

Questions for Monday, March 25 NPS Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Partner Support/Capacity

- **Is there partner support specifically for planning? And design?**

All designated partners will support the planning efforts in various capacities:

NSCOC—As with the Transformative Climate Communities (TCC) grant, the NSCOC can partner with NCSD to hold focus groups to understand the needs and preferences of residents for the park. They could also work with the NCSD to develop an online survey to gather information. The public meetings for the TCC planning grant were broader, focusing on several different areas. The focus groups or online survey would need to be specific to the park.

NSEDA—Will work with NCSD park planning efforts to create sustainable and aesthetically pleasing park designs that consider factors like water usage and native plant species.

MSM—Have prior experience with parkland design having worked with the Bureau of Land Management Barstow Field Office and the Mojave National Preserve on a park project for the Desert Discovery Center. Their team of local artists can work with the NCSD to develop design concepts for the parkland and trail improvements.

FFFG—Will lend their planning expertise on what they have learned in developing their 17 ½ acre Agricultural Learning Academy that teaches local youth about Agriculture, Horticulture, and Aquaponics in Newberry Springs, California. Working with local youth on a regular basis, they can solicit what these young people might want to have in a local parkland.

- **Is there a partner who could provide support/expertise in the area of implementation and operations/maintenance?**

NSCOC—The Chamber has been successful in implementing many of the action items from the SB County Community Action Guide for Newberry Springs and can support the NCSD in the implementation of the park plan. They can also help the NCSD research and apply for relevant grant programs offered by the state or federal government that support park development or improvement projects in underserved communities.

- **What role (if any) will the GM and/or the Secretary of NCSD have during this planning process?**

The GM will oversee the overall project and ensure that it is completed within the time frame allotted by the RTCA staff. Responsible for coordinating with the RTCA staff and other stakeholders. Provide updates, reports and requested documentation to RTCA, attend community engagement meetings and give a status update at monthly NCSD meetings.

The Secretary will provide administrative support to the project team.

- **Who is the professional community planner for the Civic Hub strategic plan? Does the Civic Hub include parkland? What is the potential to partner across initiatives?**

There is no professional community planner for the Civic Hub strategic plan. The plan was included in the TCC planning application for further engagement and a feasibility study.

- **How might San Bernardino County participate in parkland improvement planning?**

We would need to reach out to the SB County planning team to confirm, but ideas for them to participate include:

- a. The county's planning department might have resources, templates, or best practice guides for park development that the NCSD can utilize.
- b. The county might have demographic or needs assessment data pertinent to Newberry Springs that can inform park planning decisions.
- c. The county can ensure the Newberry Park plan aligns with any broader countywide park and recreation plans to create a cohesive network of green spaces.

Anticipated Results/Timeline

- **Have the anticipated results gone through a process of prioritization which might offer insight into what might be feasible within five years? What is their desired timeline for each phase of the planning process?**

No. This is a wish list compiled from some of the ideas generated at the public meetings held for the TCC planning grant. We envision the prioritization and feasibility to be finalized through a professional planning process and included in an implementation plan.

- **Are there funds secured for some of the build outs as described in 1.b or will you be seeking funding for all items mentioned?**

There are funds in the Park & Recreation general fund reserve account of nearly \$125,000. To use any of these funds for parkland improvements there would need to be a comprehensive park improvement plan with outlined priorities. The plan establishes a clear direction for the park's development over time, ensuring improvements align with a cohesive vision. By identifying needs and goals, the plan helps prioritize projects and allocate resources effectively within budget constraints. With the reserve fund and future grant funding, we hope to secure funding for all build outs identified.

- **How formal a plan is needed? Would a plan for parkland be readily funded for activation based on the success of the near miss grant request?**

Ideally NCSD would like technical assistance to create a detailed master plan that outlines the specific improvements, phasing of construction, budget estimates, and maintenance considerations. This would allow for TCC planning funding previously allocated for park planning to be shifted to the grant areas that needed improvement including partnership expansion and larger budgets for co-applicants (partners).

Past accomplishments

- **How do the applicants feel about the work produced by the CPP students, and would it be possible to see their deliverables? Are there elements of this work that could be tapped in pre-planning?**

NCSD is fully supportive of the work produced by the CPP students. They took their work and hosted a year-long program to complete a Civic Hub Strategic Plan. Can't be answered until NPS/RTCA team review. We are happy to send it for your review.

- **Will they be submitting for the grant again?**

NCSD will be submitting a TCC Round 6 Planning Grant application in hopes of moving what was previously allocated for parkland planning to the co-applicant's budget. This will give us the necessary points in the Capacity category for "strong & diverse partnerships".

Potential Role of NPS-RTCA

- **Would meeting facilitation and scheduling be another RTCA technical assistance request for the project?**

Yes. NCSD would want NPS-RTCA to facilitate and schedule public meetings for the engagement of collaborative partners and stakeholders who support the project.

- **In terms of public outreach goals, the different public outreach techniques listed in the project seem like a great variety of strategies – what would be the top three public outreach goals for the public?**

1. Hold public meetings early in the planning process to introduce the project, its goals, and potential options. Encourage questions and feedback.
2. Create dedicated web and social media pages (NCSD website & social media) to share project updates, timelines, and opportunities for input.
3. Distribute printed materials with project information and key dates in targeted areas such as the Post Office, Family Center, "The Barn" and CSD community center.

- **Is engagement with public land managers adjacent to proposed interpretive trail necessary?**

The final application was sent to the local BLM offices as well as the BLM National Partnership Coordinator on 3/8/24. If selected, we are hoping to work with both the Needles and Barstow FOs so that we can collaborate on the interpretive trail we hope to develop throughout our parkland to highlight our surrounding public lands. In particular our fabulous Mojave Trails National Monument.

3/25/24 NPS (National Park Services) Meeting notes

From NPS: Carlos Flores, Anna , Julie

Attending: Rose Beardshear, Paula Deel, Jane Brockhurst, Gwen Patrick- remote, Ronnie Shaw.

Carlos explained that this is the first window of 2 weeks of interviewing applicants and that he is the lead person who scopes the applications. Additional clarification is a two-way conversation.

- I. Expertise & Capacity
 - A. Specific to park planning and getting more partners- Jane explained. Paula shared partnering with Victor Valley Community College on the Native Seed project representing NSEDA (Newberry Springs Economic Development Association). Our NCSD is working on a grant to develop the park. FFFG (Foundation for Future Generations) Gwen told that her organization has had summer programs for youth, and through that program youth are recruited. They work closely with the School District for healthy lunch choices and are developing after school programs.

- B. NCSD (Newberry Community Services District) Director Mike Matson is the Park and Recreation spokesperson. He has spearheaded developing and implementing our kick ball tournaments for the past 2 years at our Annual Pistachio Festivals.
 - C. Role of Gm/Secretary-- The GM will oversee the overall project and ensure that it is completed within the time frame allotted by the RTCA staff. Responsible for coordinating with the RTCA staff and other stakeholders. Provide updates, reports and requested documentation to RTCA, attend community engagement meetings and give a status update at monthly NCSD meetings. The Secretary will provide administrative support to the project team.
 - D. Civic Hub- It was done with CPP(Cal Poly Pomona)quite a while back. Rose explained that a lot is going on in Newberry area. BNSF railroad is targeting Newberry to bring in a transfer hub for the cargo cars. The Civic Hub for now is on a phased wish list.
 - E. San Bernardino County ...Rose shared that Brian ? has helped with a letter of support. We would like to work with the Health Department and all County agencies to further Newberry Springs community to be more sustainable.
- II. Anticipated results –
- A. It would be nice to have a list to prioritize. The TCC grant was much broader and not park specific. We need your expertise. Timeline- develop concept-phase with technical support the sooner the better. 5 years is doable and our partnerships will grow. CPP would be welcomed to come back and help with the Park and trail. They listened to our rural requests and encouraged community outreach.

The NPS timeline is to notify applicants by mid-April or early May. Rose shared that if we don't get approval, we will still proceed with the project.