

## STAFF REPORT

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**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), to the Parks and Recreation Department for its River Ranger program in the amount of \$50,000.

**From:** Nathan Ulyot, Director of Parks & Recreation

**Department:** Parks and Recreation

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### Summary:

The City of Reno Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded \$50,000 from the Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to support the expansion of the River Ranger Program. This funding represents yet another community investment in the Parks and Recreation Department's ongoing efforts to protect the Truckee River and enhance public access to clean, safe, and well-maintained open spaces.

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:

Arts, Parks, and Historical Resources

Fiscal Sustainability

Public Safety

**Previous Council Action:**

On July 24, 2024, Council approved interlocal joint funding agreement between the Truckee River Flood Management Authority and the City of Reno to partially fund the Park Ranger Program for FY25 an amount equal to 20% of the salaries and benefits up to a maximum of \$200,000.00. On November 13, 2024, Council approved the acceptance of Washoe County, State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) - American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant funding in the amount of \$200,000, a sub-recipient agreement between the City of Reno and Washoe County to utilize the ARPA funding in support of the City's Park Ranger Program along the Truckee River corridor.

**Background:**

The City of Reno Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded \$50,000 from the Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada to support the expansion of the River Ranger Program. This funding represents yet another investment in the Parks and Recreation Department's ongoing efforts to protect the Truckee River and enhance public access to clean, safe, and well-maintained open spaces. The Truckee River is a critical natural resource for the entire Northern Nevada region. However, increasing pressure from illegal dumping, encampments, and stormwater runoff continues to threaten the health of the river and surrounding parks.

The City's River Ranger Program was established to address these challenges through proactive patrols, debris removal, and public engagement. This proven success by our Rangers was brought up during the selection meetings, which is why we believe we were selected.

**Discussion:**

The \$50,000 grant will be integrated into the existing River Ranger Program to 1) Expand ranger coverage, with an emphasis on weekends and high-priority riverfront areas. 2) Increase capacity for debris removal, illegal dumping mitigation, and public education. 3) Support staffing and operational costs, including equipment, training, and patrol resources. While the funding does not fully cover a new full-time position, it strengthens the City's ability to provide consistent ranger presence during periods of high use and supports the long-term sustainability of the program. The Truckee River Fund's support reflects growing regional recognition of the Park/River Ranger Program's impact and success. This funding complements other recent contributions from local partners including Washoe County and Truckee River Flood Management Authority and will serve as a foundation for further development of coordinated, multi-agency efforts to safeguard the Truckee.

**Financial Implications:**

None.

**Legal Implications:**

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

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends Council accept the donation.

**Proposed Motion:**

I move to accept the grant award from the Truckee River Fund.

**Attachments:**

Truckee River Fund Agreement