

Open Space and Regional Park Commission

Special Event Subsidy Framework – Fee Waivers/Reductions

Purpose

To offer a consistent, transparent, and equitable approach for evaluating special event subsidy (fee waiver) requests in Washoe County parks and facilities. This guide supports the Open Space and Regional Parks Commission in exercising its authority by outlining the key values and considerations that should inform decisions about whether, and to what extent, a subsidy is appropriate.

Eligibility Requirements

- Event occurs on County-owned parks/facilities and meets permit requirements.
- Applicant is in good standing (no outstanding balances; compliant with past permits).
- Event includes a publicly accessible component (not exclusively private).
- Event plan addresses safety, accessibility, waste management, and ADA compliance.
- For repeat events: post-event reports submitted as required.

Evaluation Criteria

1. **Community Impact**
 - Expected attendance (local vs. regional)
 - Public Access & Inclusivity
 - Equity & Community Benefit
 - Impact on Everyday Park Access
 - Community Engagement
2. **Economic Impact**
 - Local vs. Regional Economic Benefit
 - Revenue Generation for the Community
 - Job Creation & Workforce Development
 - Long-Term Economic Value

3. Financial Need

- Event Budget Transparency
- Organizer's Financial Capacity
- Public Benefit vs. Private Gain
- Alternative Funding Sources
- Equity Considerations

4. Operational Impact

- Park Capacity & Resource Use
- Impact on Park Operations & Staff
- Environmental & Infrastructure Impact
- Safety & Risk Management
- Logistics & Feasibility
- Disruption to Regular Park Use

Final Questions to Consider:

- Does the community benefit justify the cost of the subsidy?
- Is the event accessible, equitable, and aligned with County values?
- Is the organizer demonstrating responsibility and transparency?
- Will the event place an unreasonable burden on parks or staff?
- Does the event enhance the community in a meaningful way?