

STAFF REPORT

Date: November 8, 2023

To: Mayor and City Council

Thru: Doug Thornley, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Presentation, discussion and potential adoption of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan.

From: Karina Mercier, Management Analyst

Department: Parks and Recreation

Summary:

The Parks and Recreation Department's most recent major planning document analyzing community needs related to Parks and Recreation had been the 2008 Recreation Facilities Plan. The adoption of the Recreation Facilities Plan was followed by the Great Recession and the recommendations identified in the plan were severely impacted by the resulting budget and personnel cuts. In 2017 the Reno City Council adopted the ReImagine Reno Master Plan in which the community identified its number one vision for Reno was to become a base for outdoor activities. In addressing this goal, the ReImagine Reno Master Plan calls for the development of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Master Plan. Since 2021, the Parks Department has been working to develop the PROS Master Plan by identifying current and planned park and recreation facilities, as well as a funding strategy for construction and operation of these for the next 20 years. In collaboration with Stantec Consulting and Citygate Associates, a draft of the PROS plan was completed, subjected to public input, and reviewed by the Recreation and Parks Commission and City Council. The final version of the PROS Master Plan is complete, and is being brought before this body for adoption.

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Previous Council Action:

June 7, 2023 – The Reno City Council approved an amendment to the consultant services agreement to expand the scope of work in an additional amount of \$54,397.

August 24, 2022 – The Reno City Council approved an agreement for consultant services with Stantec Consulting for an independent analysis and completion of the plan in the amount of

\$152,500.

July 8, 2008 – The City of Reno last adopted the Parks and Recreation Department’s Recreation Facilities Plan.

Background:

The City of Reno last adopted a Recreation Facilities Plan in 2008. Following the Great Recession, the department budget and personnel were cut, and the information and recommendations identified within the plan were no longer accurate or feasible. As a result, very little from this plan was completed and most identified facility needs still exist as funding is an ongoing challenge. The PROS Master Plan development was driven by priorities established in the 2017 ReImagine Reno Master Plan, the largest public engagement effort in the City’s history. Through this process, our community identified becoming a base for outdoor activities as the number one vision for Reno.

The PROS Master Plan provides updated levels of service for the Parks department, identifies current and planned park and recreation facilities, and recommends funding strategies for construction and operation of the facilities. Staff completed the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process to identify a consultant for this project and no bids were received. Staff then engaged consulting firms directly to work to obtain an appropriate scope of services to complete the project. As a result of this process, Stantec Consulting Inc. in partnership with Citygate Associates LLC was identified as the best fit for this project and were contracted to complete these services in the amount of \$152,500. On June 7, 2023, Council approved an amendment to the existing agreement to expand the consultant scope of work to include additional plan review meetings with Council and staff, expanded public outreach and additional analysis for an additional amount of \$54,397, bringing the total project budget to \$206,397.

The PROS Master Plan development process has consisted of four phases:

- Phase 1: Project Initiation. Review of the physical, demographic, and economic context of Reno to develop a snapshot of existing conditions and identify potential catalyst recommendations.
- Phase 2: Vision, Guiding Principles and Goals. Identification of the vision and goals for the Reno Parks and Recreation system.
- Phase 3: Development of the Plan. Development and validation of conceptual designs, and recommendations to be considered for implementation.
- Phase 4: Finalization of the Plan. In this final stage, the Master Plan is recommended for adoption to the Reno City Council by the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Throughout the process of updating this plan, staff has worked with multiple stakeholder groups, conducted a general citizen survey, held virtual community workshops, solicited public input,

and sought input from the Recreation and Parks Commission, Neighborhood Advisory Boards, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Financial Advisory Board and Reno City Council. The last public engagement effort was conducted in August of 2023 wherein a draft of the plan was made available for public review and input was solicited from residents, the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Reno City Council. The feedback from the public and recommend priorities for the identified implementation strategies in the plan are included as an attachment to this staff report and the Council feedback and recommendations received at this workshop have informed the final draft of the plan.

Discussion:

The public input received following public review of the draft PROS Plan reaffirmed many of the findings and priorities identified by the public input conducted at the start of the master plan development. The raw survey data will serve as a useful resource for Parks and Recreation staff to consult as projects are implemented. The top recommendations established in the plan were re-prioritized as follows according to public feedback:

1. Improve existing or develop new parks, trails, and recreational facilities to support the newly envisioned parks system.
2. Identify and acquire land for new parks, recreational facilities, and trails/open spaces/preservation areas.
3. Program, develop and activate the City of Reno Truckee River corridor and downtown public spaces to support the newly envisioned parks system.
4. Expand and create additional recreational programming, special events, and educational opportunities.

The final draft of the PROS Master Plan has been recommended by the Recreation and Parks Commission to move forward for City Council adoption. If adopted, the Parks and Recreation Department plans to conduct regular updates of this plan every 5 years.

Financial Implications:

The project cost for developing this plan totals \$206,397. Funding was previously allocated from the Parks and Recreation Department’s General Fund and has already been expended.

Legal Implications:

Legal review completed for compliance with City procedures and Nevada law.

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council adoption of the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Master Plan – Final Draft