



City Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 6, 2022

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Doug Thornley, City Manager Approved Electronically

FROM: Jaime Schroeder, Director of Parks and Recreation

SUBJECT: Closure of Wingfield/Whitewater Park for Two Years during Arlington Avenue Bridge Replacement (2024-2026)

The RTC is in the planning phases of the Arlington Avenue Bridges project, which will replace both bridges at the Truckee River (bisecting Wingfield/Whitewater Park). This project will improve safety and flood conveyance in downtown Reno. As part of the environmental phase, a decision needs to be made regarding public access to Wingfield/Whitewater Park while the bridges will be under construction. This project is scheduled to begin construction in 2024 and expected to take up to two years to complete.

City staff have had many discussions with RTC staff on the plan for access to Wingfield/Whitewater Park while the construction project for the bridges is occurring. It is important to provide park access; however, public safety is the utmost priority, followed by a positive park user experience. While serious consideration was given to keeping a portion of Wingfield/Whitewater Park open for public access, I am recommending a full closure of the park due to significant safety concerns with, de-watering controls, heavy construction equipment next to park and river users, water-flow diversions of the Truckee River and various construction activities that would all have a negative effect on the park user experience, ability for access in the event of an emergency, and challenges with park maintenance. It is prudent to close Wingfield/Whitewater Park for up to two years in order to mitigate risk to our park users. Extended park closures for construction projects have occurred in the past to include City Plaza and portions of the Riverwalk for the Virginia Street Bridge and Fisherman's Park for the NDOT Spaghetti Bowl project.

Fortunately, our parks system is robust and park users will still have the opportunity to enjoy green space at the following nearby adjacent parks: Bicentennial Park, Barbara Bennet Park, and West Street Plaza.

Attached is an aerial overview showing Wingfield Park (including the Whitewater Park) and nearby options for park usage.

Attachment A | Wingfield Park/Whitewater Park Closure and Access to Nearby Parks

Wingfield Park & Whitewater Park in red circle will be closed for up to two years during the construction of the Arlington Bridges.

Nearby parks circled in yellow will remain open.

