



**COUNTY OF NEVADA
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

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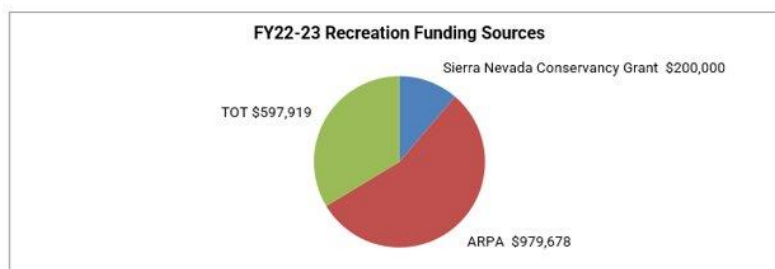
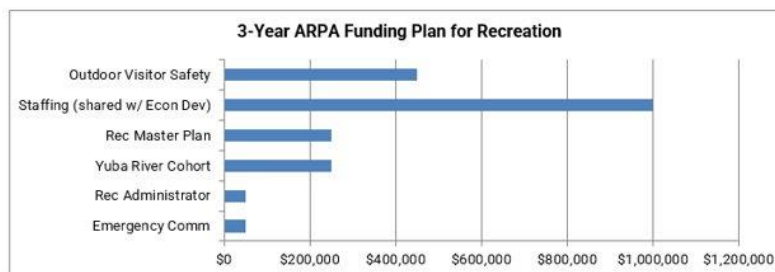
**NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Workshop Memo**

MEETING DATE: January 26, 2023
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Erika Seward, CDA Senior Administrative Analyst
Trisha Tillotson, CDA Agency Director
Brian Foss, Planning Director
SUBJECT: Board Objective on Recreation for 2023

RECOMMENDATION Receive the presentation and discuss policy objective for 2023.

BACKGROUND AND FUNDING

In 2022, the Board of Supervisors established Recreation as a Board Objective and transitioned leadership from the County Executive Office (CEO) to the Community Development Agency (CDA), establishing a new Budget Unit in FY22-23. A Senior Administrative Analyst position in CDA was created to support the County's General Plan Recreation Element and Recreation Board Objective. The overall budget includes a 3-year ARPA Funding Plan of \$979,678 and Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) allocation of \$597,919. In addition, a \$200,000 grant was awarded by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to offset budget expenses for the development of the Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan.



CDA staff work with CEO staff to identify and work with community partners, land managers, and independent parks and recreation districts to implement effective strategies **“to promote sustainable recreation to enhance recreation access, support public health, safety and quality of life, realize economic opportunities and protect and preserve natural resource assets.”** Staff focus primarily on recreational assets in Nevada County’s unincorporated areas, supporting a diverse range of recreational opportunities at a regional, district, community, and neighborhood level for citizens and visitors.

2022 RECREATION BOARD OBJECTIVE

In 2022, the newest Board objective made significant progress through six Board initiatives:

1. Develop Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan (“Master Plan”)

The Board accepted \$200,000 in SNC grant funding and approved a contract with firm Design Workshop. Phase One kicked off in October to inventory, map and assess existing recreation conditions, resources, and efficiencies throughout Nevada County. Stakeholder engagement began, with over 90 organizations participating. Staff announced the effort, inviting the public to sign up for notifications to participate.

2. Promote health and safety at river crossings, lakes, trailheads, and other high-use or high-risk destinations.

The South Yuba River Public Safety Cohort (Cohort) celebrated its 5th Anniversary providing public health and safety measures of monitoring, enforcement, infrastructure, and outreach. The Convene, Champion, and Catalyze (CCC) group contributed to visitor management and recreation surveys, coordinating peak visitation strategies for eastern County. A weekly travel alerts page launched on the Go Nevada County site. The Nevada County Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund grant program also awarded \$415,570 in ARPA funds for 9 projects including new trails, vault toilets, dumpsters, parking, and river/trail ambassadors countywide.

3. Enhance recreation access, health and safety, economic development, and resource conservation.

The Nevada County Library launched a Recreation Collection to include free access to sports equipment, passes, gear and activities – reducing barriers to outdoor recreation. Pines to Mines Trail consultants made progress on fieldwork and research necessary to complete the draft Environmental Analysis. And Community Resiliency Grants totaling \$262,762 were awarded to recreation providers for improving water quality, trails, and forest health and adapting venues, facilities, and programming.

4. Support capacity and sustainability of Western Nevada County organized recreation.

Quarterly meetings with Western Nevada County recreation and park district’s (RPD) Board and staff members were convened to advance the administrative work plan. Prop 68 gap loan assistance was provided to Oak Tree RPD for ADA-accessible playground, pavilion, and field improvements. Western Gateway received \$1,144,634 from CA State Parks Rural Recreation and Tourism program, with grant/ technical support from the County, for a new RV Park and improvements to 3 ballfields and amenities. Bear River RPD was awarded a \$100,000 Community Resiliency Grant for turf field replacement.

5. Identify funding mechanisms and act on advocacy priorities to sustain recreation.

Advocacy of public land stewardship with agency partners BLM, USFS, and CA State Parks of high-use recreation areas remained a high priority. The first regional Nevada County Sustainability Summit hosted agency directors, thought leaders and recreation partners focused on climate, conservation, and recreation. Sierra Gold Parks Foundation committed \$10,000 to the forthcoming Cohort Public Safety and Responsible Recreation campaign. Staff provided outreach and hosted a site tour during the CA Wildfire and Forest Resilience Task Force Sierra Nevada Regional meeting with over 500 attendees including State officials.

6. Staff recreation collaborative(s) to promote countywide coordination.

Staff established and convened two Recreation Coalition meetings and monthly Cohort and CCC meetings. All groups participated in Master Plan workshops, with Staff extensive outreach and project management.

2023 BOARD OBJECTIVE

Staff recommends the 2023 Recreation Board Objective remain the same. Items/issues for consideration will be brought forward through the Master Plan process, with advance discussion items that may include:

1. Short-term lodging and visitor impacts, including camping on private property. A presentation will be provided by Hip Camp at the Workshop, with Staff exploration proposed in the upcoming year.
2. Economic significance of recreation to Nevada County and tools for communicating, potentially including an Economic Impact Study and visitor management metrics.
3. Ongoing policy, funding, and framework alignment with regional and state leaders including CALREC Vision, SNC, Sustainable Truckee, and others as revealed through Master Plan.

The Board Objective will carry forward the 6 existing initiatives, as refined and expanded below:

- 1. Finalize and approve the Nevada County Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan with findings and recommendations for decision-making, priority projects and funding.** *Note:* As projects and funding opportunities are identified, Staff will work to advance these efforts prior to final plan approval.
- 2. Identify, coordinate, and implement strategies to promote health and safety at river crossings, lakes, trailheads, and other high-use or high-risk areas.**
 - A. Continue to manage grant and funding programs that invest in and support priority projects and programs, e.g., Outdoor Visitor Safety Fund
 - B. Facilitate CCC and South Yuba River Public Safety Cohort with work to include coordinated public safety and responsible recreation campaigns and solutions
 - C. Support Donner Summit visitor management in partnership with Placer County
 - D. Elevate benefits of sustainable outdoor recreation and tourism through educational content that stewards and protects natural resources
- 3. Collaborate with other organizations and jurisdictions to leverage resources and optimize efforts to drive outcomes of enhanced recreation access, health and safety, economic development, and resource conservation.**
 - A. Integrate and support best practices of sustainable tourism and destination stewardship
 - B. Prioritize and seek funding for shovel-ready projects identified through Master Plan process

- C. Align with and support efforts to enhance or establish Community Centers and Recreation & Resiliency Hubs in Nevada County
 - D. Manage distribution of recreation mitigation funds
- 4. Build capacity and provide administrative support for Western County organized recreation by working with partner districts to make them viable and sustainable.**
- A. Advance administrative work plan and convene quarterly district meetings to share best practices and provide support
 - B. Develop and strengthen connections, resources, and recreation opportunities in collaboration with Nevada County Library system and recreation partners
 - C. Assist with Prop 68 funding, capital project and maintenance investment opportunities, and gap loan requests, as needed
- 5. Identify interim and long-term funding mechanisms and act on advocacy priorities to sustain recreation.**
- A. Establish and track metrics; report on progress
 - B. Tell our Nevada County Recreation story through coordinated communications plan
 - C. Support growth of Transient Occupancy Tax revenue
 - D. Cultivate and solicit multi-benefit grant opportunities focused on climate, resilience, transportation, economic development, and resource conservation
- 6. Staff and manage collaborative effort to identify immediate high-level projects and promote coordination.**
- A. Manage development of Recreation and Resiliency Master Plan
 - B. Convene Recreation Coalition, with quarterly communications that share and connect resources
 - C. Establish a Recreation and Resiliency Internship program
 - D. Continue to coordinate and leverage experience and capacity of existing and future collaboratives

Item Initiated By: Erika Seward, CDA Senior Administrative Analyst

Approved By: Trisha Tillotson, CDA Agency Director