

Lake Tahoe, Washington

Lake Tahoe is a nice medium sized city with lots of families and good schools. The local economy is doing fairly well. The city budget is in decent shape, but there's not anything left for additional investments.

It's been 20 years since the city passed a bond for parks and recreation and the fields, playgrounds, and facilities are showing their age. There's been a good deal of development over the last decade and many neighborhoods don't have good access to parks or recreation facilities.

Increasingly, there have been calls to fix, improve and expand parks and recreation in Lake Tahoe. The Mayor and Council know there's not enough money in the budget. Three years ago, the city put a local bond measure on the ballot for the city libraries and received 55% support – short of the 60% needed for passage. Many believed the plan was put on the ballot without adequate community input.

The only realistic option to improve Lake Tahoe parks and recreation is a local ballot measure but the Mayor and Council are skeptical. So they've decided it's time to hear from the public. How strongly do citizens really feel? How broad is the interest? What parks and facilities do they care about most? What else do they want?

The goal is to build a plan with the community over the next year for the voters to consider the following November.

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Facts – Getting Everyone on the Same Page

What sorts of facts - information, finances, comparative data, background, history etc. -- would be helpful to present to citizens so everyone feels like they're on the same page? What would citizens like to know in order to have an informed conversation about the difficult choices ahead?

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Listen & Learn

What questions need to be asked? What do elected officials need to know from citizens before making an informed decision? What kind of parks and recreation system do they want? Preferred Locations? Amenities? Costs? etc.

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