

STAFF REPORT

Date: April 23, 2025

To: Mayor and City Council

Through: Jackie Bryant, City Manager

Subject: Staff Report (For Possible Action): Acceptance of Grant from the Truckee River Fund, through the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada and as funded by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA), for construction of the Valley Wood Drainage Restoration Project #304 - Invasive Weed Control and Vegetation Management in Urban Tributary in the amount of \$13,000. [Ward 5]

From: Daniel Moss, Project Coordinator

Department: Utility Services

Summary:

The Valley Wood Drainage Restoration Project is a collaborative effort between the City of Reno Utility Services Department, Maintenance and Operations Department, Parks and Recreation Department, Nevada Department of Agriculture, and multiple non-profits, to treat and revegetate an area of invasive weeds in an urban tributary to Chalk Creek, below Valley Wood Park. Staff recommends acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$13,000 from the Truckee River Fund toward the Project.

Consent Review	Yes	No
1. Is this item an annual or standard item that comes before Council for regular approval?		X
2. Is this item an agreement required based on an item previously approved by Council?		X
3. Is this item included in the current budget approved and adopted by Council?		X
Other Considerations		
What percent of the total City budget does this item represent?	N/A	

Alignment with Strategic Plan:

Infrastructure, Climate Change, and Environmental Sustainability
Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Previous Council Action:

There is no recent Council action relevant to this item.

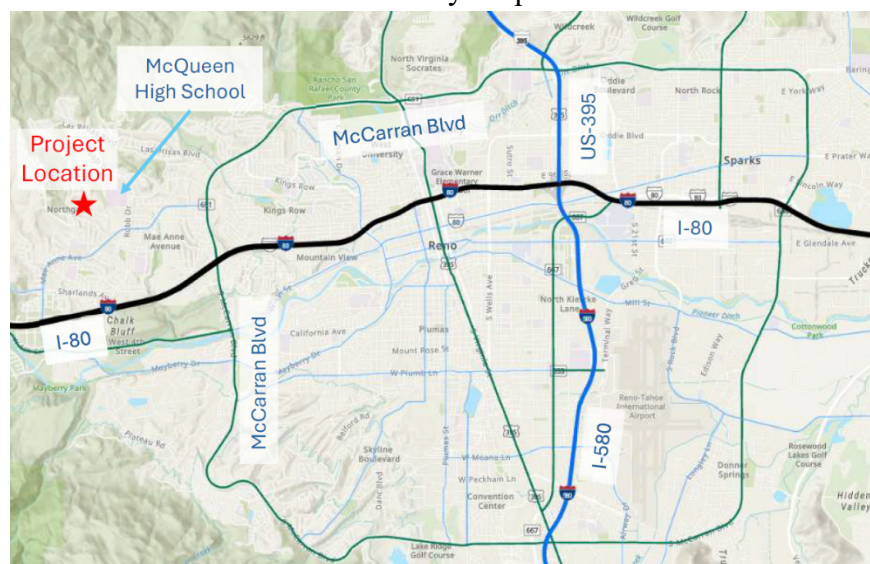
Background:

The Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) established the Truckee River Fund in 2004. The purpose of the fund was to finance projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River Watershed. In addition, the fund provides TMWA with a vehicle for responding to the numerous requests from outside groups and organizations that are involved in promoting and improving the health of the Truckee River system and benefiting the primary water source for the community.

Discussion:

The tributary to Chalk Creek located below Valley Wood Park is one of many urban drainages that have been impacted by tall whitetop, a highly invasive weed that has spread throughout the state. Following the Public Works Integrated Vegetation Management Plan, the Maintenance and Operations Department utilizes an herbicide treatment plan for this and other invasive species, but tall whitetop almost always persists, while other valuable riparian vegetation is impacted in the process.

Vicinity Map



The Project will implement a meticulous process of herbicide application, plant removal, revegetation, and follow-up herbicide treatments in order to successfully restore a section of the drainageway with native vegetation. While the project area is relatively small, the project provides a model for larger efforts in the future, and will also facilitate management discussions to explore more efficient and practical vegetation management practices. Potential goals are to

implement reduced/targeted herbicide treatments to specifically maintain walking paths and drainage infrastructure, while balancing the need for flood risk reduction with enhanced riparian ecology and urban runoff water quality. Interpretive signage and an educational outreach component are also key elements of the project. The project is a collaborative effort with several City of Reno departments, the NV Dept of Agriculture, One Truckee River, Truckee Meadows Park Foundation, and Friends of Valley Wood Park.

Financial Implications:

This staff report accepts \$13,000 in grant funding from the Truckee River Fund, funding nearly all the construction and maintenance costs of the Valley Wood Drainage Restoration Project. The grant requires a minimum 25% match which will be met with City of Reno and non-profit staff time.

Legal Implications:

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

Recommendation:

Staff recommends Council accept the Truckee River Fund Grant for the Valley Wood Drainage Restoration Project in the amount of \$13,000 and authorize the Mayor to sign.

Proposed Motion:

I move to approve staff recommendation.

Attachments:

#304 City of Reno Grant Award Letter.pdf