



C I T Y O F
RENO
Memorandum

DATE: October 6, 2025
TO: Honorable Mayor & City Council
THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager
FROM: Nathan Ulliyot, Director
DEPT: Parks & Recreation
SUBJECT: Rosewood Nature Study Area Update

This memo provides an update on the efforts to restore public access and maintenance at the Rosewood Nature Study Area through a new partnership agreement. Following the memo given to Council on July 7, 2025, the Parks and Recreation Department has been working on establishing a short-term agreement to achieve these goals. A suitable partner has been found in the Great Basin Institute (GBI), which plans to enter into a one-year agreement. In return for using the space as a regional base for their activities, GBI will ensure public access and maintain the grounds.

About GBI:

GBI is a nonprofit, interdisciplinary field-studies organization based in Reno that promotes environmental research, education, and conservation across the western U.S. Through programs like the Nevada Conservation Corps, Research Associate Program, and Basin & Range Forestry, GBI partners with public agencies and communities to carry out habitat restoration, wildfire fuels reduction, noxious weed control, ecological monitoring, cultural resource surveys, and public outreach. It also helps manage visitor centers (e.g. Galena Creek, Taylor Creek) and supports the professional development of emerging conservationists.

Mid-Term:

Staff will continue to work with other groups who have previously utilized the space in conjunction with the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation. GBI will work with these groups to provide access to the facility for program offerings for the public. Examples of these programming components are Sierra Nevada Journeys and the Audubon Society, who welcomed youth, into the facility for outdoor summer enrichment camps and educational programs.

Long-Term:

With the next year's operations stabilized, staff will begin seeking a long-term partnership through a Request for Proposals (RFP) process. Several other agencies have indicated interest in being a part of the future of Rosewood Nature Study Area. Many of those interested could form collaborative partnerships that provide greater public and environmental benefit. Staff will launch the RFP in December and review proposals in early 2026 well in advance of the conclusion of the GBI agreement in October of 2026.

Attachment: July 7, 2025 Council Memo



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DATE: July 7, 2025
TO: Honorable Mayor & City Council
THROUGH: Jackie Bryant, City Manager
FROM: Nathan Ullyot, Director
DEPT: Parks & Recreation
SUBJECT: Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation Dissolution

Earlier today, staff were notified that the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation (TMPF) is insolvent, and the Board of Directors intends to dissolve the organization imminently. Staff met this afternoon with TMPF board members and community stakeholders to discuss possible next steps and explore options for transitioning key functions. TMPF has several existing agreements with the City and provides access and services, including:

Service Agreements, Shared Facilities and Maintenance

- TMPF maintains approximately 50 dog waste disposal stations across City parks and trails. Staff are exploring how this service can be absorbed, or another partner can take on this responsibility.
- TMPF currently covers utility costs and manages access at the Rosewood Nature Preserve. The City will immediately resume control of the property, manage access, and issue a request for proposal for a new partner in the future.
- The Reno Adaptive Cycling Center, a City-run program, operates at Rosewood in a building shared with TMPF. Parks and Recreation staff will ensure all City property is secured during the transition.
- TMPF uses the California Building for programming and administration. The City will remove access and terminate any lease agreements.
- TMPF has managed opening and closing of the Rosewood Nature Preserve, and there will be short-term disruptions to public access while staff identifies operational capacity.

Foundation-Held Funds and Donations

- TMPF recently accepted funds from Council for dog park improvements. It is unclear whether these funds will be returned or used as intended. This will require further investigation.
- TMPF holds or has helped raise funds related to the Reno Tennis Center. It is unclear whether these funds will be returned or used as intended. This will require further investigation.
- Staff is currently identifying any additional TMPF-held funds or obligations that may impact City projects or partnerships.

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Trail Planning Funds

- Council allocated \$50,000 in ARPA funds to TMPF to create a plan for a Virginia Mountain Range Trail. Because the funds are provided on a reimbursement only basis, TMPF is not currently holding any City funds for this purpose. All previously reimbursed expenses have been properly verified and supported with valid receipts in accordance with ARPA guidelines.

Fiscal Agent Roles

- TMPF has acted as a fiscal agent for several City grants. Staff are working to identify an alternative 501(c)(3) partner.

Summer Camps

- Sierra Nevada Journeys operates a youth day camp at Rosewood through an agreement with TMPF. Staff are working to transfer their agreement so Sierra Nevada Journeys may continue providing the camp through the summer.
- TMPF runs a nature camp at the California Building serving 30 children. Staff are exploring options to relocate participants into existing City-run camps or launch a new City-operated camp at the site.

TMPF's board is handling the process of closing the foundation on a volunteer basis. Staff will continue to provide updates as more information becomes available during this process. The immediate focus is ensuring minimal disruption to public services, protecting City assets, and supporting youth, families, and community partners during this transition.