

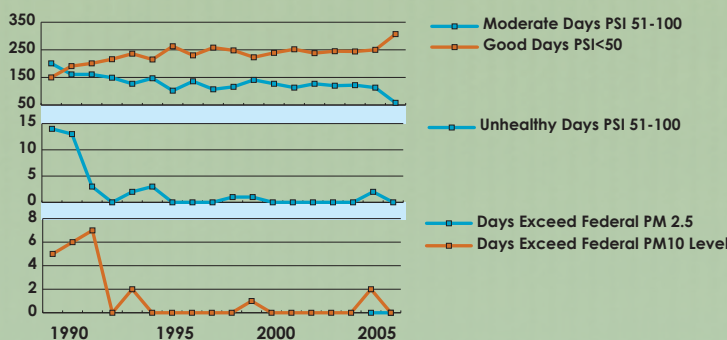
Natural Environment

Clean air and water support healthy communities, recreational options, diverse wildlife, and natural resources for enjoyment by future generations. We can all enjoy the varied and beautiful lands, plants, and animals that make the Truckee Meadows unique.

28. Air quality

The Pollution Standard Index measures the region's air quality that affects our health and outdoor lifestyle, important for tourism and attracting young professionals to the region. Federal Air Quality regulations have made a big difference in our region's air quality. In the late 1980s, we had 13 and 14 days a year with unhealthful air quality; several times we exceeded federal pollution standards for carbon monoxide and particulate matter. We have had several "red" air quality days this year. This indicator is influenced by weather, vehicle miles traveled, congestion, public transportation, alternative transportation, and even how often the roads are sanded.

Washoe County Pollution Standard Index



Source: District Health Dept., Air Quality Management Division, <http://www.washoecounty.us/health/air/agr.html> (PM2.5 is being tracked, but a standard was not developed until several years ago, requiring 3-years of data monitoring.)

29. Clean & available water

A "living river" system helps improve Truckee River water quality for many uses from drinking water to recreation to wildlife habitat. Efficient water consumption and conservation are keys to ensuring water sources into the future.

Truckee River water quality

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has established that the Truckee River is an impaired waterway under the 303 Act, setting the Total Maximum Daily Loads for phosphorus, nitrogen, and dissolved solids. The river pollutants or stressors include temperature, total phosphorus, and turbidity. In 2006, Truckee River water quality was improved. In low water years, we often see this result. Less water carries fewer pollutants into the river. In our next wet year, we can expect to see increased levels of pollutants.¹

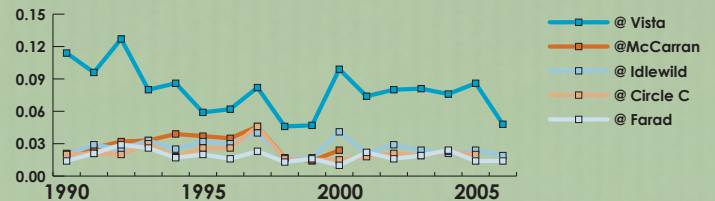
According to the state Department of Environmental Protection, water quality trading in Nevada is currently being implemented among the point sources that discharge to the Las Vegas Wash and

the Truckee River. Over the next couple of years, further opportunities for trading in the Truckee River watershed will be investigated. Before trading can occur, pollution sources must be accounted for and their behavior understood.²

Average yearly pollutants in Truckee River

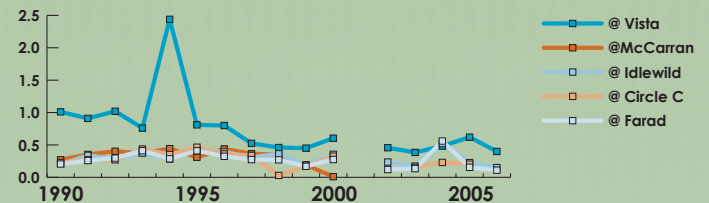
Total Phosphorus (mg/l)

Maximum annual average anti-degradation = 0.03mg/l @ Farad; .05 @ Idlewild & McCarran; beneficial use standard = 0.05 mg/l @ Vista. Average of 12 months data for P total mg/l.



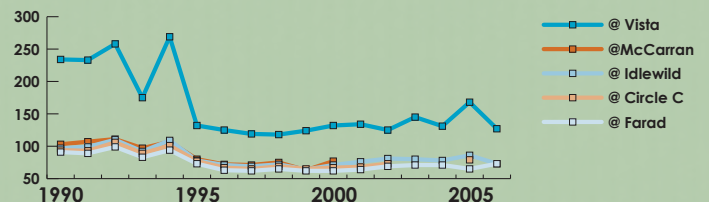
Total Nitrogen (mg/l)

Maximum annual average anti-degradation=0.03mg/l; annual average beneficial use at Vista=0.75 mg/l (nitrate standards for drinking water is 10 mg/l; nitrate is a component of the total nitrogen load) Average Nitrogen total mg/l

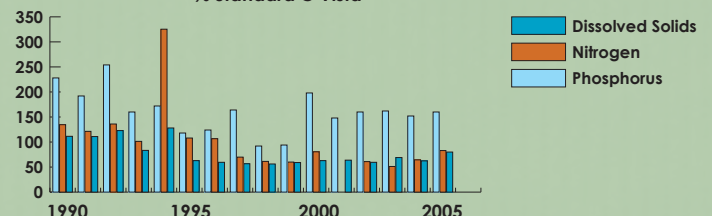


Total Dissolved Solids (mg/l)

Maximum annual average anti-degradation = 70 mg/l @ Farad; 80 mg/l @ Idlewild; 90 mg/l @ McCarran; and 210 mg/l @ Vista



% Standard @ Vista



*This data includes storm, flood, and drought years; 1998 data is for the first six months of 1998 only. For the Truckee River @ E. McCarran Bridge, site nutrient and TDS data analysis were discontinued near the end of 1999. Source: Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, Water Quality Planning, (702) 487-9311, <http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/truckeemap.html>

1. Source: <http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/t1.xls>

2. Source: <http://ndep.nv.gov/bwqp/poltrad.htm>

Water conservation

Using our limited water resources wisely is crucial with less than 7.5" of rainfall per year, where the bulk of water supplied goes to residential, summer outdoor watering uses. There is a reduction in annual use per connection during dry years, followed by an increased use per connection in non-dry years, according to July 2007 Truckee Meadows Water Authority Water Conservation Plan. According to TMT's December 2007 community survey of Washoe County residents, 38% reported watering on their assigned days; 23.8% reported having xeriscape landscaping; 11% have installed water saving plumbing (shower heads or toilets); while 5.4% reporting taking no measures to conserve water.

30. Open space access & connectivity

Miles of connected multi-use trails and acres of public land acquired as greenways or open space point to preservation of access to federal lands and open spaces for future generations.

Open Space

According to Washoe County's June 2007, Open Space and Natural Resource Plan³, Parks Inventory and Assessment, the County has adopted the following level of service standards for parks facilities:

- Neighborhood/community park (5–50 acres typical) 7 acres/1,000 persons
- Regional park (100 acre minimum size) 20 acres/1,000 persons

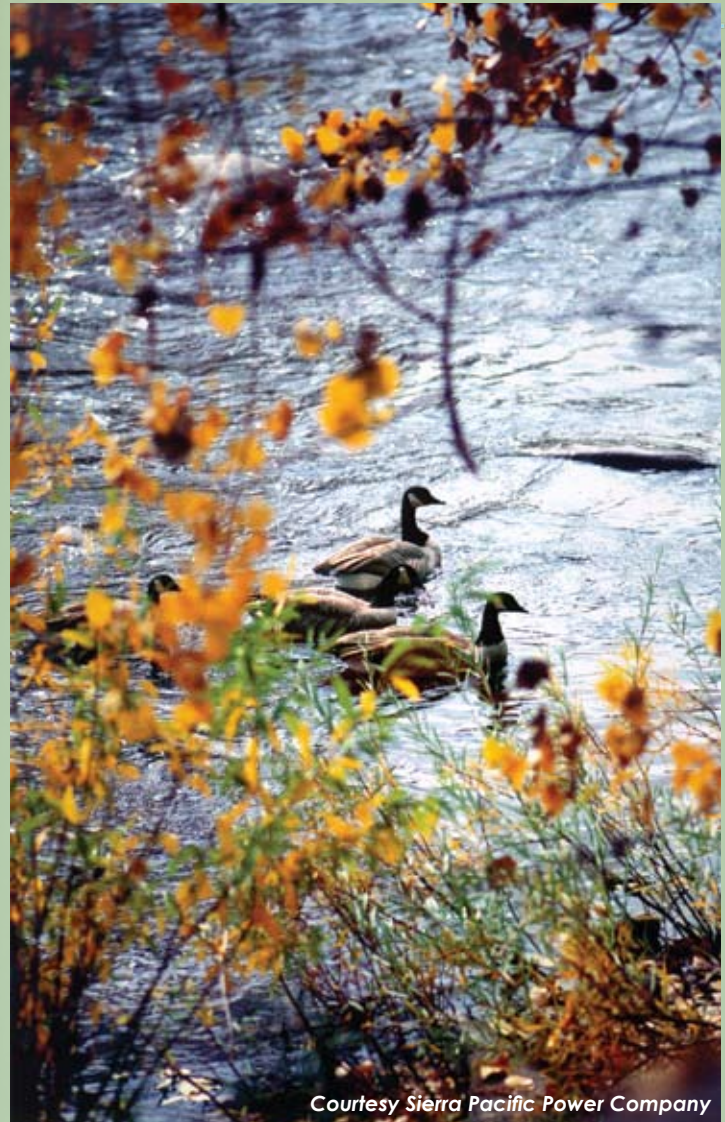
Counting parkland only (not open space, greenways, or special use facilities), the County's plan reported over 2,800 acres of parkland, plus the holdings of Reno and Sparks provide another 1,300 acres. With the County's 2004 population estimate, they concluded that the county and cities are together providing just under 11 acres of parkland per 1,000 persons — comparable to the level of service provided by other lower-density cities, including Denver, Phoenix (excluding two very large preserves from this city's total), Houston, Tampa, and Atlanta as measured by the Urban Land Institute, 2000. When each jurisdiction's open space and special use facilities are added, as well as the acres of Federal and state holdings, the County would far exceed most low-density cities in per capita open lands provided.

In 2006, the Washoe County Department of Regional Parks and Open Space conducted a survey as input to update district Master Plans.⁴ A total of 494 completed questionnaires were received, with representation from all of the 13 districts. Key open space findings included the following:

- 88% reported participating in at least 2-hours or more of

physical recreational activities per week — about twice the national average.

- 65% reported using a park or recreation facility at least once a week.
- 75% rated the preservation of open areas to protect natural resources and wildlife habitat as the top priority for future funding and projects; followed by 72% providing a high level of maintenance for existing facilities; 71% acquisition of parkland for passive recreation and trails; and 68% riparian restoration projects to improve flood control and 64% protect water quality.
- 48% indicated that acquisition of parkland for active recreation, including playgrounds and ball fields, should be a high priority for future funding.



Courtesy Sierra Pacific Power Company

3. Source: http://washoecounty.us/comdev/publications_maps_products/open_space/update.htm-color=blue&text_version=

4. Source: Washoe County Regional Parks and Open Space Park District Master Plan Survey Results, September 2006

Natural Environment

Results from Washoe County's survey thus suggest that potential acquisition and development of selected sites could fulfill open space resource protection values as well as provide for compatible recreation. The 14-year-old open space plan is currently in the process of a year-long update, including a more meaningful way to report on open space. Open space dedicated from the development process is currently 9,614 acres, according to staff in the Regional Open Space Program.

Regional parklands add beauty to the area if properly maintained, then encouraging new economic development and tourism. In 1997, Washoe County had one maintenance person for every 20 acres of park. National standards at that time called for no more than 12 acres of developed park per maintenance staff person.⁵ Two years ago that number grew to 50.86 acres, but has since dropped to 41.2 acres. Adopt-a-park programs, and partnerships with parks and trails organizations and volunteers have helped to maintain our highly rated regional parks. The following regional parks and open space objective were reported in the Washoe County, fiscal year 2007-08 budget.

| Washoe County Regional Parks And Open Space Objectives | | | | |
|--|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| | Fiscal Years | | | |
| | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08* |
| # Park acres maintained | | 975 | 983.5 | 1,030 |
| % Quality rating good or better | | | 81% | 90% |
| # Visitors | 3,160,000 | 2,955,197 | 2,836,613 | 3,000,000 |
| Maintenance FTE | | 19.17 | 23.2 | 25 |
| Parks & open space acreage available to users | | | | 8,000 |
| * Projected 2007-08 | | | | |

Miles of connected multi-use trails

The Reno Gazette-Journal has partnered with Washoe County and the US Forest Service to provide an on-line trail guide at www.rgj.com/directories/?directory=kbyg. The Truckee Meadows Trails Association also lists more information on these trails and others at www.truckeemeadowstrails.org/trailhead.htm. Limited data sources are currently available for miles of connected trails.

| Multi-Use Trails In The Truckee Meadows | | |
|---|------------------|---|
| Trail | Round Trip Miles | Difficulty Level |
| Crystal Mine | 1 | Moderate |
| Dry Pond | 2 | Moderate |
| Evans Canyon | 3.7 | Moderate |
| Huffaker Lookout | 1.81 | Easy |
| Hunter Creek Trail (Mt. Rose wilderness) | 5.4 | Moderate to strenuous primitive trail |
| Hunter Lake Road | 8 | Extremely difficult 4x4 and bicycle route; moderate to strenuous hiking |
| Jones/White Creek loop | 9.2 | Difficult |
| Keystone Canyon | 6 | Easy to moderate |
| Ophir Creek Trail | 7.5 | Mostly strenuous |
| Poeville | 13 | Moderate |
| Thomas Creek | 7.5 | Easy to moderate |
| Tom Cooke | 1 | Moderate to difficult |
| Truckee River bike path | 14 | Easy |
| White/Thomas Creek loop | 5 | Moderate to strenuous |
| Total miles of trails | 42.56 | |
| Source: http://www.rgj.com/directories/?directory=kbyg | | |



Courtesy William Maddock

5. TMT 1997 reference document to the Quality of Life report, March 23, 1998