Appendix F – Recreation Design Vision Memorandum

Introduction

The following memo described the vision behind the thirty percent (30%) design which builds off the *Nature Park and Recreation Complex Alternative* that was selected at the Truckee River Flood Management Authority Park Layout Working Group Meeting on September 24, 2025, for the Rock to McCarran Reach project. The preferred alternative was the **Nature Park and Recreation Complex Alternative**:

Thirty-Percent Design Vision

The recreation design includes a majority of the southern portion of the property (south of the internal berm) with trails and other smaller recreational elements including river access along the Truckee River and natural areas. The 30% design has introduced an overall park theme with specific design focusing on:

- Wayfinding, Signage, Precedent Imagery and Local Art
- Playgrounds and Play Areas
- Sports Complex
- Trails/Trailheads and River Recreation
- Vehicle Circulation and Parking

Park Theme

The proposed theme, celebrates the spirit and legacy of the Truckee River. It reflects the river's essential role in shaping the Truckee Meadows—its history, its people, its wildlife, and the natural cycles that define it, including periods of high water and flooding.

This theme will guide every element of the project, creating a unified experience that highlights the harmony between the wild landscape and the built environment. The result will be an iconic, vibrant park that honors the river's past while serving the needs of today's community—outdoor enthusiasts, conservation advocates, families, and visitors attending regional sports tournaments.

The theme will transform the project into a destination that educates, inspires, and strengthens our connection to the Truckee River.

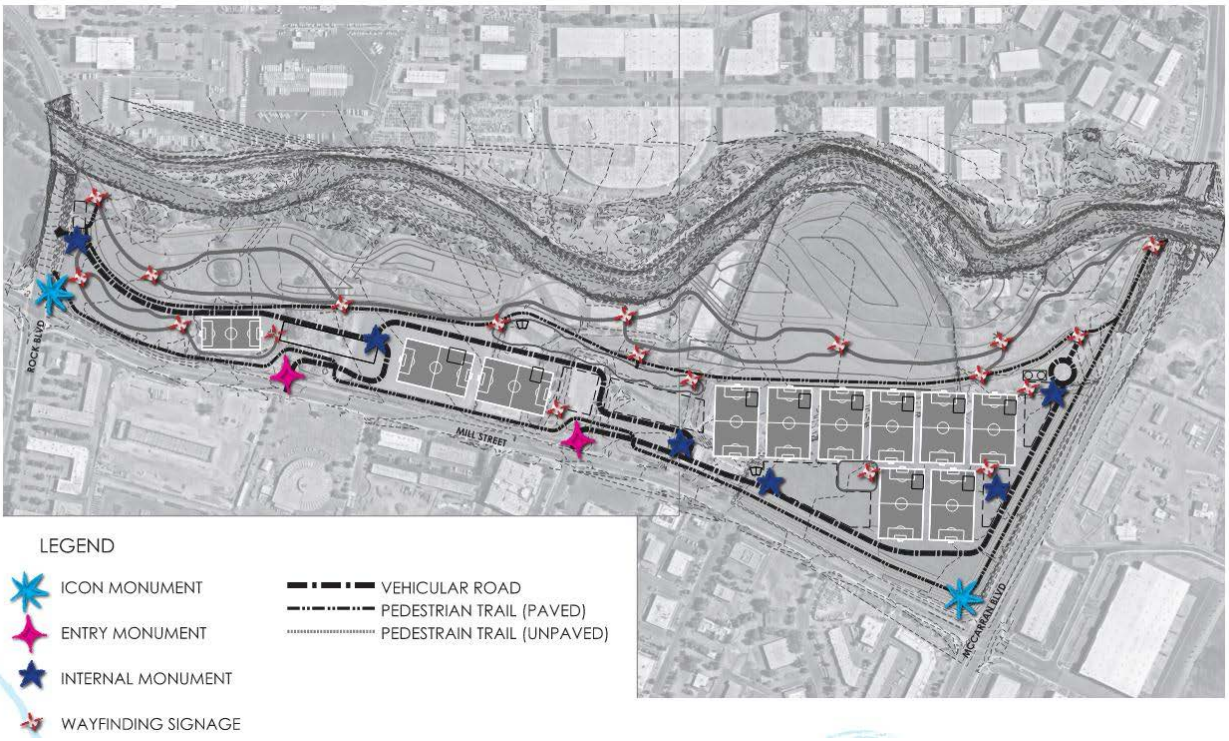
Wayfinding Signage and Local Art

Signage throughout the park will be designed to reinforce the project's theme and create a strong sense of place. Monument signs are planned at the major intersections of Rock Blvd/Mill Street and McCarran Blvd/Mill Street, along with welcoming entry signs at both vehicle entrances on Mill Street. Within the park, clear and intuitive wayfinding signs will guide drivers to parking areas, sports facilities, and other key destinations.

For pedestrians, the trail network will be easy to navigate thanks to well-marked trail identifiers and thoughtfully placed educational and interpretive signs. These signs will highlight the native plants and wildlife of the Truckee River, share information about ecological restoration efforts, and explain the river's natural flooding cycles. The design also leaves room for future partnerships with schools, nonprofits, and community groups to add additional educational content over time.

Public art will play a meaningful role as well. Art installations are envisioned along trails, at trailheads, near parking areas, and throughout the park to enrich the visitor experience. The outer levee will also incorporate artistic elements, transforming it into an attractive visual feature for people traveling along Mill Street and McCarran Blvd. These installations will help the park stand out as a welcoming, creative, and memorable community destination.

Conceptual Signage Examples



Wayfinding Signage Map

Levee Treatment Examples

Playgrounds and Play Areas

The 30% design includes two thoughtfully planned playground areas, each offering a distinct experience for families and visitors. The linear park is centrally located and designed to be *floodable and flexible*, embracing the natural rhythms of the Truckee River. This linear play space will echo the look and feel of a braided river, featuring amenities that appeal to all ages. Play structures will highlight the region's natural environments and include climbable representations of native wildlife, helping children learn about the species that call the Truckee River home.

A second playground is proposed for the southwest corner of the site, intentionally placed in an area that remains high and dry even during a 100-year storm event. This location creates the opportunity for a signature, iconic play structure—one that will be visible from the Rock Blvd and Mill Street intersection, where the levee is expected to be approximately four feet tall. Paired with the planned monument sign, this feature will offer the most open and welcoming views into the park, becoming a recognizable landmark and a memorable attraction for residents and visitors alike.

Rendering of Linear Adventure Park

Iconic Play Structure Examples

Sports Complex

The Sports Complex is designed to meet a critical and growing need for youth sports facilities in the Reno/Sparks region, while also creating a premier destination for local and regional tournaments. The layout includes convenient parking (approximately 80 spaces per championship field) strategically distributed so families, players, and spectators can easily access all areas of the complex. Dedicated bus and player drop-off zones will streamline team arrivals and departures during busy tournament days.

A network of pedestrian paths will guide athletes and families to a central hub designed for tournament check-ins, exhibitor booths, and award ceremonies. This core area will serve as the heart of the complex, creating a lively and welcoming atmosphere during events. To support teams between games, the design includes a centrally located restroom building, shaded picnic areas, and a dedicated food-truck alley. This setup allows food vendors to rotate throughout the day without disrupting activities, giving visitors a wide range of dining options during games and tournaments.

The fields themselves are spaced to provide comfortable room for teams, spectators, and equipment. Most fields are oriented in the ideal north–south direction to ensure fair play and consistent lighting and wind conditions. The championship fields are designed to be adaptable, able to host a variety of flat-field sports and accommodate additional youth-sized fields when needed. Trail connections link the Sports Complex to the rest of the park, allowing visitors to easily explore nearby natural areas and amenities. This integration ensures the complex feels like a seamless part of the larger park experience, blending recreation, nature, and community in one dynamic destination.

Soccer Complex Layout

Trails/Trailheads and River Recreation

The park's extensive trail network is designed to give visitors a rich variety of ways to explore the landscape and enjoy everything the park has to offer. North of the internal berm, natural surface trails will wind through the park's wild areas, offering access to the Truckee River for fishing, boating, wildlife viewing, or simply relaxing by the water. These trails are intentionally routed to let visitors experience the river's natural beauty while also protecting sensitive habitats and ecosystems.

South of the internal berm, and along the tops of berms and levees, paved trails will create miles of loops for walkers, runners, and cyclists. These paths will connect directly to existing sidewalks along Mill Street near the main entrances, strengthening pedestrian access to nearby businesses. A key paved connection will also pass under the McCarran Bridge on the south side of the Truckee River, linking to the existing pedestrian bridge and the Tahoe Pyramid Bike Trail. This connection provides a seamless route to downtown Reno and expands the park's role as a regional hub for recreation and mobility.

Oxbow Trail upstream on the Truckee River

Vehicle Circulation and Parking

The 30% design considered how vehicles move and where they park to keep circulation efficient and everyone safe. Circulation routes and parking areas are arranged to reduce conflicts between cars and pedestrians, while still providing enough parking during busy times—such as regional tournaments.

Convenient pick-up and drop-off areas make it easy for families and teams to access the fields, and parking spaces are thoughtfully placed throughout the site to prevent congestion. During everyday use, when tournaments aren't happening, smaller parking lots located near playgrounds, river access points, and other amenities will serve regular park visitors without overwhelming the landscape. Overall, the design provides the parking needed for major events while minimizing paved surfaces to protect the park's natural character and open space.

Recreation Experiences for Nature Park & Recreation Complex

The following series of maps compare where the recreation experiences are proposed for each park alternative. Full sized maps are provided in **Appendix A**:

Appendix A:
30% Design Site Plan

CONCEPTUAL LANDSCAPE

TRUCKEE RIVER FLOOD MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

ROCK TO McCARRAN PARK | **30% LANDSCAPE RENDERING**

RENO, NEVADA MAR. 2026

NORTH 0' 150' 300' 0" 1" 2"

WOOD RODGERS