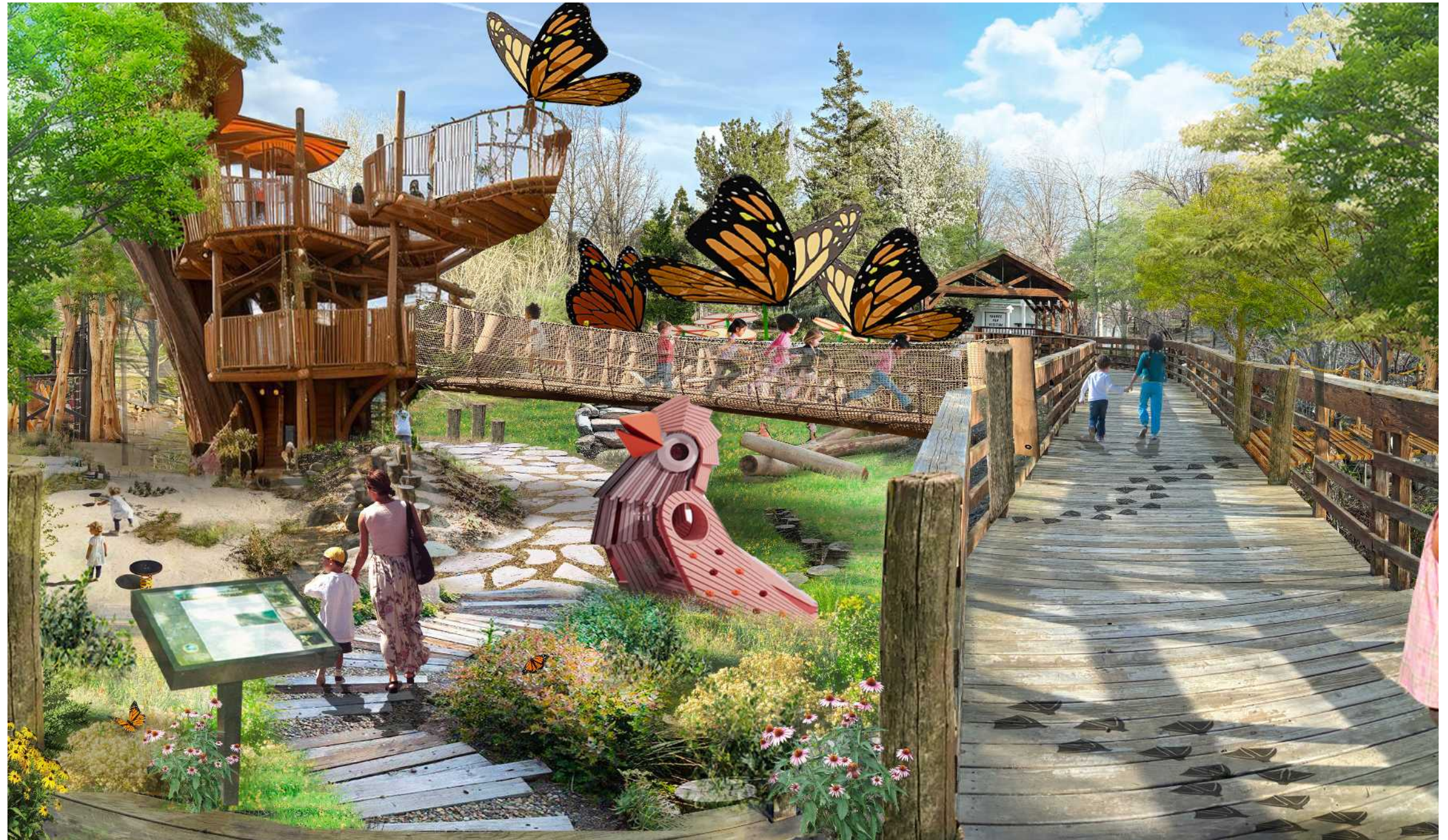
2. Create enhanced lake experience with a new larger dock and lake overlook deck.
3. Create picnic area to be used as overflow concessions for large events, reservable event space, and/or open picnic zone for park visitors.
4. Realign Arboretum walk to provide screening for museum back of house/catering entrance.
5. Renovate existing log flume maintenance building to Concessions Building.
6. Remove existing log flume and replace with new stage for community events.
7. Design and install new Children's Garden, integrated into Destination Adventure Playground.
8. Refurbish existing dinosaurs and redesign the surrounding area to integrate them into the children's garden, creating an exploratory landscape around the new (or future) adventure playground
9. Remove vehicular access to create The Creek nature play area. Utilize existing concrete slope to create hillside play.
10. Create Destination Adventure Playground that ties into the existing boardwalk. Create tower feature that provides a view and extenuates the existing grade change.
11. Upgrade existing restrooms.
12. Create Opening through existing structure to provide more formal entrance into space.
13. Remove back wall of existing pavilion to create views into this area and provide a more welcoming entry experience.
14. Build stage and pavilion for events, integrate greenroom and restroom as part of infrastructure to accommodate larger acts.
15. Rework lawn space for amphitheater seating, study accessibility, optimal acoustics, and grading and drainage for the site.
16. Implement horse trailer turn around to ensure ability to move animals in and out of the animal stables.

Destination Adventure Playground

Arboretum Themed Playground

The vision for this expansive discovery play area within the Nevada Farms + Families zone is to reimagine the space as a nature-focused, interactive learning and play experience. This concept features a tree house-inspired tower with accessible layers of play, weaving through lush pollinator gardens and giant plant- and animal-inspired sculptures. Visitors of all ages can immerse themselves in exploration as they traverse natural materials and pathways, with play elements seamlessly embedded in the surrounding landscape. This innovative area fosters a hands-on connection with nature, instilling a sense of wonder and appreciation for Nevada's diverse ecosystems. Additionally, it aims to restore the glory of the Great Basin Adventure Park with sustainable maintenance strategies, ensuring long-term enjoyment for future generations.

Key Map

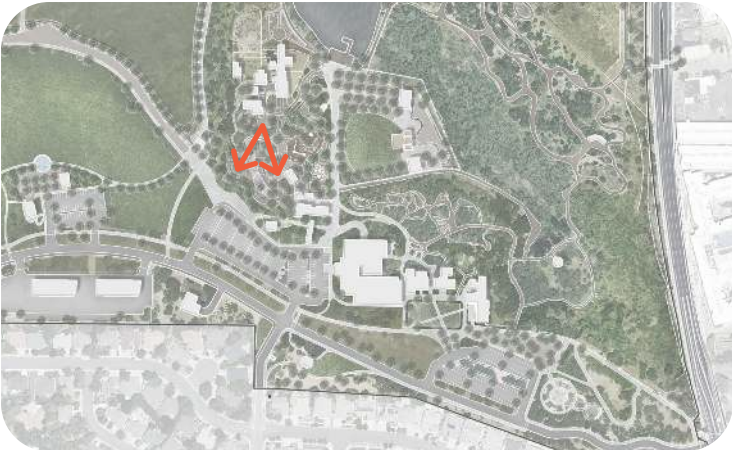


Rendering of Adventure Play area built to connect to the existing deck.

Creek Play

This adjacent area takes full advantage of the natural grade and slopes to create a dynamic creek-inspired play zone. Visitors can experience the joy of water play as they splash through a shallow, rock-lined stream, flowing across the space and connecting to a splash pad. The design incorporates natural stone and plantings to evoke the feeling of exploring a creek in nature, where children and families can engage with the water in a safe, interactive environment. This playful, water-centric area provides cooling relief and encourages exploration of Nevada’s natural beauty, with gentle waterfalls, stepping stones, and pathways seamlessly blending into the surrounding landscape.

Key Map



Rendering of Creek Play area built into existing grade.

Destination Playground Precedent Images



Children’s Garden

The Children’s Garden will seamlessly weave in and out of the surrounding plaza areas, serving as a vibrant, interactive space focused on nature discovery throughout the year. This garden features pollinator-friendly habitats, with lush, colorful blooms designed to attract and support bees, butterflies, and other essential species. A sensory garden will engage visitors of all ages through a variety of textures, scents, and sounds, encouraging hands-on exploration. As the seasons change, so will the garden’s offerings, inviting visitors to experience Nevada’s diverse ecosystems through new sights and discoveries in every season. Whether wandering through fragrant herb gardens in spring or observing the winter adaptations of native plants, children and families will continually connect with nature in a playful, educational environment.

Key Map



Amphitheater

The newly renovated amphitheater will be designed to accommodate approximately 2,000 spectators, offering a vibrant space for performances and events within the park. A covered pavilion will provide shade and weather protection, enhancing comfort for visitors, while existing restrooms will be updated to modern standards. The old pump room will be transformed into a functional concession stand, offering refreshments for guests. Additionally, a reimagined picnic area will include food trucks and picnic tables, creating a lively social hub for families and friends to gather. In keeping with the park's history, ample space will be preserved to honor the historic log flume, seamlessly blending the site's past with its future.

Key Map



Picnic Zone

The picnic zone will be designed for everyday use, providing a shaded area beneath a bosque of trees, perfect for casual gatherings and meals. This versatile space will also accommodate food truck events or serve as a spill-out area during large gatherings, offering flexibility for park visitors. Adjacent to the concession stand, the picnic zone will benefit from extended shade awnings, providing extra comfort and making it a natural social hub during events or day-to-day park activities.



Key Map



Lake Edge at Hermon's Pond

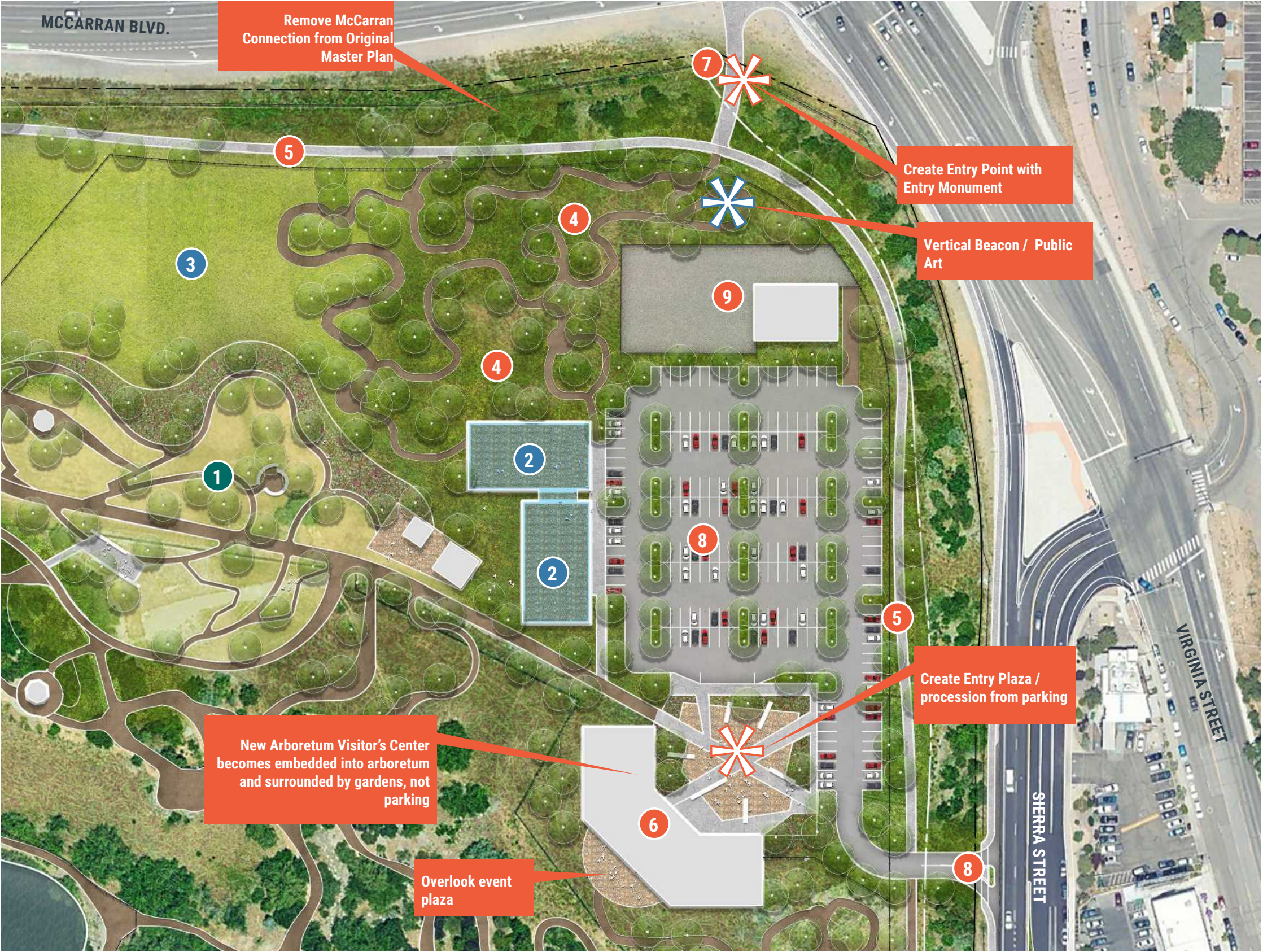
The reimagined lake edge will feature a scenic dock that invites visitors to take in expansive views and interact with the water in a serene setting. The dock will provide easy access for a variety of activities, including fishing, while designated alcoves along the shoreline will create intimate spots for anglers to enjoy their time in the park. Shaded seating areas will be thoughtfully placed throughout the lake edge, offering a comfortable retreat for visitors to relax and appreciate the natural surroundings, fostering a deeper connection to the water and landscape.

Key Map





The Arboretum



Key Map



ARBORETUM EXPANSION TO REMAIN

1. Cactus Garden expansion project, currently in the works. Install as designed, minor adjustments to entry experience

ARBORETUM EXPANSION TO ENHANCE

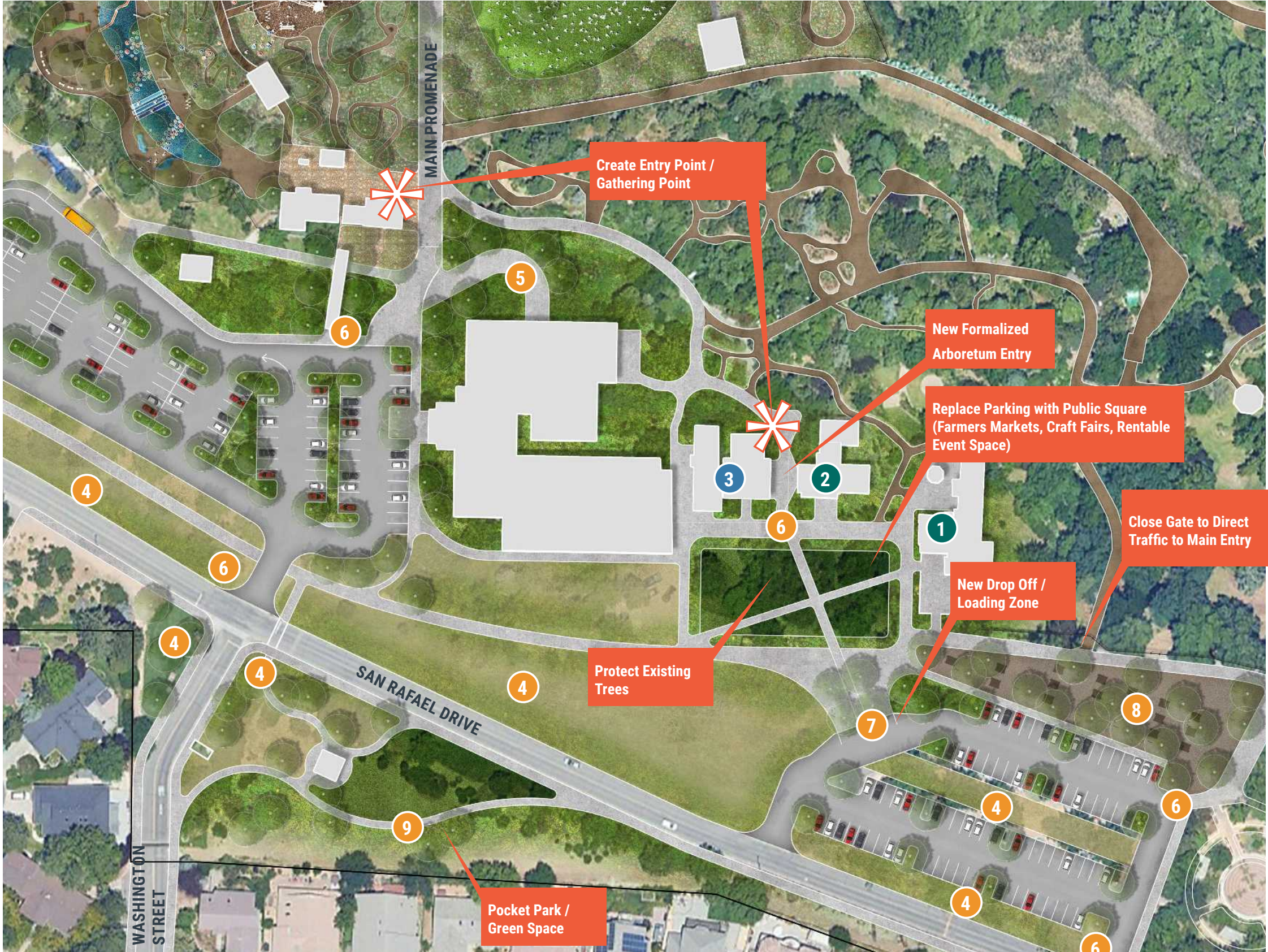
2. Relocate existing greenhouse, construct new greenhouse and utilize as an exhibit for visitors (portions open to the public at all times).
3. Extend native landscape to preserve mountain views from McCarran Blvd. / Provide flex parking for Great Reno Balloon Race.

ARBORETUM EXPANSION TO TRANSFORM

4. Expand arboretum to corner of McCarran and Virginia St. Include vertical Public Art / Park and Arboretum Signage.
5. Provide Public pedestrian access around Arboretum site from Sierra Street, connecting to west park of the park.
6. Design new Arboretum Visitor Center. This center to hold arboretum offices (currently by Ranch House) and to be a new event center. Build Arboretum into existing hillside to create a centralize location between the existing arboretum and expansion.
7. Design Entry Monument and enhance landscaping at McCarran Boulevard, Sierra Street, and Virginia Street Intersection. Utilize the corner as a preview of what the park has to offer and preserve mountain views.
8. New entrance from Sierra Street into new parking lot. New parking lot to utilize low impact development strategies and integrate ample landscape to reduce heat island effect and provide elevated entry experience. Remove McCarran Boulevard connection from original master plan.
9. Arboretum Maintenance Yard



Entry to Arboretum



Key Map



ENTRY SEQUENCING TO REMAIN

1. Maintain Ranch House access and functionality.
2. Maintain Arboretum Offices until future Arboretum Visitor Center can be developed.

ENTRY SEQUENCING TO ENHANCE

3. Move Ranger Station to expanded maintenance yard area. Convert the existing Ranger Station to be expanded and enhanced San Rafael Regional Park Visitor Center. Upgrade existing restrooms.

ENTRY SEQUENCING TO TRANSFORM

4. Transition non-programmable turf to native grasslands and rain gardens. Utilize LID strategies to route water from parking lots to these areas.
5. Redesign the existing vehicular access for catering to the Museum for rental events. Screen and disguise vehicular access to provide more clear pedestrian circulation and hide the catering back of house.
6. Design and install integrated wayfinding signage throughout park, focus on entry signage to direct visitors into the correct entry points for specific use.
7. New drop off and loading zone off of existing parking lot. Remove vehicular entry to Visitor Center. Create ADA accessible pathways from drop off zone to Visitor Center, Arboretum and Ranch House.
8. Redesign picnic space between the Ranch House and Labyrinth Garden for upgraded picnic forest.
9. Create green space in underutilized park space on the southeast corner of San Rafael Drive and Washington St.



The Park



Existing Amenity to Remain

1. Parking Lots

Existing Amenity Enhanced

2. Renovate Existing restroom(s)
3. Renovate existing Peavine Picnic Shelter, open up view to pond, replace failing infrastructure of deck structure, renovate kitchen area, replace aging furnishings
4. Renovate existing Chinese Pagoda, replace failing infrastructure of deck structure, renovate kitchen area, replace aging furnishings
5. Renovate existing horseshoe and volleyball courts

Proposed New Amenities (In Progress)

6. Inclusive All-Abilities Playground

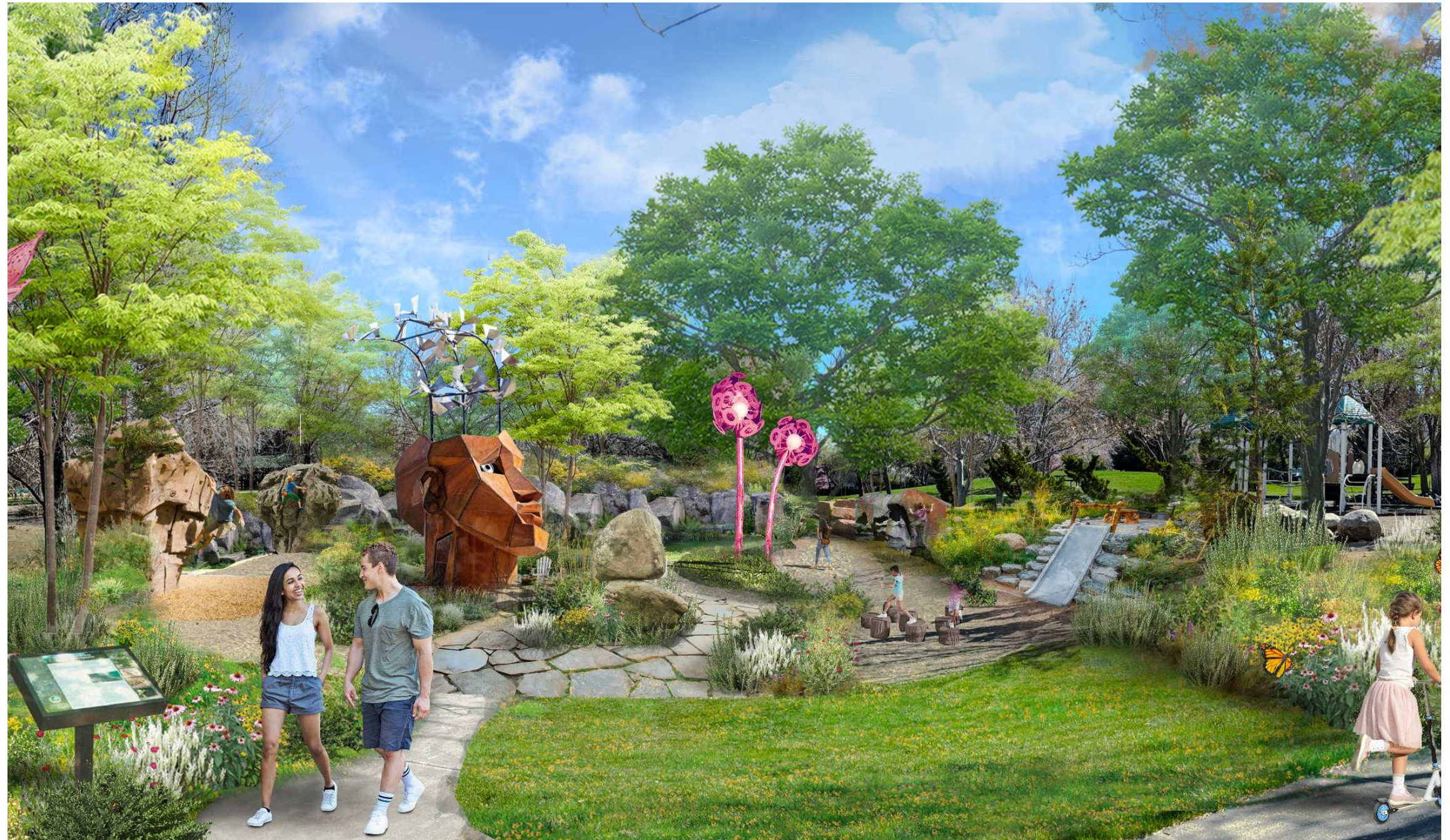
Proposed New Amenities

7. Bouldering Art Garden
8. Community Basketball Court
9. Community Plaza + Splash Pad
10. Shade Structure
11. New Restroom
12. Flex Green Space (open green space that can be used for sports, flex parking, or passive open space)

The Park // Bouldering Art Garden

Adjacent to the existing playground, which is in the process of being upgraded to a fully accessible play space, the large basin will be transformed into a dynamic art sculpture garden intertwined with bouldering features. This mixed-use area will showcase art for all, including a dedicated graffiti wall, encouraging community expression. Bouldering elements will be seamlessly integrated with pollinator gardens, offering both active recreation and moments of reflection. As an extension of the accessible playground, this space will invite visitors of all abilities to explore creativity, nature, and physical activity in a unique and inclusive environment.

Key Map



Rendering of bouldering art garden

Maintenance Yard



Existing to Remain

1. Chinese Pagoda
2. Peavine Pavilion Parking Lot
3. Maintenance Building

Existing Amenity Enhanced

4. Peavine Pavilion Overflow Parking lot to be formalized into a paved lot
5. Dumpsters
6. Material Bins

New Features

7. Additional Maintenance Building
8. Mechanical Gates
9. Landscape Buffer

Maintenance and Operations

During the stakeholder meetings it was clear that there is a need to expand and upgrade the maintenance facilities that are houses at Rancho San Rafael Regional Park. Over a series of discussions, and finalized once the master plan was fully developed, the team discussed the needs for the Washoe County Park and Open Space Maintenance and Operation staff for this location.

The graphic on the previous page reflects these needs, and more specific needs are listed below.

Maintenance Building

- Tool Storage
- Large Equipment Storage
- Workshop Space

Office Space

- 4-6 Shared Office Spaces (intended to hold 12 to 15 staff members)
- Kitchen
- Break Room
- Restroom

Maintenance Yard

- Vehicle Parking
- (2) 20-Yard Dumpsters
- (6) Materials Bins
- Wash Bay to wash equipment (consider wastewater containment when designing wash bay)

Key Map





The background is a solid green color with a faint, white line-art map of a city. The map shows various streets, building footprints, and parks. The title 'Making it Happen' is written in a large, white, serif font across the middle of the image. Below the title, on the left side, are two bullet points in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Making it Happen

» Introduction

» Implementation Matrix

Introduction

Washoe County should explore the creation of a Regional Parks District to improve the management, maintenance, and enhancement of its regional parks. This initiative aims to elevate the standard of service across all county park facilities, ensuring both high-quality experiences and sustainable long-term maintenance. Drawing inspiration from successful models around the country, including the Three Rivers Park District in Hennepin County, Minnesota, the framework for the proposed district would include identifying diverse funding sources, including both public and private avenues. These funds would support various aspects of the district, such as planning, design, implementation of recommendations, and long-term upkeep. Washoe County and the City of Reno are currently exploring the establishment of a special parks district that may serve Rancho San Rafael Regional Park and other regional parks within the county.

Rancho San Rafael Regional Park has a strong history of public-private partnerships and multi-agency collaboration, which should continue as part of this effort. By building on these relationships alongside the establishment of the parks district, Washoe County can foster a more collaborative and financially sustainable system for parks development.

Park districts, typically established through state legislation or public referendums, are governed by boards either elected by the public or appointed by local government bodies. These districts allow for tailored governance and financial models to meet the specific needs of their regions. The primary funding mechanism for park districts is often property taxes, which provide a stable revenue stream. Additional resources may come from special assessments, user fees, grants, and donations.

Successful districts, like the Three Rivers Park District in Hennepin County, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the San Antonio River Authority, provide valuable examples of how diverse funding strategies and efficient governance structures can enhance park management.



Top: Crow-Hassan Park Reserve, Three Rivers Park District; Middle: Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; Bottom: San Antonio River Authority

Implementation Matrix

Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
ACCESS & CIRCULATION						
PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION						
Design and construct pedestrian sidewalk along Virginia Street	Provide pedestrian sidewalk from Virginia St. and McCarran Blvd. intersection north to the Ballfield Complex.	HIGH	None	500k - 750k	Regional Transportation Commission, City of Reno	RTC, City of Reno
Design and implement ADA accessible sidewalk from ballfield complex entry to ballfield	Connect new sidewalk on Virginia St. to existing stairs. Integrate ADA ramp into existing grade with a new set of stairs in between.	MEDIUM	Virginia Street Side-walk	300k - 500k	City of Reno	City of Reno
Improve Nature Loop	Improve nature loop to be 5'-0" minimum width. Design and install trail bridge connections where necessary over creek crossings.	MEDIUM	None	150k - 200k	Washoe County, Biggest Little Trails Stewardship	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds. Private Donations
Enhance connection to "The N"	Design and install improved trail connection to "The N" and a place to rest once you've reached the destination.	LOW	None	20k - 30k	US Forest Service, Nevada State Land, UNR	UNR, Private Donations
Design and Install Pedestrian Bridge across McCarran Blvd.	Design and Install Pedestrian Bridge across McCarran Blvd.	MEDIUM	Parking Access and additional South Entry off of McCarran Blvd.	4-6 million	Washoe County, NDOT	Transportation Grants, i.e. RAISE Grants, FHA Nevada Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
Design and Install Multi-Use Trail Circulation Loop Through Park	Design and install 14'-0" minimum width multi-use trail for circulation and maintenance access throughout park. 10' minimum width of hard service trail with 2' soft shoulders on each side.	HIGH	None	1 mil - 1.2 million	Washoe County, Biggest Little Trails Stewardship	Nevada Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Enhance Lighting in existing tunnel under McCarran Blvd.	Add overhead lighting to the pedestrian tunnel. Run power from south side of park.	HIGH	None	500k - 650k	Washoe County, NDOT	NDOT, Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and Install Park Connector Sidewalk		MEDIUM	None	250k - 300k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds

**Budget estimates are based on 2024 costs and do not take market rate increase into account. These require further investigation by design and/or construction team at time of project.*
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Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
Design (or Modify existing walkways) and Install Fitness Loop	Design new or modify existing walkways to create a 10-12' wide hard surface measured fitness loop. Include signage, trail markers and new fitness stations.	MEDIUM	Would be triggered with the connection road down from McCarran	1 mil - 1.2 mil	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and Install Pasture Loop	Install 8' min width hard surface pasture loop with regularly spaced seating.	LOW	Concurrent with Fencing Improvements	300k - 400k	Washoe County	AARP Community Challenge Grant, Nevada State Parks Recreational Trails Program
Install overhead crosswalk signal at San Rafael Drive and Sierra Intersection for enhanced safety	Install Pedestrian Hybrid Beacon (PHB) at San Rafael Drive and Sierra Intersection for enhanced safety	HIGH	None	80k - 100k	City of Reno	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program, City of Reno Transportation
Install offset 'HAWK' pedestrian crossing on Sierra Street, including a newly planted median.	Install in alignment with Virginia Street Pedestrian crossing on the other side of the retail strip between Virginia Street and Sierra Street	HIGH	Arboretum Expansion	350k - 500k	City of Reno	Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Grant Program, City of Reno Transportation
Design and install pedestrian connection along Sierra and South McCarran Blvd around the park and future Arboretum Expansion.	Include a direct connection to enhanced McCarran and Virginia intersection	MEDIUM	Enhanced Pedestrian Crossing at McCarran and Virginia or Arboretum Expansion	300k - 400k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds

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Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
TRAILS						
Design and Implement Trailhead and Restroom	Located at existing parking lot north of ball fields, including large shade structure, restrooms, trash, wayfinding, seating.	HIGH	None	1.5 mil - 2 mil	Washoe County, Biggest Little Trails Stewardship, City of Reno	Nevada Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and Implement a small Trailhead at the McCarran Blvd. Parking Lot.	Located at new parking along north side of McCarran Blvd. including small shade structure, trash, wayfinding, seating.	MEDIUM	McCarran NDOT ROW Parking Lot Project	80k - 100k	NDOT, Washoe County, Biggest Little Trails Stewardship	Nevada Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and Implement Trailhead at the North end of the Evan's Creek Nature Area.	Located at the north end of the accessible multi-use trail around the nature loop, including large shade structure, trash, wayfinding, seating.	MEDIUM	Improved Multiuse Trails	150k - 200k	Washoe County, Biggest Little Trails Stewardship, US Forest Service	Nevada Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and Implement Trailhead at the Museum Park Entry	Located at the northwest edge of the extended museum parking lot, including large shade structure, trash, wayfinding, seating.	HIGH	Improved Multiuse Trails, Wayfinding	150k - 200k	Washoe County	Nevada Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds

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Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
VEHICULAR CIRCULATION						
Design and Install Paved Parking at north side of McCarran Blvd. (currently dirt lot)	Work with NDOT to approve transition of dirt parking lot to one way loop paved parking to create a small trail access lot.	HIGH	None	350k - 500k	NDOT, Washoe County	NDOT, Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and Install southern roadway around ball complex with parking.	Design and install connection road with head-in parking from existing ballfield parking area to Virginia Street on the south side of ballfields.	MEDIUM	Tennis Facility	800k - 1 mil	City of Reno, Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and Install Parking Lot at Tennis Facility	Design and Install Parking Lot at Tennis Facility. Design with overflow access to field parking. Includes lighting and sidewalks	MEDIUM	Tennis Facility	800k - 1 mil	UNR, Washoe County, Reno Disc Golf Association, Great Reno Balloon Race	UNR, Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and Install access off McCarran to south portion of park, including new parking areas.	Design and install formalized road connection from South McCarran Blvd. through park to San Rafael Drive. Includes attached parking areas. Includes landscape and sidewalk improvements	HIGH	Precedes new West Park Amenities.	4 mil - 5 mil	NDOT, Washoe County	NDOT, Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Formalize Peavine Pavilion overflow parking lot adjacent to Maintenance Yard	Design and install a paved parking lot to the west of the existing maintenance yard.	LOW	None	250k - 300k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Expand parking lot and add bus drop off zone to existing Museum parking lot	Design and install an expanded paved parking lot to the west of the existing parking lot. Include a bus drop off area and add a new lot exit to allow for better circulation. Include landscape, lighting and sidewalk improvements	HIGH	Amphitheater, Adventure Playground, Children's Garden	350k - 450k	Wilbur D. May Museum, Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and implement bus drop off to existing East Arboretum Parking Lot	Design and implement bus drop off to existing East Arboretum Parking Lot	MEDIUM		150k - 200k	The May Arboretum Society, Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Reconfigure and re-stripe San Rafael Drive connection at Sierra Street.	Reconfigure San Rafael Drive Entry to eliminate the right turn and the feeling of driving into a dead end at Putnam Drive.	LOW	None	350k - 450k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and install reconfigured entrance to Arboretum expansion along Sierra Street	Install an improved left/right in and right out entrance to the expanded Arboretum area.	HIGH	Arboretum Visitor Center or Cactus Garden	300k - 400k	May Arboretum, City of Reno	Arboretum Fundraising, Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds

Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
PROGRAM RECOMMENDATIONS						
Design and Implement Tennis and Pickleball Facility in Partnership with UNR	Design and Implement Tennis and Pickleball Facility in Partnership with UNR.	MEDIUM	South Loop Road and Virginia Street Access	10 mil - 15 mil	UNR, Washoe County	UNR, Capital Improvement Funds, Naming Rights (sponsorship)
Design and Implement an Observation Tower near the Nature Loop	Design and Implement an Observation Tower near the Nature Loop.	LOW	None	300k - 400k	Washoe County, Biggest Little Trails Stewardship	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds, Donations, Naming Rights (sponsorship)
Design and implement Children's Garden and Destination Adventure Playground	Design and implement an Arboretum themed Children's Garden and Destination Adventure Playground in the old Great Basin Adventure Area.	HIGH	Museum Parking Lot Expansion	5 mil - 7 mil	The May Arboretum Society, Washoe County, Wilbur D. May Museum	AARP Community Challenge Grant, Foundations, Donations Sponsorships and Naming Rights. Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and implement Community Amphitheater and Pavilion	Provide a new Amphitheater, bandshell, updated restrooms. Provide ADA and service Access. Demo existing log flume.	HIGH	Museum Parking Lot Expansion	3 mil - 4 mil	Artown, The May Arboretum Society, Washoe County, Wilbur D. May Museum	AARP Community Challenge Grant, Foundations, Donations Sponsorships and Naming Rights. Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and implement new food truck vendor, picnic area, and concessions.	Design and implement new food truck vendor, picnic area. Modify existing Log Flume Ride service building into concession and indoor / outdoor seating.	HIGH	Museum Parking Lot Expansion	1 mil - 1.5 mil	Washoe County, Nevada Farms & Families, The May Arboretum Society	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds. Donations, Sponsorships
Design and implement Hermon's Pond Deck and formalized fishing spots along pond edge	Design and implement Hermon's Pond Deck and formalized fishing spots along pond edge.	MEDIUM	Picnic Area Expansion	1 mil - 1.5 mil	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds. Donations, Sponsorships
Design and implement neighborhood skate park.	Design and implement neighborhood skate park, including access and shade.	MEDIUM	McCarran Access Road and Parking Lots	400k - 600k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds. Donations, Sponsorships

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Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
Design and implement Regional Bike Park / Pump Track	Design and implement Regional Bike Park / Pump Track, including access and shade.	MEDIUM	McCarran Access Road and Parking Lots	1.5 mil - 2 mil	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and install flex sports field that can be utilized as overflow/flex parking		MEDIUM	McCarran Access Road and Parking Lots	500k - 700k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds.
Fitness Loop + Stations	Remove aging fitness stations. Select and install new fitness stations around new Fitness Loop. Widen pathway, include way-finding and signage.	MEDIUM	None, however the McCarran Access road may impact loop layout.	400k - 600k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds, Sponsorship, Naming Rights
Design and install upper trail and overlooks with shade and seating.	Design and install upper trail and overlooks with shade and seating. Including landscape improvements	LOW	None	150k - 250k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and install formalized small dog park	Provide a new dog park, access, and amenities.	MEDIUM	McCarran Access Road and Parking Lots	100k -200k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds, Sponsorship, Naming Rights
Design and install Arboretum Expansion.	Promote, fundraise and support arboretum expansion and growth, including new gardens, parking area, public greenhouses, and visitor's center.	HIGH	Associated with improved access off of Sierra Street.	25 mil - 35 mil	The May Arboretum Society	Fundraising, Donations, Naming Rights, Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and install "The Pockets" - Neighborhood scaled pocket parks. (WEST PARK / Washington St.)	Utilize unused corners in park for neighborhood scale 'pocket parks'. Include shade, seating, 2-5 year old play feature(s), and small lawn space.	LOW	None	750k - 1 mil	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and install "The Pockets" - Neighborhood scaled pocket parks. (CENTRAL PARK / Coleman Dr.)	Utilize unused corners in park for neighborhood scale 'pocket parks'. Include shade, seating, 2-5 year old play feature(s), and small lawn space.	LOW	None	500k - 700k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds

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						MAKING IT HAPPEN
Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
Design and Install Community Basketball Court	Design and Install Community Basketball Court	LOW	McCarran Access	150k - 200k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and install new ramadas with seating	Locations identified on Program Diagrams in the Recommendations Chapter.	MEDIUM	None	30k - 40k each	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and install new Nature Watching nodes.	Locations identified on Program Diagrams in the Recommendations Chapter.	MEDIUM	None	8k - 10k each	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and Install Community Plaza orchard and splash pad.	Design and Install Community Plaza orchard and splash pad in central park area.	LOW	Park Restroom Upgrades	1 mil - 1.5 mil	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
MAINTENANCE + UTILITY RECOMMENDATIONS						
Design and install mesh infill panels for fencing around Off Leash Dog Area	This is in response to desire to minimize roaming dogs and control access to the off leash area.	HIGH	None	30k - 40k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Add liner to pond within Off Leash Dog Area to reduce mud	Not a high priority, but could be a quick win.	LOW	None	10k - 15k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Expand Maintenance Facility	Expand Maintenance Facility to support relocation of "back-of-house" uses at the Historic Ranch House courtyard.	HIGH	None	3 mil - 4 mil	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Implement electronic gates at all park vehicular entry points.	Includes install and any site work needed.	HIGH	None	15k - 20k each	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Renovate all existing restrooms facilities.	Provide cosmetic and infrastructure upgrades to all existing restroom facilities. Ensure ADA and code compliance.	HIGH	None	TBD	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and install new restroom on the west side of the park.	Supports new program uses such as flex fields, skate and bike facilities, and dog park. Includes shade.	MEDIUM	Any additional program to "The Park" or the south portion of "The Hills"	600k - 750k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Design and install pedestrian light system along paths that are utilized for evening events.	Provide light levels for safe pedestrian traffic. Ensure control system has capabilities for dimming and timing to meet the needs of the county and the changing park hours.	HIGH	None	300k - 400k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds

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Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
LANDSCAPE AND ECOLOGY RECOMMENDATIONS						
Seek sustainable funding to develop and manage an invasive weed management plan.	Project Goal	HIGH	None	Annual Contribution	Washoe County	Parks District Funds, Department of Forestry/Agriculture Grants
Develop partnership with City of Reno to maintain and control invasive weed populations on properties upstream of Rancho San Rafael Regional Park.	Could include a land swap	HIGH	None	N/A	City or Reno, Washoe County	N/A
Integrate green infrastructure best management practices on all proposed hard surface vehicular drives and parking lots.	Project Goal	HIGH	None	N/A	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds, Grants
New surface parking lots shall be designed to be have all parking stalls installed with permeable surfacing.	Project Goal	HIGH	None	N/A	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds, Grants
Transition non-programmable turf to native grass-land and water quality plantings.	Project Goal	MEDIUM	None	N/A	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds, Grants
Add native shade trees along the Pasture Loop	Add native shade trees along the Pasture Loop. When new trees are added within the pasture zone, The Great Reno Balloon Race should be consultant on locations and/or species to ensure no impediment on event.	MEDIUM	Design and Install Pasture Loop	50k - 70k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds, Grants
Add native shade trees through The Park zone.	Add native shade trees through The Park zone.	MEDIUM	In Conjunction with Park Area improvements	50k - 70k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds, Grants
Add strategic native shade trees throughout the Disc Golf Course at tee boxes to provide shade for users, but not impede open views.	Work with Reno Disc Golf Association for locations in order to not impede the play value of the course. Study use of tall pot tree plantings to eliminate need for irrigation. When new trees are added within the Disc Golf Course, The Great Reno Balloon Race should be consultant on locations and/or species to ensure no impediment on event.	MEDIUM	Could be planned in conjunction with Disc Golf Modifications	20k - 25k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds, Grants
Study and implement alternative flex turf field plantings (i.e., tall fescues for low water use).	Project Goal	MEDIUM	None	N/A	Washoe County	Grants, Parks District Funds.

*Budget estimates are based on 2024 costs and do not take market rate increase into account. These require further investigation by design and/or construction team at time of project.

Preserve native and natural landscape throughout the park.	Project Goal	HIGH	None	N/A	Washoe County	N/A
Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING						
Park Branding and Logo	Create and implement a distinct brand identity and park logo that captures all the program and operators within the park. Includes Design.	MEDIUM	None	15k - 20k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Park Zones / Navigation	Define park 'zones' that help define the character and types of program within each zone. This will assist with intuitive park navigation.	MEDIUM	Can be Consolidated into a singular wayfinding design package	N/A	Washoe County	N/A
Provide new park entry signage at each access point.	Monumentation Signage with Lighting	HIGH	Coordinated with each new Entry	50k - 75k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Provide 'kiosk' style park program and trail network pillars at key park nodes.	Provide 'kiosk' style park program and trail network pillars at key park nodes. Includes Design and Install	HIGH	Can be Consolidated into a singular wayfinding design package	60k - 80k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Trail Markers	Develop standard trail marker design that includes distance, elevation gain, difficulty and permitted trail users. Includes Design and Install	HIGH	Can be Consolidated into a singular wayfinding design package	30k - 40k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Mile Markers	Integrate mile markers on loop trails to assist with distance tracking.	MEDIUM	Coordinated with Trail Improvements	30k - 40k	Washoe County	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds

Informational Trail Markers	Provide informational trail markers to delineate public trails north of McCarran Blvd.	MEDIUM	Coordinated with Trail Improvements	10k - 20k	US Forest Service	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Recommendation	Description	Priority	Related Projects	Budget*	Agencies Involved	Potential Funding Sources
Educational and Interpretive Signage	Design and implement interpretive signage throughout to replace existing, aged and faded signage. Includes Design and Install.	MEDIUM	None	100k - 150k	Washoe County, Reno Sparks Indian Colony, The May Foundation, UNR, Reno Basque Club	Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
PUBLIC ART						
Develop a Parks Art Program	Coordinate with Washoe County Arts on specific arts program throughout the park.	MEDIUM	None	N/A	Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Washoe County Arts & Culture Commission, ArTrail, Artown	NEA Grants, Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Integrate Indigenous Art	Partner with Reno Sparks Indian Colony for Indigenous Art and Education elements to be installed throughout the park.	MEDIUM	None	10k - 20k each	Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Washoe County Arts & Culture Commission, ArTrail, Artown	NEA Grants, Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds
Integrate Functional Art	Utilize functional park pieces throughout the park where possible.	MEDIUM	None	10k - 20k each	Reno Sparks Indian Colony, Washoe County Arts & Culture Commission, ArTrail, Artown	NEA Grants, Capital Improvement Funds, Parks District Funds







Appendix

- » Major Event Parking Diagram
- » Full Online Survey Results

On-line Survey Results

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF





RANCHO SAN RAFAEL REGIONAL PARK

THIS IS YOUR PARK!


AND WE NEED YOUR INPUT


Online Engagement Report


July 2024





Overview

 **Purpose:** Gain valuable insights into community needs regarding Rancho San Rafael Park's amenities, facilities, programs, and operations.


 **Method:** An interactive engagement website, survey, social map, and ideas wall.


**4,482**
survey responses

**195**
ideas wall comments

**140**
social map comments

**9,348**
site visits

**6,903**
visitors

**4,817**
total contributions

Here's what we learned:

54% say "I know every amenity!"

Daily

2-3 times per week

Weekly

2-3 times per month

Monthly

For Large Events Only

At Access Trails Only

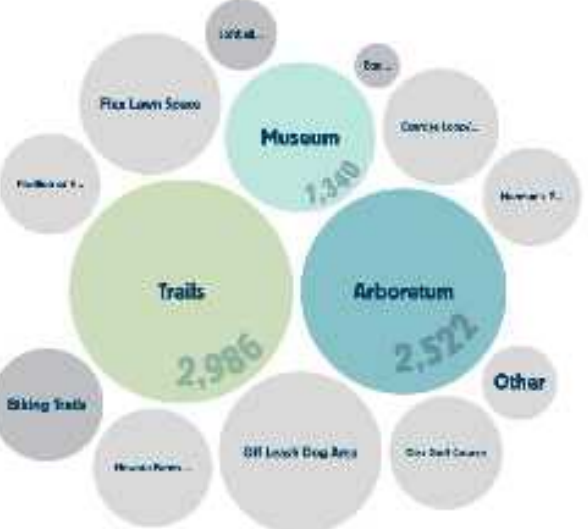
36% visit at least once a week

0% 5% 10% 15% 20% 25% 30%

72% are satisfied or extremely satisfied with the park.

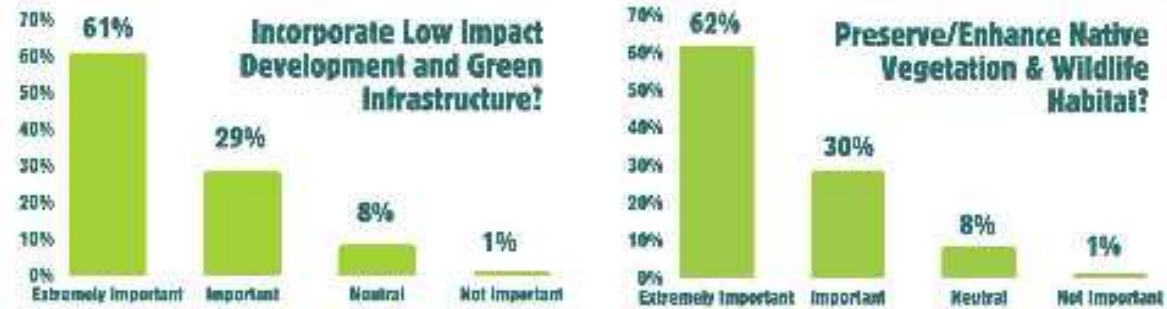
★★★★★

What areas of the park do you use most frequently?



1

How Important is it to...



Do you have concerns about... maintenance or upkeep of the park?

19% - Yes

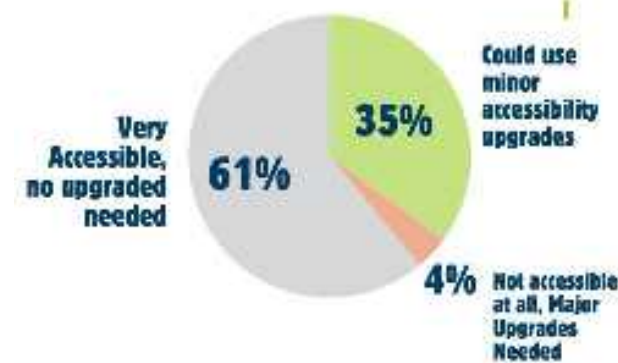
76% - No Concerns



2

Accessibility & Access

How accessible is the park?



You said you need _____ to make the park more accessible.

- More signage
- Better access to buildings, bathrooms, & trails for people with disabilities
- More restrooms and water stations
- Better transit, pedestrian, and cycle access

Ideas Wall

Comments with the most likes



3

Interactive Map



More Ideas From You!

- “ A more distinct area celebrating native plants and wildlife preservation.
- “ Please keep the disc golf course here. It's absolutely an integral part to the disc golf community in Reno & taking that away would break many hearts.

- “ We'd like playgrounds to be refurbished and expanded. The beloved dinosaurs should be returned to their former glory.
- “ Outreach and education to youth on native plants.
- “ Expansion of shaded tree spaces, especially near pavilions and playgrounds.

Vision

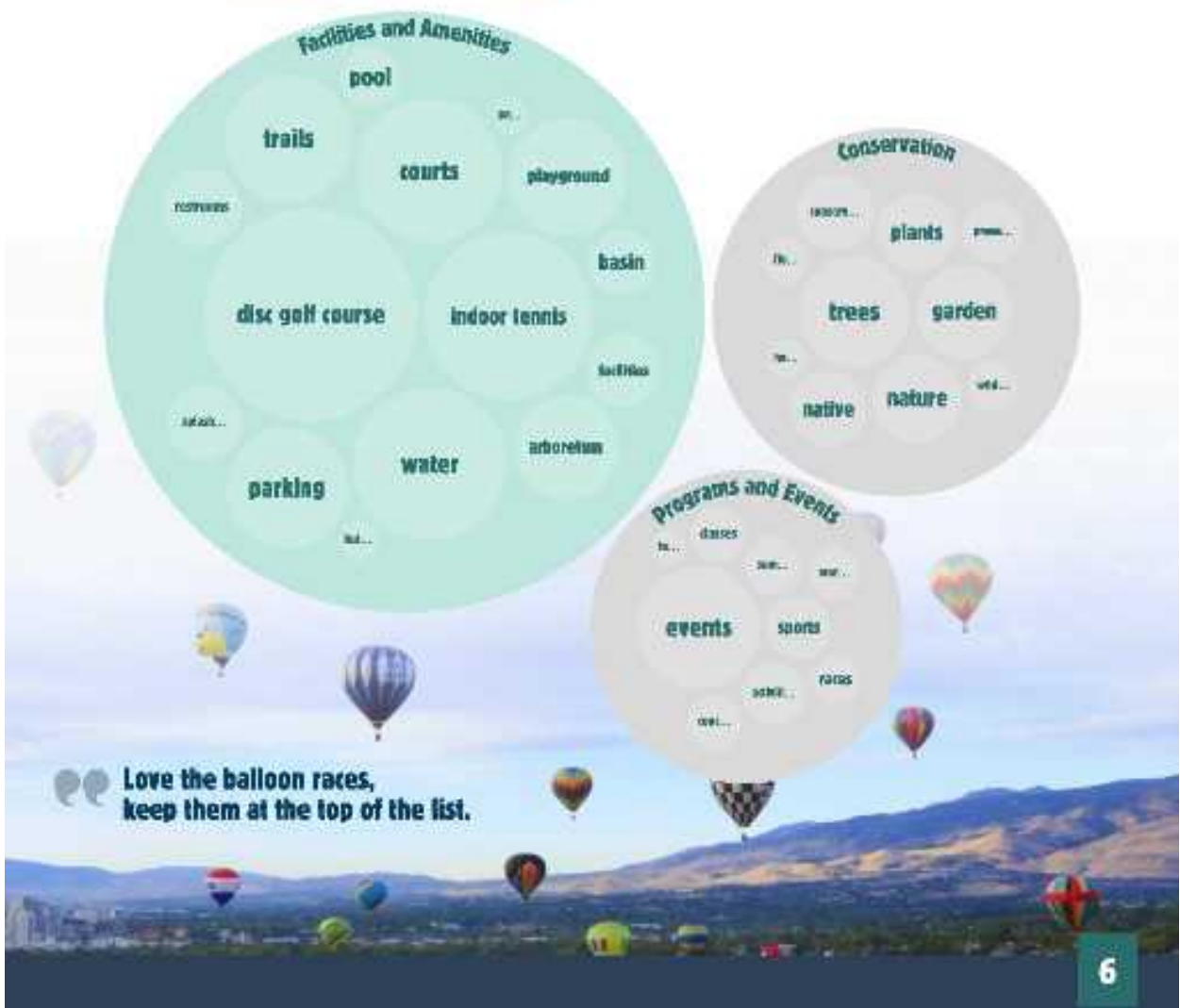
What elements would you like to see in the updated Vision Plan?



Vision

What else should be included in this vision?

- Expand the **disc golf course** with more holes, better tee pads, shaded areas, and upgraded restroom facilities.
- Update **playground areas**.
- Preserve and enhance the **park's natural beauty**.
- Host more **community events and activities**.
- Improve **accessibility** by adding more restrooms, water stations, shaded areas, better signage, and maps.
- Enhance the **dog park** with better enclosures and a small dog section.
- Consider **indoor tennis courts** to provide a year-round venue for tennis enthusiasts.





SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

