

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND

Enhancing and protecting our water resources

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Friday November 21, 2025, 8:30 a.m.
Community Foundation of Northern Nevada
50 Washington Street, Suite 300
Reno, NV 89503

Meeting Via Teleconference and In-Person

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC MAY ATTEND VIA THE WEB LINK, OR
TELEPHONICALLY BY CALLING THE NUMBER, LISTED BELOW.

(Be sure to keep your phones on mute, and do not place the call on hold)

Please click the link below to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8785686516?pwd=K29WZlN1a0Q2Wm1YbnpIR1l1SzJUUT09>

Zoom Meeting ID: 878 568 6516

Password: CFNN

NOTES:

1. The announcement of this meeting has been posted in compliance with NRS 241.020(3) at: Truckee Meadows Water Authority (1355 Capital Blvd., Reno), at <https://truckeeriverfund.org/meetings/>, and NRS 232.2175 at State of Nevada Public Notice Website, <https://notice.nv.gov/>.
2. In accordance with NRS 241.020, this agenda closes three working days prior to the meeting. We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for persons who are disabled and wish to attend meetings. If you require special arrangements for the meeting, please call (775) 834-8002 at least 24 hours before the meeting date.
3. Staff reports and supporting material for the meeting are available on the Truckee River Fund website at <https://truckeeriverfund.org/meetings/> or you can contact Sonia Folsom at (775) 834-8002 or sfolsom@tmwa.com. Supporting material is made available to the general public in accordance with NRS 241.020(6).
4. The Committee may elect to combine agenda items, consider agenda items out of order, remove agenda items, or delay discussion on agenda items. Arrive at the meeting at the posted time to hear item(s) of interest.
5. Asterisks (*) denote non-action items.
6. Public comment is limited to three minutes and is allowed during the public comment periods. **To request to speak, please use the "raise hand" feature or press *9 to "raise your hand" and *6 to unmute/mute your microphone.** Pursuant to Directive 006, public comment, whether on action items or general public comment, may be provided without being physically present at the meeting by submitting written comments online by email sent to laurens@nevadafund.org prior to the Committee opening the public comment period during the meeting. In addition, public comments may be provided by leaving a voicemail at (775)834-0255 prior to 4:00 p.m. the day before the meeting. Voicemail messages received will either be broadcast on the telephone call during the meeting or transcribed for entry into the record. Public comment is limited to three minutes and is allowed during the public comment periods. The Committee may elect to receive public comment only during the two public comment periods rather than each action item. Due to constraints of the videoconference system, public comment must be provided by voicemail, email, or online comment as indicated above.

1. Roll Call*
2. Public comment (limited to no more than three minutes per speaker)*
3. Approval of the agenda (**for possible action**)
4. Approve the August 22, 2025 summary meeting minutes (**for possible action**)
5. Fund balance report*
6. Presentation by One Truckee River on Coordinated Vegetation Management project — Iris Jehle-Peppard*
7. Review of Blueprint Collaborative's Strategic Assessment (**for possible action**)
8. Discuss TRF funding priorities for upcoming grant cycle (**for possible action**)
9. Review of in-kind match standard (**for possible action**)
10. Review 2026 TRF Calendar (**for possible action**)
11. Committee and staff comments*

12. Upcoming Meetings (**for possible action**)

- a. Friday February 20, 2026 at 8:30am

13. Public comment (limited to no more than three minutes per speaker)*

14. Adjournment*

MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 22, 2025

(Meeting via teleconference and In-Person)

The following meeting minutes is a summary of the certified transcript for the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee meeting held at 8:30 a.m., Friday, August 22, 2025, via Zoom teleconference and in-person at The Community Foundation of Northern Nevada, 50 Washington St, Ste 300, Reno, NV.

Those Present:

Committee Members: Jim Smitherman, Chair; Terri Svetich, Vice Chair; Bill Bradley, Mike Brisbin, Peter Gower, Neoma Jardon, Dave Stanley.

Also: Lauren Sgandurra, Community Foundation of Northern Nevada; Sonia Folsom, Kara Steeland, TMWA; Jake Herzig, Council for TRF; Susan Merideth, TRF Minutes Recorder.

Members of the Public: Sean Hill, Sierra Nevada Journeys; Tiffanee Hutton and Michele Prestowitz, Truckee River Watershed Council; Darcy Phillips, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful; Lyndsey Langsdale, Reno Food Systems; Oliva Wolff and Shaaron Netherton, Friends of Nevada Wilderness; Iris Jehle-Peppard, One Truckee River; David Solaro, Washoe County–Regional Parks & Open Space.

+ Committee member arrived after roll call

++ Committee member left meeting before adjournment

* Asterisks (*) denote non-action items

Agenda Item #1: Roll Call: Roll call was taken. A quorum was noted.

Agenda Item #2: Public comment: There was no public comment at this time.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of the agenda: Bill Bradley motioned to approve the agenda for the August 22nd meeting, and Terri Svetich seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #4: Approve the May Summary Meeting Minutes: Terri Svetich motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for May 16, 2025 as written and Dave Stanley seconded the motion and the Minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee. Peter Gower abstained from the vote since he was absent from the meeting.

Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report: The amount of the fund balance as of August 22, 2025 is \$345,000, including \$225,000 reserved for the Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 funding cycles plus \$120,000 from returned grant funding. A total of \$308,039.45 was approved for Fall funding, leaving \$36,960 carryover for the Spring 2026 funding cycle.

Agenda Item #6: Review grant proposals to Truckee River Fund and select projects to be recommended for funding:

The following grant proposals were considered and voted on by the group and approved, rejected/declined, or action taken as follows:

#308, Sierra Nevada Journeys: Watershed Education Initiative, amount requested \$31,543.13

Sean Hill with Sierra Nevada Journeys (SNJ) was present to discuss their proposal for the continuation of watershed education program from previous years. SNJ is requesting funding for their Classrooms Unleashed program, that will provide 700 students in the Reno area with watershed education. This will include one classroom lesson, one field day at a site with access to the local watershed, and additional teacher resources and extension lessons. The long-term goal of this initiative is to engage middle school students in STEM education.

Terri highlighted the value of the project and is interested in feedback from the students who have participated in the program, to which Sean noted that alumni are encouraged to share their stories. Neoma asked about the funding breakdown between teachers and students, and a majority of their costs are for educators. Jim pointed out that SNJ consistently meets its project goals.

#310, Truckee River Watershed Council: Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project, amount requested \$75,000

Michele Prestowitz and Tiffanee Hutton were present to discuss Truckee River Watershed Council's (TRWC) request for additional funding for their Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project. This request is to fill a critical funding gap needed to complete Phase 2 (65% design plans) for the Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project, with funding mostly being used for engineering designers. Completion of the 65% designs will also position TRWC to leverage additional funding opportunities from other sources to complete final (100%) design plans and implementation.

#311, KTMB: Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful, amount requested \$74,635.32

Darcy Phillips was present to discuss KTMB's proposal for funding to remove litter, green waste, invasives, and hazardous waste from the watershed while also putting in trees and native plants to improve the health of the Truckee River corridor. While using volunteer labor to complete this work, KTMB will also be educating participants about the health of the watershed through service-learning projects. This is a continuation of KTMB's Great Community Clean-Up and Truckee River Clean-Up efforts from previous years.

Neoma asked about filling gaps from budget cuts to Truckee Meadows Parks & Rec, and about 75% of their funding will be used to pay staff.

#312, League to Save Lake Tahoe: Lake Tahoe AIS Prevention and Eyes on the Lake Citizen Science Project, amount requested \$35,000

This proposal is focused on preventing the spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) from Lake Tahoe into the Truckee River system by expanding CD3 boat self-cleaning stations and strengthening our Eyes on the Lake citizen science program. These dual initiatives would reduce ecological threats to the Truckee River watershed, enhance early detection capacity, and increase public engagement in watershed protection.

Terri noted the importance of addressing issue of invasive species in the Truckee River; however, Jim pointed out that most occurrences of AIS are in South Lake Tahoe. Lauren has requested more information from the League to Save Lake Tahoe (LSLT) regarding the area of focus, but as of today's meeting has not received a response. She also mentioned budget inconsistencies.

With no one from the LSLT present to address these questions, the Committee will ask them to re-submit the proposal, clarifying questions regarding scope and budget.

#313, Reno Food System: Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface, amount requested \$46,000

Lyndsey Langsdale from Reno Food Systems was present to discuss their first proposal submitted to the TRF. The funding would be used to rehabilitate a degraded flood irrigated 15-acre pasture that flows into Alum Creek and the Truckee River, through native grass seeding, regenerative grazing and watershed protection practices that reduce erosion, nutrient runoff and wildfire risk. This project includes hands-on education, workforce training and partnerships with UNR's Desert Farming Initiative, Cooperative Extension, FFA and 4-H. Over 500 volunteers and community members are expected to engage in stewardship activities, with most of the funding being used for personnel costs.

Peter noted the proposal clearly defined applications and measurable outcomes. Bill would like to see baseline data on what is currently in the Truckee River relative to post-treatment measurements for comparison, which Lyndsey said could be done.

#314, Friends of Nevada Wilderness: Mount Rose Re-Seeding 2025, amount requested \$5,000

Olivia Wolff with Friends of Nevada Wilderness was present to answer questions regarding their proposal for reseed efforts in the Mount Rose Wilderness. This funding will be used to reseed areas where musk thistle has been removed with native seeds to protect the water quality of the Truckee River and its watershed. They will host two volunteer projects in the late fall to spread the seeds.

#315, One Truckee River: Watershed Protection Benefit Project, amount requested \$73,861

Iris Jehle-Peppard from One Truckee River (OTR) was present to discuss OTR's proposal for funding to be used for wages, contract services, and outreach and promotion to continue OTR's work conducted through its Executive Director and consultants under contract to lead OTR's efforts to do coalition building, fund development and River-Friendly Living efforts focused upstream of the Vista Blvd USGS gauge.

Neoma and Jim noted OTR consistently meets their stated goals and project outcomes and the Watershed Protection Project provides an observable benefit to river health. Terri asked about their mission of coalition building and ongoing participation by the agencies. Iris responded that since the management plan was developed, agency representatives meet bi-annually as well as in smaller working groups to move implementation forward. She has found that work is most effective when an OTR prioritized action item aligns with an institution's priority.

Terri Svetich motioned to approve funding for the following projects at the full amount requested. Mike Brisbin seconded the motion, and a total funding allocation of \$306,039.45 was unanimously approved by the Committee.

- **#308, Sierra Nevada Journeys, \$31,543.13:** Watershed Education Initiative
 - Project Advisor: Jim Smitherman
- **#310, Truckee River Watershed Council, \$75,000:** Independence Watershed Aquatic Organism Passage Project
 - Project Advisor: Mike Brisbin
- **#311, KTMB, \$74,635.32:** Keeping Truckee Meadows Beautiful
 - Project Advisor: Peter Gower
- **#313, Reno Food System, \$46,000:** Cultivating Watershed Resilience at the Urban-Agricultural Interface
 - Project Advisor: Bill Bradley
- **#314, Friends of Nevada Wilderness, \$5,000:** Mount Rose Re-Seeding 2025
 - Project Advisor: Brian Bonnefant
- **#315, One Truckee River, \$73,861:** Watershed Protection Benefit Project
 - Project Advisor: Terri Svetich

The Committee is requesting that the League to Save Lake Tahoe resubmit their proposal Lake Tahoe AIS Prevention and Eyes on the Lake Citizen Science Project.

Agenda Item #7: Review and approve TRF #316 Washoe County – Regional Parks & Open Space: Mayberry Park Watershed Protection and Public Restroom Project, amount requested \$250,000

Funding for the Mayberry Park Watershed Protection and Public Restroom Project has already been set aside by the TMWA Board, and it needs final approval by TRF. Funding will be used to begin the work of design, permit, and install a permanent, ADA-accessible, water-efficient public restroom facility at Mayberry Park along the Truckee River. This project will provide critical sanitation infrastructure to protect water quality, support public health, and enhance equitable access for the park's growing number of visitors. Washoe County will be responsible for ongoing maintenance of the restrooms.

Bill Bradley motioned to approve the full amount requested of \$250,000, and Mike Brisbin seconded the motion. The motion to approve full funding was passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8: Discuss Lake Park as possible Fall fieldtrip.

Terri motioned to arrange a TRF Committee field trip to Lake Park (possibly in October) and Peter Gower seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #8: Committee and staff comments

Bill requested to add 2 items to the next meeting agenda:

1. Review of how decisions are made regarding suitability of projects
2. Evaluation of the performance of Truckee River Fund

Jim also requested an evaluation of in-kind match valuations and federal standards be added to the November meeting agenda.

Mike attended the TMWA picnic and reported that it was an excellent event with great food.

Agenda Item #10: Upcoming Meetings: Friday, November 21, 2025 at 8:30am

Jim Smitherman motioned to hold the meeting on Friday, November 21st 2025 at 8:30am at The Community Foundation of Northern Nevada and by teleconference. Terri Svetich seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Agenda Item #11: Public comment: Iris Jehle-Peppard requested time at a future TRF committee meeting for a presentation by OTR on their coordinated vegetation management work. Jim requested that OTR be added to the November meeting agenda as well.

Agenda Item #12: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:01 am.

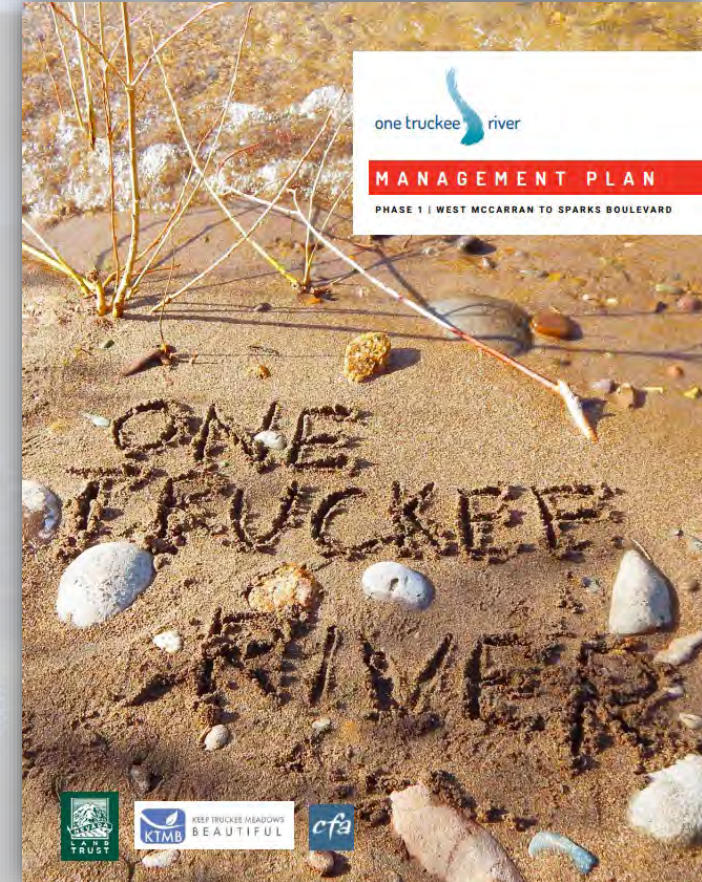
Action Outside of a Meeting: An action was taken by email subsequent to the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee meeting of August 22, 2025. Lauren Sgandurra requested a vote via email to approve the change in grantee recipient for TRF #302 from Indigenous Peoples Council On Biocolonialism to Honor the Earth, so that this project may be completed. The scope of the grant remains unchanged. All members were entitled to vote via email between September 19, 2025 and September 24, 2025. The results were 8 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

Coordinated Vegetation Management Efforts for the Truckee River

Presentation to
Truckee River Fund
November 21, 2025



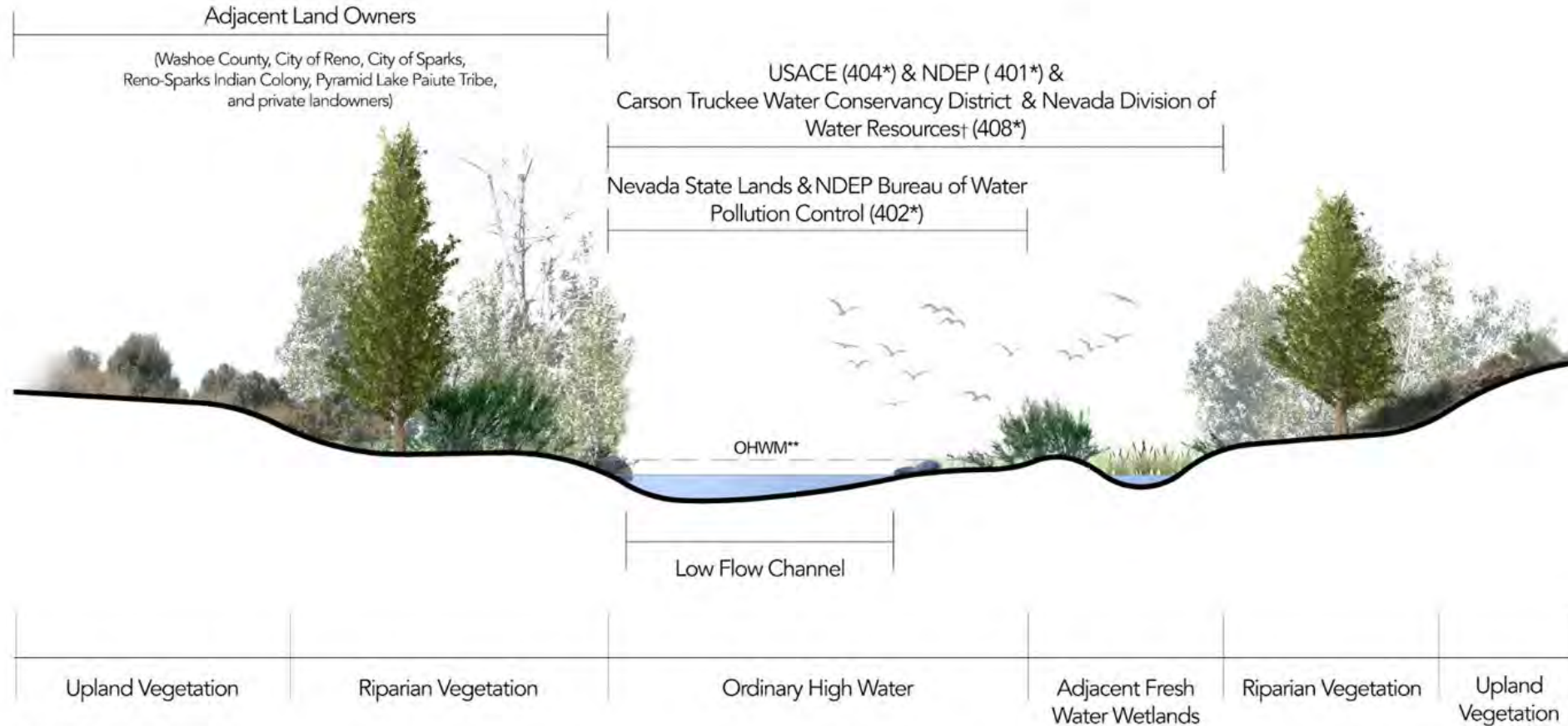
Funded by U.S. Bureau of Reclamation





Steering Committee and Technical Working Group

(Started 2020 and Active in 2025)



* Section of the Clean Water Act

** The average height to which the river rises every 2 years

† CTWCD is sponsor up to 14,000 cfs from Stateline to Glendale & NDWR is sponsor up to 6,000 cfs from Glendale to PLPT

TYPICAL TRUCKEE RIVER FEDERAL AND NEVADA JURISDICTIONAL CROSS-SECTION

This graphic is provided for informational and educational purposes only. Any information or materials provided by One Truckee River is utilized at one's own risk, and the user expressly assumes the risk of such use. Further, One Truckee River disclaims any and all warranties whatsoever. In all cases, before engaging in any project, the user should consult with professional advisors who are familiar with her, his, or its particular situation.



Regional Technical Working Group or Stakeholders

Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District

City of Reno Forestry, Park and Recreation, and Utility Services

City of Sparks Public Works

Desert Research Institute

Nevada Department of Agriculture

Nevada Department of Wildlife

Nevada Department of Environmental Protection

Nevada Division of State Lands

Nevada Division of Forestry

Nevada Division of Water Resources

Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

Nevada Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

The Nature Conservancy

Truckee Meadows Regional Planning Agency

Truckee River Flood Management Authority

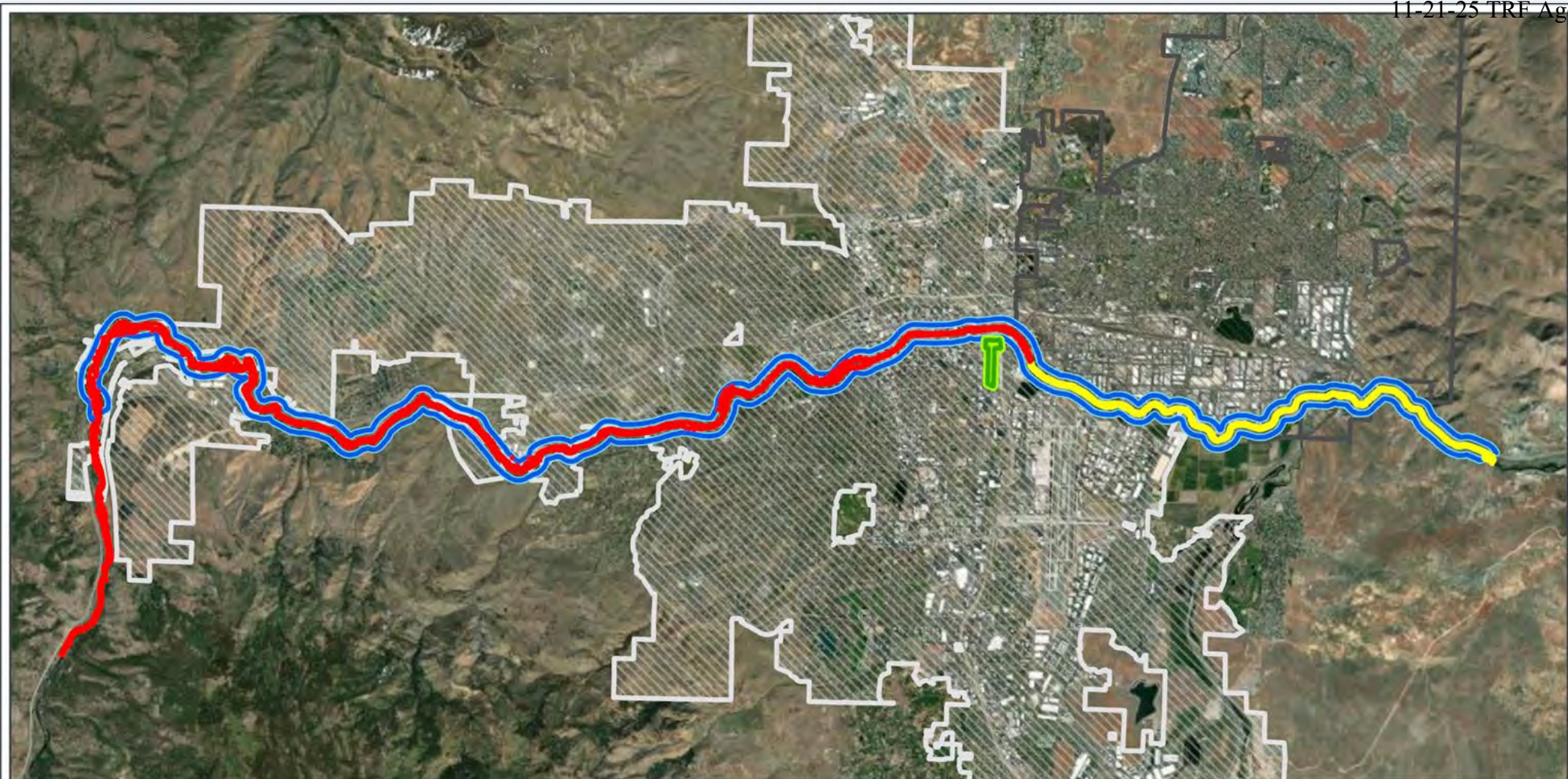
Truckee Meadows Water Authority

United States Fish and Wildlife Service

Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space

Western Regional Water Commission

Lead by One Truckee River and Nevada Land Trust with consultant support from SWCA Environmental Consultants and Desert Research Institute



- Project Area
- 14,000-cfs Conveyance Zone
- 6,000-cfs Conveyance Zone
- Reno-Sparks Indian Colony
- Reno City Limits
- Sparks City Limits



Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5174°N 119.8334°W



Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed May 2025
Project No. 58424

1:140,000

Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan

ONE TRUCKEE RIVER FRAMEWORK VEGETATION MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION PLAN

DRAFT

Prepared for
One Truckee River and Nevada Land Trust
2601 Plumas Street
Reno, Nevada 89509



Prepared by
SWCA Environmental Consultants
1575 Delucchi Lane, Suite 223

One Truckee River Framework Vegetation Management and Restoration Plan - DRAFT

1 PURPOSE AND NEED

One Truckee River (OTR) is currently undertaking a master planning effort to advance sustainable vegetation management along the Truckee River to improve healthy functioning of the river system. This planning effort is focused on the middle, partially urbanized reach of the Truckee River that includes the cities of Reno and Sparks in Washoe County, Nevada, in the metropolitan area known as the Truckee Meadows (Project Area, Figure 1). This planning effort addresses OTR's prioritized action item 1.4.c—to develop and implement a coordinated vegetation management plan along the river—from OTR's *One Truckee River Management Plan* (OTR 2016).

This framework vegetation management and restoration plan (Framework Plan or Plan) is the result of OTR's vegetation management master planning work and aims to address the needs and challenges of multiple entities that manage vegetation along the Truckee River in the Project Area. This Plan is intended to serve as a resource for public and private partners and to inform coordinated vegetation management planning and implementation efforts in the future.

OTR has received funding for development of this Framework Plan from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART Grant Program. Nevada Land Trust is providing administrative and stakeholder coordination support. SWCA Environmental Consultants has been selected to help OTR lead the coordination and Plan development process with technical assistance from Resource Concepts, Inc.

1.1 Goals

This Framework Plan addresses **three primary goals**, which were developed with stakeholder guidance and input (as described in Section 1.2 of this document):

Goal 1: Develop a coordinated vegetation management and restoration plan for the Project Area reach of the Truckee River that identifies vegetation management techniques that fit within the regulatory constraints and directives and addresses critical issues and needs along the river.



Jurisdictional Constraints and Guidance: Regulatory Framework

River Jurisdiction or Ownership	Flow Stage Jurisdiction (if applicable)	Reference Type	Reference	Year	Full Citation or Select Articles, Titles, and Sections	URL (if applicable)	PDF Copy Available?	Topic	Ecological Zone	Findings, Restrictions, Guidance, Requirements
Applies to all reaches of the Project Area		Truckee River Water Quantity	TROA	2008	U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 2008. Truckee River Operating Agreement. <i>Federal Register</i> 73 FR 74031. (January 5, 2009).	http://www.troa.net/documents/TROA_Sep2008/troa_final_09-08_full.pdf	Yes	Water quantity	Aquatic/riparian	During above average water years, water will be stored and released to enhance cottonwood and willow recruitment. This includes spring high flows followed by gradual recession of flows. See Rood et al. (2003); Rood, S.B., C.R. Goheen, J.R. Klotz, M.L. Morrison, D. Mosley, G.G. Scopetone, S. Swanson, and P.L. Wagner. (2003). Flows for floodplain riparian restoration. <i>BioScience</i> 53(7):647–656.
CTWCD, USACE (CWA 404), NDEP (CWA 401)	Up to 14,000 cfs (State Line to Glendale)	Truckee River Water Conveyance	USACE	1973	Martis Creek Agreement	http://www.ctwcd.com/files/Martis_Creek_Lake_Agreement_1973.pdf	yes	Flood control	Aquatic/riparian	Maintains channel capacity of 14,000 cfs (from State Line to Glendale): "Weeds and other vegetal growth shall be cut each flood season." We understand that this is interpreted by the CTWCD as restrictions of woody plants within the
USACE	6,000 cfs (Glendale to PLPT)	Truckee River Water Conveyance	USACE	1964	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. 1964. Operation and Maintenance Manual for Truckee River and Tributaries California and Nevada.		Yes	Flood control	Riprap areas along the entire river corridor	Maintains channel capacity of 6,000 cfs (from Glendale to PLPT). We understand that this is interpreted by the USACE as restrictions of woody plants within the conveyance zones. Also, relevant to banks that have been riprapped by the USACE: "Trees and brush in the stone blanket should be cut or sprayed with proper herbicide when necessary."
Applies to all reaches of the Project Area	Flood hazard areas	GIS Resources	FEMA	2009	FEMA Flood Map Service Center	FEMA Flood Map Service Center	No	Flooding	Aquatic/riparian and flood-prone areas	Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM), including special flood hazard areas and other areas of flood hazard.
USACE and CTWCD	Up to 14,000 cfs (State Line to Glendale) and 6,000 cfs (Glendale to PLPT)	GIS Resources	CTWCD	2020	Carson-Truckee Water Conservancy District. 2020. 14,000 cfs and 6,000 cfs Inundation Extents. GIS Geodatabase.	NA	No	Inundation extents	Aquatic/riparian	Delineates areas where vegetation is restricted according to Martis Creek Agreement (USACE 1973): up to 14,000 and 6,000 cfs (Glendale to PLPT)
City of Reno		GIS Resources	City of Reno	ND	City of Reno. n.d. City of Reno Community Development Map	https://cityofreno.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTools/index.html?appid=de47c7ee33f04a7592219ed6bc9ced53	No	Zoning	All	Interactive City of Reno Zoning Map
Applies to all reaches of the Project Area		Regional Planning Documents	OTR	2016	One Truckee River (OTR). 2016. One Truckee River Management Plan. Phase 1, West McCarran to Sparks Boulevard. Reno, Nevada.	QTR-Management-Plan-2017.pdf (squarespace.com)	Yes	All	All	Prescribes creation of a coordinated vegetation management plan. Additionally, objectives to manage water quality, increase biodiversity, improve wildlife habitat, improve river function and flooding ecosystem services, and unite stakeholders.
Truckee Meadows (Washoe County, Cities of Reno and Sparks)		Regional Planning Documents	TRFMA 2015	2015	Truckee River Flood Management Authority (TRFMA). 2015. Flood Protection Plan. Reno, Nevada: Truckee River Flood Project.	Mapbook-6-01-14-2015-comp-pressed.pdf (trfma.org)	Yes	Flooding	Floodplain	Spatial data of several projects approved by the TRFMA regarding topics like fish passage, bank stability, drainage, and riparian habitat.



Compatible Techniques and Cost: Technique Compatibility Tool

A		B		C		D		E		F		G		H		I		J	
1 No. of Jurisdictional Constraints Selected (auto count)		2 No. of Management Opportunities Selected (auto count)										NOTE TO USER:							
3		1										Use Jurisdictional Constraints & Vegetation Management Opportunities compatible techniques. Items starting with an underscore are Jurisdictional Constraints.							
Subset of Vegetation Management Techniques that are appropriate for all selected Jurisdictional Constraints		Subset of the Vegetation Management Techniques that address one or more of the selected Management Opportunities		Appropriate Techniques (= 1)															
4 Constraints		4 Opportunities		Category		Plant Growth Habit		Vegetation Management Technique		Relative Cost / Acre		Reno		WashoeCty		Within14Kcfs			
5 Phased project approach		5 Phased project approach		All categories		-		Phased project approach		Medium		1		1		1			
6 Tree removal		6 -		Conveyance		-		Tree removal		High		1		1		1			
7 Tree replacement (14,000-cfs zone)		7 Tree replacement (14,000-cfs zone)						Tree replacement (14,000-cfs zone)		Medium		1		1		1			
8 -		8 Tree replacement (6,000-cfs zone)						Tree replacement (6,000-cfs zone)		Medium		1		1		0			
9 Community engagement in project implementation		9 Community engagement in project implementation		Human use		-		Community engagement in project implementation		Low		1		1		1			
10 Community engagement in project planning		10 -						Community engagement in project planning		High		1		1		1			
11 Create controlled access or stable access		11 Create controlled access or stable access						Create controlled access or stable access		High		1		1		1			
12 -		12 Fencing / hard enclosures						Fencing / hard enclosures		High		1		1		0			
13 Manage access		13 Manage access						Manage access		High		1		1		1			
14 Organize community events		14 Organize community events						Organize community events		Medium		1		1		1			
15 Plant prickly low-lying plants		15 -						Plant prickly low-lying plants		Medium		1		1		1			
16 Provide human services		16 Provide human services						Provide human services		High		1		1		1			
17 Provide restoration job opportunities		17 Provide restoration job opportunities						Provide restoration job opportunities		High		1		1		1			
18 Public park amenities		18 Public park amenities						Public park amenities		High		1		1		1			
19 Rock-covered surfaces		19 Rock-covered surfaces						Rock-covered surfaces		High		1		1		1			
20 Signage		20 Signage						Signage		Medium		1		1		1			
21 Trails		21 -						Trails		High		1		1		1			
22 Plant arrowleaf balsamroot		22 Plant arrowleaf balsamroot		Planting		forb		Plant arrowleaf balsamroot		Low		1		1		1			
23 Plant blue flax		23 Plant blue flax						Plant blue flax		Low		1		1		1			
24 Plant cobweb thistle		24 Plant cobweb thistle						Plant cobweb thistle		Low		1		1		1			
25 Plant common yarrow		25 Plant common yarrow						Plant common yarrow		Low		1		1		1			
26 Plant curlycup gumweed		26 Plant curlycup gumweed						Plant curlycup gumweed		Low		1		1		1			
27 Plant Douglas's sagewort		27 Plant Douglas's sagewort						Plant Douglas's sagewort		Low		1		1		1			
28 Plant fernleaf biscuitroot		28 Plant fernleaf biscuitroot						Plant fernleaf biscuitroot		Low		1		1		1			



Conditions Assessment

Gained a snapshot of riparian conditions





Project Prioritization

Ecological conditions, feasibility, and public need scores

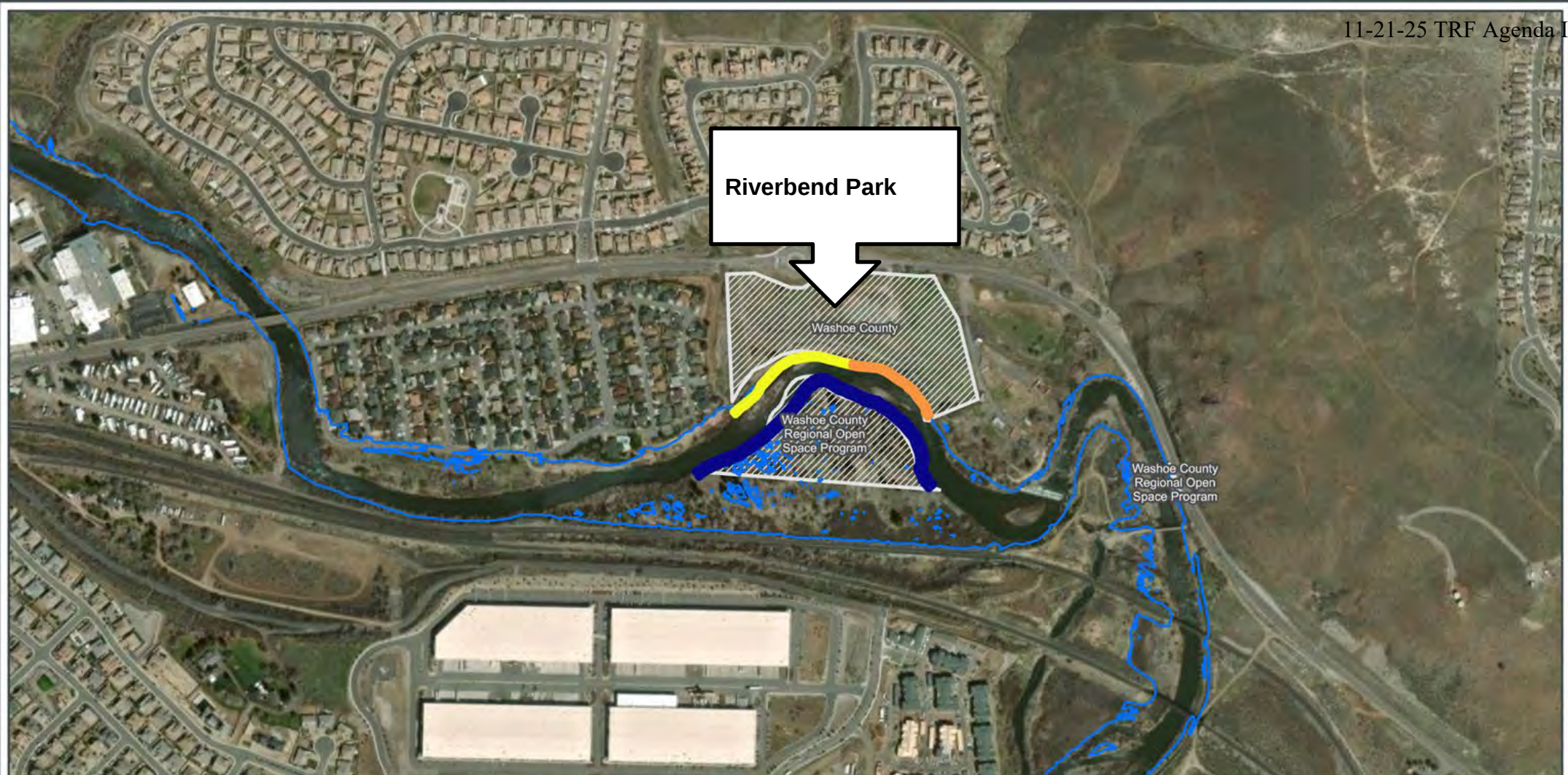


Initial Priority Project Locations Identified by the Technical Working Group

Location	Location
Carcione Open Space	Mayberry Park/Tom Cooke Trail
Idlewild Park	Lake Street to Brodhead Park
2nd Street to Grand Sierra Resort	

Priority Project Locations with **Highest Need** based on ECI, Feasibility, and Public Need

Location	Location
Riverbend Park	TRFMA Parcel at Rock Boulevard
Glendale Park	



14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
 Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

0.00 - 8.92
 8.93 - 9.92
 9.93 - 10.75
 10.76 - 11.42
 11.43 - 12.83



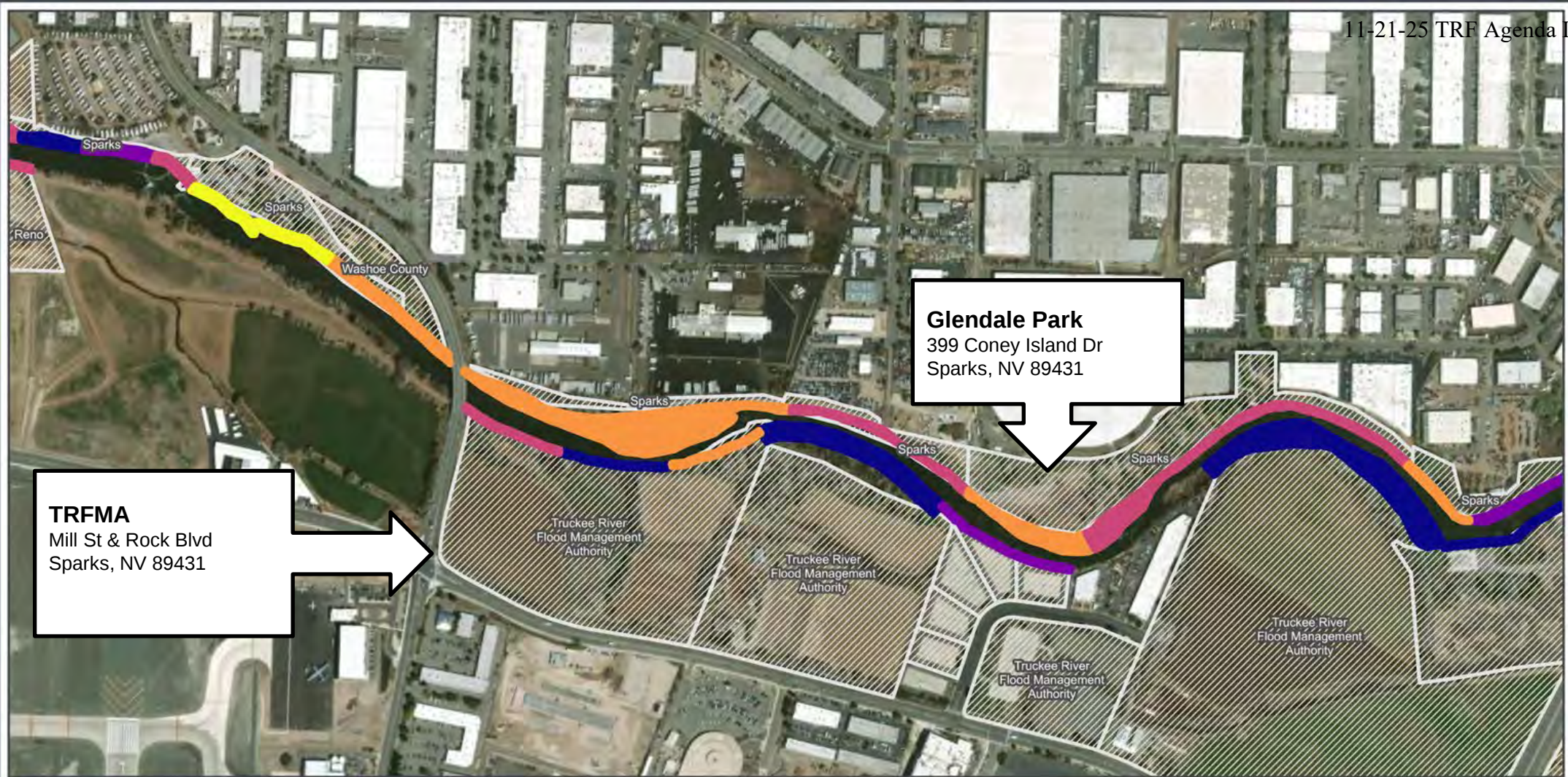
Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5209°N 119.9663°W



Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424

0 400 800 Feet
0 100 200 Meters





14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

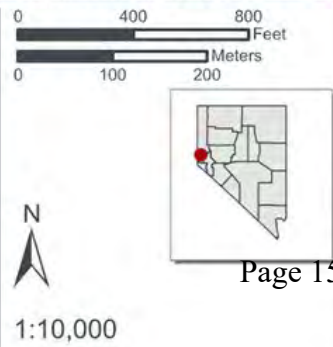
0.00 - 8.92
8.93 - 9.92
9.93 - 10.75
10.76 - 11.42
11.43 - 12.83



Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5183°N 119.7557°W

one truckee river
DRI
Desert Research Institute
TMRPA
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424



City of Reno

Priority Project Locations with Highest Need based on ECI, Feasibility, and Public Need

LOCATION

East side of Sutro Bridge

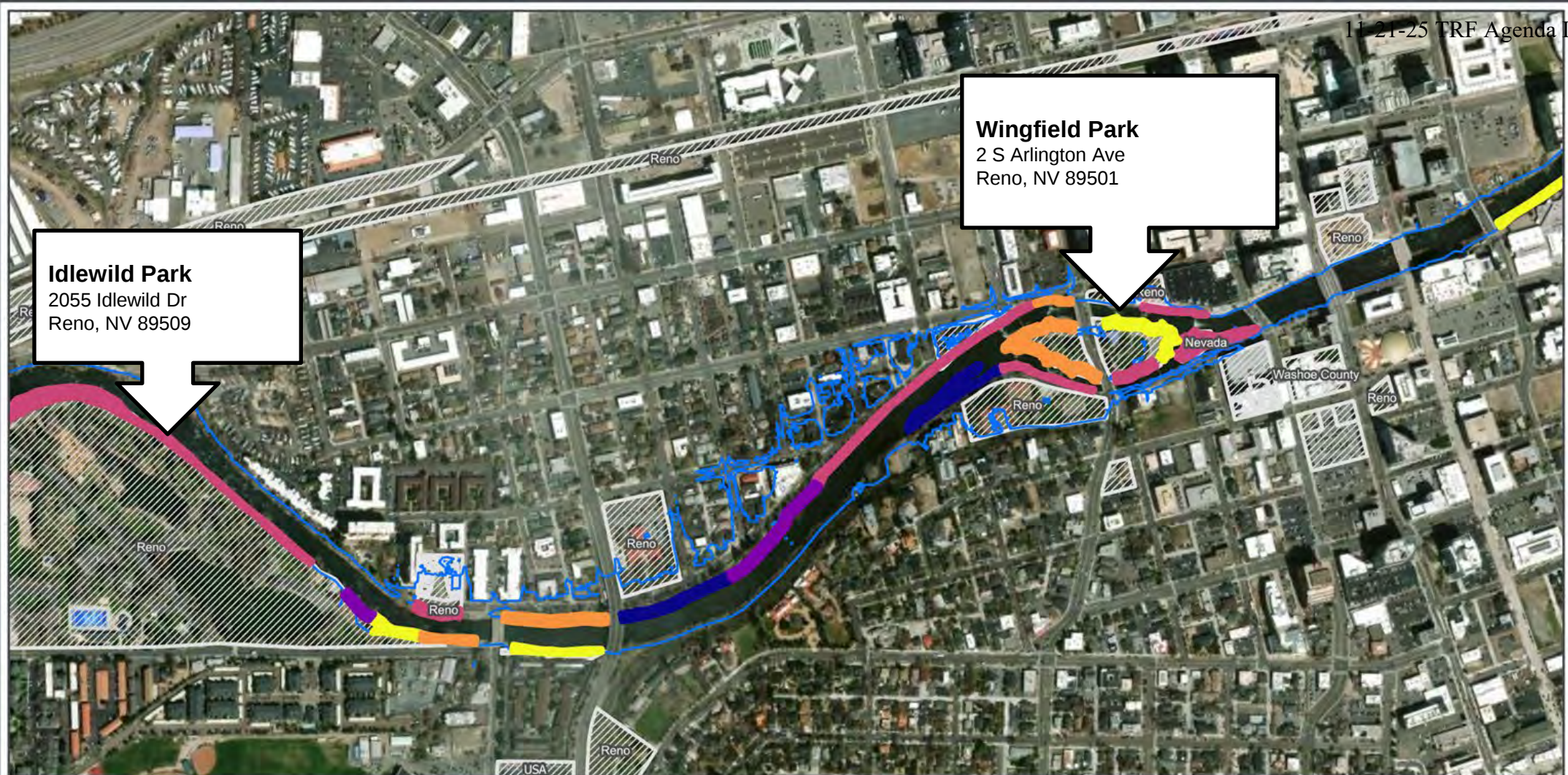
Brodhead Park

Sutro to John Champion Park

LOCATION

Between 2nd Street and Kuenzli Bridge

Idlewild Drive



 14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
 Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

 0.00 - 8.92
 8.93 - 9.92
 9.93 - 10.75
 10.76 - 11.42
 11.43 - 12.83



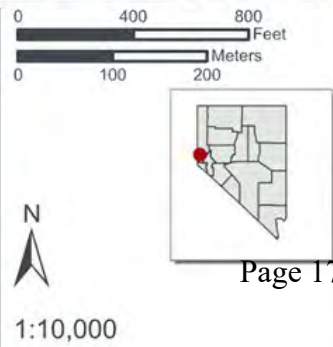
Washoe County, NV
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39.5234°N 119.8216°W

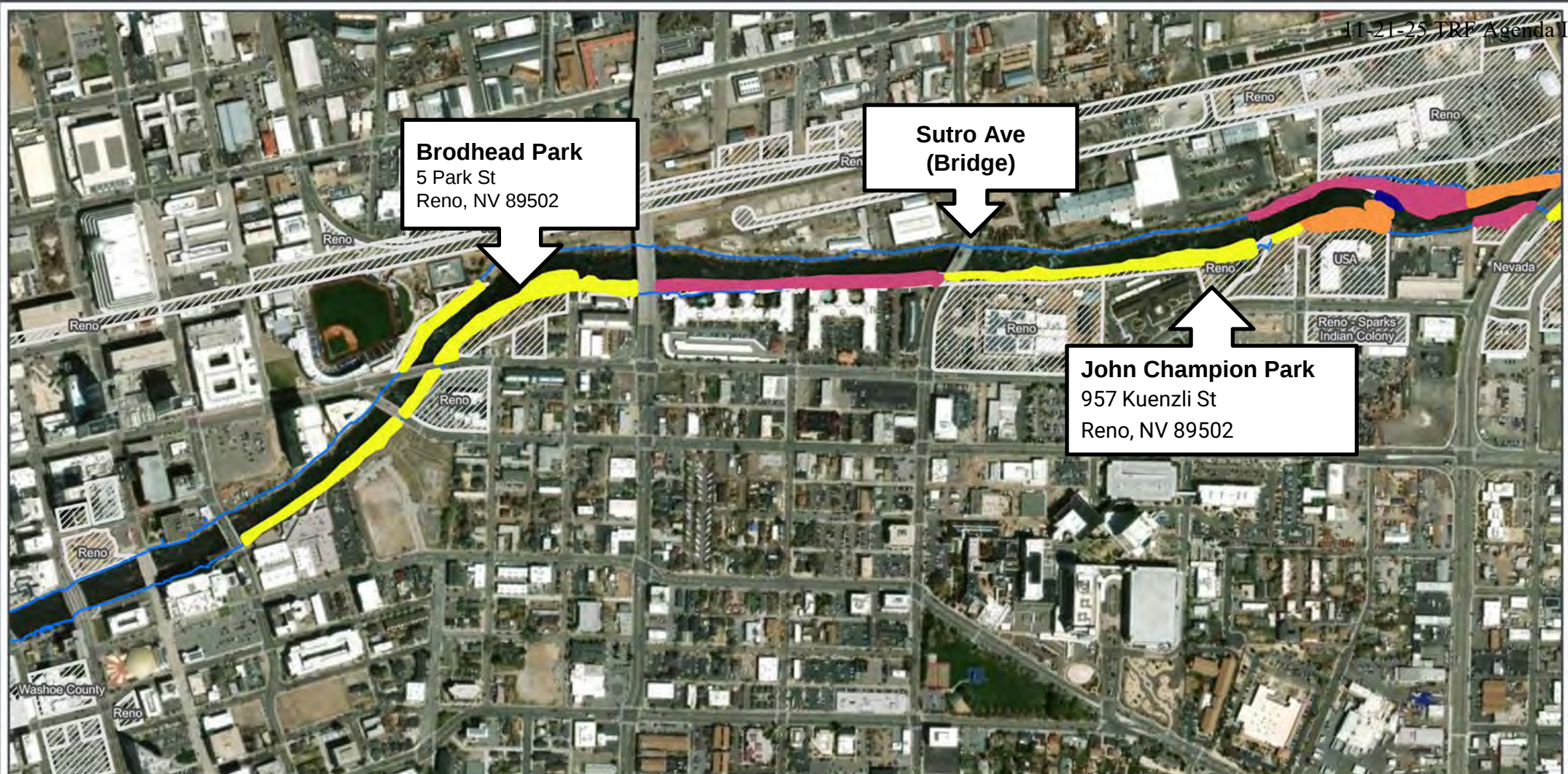




ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424





14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

0.00 - 8.92
8.93 - 9.92
9.93 - 10.75
10.76 - 11.42
11.43 - 12.83



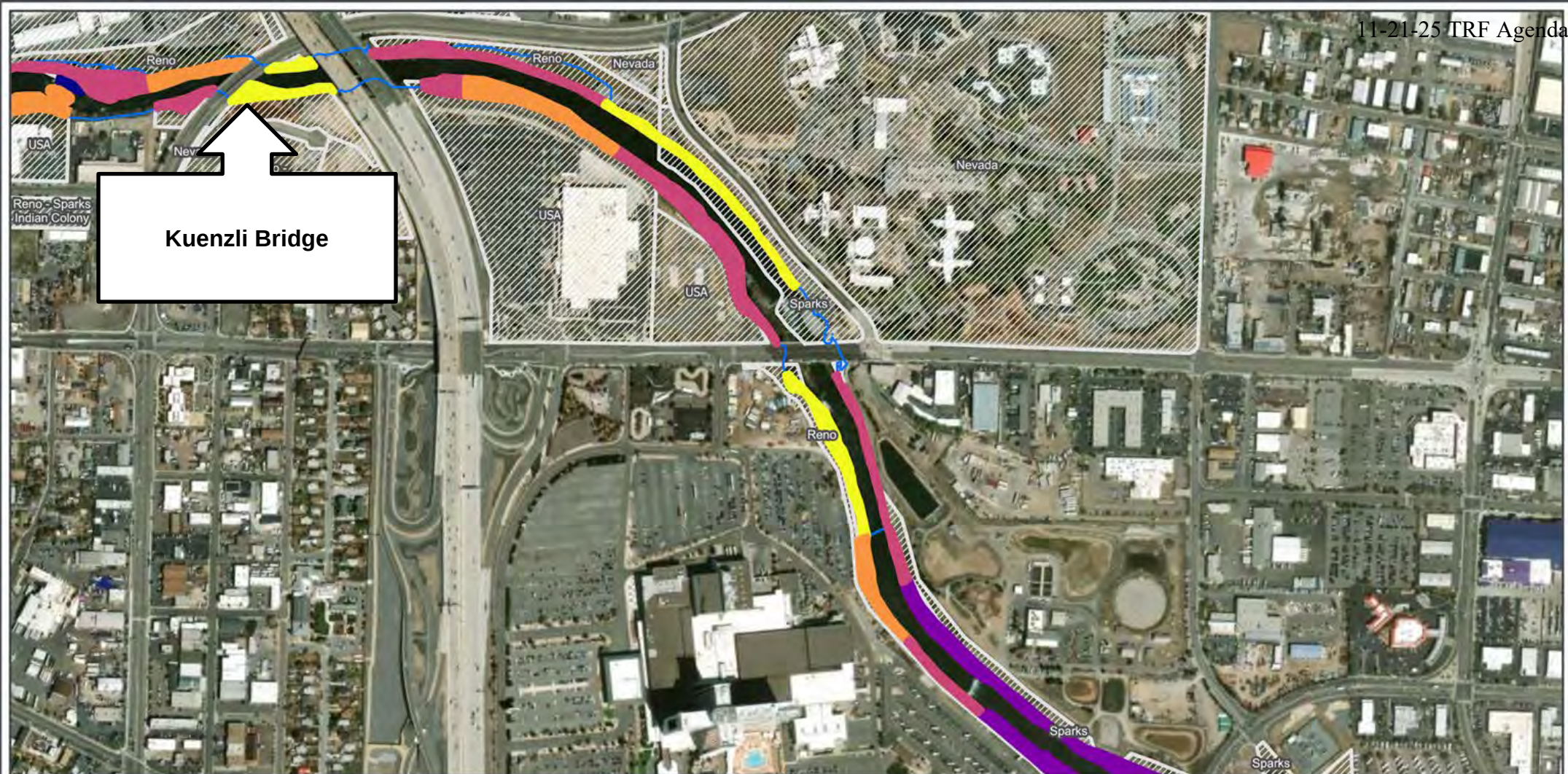
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NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5281°N 119.8007°W



Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424



1:10,000



- 14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
- Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

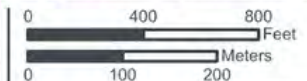
- 0.00 - 8.92
- 8.93 - 9.92
- 9.93 - 10.75
- 10.76 - 11.42
- 11.43 - 12.83



Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5271°N 119.7784°W



Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424



1:10,000

City of Sparks Priority Project Locations with Highest Need based on ECI, Feasibility, and Public Need

Location

Glendale Park

West of Rock Boulevard Bridge

East of Rock Boulevard Bridge

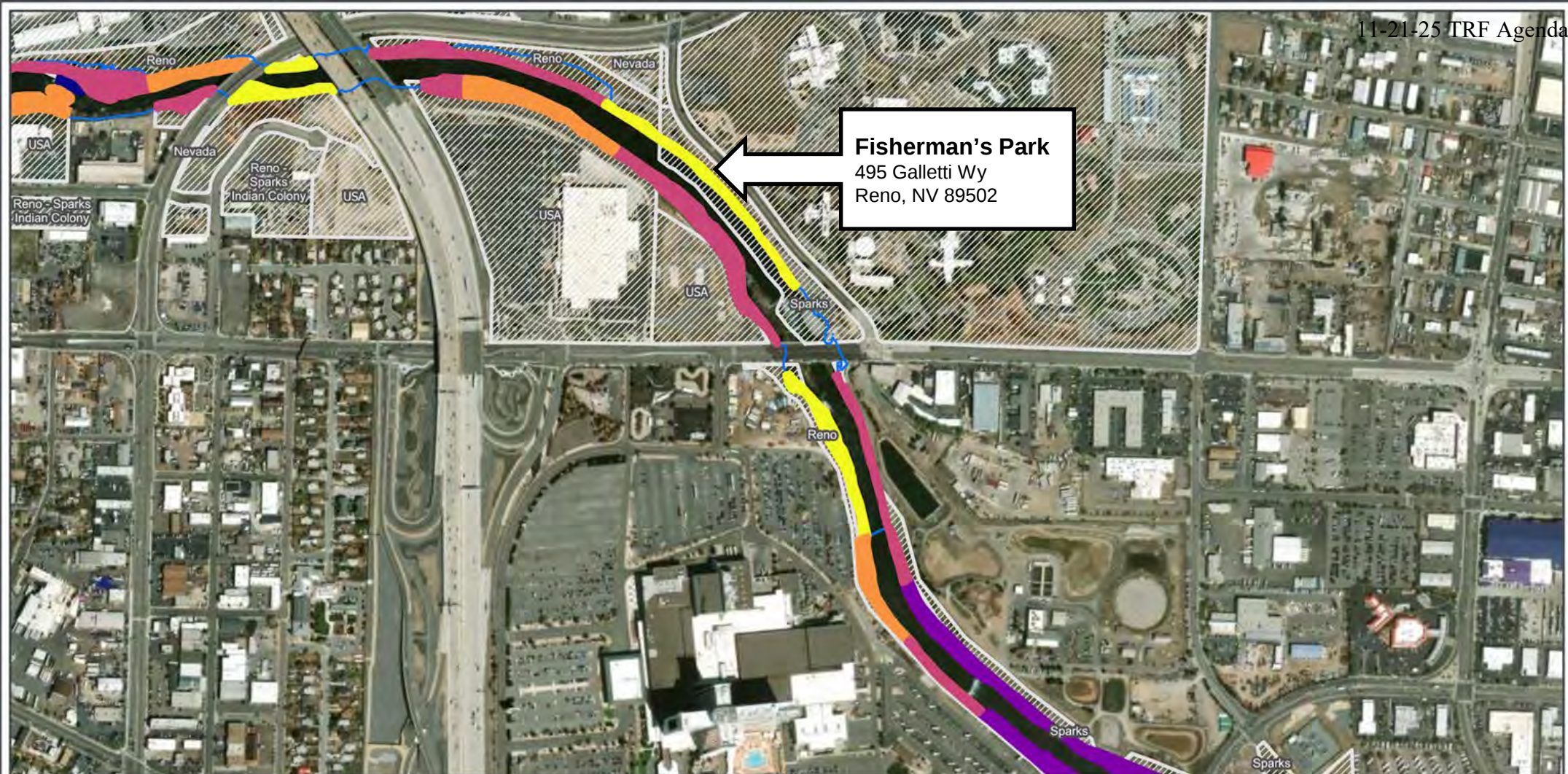
West end of Cottonwood Park

Location

Fisherman's Park by Glendale Bridge

Rock Park

Between McCarran Boulevard and Cottonwood Park



14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

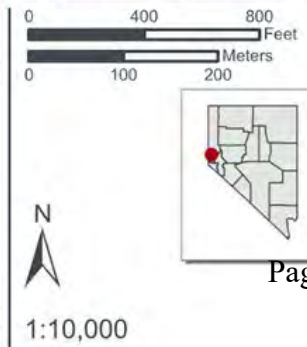
0.00 - 8.92
8.93 - 9.92
9.93 - 10.75
10.76 - 11.42
11.43 - 12.83

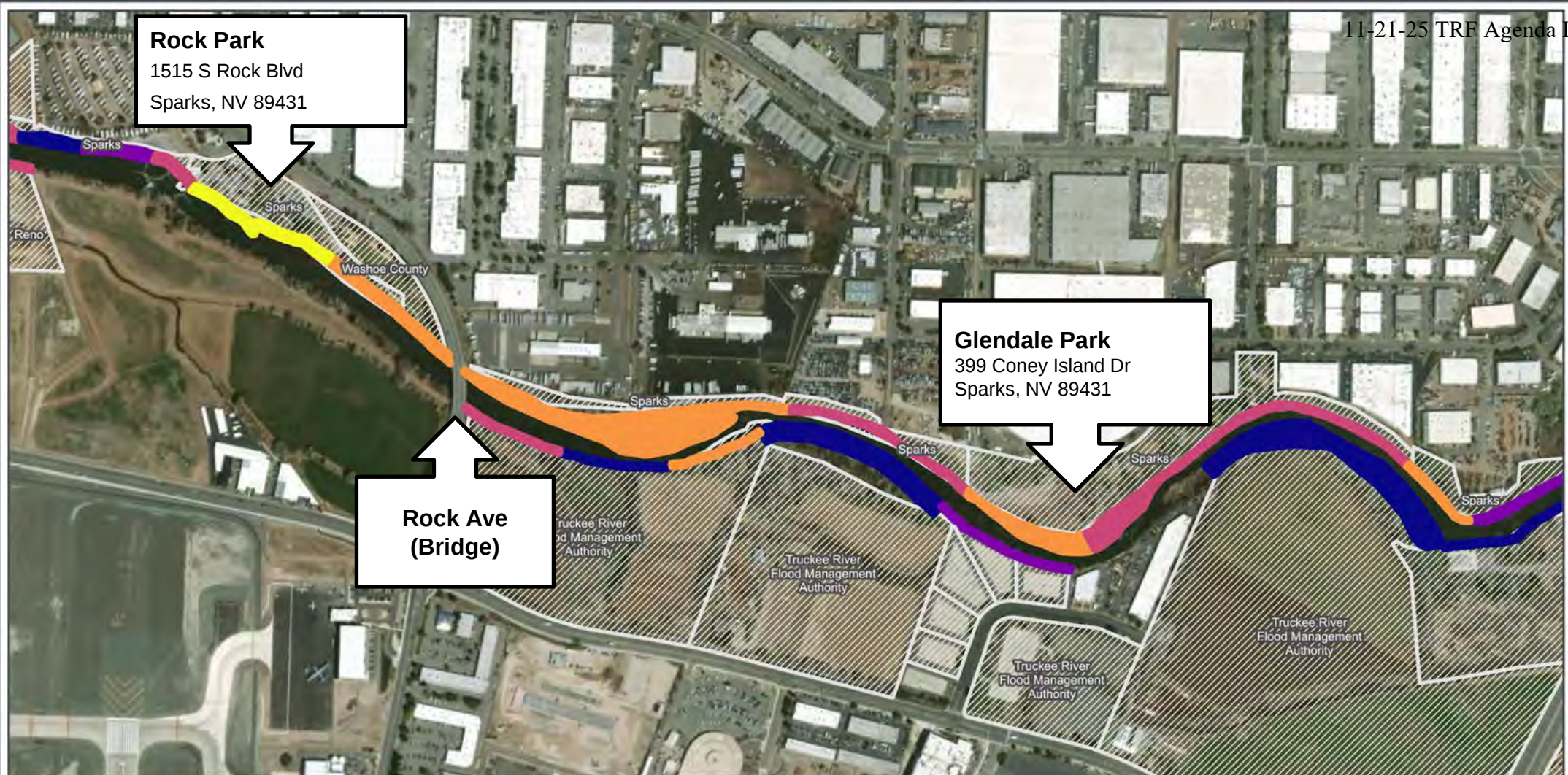


Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5271°N 119.7784°W

one truckee river
DRI
Desert Research Institute
TMRPA
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424





 14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
 Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

-  0.00 - 8.92
-  8.93 - 9.92
-  9.93 - 10.75
-  10.76 - 11.42
-  11.43 - 12.83

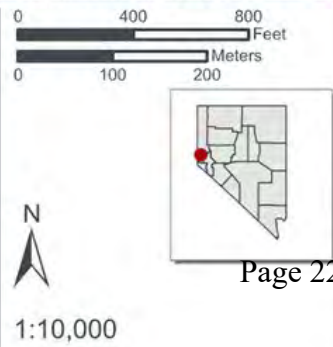


Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5183°N 119.7557°W



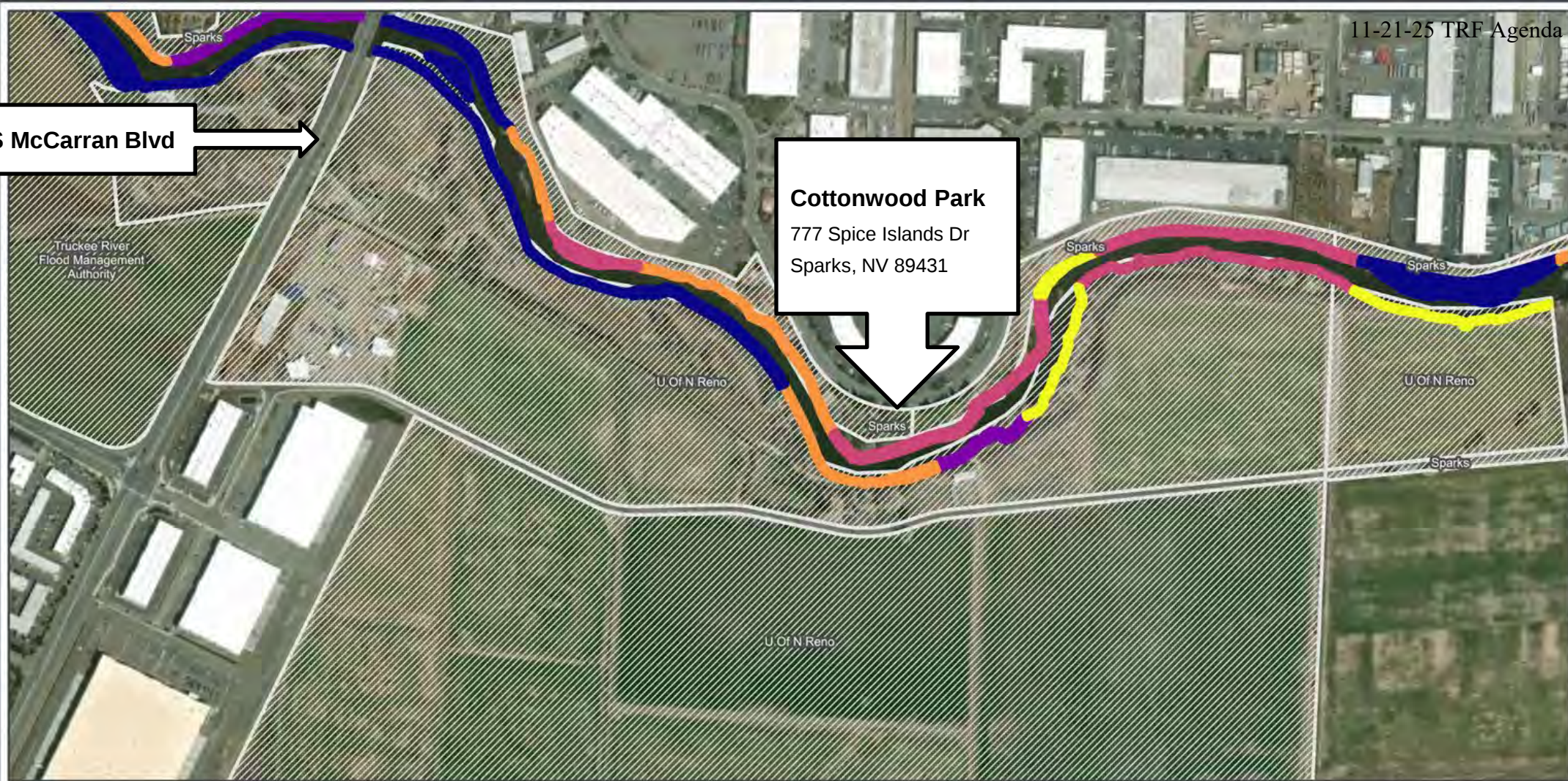



Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424



S McCarran Blvd

Cottonwood Park
777 Spice Islands Dr
Sparks, NV 89431



14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

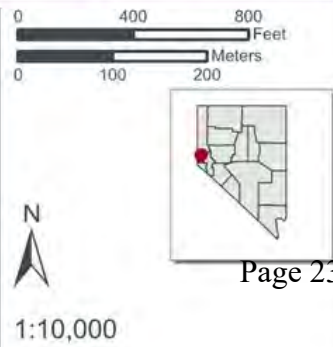
0.00 - 8.92
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9.93 - 10.75
10.76 - 11.42
11.43 - 12.83



Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5129°N 119.7336°W

one truckee river
DRI
Desert Research Institute
TMRPA
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424



Washoe County

Priority Project Locations
with Highest Need based on ECI, Feasibility, and
Public Need

11-21-25 TRF Agenda Item 6

Location

Northeast side of Dorostkar Park

Ambrose Park

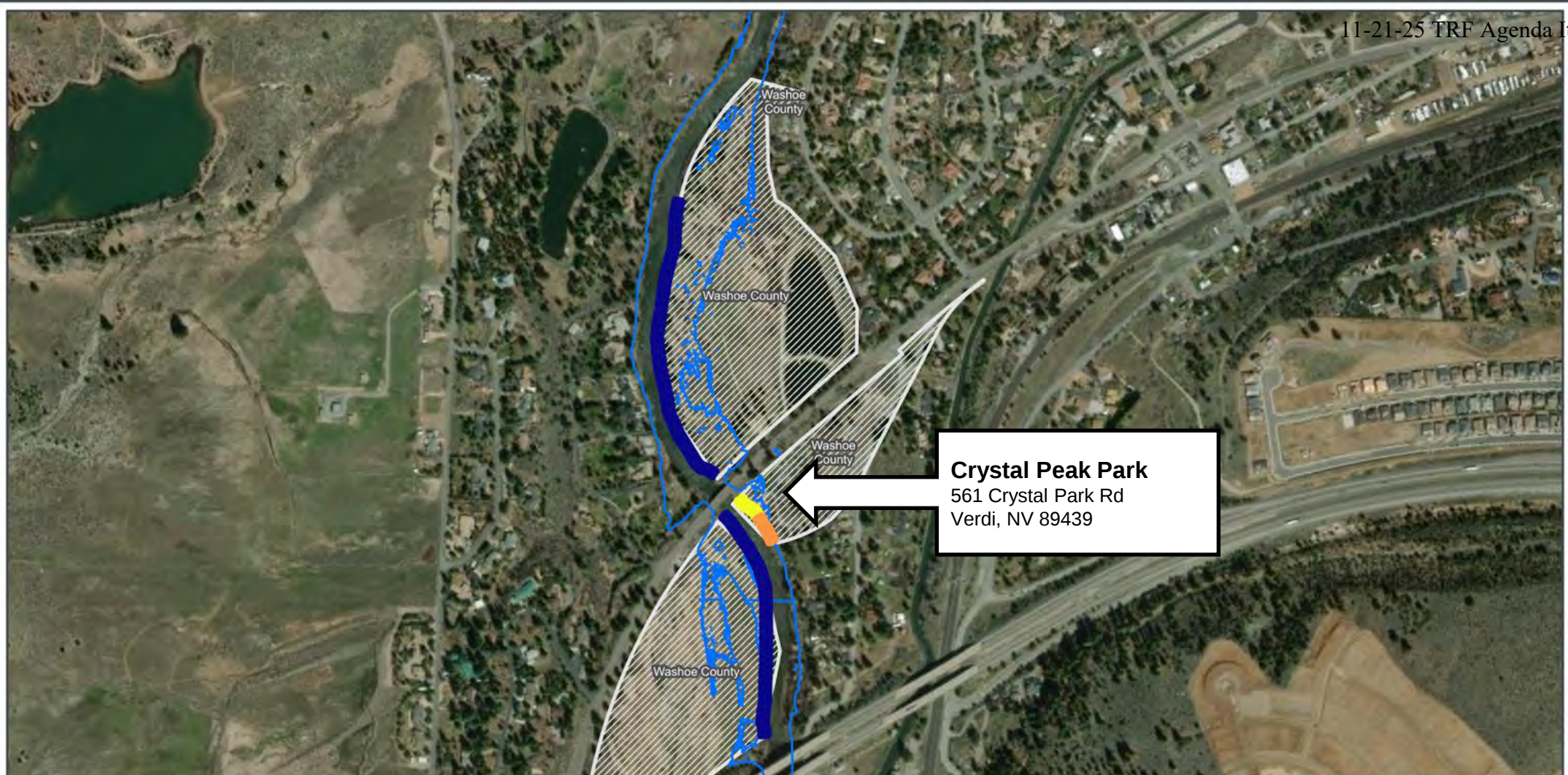
Mayberry Park

Location

North side of Crystal Peak Park

Riverbend Park

Dorostkar – Main Park



Crystal Peak Park

561 Crystal Park Rd
Verdi, NV 89439

- 14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
- Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

- 0.00 - 8.92
- 8.93 - 9.92
- 9.93 - 10.75
- 10.76 - 11.42
- 11.43 - 12.83



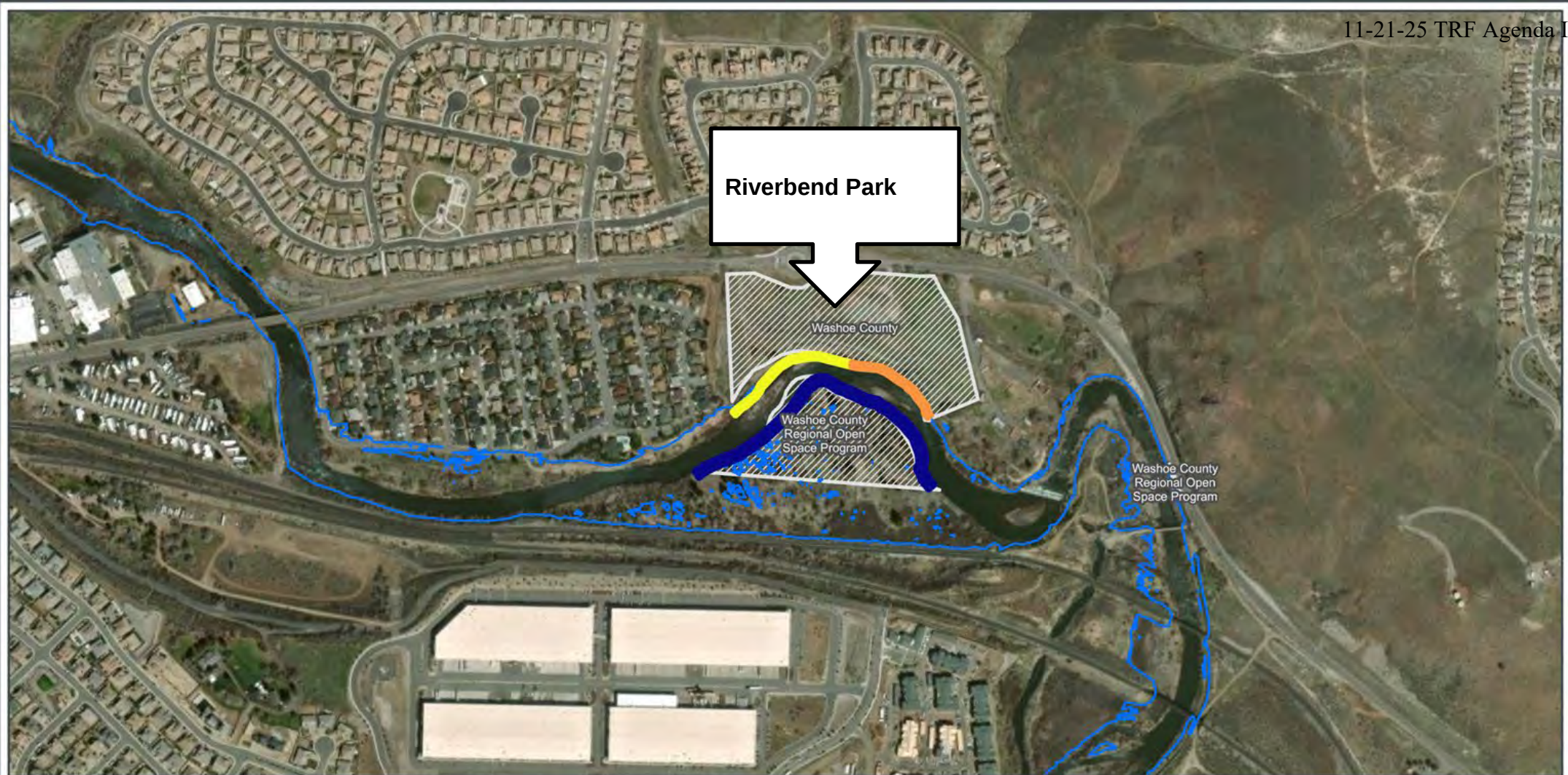
Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5151°N 119.9958°W



Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424



1:10,000



 14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
 Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

-  0.00 - 8.92
-  8.93 - 9.92
-  9.93 - 10.75
-  10.76 - 11.42
-  11.43 - 12.83



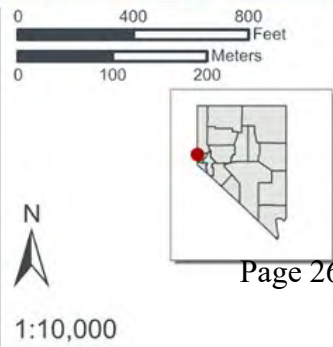
Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
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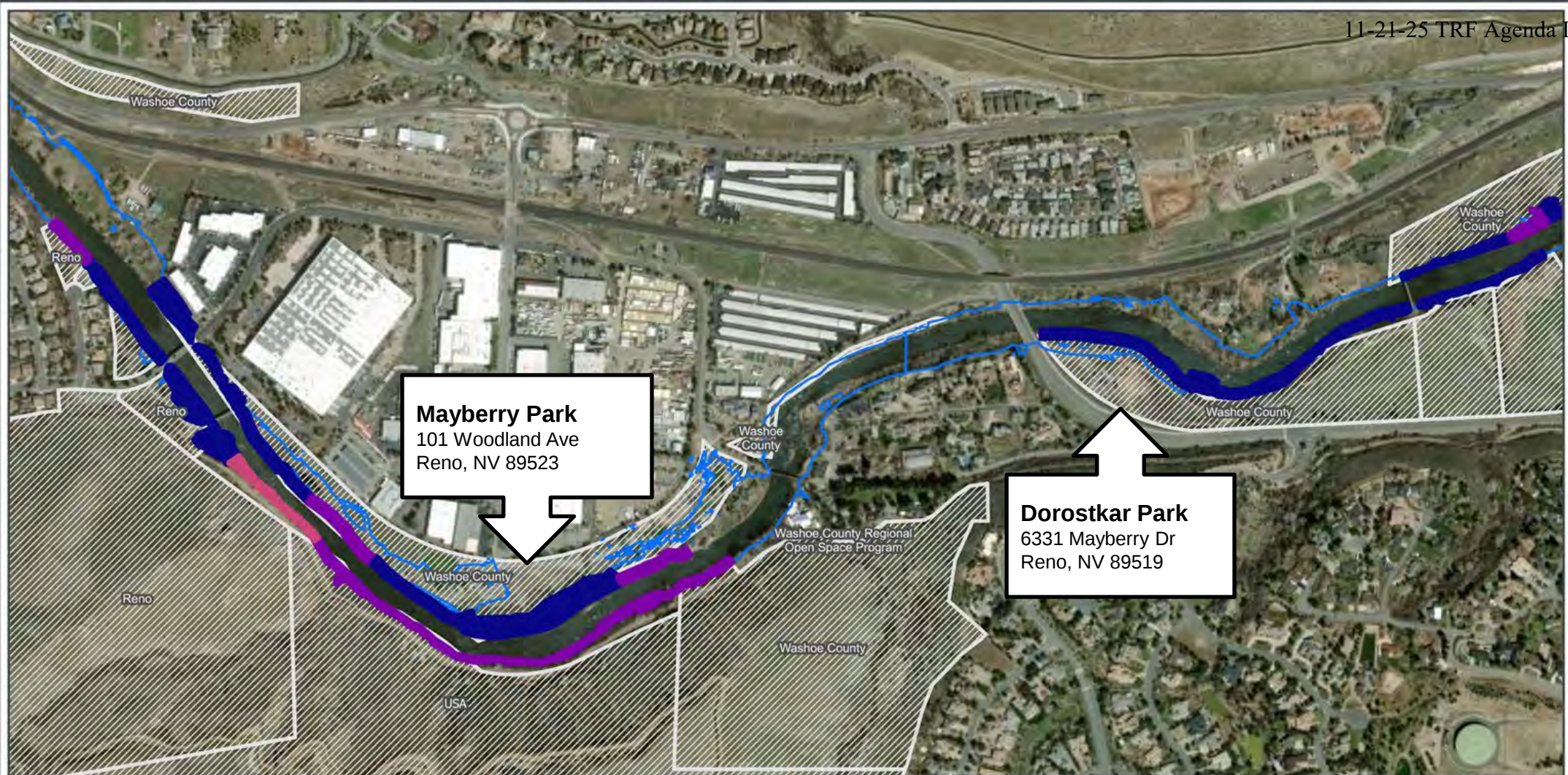




ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424





- 14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
- Publicly Owned Parcel

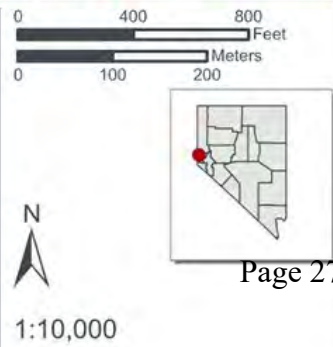
Ecological Conditions Index Score	
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8.93 - 9.92	
9.93 - 10.75	
10.76 - 11.42	
11.43 - 12.83	



Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5057°N 119.8919°W

one truckee river
DRI
Desert Research Institute
TMRPA
SWCA
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424





 14,000 CFS Flood Boundary
 Publicly Owned Parcel

Ecological Conditions Index Score

-  0.00 - 8.92
-  8.93 - 9.92
-  9.93 - 10.75
-  10.76 - 11.42
-  11.43 - 12.83



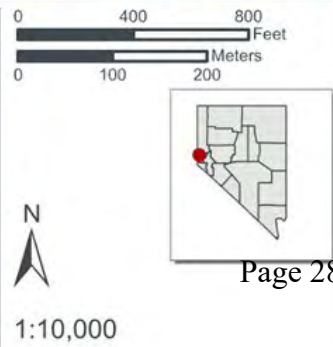
Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5097°N 119.8694°W





ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424



Reno-Sparks Indian Colony Priority Project Locations with Highest Need based on ECI, Feasibility, and Public Need

Location

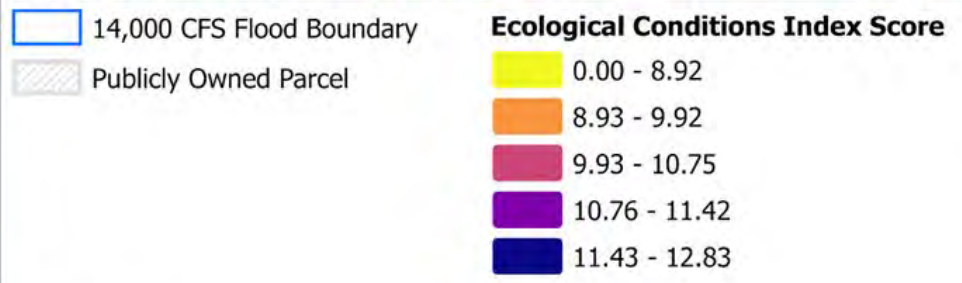
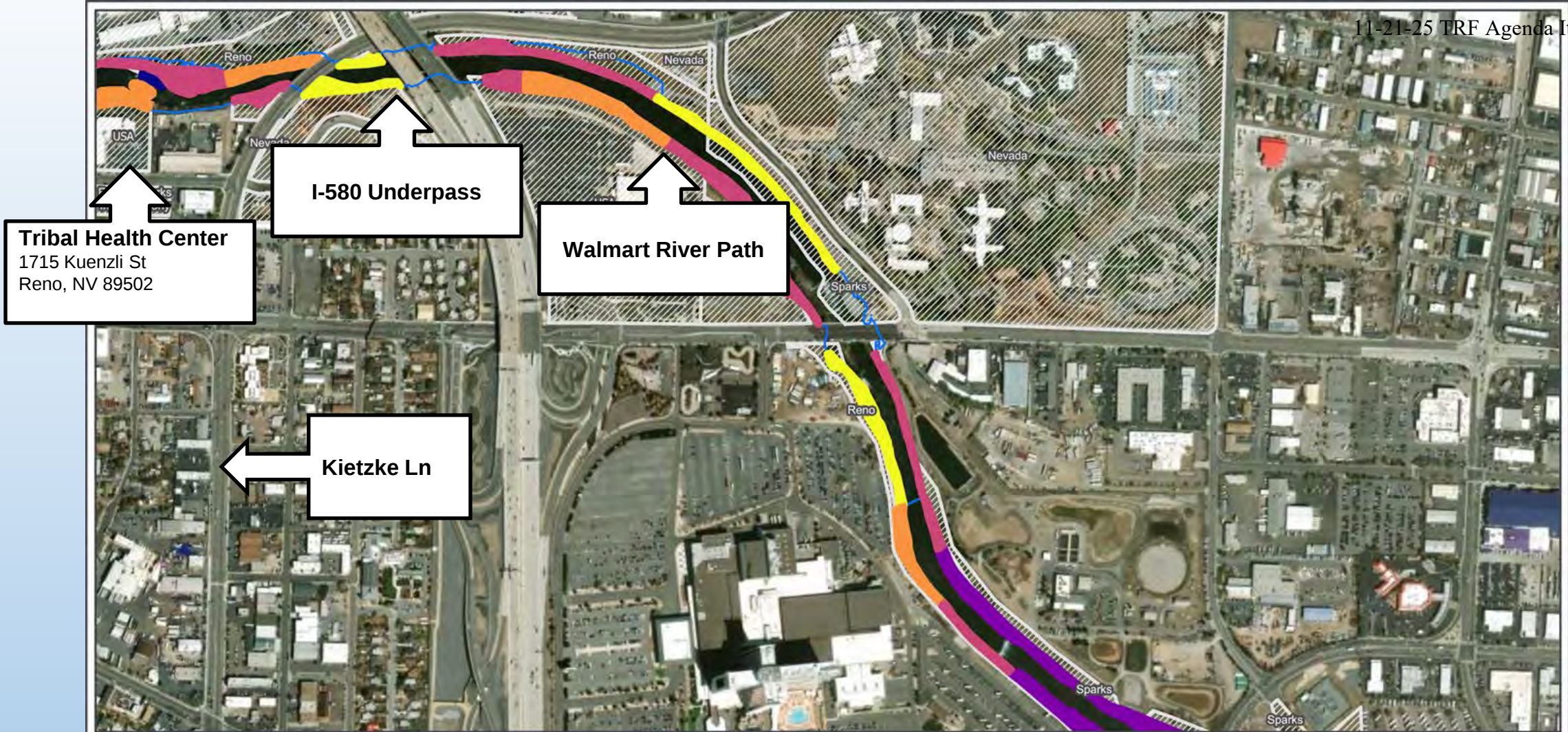
East of I-580 Underpass

Walmart River Path

Location

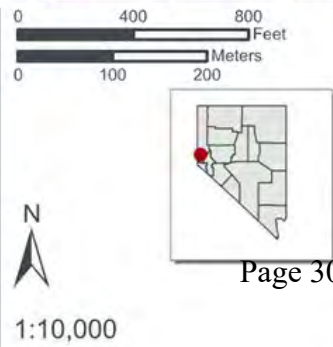
Tribal Health Center

Kietzke Lane to I-580 Underpass

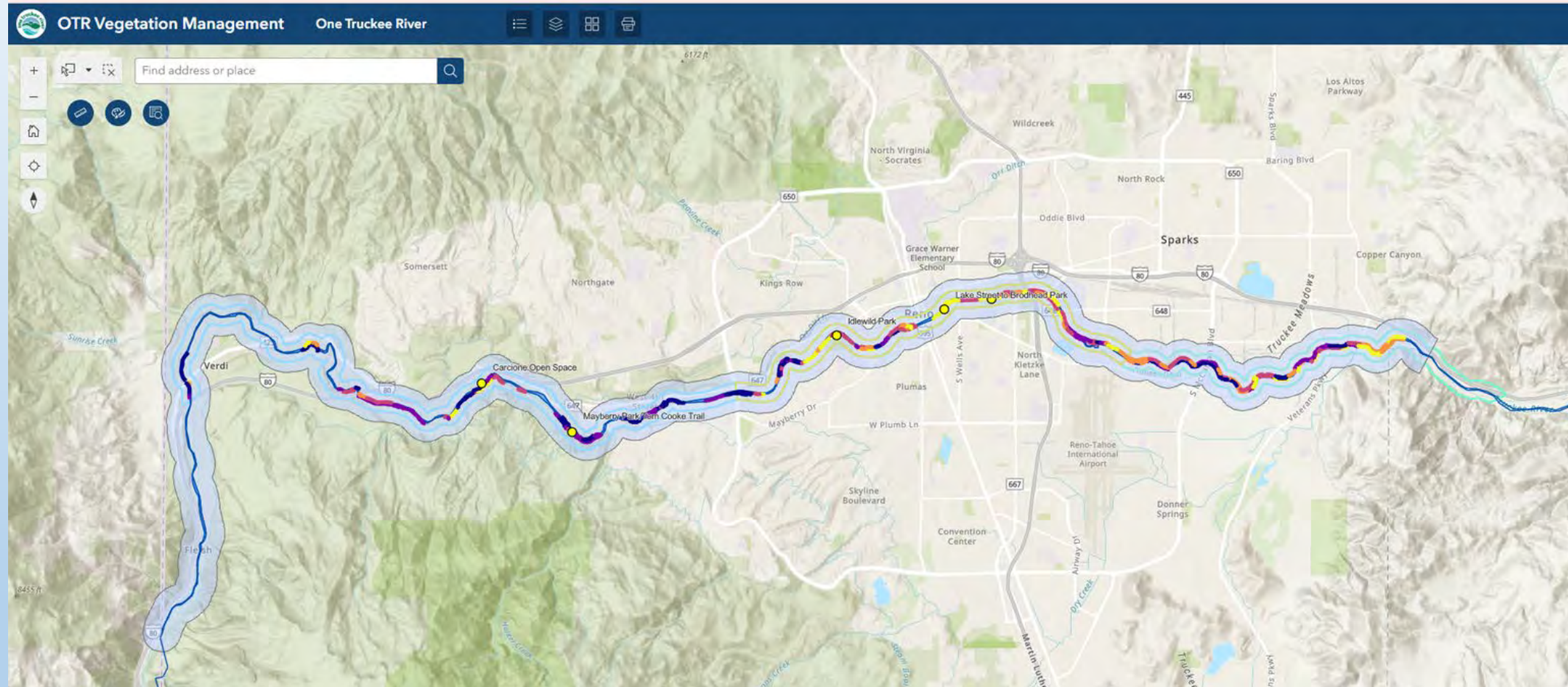


Washoe County, NV
NAD 1983 UTM Zone 11N
39.5271°N 119.7784°W

Base Map: Esri ArcGIS Online,
accessed February 2025
Project No. 58424



Online Mapping System Provided by TMRPA

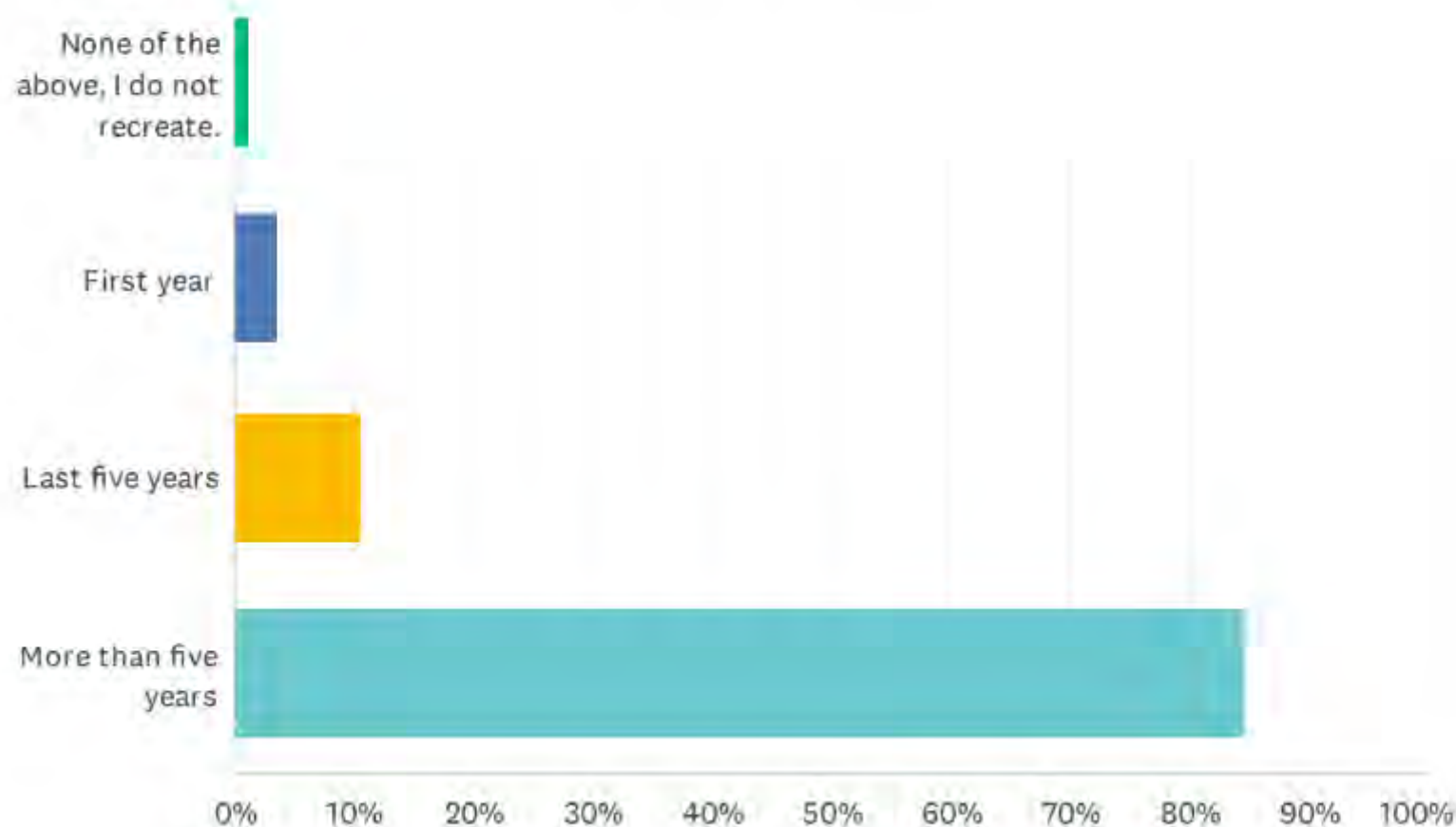


All resources available at: <https://www.onetruckeeriver.org/coordinated-vegetation-management>



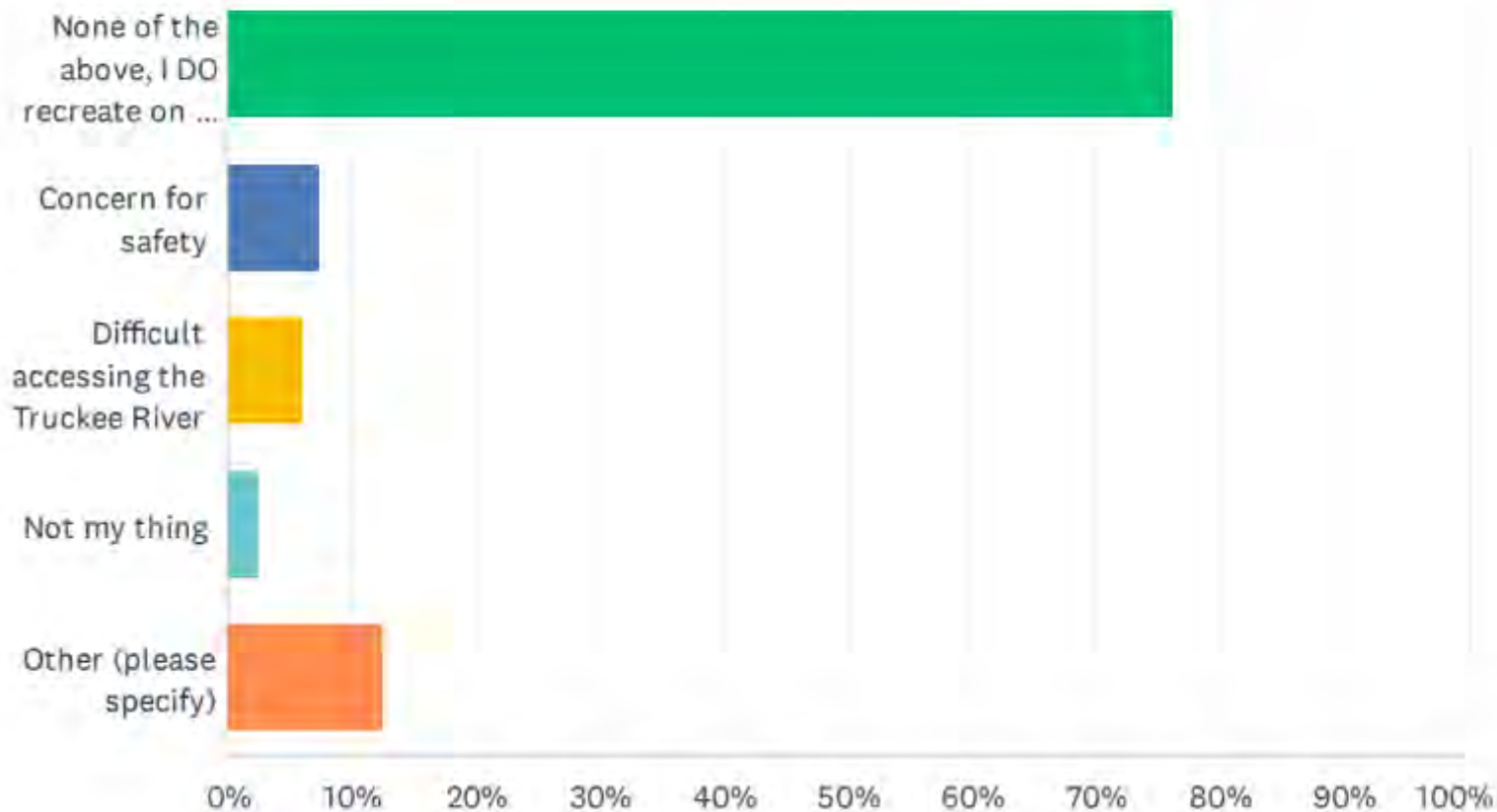
Do you recreate along the Truckee River? If yes, how long have you been recreating along the Truckee River?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



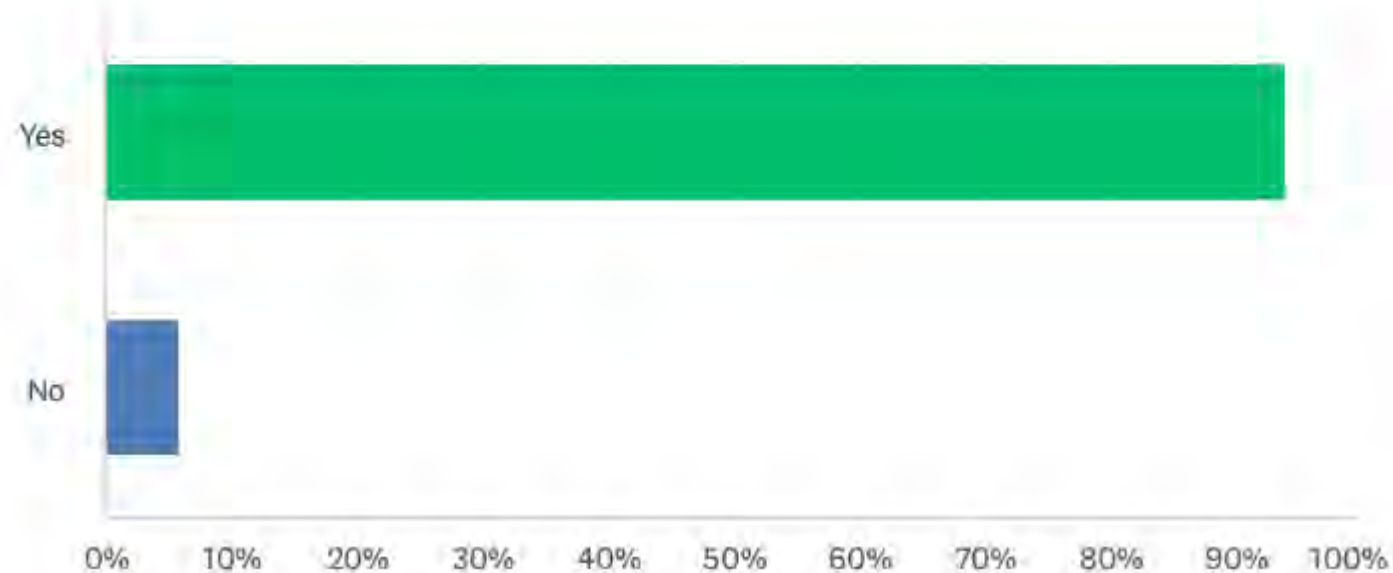
If no, what are the reasons you don't recreate along the Truckee River?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 5



Do you feel that the community needs to do more to address the health and safety of the river?

Answered: 85 Skipped: 0



FINDING THE BALANCE

Line of Sight

Public Safety

Cleanliness

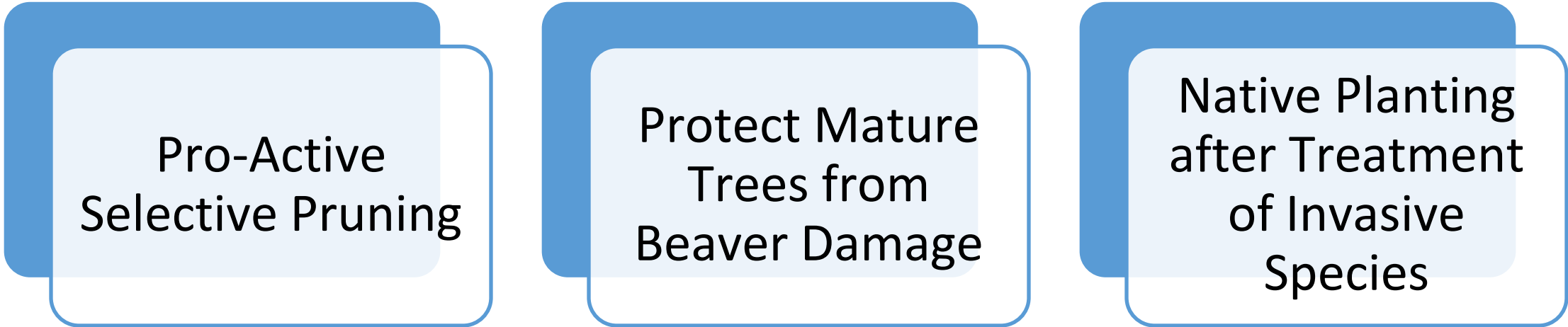
Thriving Vegetation

Protection of Water Quality

Aesthetics

(beauty through nature)

Vegetation Management Methods

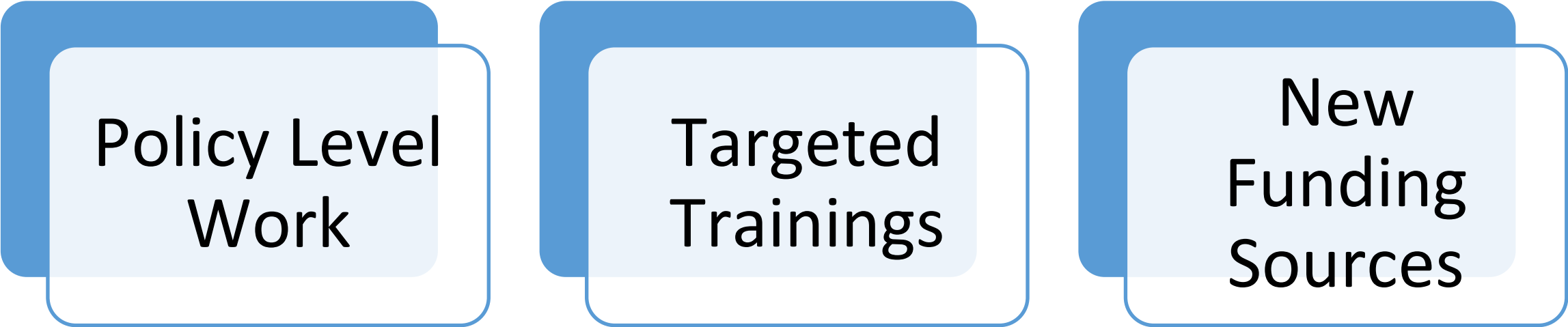


Pro-Active
Selective Pruning

Protect Mature
Trees from
Beaver Damage

Native Planting
after Treatment
of Invasive
Species

Possible Next Steps

The image shows three overlapping blue boxes arranged horizontally. Each box has a darker blue top bar and a lighter blue body. The text is centered in each box. The first box contains 'Policy Level Work', the second 'Targeted Trainings', and the third 'New Funding Sources'.

Policy Level
Work

Targeted
Trainings

New
Funding
Sources

The Truckee River Vision Plan

*Prepared for The City of Reno & Washoe County, Nevada
August 2024*



Collaboratively Steward The River

Collaboratively Engage Stakeholders

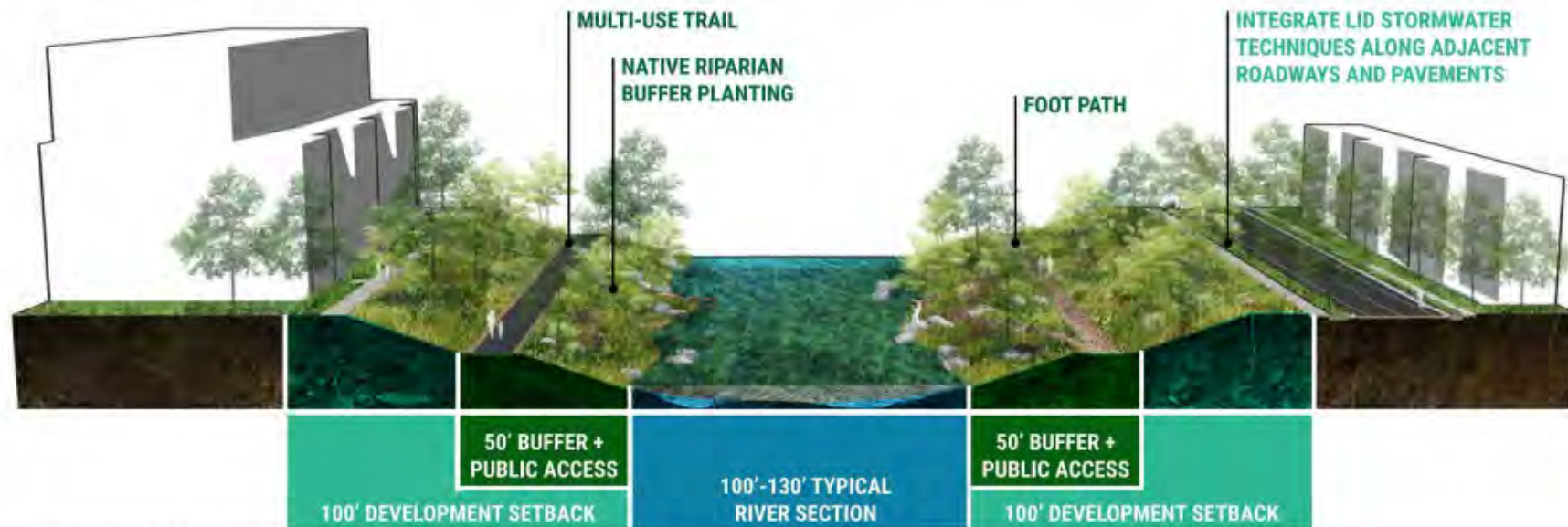
The City of Reno collaborates with many agencies and organizations to manage the floodplains, water quality, banks, and ecology of the Truckee River. **This vision plan aims to support and uplift that body of work** and has recommended the integration of multiple identified plan improvements and approaches within City projects.

Regulate Riverside Development

As recommended in the Land Use & Design section, a river overlay zone should be created that encompasses 200' on either side of the Truckee River and guides riverside development and land use. Guidelines will be developed based on technical analysis and engagement of relevant experts and stakeholders.

Preliminary recommendations include:

- Purchase or acquire easements for land at least 50' back from the edge of river on both sides to ensure continuous public access
- Develop standard riparian buffer regulations and suggested plant species based on land use and topography types
- Restrict development of new structures within 100' of the river edge
- Review existing development codes among jurisdictions and provide direction for Low Impact Development (LID) within overlay
- Plan land use based on the 100-year floodplain as updated on upcoming FEMA maps



One Truckee River Funders

Carson-Truckee Water Conservation District

Nevada Division of Environmental Protection

Nevada Division of Forestry

Nevada Land Trust/ U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

USDA Forest Service/River Network

NV Department of Transportation/Regional Transportation Commission

Truckee River Fund at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada

Truckee Meadows Water Authority

Western Regional Water Commission/Northern NV Water Planning Commission

One Truckee River Board of Directors and other private donors





Thoughts and Input

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

**Presented by
The Blueprint Collaborative**



The Blueprint
Collaborative

Introduction

The Truckee River Fund (TRF) was established in 2004 by the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) to protect and enhance the water quality and resources of the Truckee River watershed. The Fund provides grants to local agencies and organizations for projects that restore and improve the river's health, contributing to a resilient water supply for communities in the region. TRF is managed by the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada (CFNN). To evaluate and strengthen the Fund's grantmaking process, TMWA engaged The Blueprint Collaborative to conduct a strategic assessment.

For nearly two decades, the Fund was chaired by Janet Phillips, whose strong leadership and decisive approach set the tone for committee meetings and applicant evaluations. She provided clarity in decision-making, ensuring that funding was allocated effectively. Since 2022, the Fund has transitioned to a rotating chair model, coinciding with a rise in the Fund's reputation as a valuable funding source. However, as TRF's popularity has grown, its available funding has decreased due to TMWA's increasing focus on large-scale, multi-year projects. These shifts, combined with evolving leadership dynamics, highlight the need for greater clarity in grant evaluation and decision-making processes.

In March 2025, The Blueprint Collaborative conducted interviews with nineteen stakeholders to assess their experiences with the Truckee River Fund. Interviewees included Advisory Committee members, Fund holder staff, TMWA staff, and both applicants and awardees. The discussions focused on the Fund's challenges, effectiveness, and future direction, with the goal of identifying insights to enhance its long-term impact.

Key Insights include:

1. The Fund Makes a Difference
2. Advisory Committee's Effectiveness is Challenged by External Oversight
3. Long Term Evaluation of the Fund Impact is not a Priority
4. Decreased Funding is a Concern for Most
5. Clear and Consistent Priorities and Guidelines Are Essential
6. The Fund's Application Process Is Accessible
7. Consistent Evaluation Criteria Are Needed for Fair Deliberation
8. Better Communication with Applicants will Streamline the Grant Process
9. Efficiency and Fairness of Committee Meetings Needs Improvement
10. Clarify the Role of the CFNN Grants Cycle Administrator

This assessment highlights the Fund's commitment to transparency and continuous improvement. The challenges identified are not unique to the Truckee River Fund, as many foundations face similar difficulties in defining clear grant priorities, parameters, funding amounts, and evaluation processes. By addressing these key insights, the Truckee River Fund has an opportunity to refine its practices, enhance its impact, and continue serving the watershed and its communities effectively. We are pleased to present our findings and hope they will support the Fund's continued growth and success.

Key Insights

THE FUND MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Many applicants shared positive feedback about the Fund's effectiveness, highlighting its significant impact on their organizations and projects. One applicant described the funding as a "game changer." The Fund plays a crucial role in promoting sustainability for nonprofits by providing anchor support that fosters long-term success and stability.

Eighty percent of interview respondents provided positive feedback, while the remaining 20% expressed mixed opinions. Some noted challenges in determining whether the Fund had made a substantial difference in drinking water quality. Nevertheless, several projects demonstrate the Fund's lasting influence, including efforts to manage invasive species in Lake Tahoe, the Livestock Event Center drainage treatment systems, Truckee River bank stabilization at Oxbow, waste reduction (such as sanitation facility improvements), and sediment reduction in Donner Lake.

A standout feature of the Fund is its support for the design phase of large-scale projects. While government agencies are often reluctant to finance these critical preliminary stages, the Fund steps in to provide essential pre-work funding, laying the groundwork for impactful projects.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S EFFECTIVENESS IS CHALLENGED BY EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT

The Advisory Committee is seen as effective and valuable within the community, with members who are enthusiastic and well-suited to their roles. The meetings are productive, with thoughtful questions asked and good opportunities identified.

Field trips that occurred in the past were highly valued and continuing education in this way was brought up multiple times.

However, there's a perception that the Advisory Committee's agency is limited by oversight from the Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) Board. This oversight by a Board of politicians, who have been lobbied before by past applicants, causes hesitation among members, impacting decision making, and undermining the intended separation between the Fund and TMWA.

Some interviewees expressed concern over the internal power dynamics within the Advisory Committee, with some members using their tenure to influence newer members, potentially diverting the committee from TMWA's objectives and driving their own objectives.

LONG TERM EVALUATION OF THE FUND IMPACT IS NOT A PRIORITY

While most interviewees believe the Fund's contributions are effective, the magnitude of its impact is challenging to measure. Although there is interest in conducting long-term evaluations, this effort

is hindered by the high costs associated with environmental monitoring, difficulty in tracking long-term educational impact, and the difficulty of consistent tracking.

The absence of long-term data makes it challenging to conclusively demonstrate the Fund's effectiveness over time. However, there is a strong consensus among interviewees that the Fund is making a meaningful difference in the community and positively impacting the river.

As a practical alternative, implementing a dashboard to track long-term impacts reported by applicants could be valuable. Metrics such as pounds of trash collected and number of students taught could offer insight into the Fund's ongoing impact without requiring costly evaluation and monitoring efforts.

DECREASED FUNDING IS A CONCERN FOR MOST

The Truckee River Fund faces challenges as its funding has decreased. This decrease is largely due to TMWA allocating resources to important side projects. While this shift was not criticized by interviewees, it is a reality that limits the Fund's ability to fully support its priorities along the Truckee River.

At the same time, the challenges facing the river—particularly in urban areas—are growing more complex, and the demand for funding to address these issues is only increasing. The Fund's effectiveness is well-recognized, but decreased resources will likely necessitate declining more applicants or reconsidering and refining its funding priorities.

When asked, "How do you envision the role of the Truckee River Fund evolving over the next decade?" the most common response (58%) emphasized the need for additional and expanded funding. Further intentional discussions should be had between all stakeholders, the Advisory Committee, TMWA staff, and Community Foundation of Northern Nevada (CFNN) staff to identify if funding is a priority.

To address these resource constraints and sustain its impact, the Fund may need to explore new funding sources and develop strategic partnerships, but keep in mind that additional funding may be challenging with final decision-making power being determined by the TMWA Board. If new funding is secured, the ultimate decision authority might be reconsidered, including possible transfer to another entity, such as Western Regional Water Commission.

CLEAR AND CONSISTENT PRIORITIES AND GUIDELINES ARE ESSENTIAL

There is inconsistency among Advisory Committee members in their understanding of what is outlined in the application, on the website, and in communications with applicants.

Clear Funding Priorities: The Fund has established clear funding priorities, which have become increasingly well-defined since its inception.

Project Location: One area where clarity remains a challenge is project location. While the RFP states it “gives preference” to projects that benefit TMWA customers, particularly projects that protect against threats upstream or near water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes, the language is not direct. Broader guidance and history allows for funding anywhere within the Truckee River watershed.

Perspectives on location is mixed among Committee members. Discussions around project location were frequent, with valid points on both sides regarding the funding of downstream projects. Based on the mixed opinions, further discussion among the Committee members, TMWA staff, and legal counsel about the topic of funding for downstream projects is warranted.

Grant Request Amounts: Applicants lack clear guidance on appropriate funding request amounts, as no documentation or official communication provides specific direction. Unless an applicant has received funding in previous years and has a sense of typical award sizes, they often submit requests without a clear benchmark.

While CFNN staff offers some guidance when directly asked, determining an appropriate request amount remains challenging since the Committee has no established minimum or maximum funding thresholds. All project sizes are considered, contingent on available funding. Further discussion among the Committee, TMWA staff and CFNN staff is warranted

THE FUND’S APPLICATION PROCESS IS ACCESSIBLE

The Fund’s application and reporting processes are widely viewed as straightforward and low maintenance. Applicants appreciate the ease of applying and the transition to an online portal, which has streamlined the process further.

While there are some barriers, such as the reimbursement model, they are generally flexible, with workarounds available when needed. Overall, these barriers do not discourage organizations from applying.

CONSISTENT EVALUATION CRITERIA ARE NEEDED FOR FAIR DELIBERATION

The Advisory Committee’s deliberation process has been described as unpredictable. Each committee member applies their own criteria when evaluating applications, leading to inconsistencies in decision-making. This lack of structure poses challenges for both Advisory members and applicants.

A more consistent evaluation framework would serve as clear justification for funding decisions and provide valuable “back-up” for the TMWA Board. Some applicants perceive that the Advisory Committee may not fully understand TMWA’s priorities, making it difficult to ensure alignment in funding decisions.

While some committee members appreciate the flexibility that comes with an unstructured evaluation process—believing it prevents rigid guidelines from stifling decision-making—others see a need for more consistency to reduce perceived bias and improve transparency. When asked “how could the project selection process be improved?” 75% of interviewees mentioned improvements were warranted.

Potential Approaches to Balancing Structure and Flexibility:

- Implementing a weighted priority system (e.g., assigning higher value to education or implementation projects).
- Applying weighted criteria to project location to ensure funding is aligned with strategic priorities.
- Establishing funding allocation guidelines, such as dedicating a percentage of funds to education programs and the remainder to on-the-ground efforts like restoration or trash mitigation.
- Developing a streamlined framework with fewer than ten yes-or-no questions, accompanied by a point system to guide decision-making.

BETTER COMMUNICATION WITH APPLICANTS WILL STREAMLINE THE GRANT PROCESS

There is a need for more deliberate and structured communication with applicants to ensure clarity with the application and review process.

Currently, applicants receive an email stating: “As always, you are welcome to attend the TRF Advisory Committee meeting...to present your proposal and answer any questions the Committee may have.” However, there is an unspoken expectation among committee members that applicants should attend only to answer questions, not to formally present their proposals. Clearer guidelines on meeting decorum may be necessary, as misunderstandings continue to create challenges during meetings.

Improving Transparency Around Funding and Application Expectations:

- Clearly stating the total grant dollars available and setting a maximum request amount per cycle to help applicants tailor their proposals.
- Providing an online application template that applicants can download in advance, allowing them to draft proposals before submission.
- Implementing a pre-screening process where CFNN can return applications that do not meet minimum eligibility requirements before they reach the committee.
- After applicants apply, CFNN could communicate funding constraints if the ask is higher than a certain threshold (such as the total available funds and the average grant request amount) allowing applicants to adjust their proposals accordingly.
- Setting word limits for different sections of the application to streamline the review process and avoid excessively long submissions. Also, limiting the number of pictures per application, such as a one-page PDF, was requested.

EFFICIENCY AND FAIRNESS OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS NEEDS IMPROVEMENT

Following the March 7, 2025 Advisory Committee meeting, numerous critiques emerged, with many interviewees describing it as more challenging than usual. While Advisory meetings have often been described as unpredictable—one interviewee likened them to *The Hunger Games*—this particular meeting seemed to generate even more frustration than normal.

One major concern was the tension between expecting applicants to submit high-quality proposals and then pushing them to cut their budgets during deliberations, which some felt ultimately diluted the impact of their work. Additionally, some applicants perceived that those who submitted for higher dollars received greater funding—not necessarily based on merit, but simply because their requests were higher. This created a sense that funding decisions lacked consistency and transparency.

A recurring issue in the deliberation process is the committee’s difficulty in saying no to applicants who are physically present in the room. While opinions on this varied, most interviewees believed that attendance influences decision-making, making it harder for the committee to decline proposals outright. Some noted that proposals flagged as vague or ineligible still received considerable discussion and funding, seemingly because applicants were present.

Another point of concern was the dynamic of having applicants observe committee deliberations. Many found it uncomfortable to sit through discussions about their proposals, especially when budget cuts were suggested. However, all applicants interviewed mentioned that they do like to participate and answer questions about their proposals. When applications are denied, the committee typically provides constructive guidance, which is appreciated.

To address these concerns, some suggested restructuring the meetings so that applicants are available to answer any questions and then leave before the committee deliberates in a closed session. This approach could help maintain transparency while allowing for more candid discussions and reducing the pressure committee members feel when applicants are in the room. However, due to Open Meeting Laws, further research and consultation with legal counsel would be necessary to determine the feasibility of this change.

CLARIFY THE ROLE OF THE CFNN GRANTS CYCLE ADMINISTRATOR

Applicants had overwhelmingly positive feedback about working with the CFNN Grants Cycle Administrator, praising their responsiveness and support throughout the process. The role of the CFNN Grants Cycle Administrator is sometimes misunderstood by Advisory Committee members, yet applicants overwhelmingly see the position as a valuable resource. The Administrator provides critical guidance on funding amounts, priorities, and project fit, offering applicants a direct point of contact for questions and support. Since the Administrator’s email is the only one publicly listed, grant applicants naturally direct their inquiries to them.

Some committee members have expressed surprise that applicants rarely reach out to them for guidance before submitting proposals. However, the application process explicitly states that *“Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.”* This policy underscores a misunderstanding among some committee members about their role in the application process and the limits of their engagement with applicants.

To address this, implementing a formal onboarding or orientation for new (even current) Advisory Committee members could help clarify roles and responsibilities for all entities involved.

Recommendations

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS (0-3 MONTHS)

1. Clarify the Advisory Committee Members' Roles and Responsibilities

Suggested Responsibility: TRF Advisory Board Committee Chair

- a. Implement an onboarding and orientation program for new Advisory Committee members. Include learning for current Advisory Committee members to ensure clarity.
 - i. This should outline the roles and responsibilities of all parties involved, including clear distinctions between the Advisory Committee, TMWA Staff, and CFNN staff.
- b. Plan ongoing education and field trips for Advisory Committee members.

2. Research and Consider Restructuring Advisory Committee Meetings

Suggested Responsibility: TMWA Staff

- a. Because of Open Meeting Laws, research and talk with legal counsel to see if a revised structure for the Advisory Committee meetings is possible.

3. Improve Communication and Transparency with Applicants

Suggested Responsibility: CFNN Grants Cycle Administrator

- a. Set expectations regarding the total available funds and maximum request amounts per cycle.
 - i. For example: "We have \$320,000 available for this funding cycle. While we typically fund projects between \$10,000 and \$40,000 the Advisory Committee has the discretion to award higher amounts for projects deemed especially impactful."
- b. Review website, RFP and messages to applicants for inaccurate or misleading language such as "...to present your proposal..." (see page 7) and edit as appropriate.
- c. Provide an online application template in advance for applicants to prepare and draft their proposals.
- d. If Advisory Committee meetings must stay in their current format, provide more clarity and rules to applicants about attending in the email from the CFNN Grants Cycle Administrator.
- e. Empower the CFNN Grants Cycle Administrator to pre-screen applications enabling them to disqualify applications if minimum requirements aren't met.
- f. Consider adding a link to the CFNN TRF landing page to direct applicants there.
- g. Add typical deadlines or cycle seasons to the TRF website.

SHORT-TERM ACTIONS (3-6 MONTHS)

1. Establish Clear and Consistent Evaluation Criteria

Suggested Responsibility: A Steering Committee that includes TMWA staff and TRF Board members

- a. Develop a standardized evaluation framework for the Advisory Committee to use when reviewing proposals.

- i. This framework could include the following options:
 - 1. A weighted priority system
 - 2. Applying weighted criteria to project location
 - 3. Establishing funding allocation guidelines
 - 4. Developing a streamlined framework with fewer than ten yes-or-no questions, accompanied by a point system

2. Enhance Long-Term Evaluation Practices

Suggested Responsibility: TMWA Staff

- a. Implement a dashboard to track long-term impacts of funded projects.
 - i. This could include metrics directly from awarded project to tally totals of waste collected, acres of habitat restoration, number of volunteers engaged, number of students supported, etc.

3. Address Committee Dynamics and External Oversight Challenges

Suggested Responsibility: TRF Advisory Board Committee Chair

- a. Initiate discussion between TMWA, CFNN, and the Advisory Committee to address the concerns around external oversight and internal committee dynamics.
 - i. The aim would be to clarify expectations regarding decision-making and clarify the separation between the committee's role and TMWA's influence.

MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS (6-12 MONTHS)

1. Revisit Funding Priorities and Clarify Project Location Guidelines

Suggested Responsibility: A Steering Committee that includes TMWA staff and TRF Board members

- a. Engage in a discussion with TMWA staff and Advisory Committee members to review and clarify the Fund's funding priorities, particularly regarding project location. If funding is to prioritize areas upstream or near water treatment and hydroelectric plants, this should be clearly communicated in all materials.

2. Increase Funding and Diversify Funding Sources

Suggested Responsibility: Initiated discussion by TMWA staff

- a. Engage in discussions around exploring additional funding sources with all stakeholders (TMWA, CFNN, and the Advisory Committee)
- b. Develop a strategy to diversify revenue streams.
 - i. Explore partnerships with other organizations or government agencies, private donors, or environmental grants to increase available resources.
- c. Engage in discussion around reconsidering the ultimate decision authority changing from TMWA.

LONG-TERM ACTIONS (12+ MONTHS)

1. Implement Long-Term Strategic Planning for the Fund

Suggested Responsibility: TMWA Staff and TRF Advisory Board Chair

- a. Engage stakeholders in developing a long-term strategy for the Truckee River Fund.
- b. This could include establishing goals for the next 5-10 years, exploring new funding models, and assessing long-term environmental impact goals.
 - i. With the Fund's funding model being under pressure, it is crucial to have a long-term plan that focuses on sustainability, resource allocation, and the broader impacts of the Fund's work.

2. Monitor and Adjust to Emerging Needs

Suggested Responsibility: TMWA Staff

- a. Continuously assess the Fund's performance and adjust priorities as needed based on emerging environmental or community needs.
- b. This could involve periodic evaluations of funded projects and stakeholder feedback to ensure the Fund remains responsive to current challenges.

Truckee River Fund

Recommended Decision Points

IMMEDIATE DECISION POINTS (0–3 MONTHS)

- Should the Advisory Committee implement a formal onboarding and orientation program?
- Who is responsible for onboarding new members and educating current Advisory Committee members on roles/responsibilities?
- Should Advisory Committee meetings be restructured, and is legal consultation needed to explore this?
- Should maximum grant request amounts and available funding totals be explicitly communicated to applicants?
- Does the language used in outreach (e.g., emails, RFP, website) need to be revised for clarity?
- Should the CFNN Administrator be empowered to pre-screen and disqualify applications? What are the thresholds for this?
- Is there consensus to improve applicant guidance through templates, clearer meeting expectations, and better web resources?
- Should the committee consider reinstating field trips?

SHORT-TERM DECISION POINTS (3–6 MONTHS)

- Should a standardized evaluation framework be developed (e.g., point system, weighted criteria)?
- Who should serve on the steering committee to design the evaluation framework?
- Should a dashboard be created to track long-term impact metrics?
- Are discussions needed between TMWA, CFNN, and the Advisory Committee to clarify decision-making roles and oversight?

MEDIUM-TERM DECISION POINTS (6–12 MONTHS)

- Should project location guidelines be revised and clarified in fund materials?
- Is there stakeholder support to explore new and diversified funding sources?
- Should the decision-making authority structure (currently under TMWA) be reconsidered?

LONG-TERM DECISION POINTS (12+ MONTHS)

- Should the Fund develop a 5–10 year strategic plan?
- What mechanisms should be put in place to monitor emerging community and environmental needs?
- How frequently should the Fund reevaluate its priorities and performance?

Truckee River Fund Grant Priorities

Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) recommends that the Truckee River Fund (TRF) Advisory Committee (the “Committee”) give preference to well-supported, clearly drafted grant requests that consider substantial benefits to TMWA customers for projects and programs that mitigate substantial threats to water quality and the watershed, particularly those threats upstream or nearby water treatment and hydroelectric plant intakes.

- I. **Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS):** Projects/Programs that support the prevention or control of aquatic invasive species in the mainstem Truckee River, Lake Tahoe, other tributaries and water bodies in the Truckee River system.
- II. **Watershed Improvements:** Projects that reduce erosion or sediment, suspended solids, or total dissolve solids (TDS) discharges, nutrients, industrial contaminants, or bacterial pollutants to the River. Projects or programs that are located within 303d (impaired waters) and total maximum daily load (TMDL) sections of the River should be considered, both in California and Nevada. Innovative techniques should be encouraged. The following link identifies impaired sections of the river and its tributaries: <https://mywaterway.epa.gov/>.
- III. **Local Stormwater Improvements:** Projects that demonstrably mitigate storm water run-off due to urbanization of the local watershed. Priority should be given to those improvement projects in close proximity to TMWA’s water supply intakes and canals and which will improve the reliability and protect the quality of the community’s municipal water supply.
- IV. **Re-Forestation and Re-Vegetation Projects:** Projects to restore forest and upland areas damaged by fire and historical logging operations, and to improve watershed resiliency in drought situations. Projects/programs in this category should be given a high priority due to urbanization of the watershed and increased susceptibility of the urban and suburban watershed to wildfire.
- V. **Support to Rehabilitation of Local Tributary Creeks and Drainage Courses:** Projects to support water quality improvement in creeks and tributaries to the Truckee River.
- VI. **Stewardship and Environmental Awareness:** Support to clean-up programs and the development and implementation of educational programs relative to water, water quality and watershed protection that do not fall clearly into the one of the above-mentioned categories.

Notes:

- For proposals related to weed control/eradication, contact Lauren Renda at the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada for additional criteria at lrenda@nevadafund.org.
- For proposals in the Lake Tahoe Basin, the Truckee River Fund (TRF) typically only funds proposals related to Priority I and VI.

Grantee Requirements & Project Evaluation Criteria

GRANTEE REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for funding, grantees must adhere to the following requirements:

- Funds are to be used and/or disbursed exclusively for the charitable uses and purposes.
- The Fund shall be used exclusively for projects that protect and enhance water quality or water resources of the Truckee River, or its watershed.
- Grantees may include 501(c)(3) organizations and governmental entities. Any grants to governmental entities must be made exclusively for public benefit purposes.
- All grantees will be required to sign a grant agreement stipulating their agreement to all applicable terms, conditions, and reporting requirements.
- Organizations or entities sponsoring proposals are prohibited from ex parte communications with members of the Committee regarding such proposals while those proposals are pending before the Committee, and such communications may be grounds for rejecting a proposal.
- All applicants must provide **a match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services

TRUCKEE MEADOWS WATER AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S DISCRETION

For each proposal submitted and recommended by the Committee the TMWA Board of Directors has absolute discretion to:

- Accept or reject any proposal;
- Accept a proposal on the condition that certain modifications be made;
- Assess proposals as they see fit, without in any way being obligated to select any proposal;
- Determine whether proposals satisfactorily meet the evaluation criteria set out in this RFP;
- Reject proposals with or without cause, whether based on the evaluation criteria set out above or otherwise.

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

- To maintain eligibility to receive grant funds, each Charitable Beneficiary must comply at all times with the following requirements:
 1. Must be exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(c)(3) of the Code;
 2. Shall use all Fund distributions toward projects that are appropriate and legal public expenditures;
 3. Must provide financial details and/or reports of their organizations upon request;
 4. Must submit quarterly reports;
 5. Must not use any Fund distributions for political contributions or political advocacy;
 6. Must either implement the projects, activities, and/or programs for which they received Fund distributions within six months of the date in which such distributions are received or by date(s) as agreed upon in the grant acceptance agreement, or must return all such distributions to the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada forthwith;
 7. Must provide the Community Foundation of Northern Nevada a report detailing the completion of their projects, activities, and/or programs; and
 8. Must sign an agreement regarding their compliance with the qualifications hereof.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications are evaluated according to the following criteria and in order of priority . If the grant applicant does not meet the “Grantee Requirements”, the application will not be considered.

1. RELEVANCE OF PROPOSAL TO THE TRF PROGRAM

- a. Address TRF grant priorities – Does the project address at least one of the TRF grant priorities, as described at the beginning of the RFP?
- b. Meet multiple objectives – Does the project meet multiple grant priorities?
- c. Public benefit of the project – Does the project help TMWA protect its sources of drinking water?
- d. Benefit to TMWA customers – Is there a direct benefit to TMWA customers?
- e. Project location – Is the project located upstream of one of TMWA’s water treatment plants?

2. QUALITY OF PROJECT DESIGN

- a. Appropriateness of selected project methods – Do the proposed project strategies make sense to address the watershed and/or water quality concern(s) outlined by the applicant?
- b. Thoroughness of project design – Is the project design adequately detailed to ensure the desired outcome(s)?
- c. Sustainability of project – Will the benefits of the project continue after the grant funds are expended?
- d. Project longevity – If ongoing operation & maintenance (O&M) is required to maintain benefits, is it funded?
- e. Consideration of existing research – Does the project consider existing research, planning efforts, or assessments related to the Truckee River watershed?

3. MEASURABILITY OF PROJECT SUCCESS

- a. Identification of project benchmarks or milestones – Has the applicant described the steps necessary to complete the project?
- b. Demonstrated ability to measure the results of the project – Does the project have adequate measurable outcomes to evaluate project success?
- c. Benefits expected from a successful project – Are there clear goals that will be obtained on project completion?
- d. Readiness to begin project – Is the grant applicant ready to undertake and complete the project?

4. EFFECTIVENESS OF ORGANIZATION

- a. Qualifications of applicant for the proposed project – Does the applicant have adequate experience and credentials to perform the work described in the application?
- b. Collaborative efforts – Are there partner organizations supporting or benefiting from the project?
- c. Demonstrated ability of applicant to manage and complete the project – Has the applicant successfully completed projects similar to the one proposed? If previously funded by TRF, has the applicant met performance requirements and completed projects successfully?

5. ADEQUACY OF PROPOSED BUDGET

- a. Availability and status of matching funds – Does the project provide a minimum of 25 percent match in cash and/or in-kind services? If the project is downstream of the USGS Vista gage, is the 25 percent match requirement met using cash match?
- b. Total project cost relative to benefits – Is the project cost reasonable given the expected project outcome(s)?
- c. Appropriateness of budget – Are the costs presented in the budget adequately detailed and do they seem reasonable? Is the project under the 25 percent indirect/overhead expense limit?

Narrative Requirements

1.) Specific project goals and measurable outcomes and how you will measure and report them.

All projects are required to have measurable outcomes.

2.) Describe the project location.

Include site map and aerial photos if applicable/possible as an attachment.

3.) Project Description

4.) Grant priorities

Explain how the proposed project advances the TRF's specific grant priorities.

5.) Permitting

Provide a permitting schedule for your project along with your plan for getting the required permits and decision documents. Be sure to include the cost of permitting/decision documents as a line item in your budget.

6.) Future Land Use

List any known or foreseeable zoning, land use, or development plans that may affect your proposed project.

7.) If future phases of the project will be needed, identify anticipated sources of funding.

8.) Identify the principals involved in leading or coordinating the project or activity.

9.) Number of staff positions involved in project.

10.) Number of volunteers involved in project and an estimated number of volunteer hours.

11.) Timeline of Project

List key dates and include project milestones. Note: Be realistic in your estimate of dates and milestones. List any factors that may cause a delay in implementing and/or completing the project.

**Note: Funding will not be provided for work performed prior to grant approval.*

12.) What factors will indicate a successful project?

13.) Collaboration

List partnerships or collaborations with other entities in relation to your proposal, if any. Grantees are encouraged to seek other funds prior to requesting money from the Truckee River Fund. Please explain what other funding opportunities were sought and if any other funds have been awarded.

Grant Match

*All applicants must provide **a match of at least 25 percent** for dollars requested. The match may be with funding and/or in-kind services.*

For larger grant requests, priority will be given to projects that significantly leverage the grant with funding from other sources.

*For grant requests for projects downstream of the Vista USGS gage, the 25 percent match requirement must be met using **cash match**.*

Total grant match to be provided.

Cash

For the cash portion, is the funding already being held by the applicant for this project?

In-kind

**Note: Provide an itemized breakdown of volunteer match in your budget with rationale.*

Description of matching funds/in-kind donations.

Attachments

Nonprofits must submit:

Last audited financial statements if your organization has been audited

List of Board of Directors

Copy of agency's IRS 501(c)(3) Tax Determination Letter

Copy of the agency's most recent IRS Form 990

*Please submit as one PDF document

*No late attachments will be accepted

Governmental entities must submit:

Departmental budget in lieu of audited financial statements

Project Budget

Provide detail on each line-item expenditures and show which funds are committed and which have been requested to be paid for by the Truckee River Fund grant, and which will be paid for with in-kind services. Other sources of funding should be provided. Explain status of other funding if not in hand. If project is to be implemented in phases, please separate budget into each phase. **A sample budget template is provided below.**

Notes:

- Indirect/overhead expenses cannot exceed 25 percent; TRF may fund indirect/overhead up to 25% based on availability of funds.
- Applicants should be prepared to provide reduced budgets during the review of applications by the TRF Advisory Committee when funds are limited.

Grants from the Truckee River Fund are paid on a reimbursable basis for actual expenditures only. Craft your budget in such a way that requests for reimbursement correspond to the original budget.

Sample Budget Template

Budget Item Description	\$/unit	Quantity	Quantity Type	TRF Funding	Other Funders	Match	Total Cost
Salaries and Wages							
Project Manager	X	X	Hours				
Program Manager	X	X	Hours				
Engineer 2	X	X	Hours				
Fringe Benefits	X	X					
Full-Time Employees	X	X	Hours				
Volunteers	X	X					
Contractual Construction							
Planning	X	X	Contract				
Design	X	X	Contract				
Engineering Services during Design	X	X	Contract				
Environmental / Permitting	X	X	Contract				
Project / Program Management							
Construction Management	X	X	Contract				
Materials	X	X	Contract				
Construction Contract	X	X	Contract				
Total Direct Costs							
Indirect Costs/Overhead (≤25% of budget)	X						
Total Project Costs							

Truckee River Fund**2026 Calendar**

January 2	Spring RFP distributed
January 21	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
January 30	RFP/Grant applications due
February 9	Draft Agenda to Executive Committee
February 18	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
February 20	8:30 a.m. TRF Advisory Committee meeting - Review Spring project proposals - Schedule Fieldtrip(s)
March 18	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
April 15	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
April 27	Draft Agenda to Executive Committee
May 15	8:30 a.m. TRF Advisory Committee meeting - Discuss nominations for officers (even years) - Review completed projects
May 21	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
June 17	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
June 19	Fall RFP distributed
TBD	TMWA picnic
July 15	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
July 24	Fall RFP/Grant applications due
July 27	Draft Agenda to Executive Committee
August 19	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
August 21	8:30 a.m. TRF Advisory Committee Review project proposals
September 16	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
October 21	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
November 2	Draft Agenda to Executive Committee
November 18	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting
November 20	8:30 a.m. TRF Advisory Committee - Review/Approve 2026 calendar - Review completed projects
December 16	10 a.m. TMWA Board meeting