

Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority

Strategic Plan

FY26-28



FY26-28 Strategic Plan

Mission

Attract overnight visitors to Reno Tahoe while supporting the sustainable growth of our communities.

Vision

To be the preferred outdoor, gaming and event destination.



FY26-28 Strategic Goals

#1 Urban Core Revitalization

Be a strong advocate to make a difference in our urban centers - creating vibrant spaces for visitors and the community to live, work, and play.

#2 Venue Activation & Event Attraction

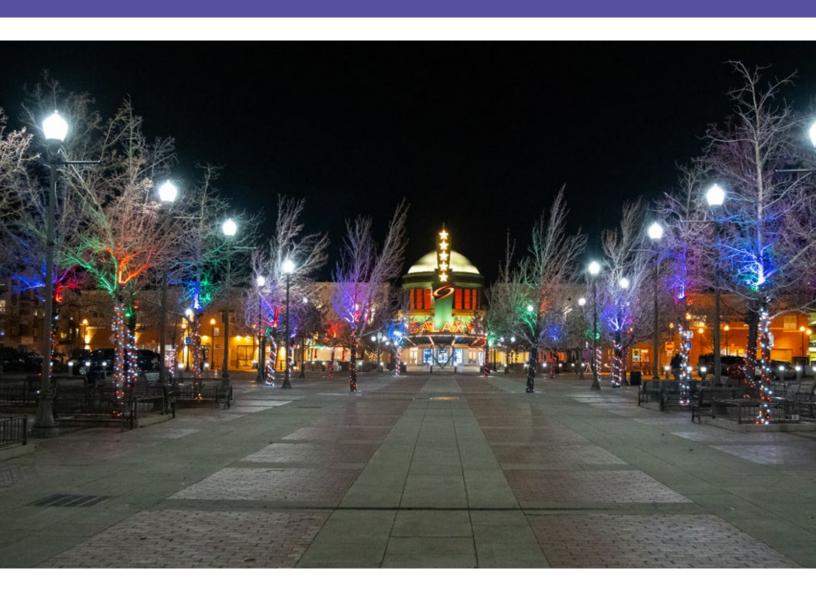
Reno Tahoe is known for hosting diverse events, including concerts and major festivals, to maximize visitor engagement.

#3 Visitor Access

Visitors have easy access to local attractions and venues throughout Reno Tahoe.

#4 Organization Sustainability & Performance

Visit Reno Tahoe is known for operational excellence, transparency, and community leadership.



FY 26-28 Strategic Plan

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Foreword

Our Challenge

No Apologies. Just Ambition.

Reno Tahoe has never been about following the well-worn path. We've always carved our own way forward, shaped by ambition, resilience, and a deep connection to the place where mountains meet desert and tradition meets progress. The next three years come with more questions than answers in an ever-changing national tourism environment, providing an opportunity to find new solutions for reinvention, revitalization, and the necessary collaboration required to achieve sustained success.

The destination has reached a new inflection point. Budget constraints are tightening. Tourism infrastructure is due for an overhaul. Urban centers need revitalization. Transportation is a challenge. And we've lost signature events that once defined our cultural calendar. But those aren't signs of decline—they're signals for reinvention.

We're stepping into a pivotal moment with fresh leadership and the opportunity to rewrite the script. Shift to a more diverse, experience-driven economy. To tap into the power of our natural assets—the Truckee River, high desert trails, and wide-open skies—and to bring them to life for visitors and locals alike.

We'll confront these challenges head-on: workforce, event generation, and inconsistencies in perception that keep Reno Tahoe from being fully seen for what it is—a destination on the edge of transformation. And we'll do it with urgency, clarity, and a shared vision.

Because Reno Tahoe isn't content with being a supporting act in someone else's show. We've got our own stage, our own voice, and our own story to tell. A story that balances grit with innovation, legacy with momentum, and risk with reward.

This plan is more than a strategic outline—it's our commitment to lead with purpose, adapt with agility, and build with courage.

We're not here to wait for opportunity. We're here to create it.

Core Purpose & Values

What We Do

The Reno-Sparks Convention & Visitors Authority (RSCVA) was established in 1959 as the Washoe County Fair and Recreation Board. Branded as Visit Reno Tahoe, the organization acts as a marketing arm for the county to promote convention and tourism business.

Unlike many convention and visitors bureaus across the country, Visit Reno Tahoe operates several venues designed to draw out-of-town visitors. In addition, Visit Reno Tahoe is mandated by the Nevada State Legislature (NRS 244A), and is not a partnership-based organization. As a quasi-governmental entity, Visit Reno Tahoe also functions as a collection agency, ensuring that room taxes are distributed to the appropriate governmental organizations benefiting visitors and residents of Reno Tahoe.

By the Numbers











MISSION

What is our core purpose?

Attract overnight visitors to Reno Tahoe while supporting the sustainable growth of our communities.

VALUES

How will we behave?

Collaboration

We seek out internal and external perspectives, emphasizing an inclusive approach.

Integrity

We always keep our word and do the right thing.

Transparency

We share information to create open and honest communication.

Ambition

We put in the hard work to enhance the quality of life for visitors and all Northern Nevada residents.

People

We invest in the diverse experience and expertise of individuals who positively impact the communities we serve.

Current State Summary

Where are we today?

Visit Reno Tahoe stands on solid ground with a resilient tourism model, strong venue management expertise, and a unique regional identity built on western heritage and outdoor recreation. Its reputation for promoting and supporting specialized and large-scale events like Hot August Nights and the Reno Rodeo is a proven driver of tourism. Reno Tahoe benefits from close proximity to California's economic engine and features diverse tourism assets, including skiing, mountain biking, historical attractions, and high-quality dining and entertainment. Community engagement and trends favoring domestic travel also position Reno Tahoe well for continued recovery and growth.

However, the region is simultaneously navigating a set of compounding challenges: aging and underutilized infrastructure, regional competition and an unknown global economic future. These issues—paired with gaps in regional transportation, rising costs for visitors, and an enduring commitment to collaboration—highlight an immediate need for revitalization and diversification to remain competitive.

Key Trends & Implications

Investment Momentum in Hospitality & Attractions

Major private investments are poised to add capacity and elevate the destination.

Implications:

- Future-ready infrastructure is key to meaningful visitation.
- Without complementary public infrastructure, private gains may stall overall progress.

- Align public-private strategy to ensure event infrastructure, transportation, and wayfinding upgrades keep pace.
- Use new developments to reposition urban centers as central experience hubs.
- Develop joint programming (e.g., events, activations) with existing and emerging venues.

Rise of Lifestyle-Integrated Travelers

A new generation of travelers—remote workers, digital nomads, and bleisure (business + leisure) visitors—seek destinations that blend work, play, and purpose. They prioritize experiences, connectivity, wellness, and authenticity over traditional packaged tourism.

Implications:

- Demand continues to shift from passive entertainment to interactive, unique experiences.
- Shorter but more frequent trips; focus on convenience, walkability, and "livable" destinations.
- These travelers influence brand perception through social media and peer recommendations.

Strategic Opportunities:

- Develop experience-rich downtown districts and hybrid work-friendly venues.
- Promote walkable, Wi-Fi enabled corridors and coworking-friendly amenities.
- Strengthen digital marketing that highlights lifestyle alignment, wellness, and culture.

Rise in Domestic Travel & Regional Migration

Travel has skewed toward domestic and drive-market visitors, with increased migration from California bringing more visitors and business relocations.

Implications:

- Proximity to California remains a major advantage—but also brings higher visitor expectations.
- Regional pride and heritage must be matched with urban amenities and hospitality and infrastructure upgrades.

- Capitalize on drive-market momentum with bundled outdoor, dining, and cultural experiences.
- Reinvest in local icons and historic sites to align with visitor nostalgia and community pride.
- Create new events and experiences to entice new and repeat visitors.

Economic Headwinds & Public Budget Constraints

Local, state, and federal economic uncertainty may limit revenue growth and visitor spend.

Implications:

- Shorter stays and reduced discretionary spending may impact midweek and shoulder-season visitation.
- Fiscal uncertainty complicates long-term planning and public investment.

Strategic Opportunities:

- Bolster sales & marketing efforts to grow market share.
- Focus on emerging and legacy programming that drives room nights.

Shift Toward Sustainable & Wellness-Oriented Travel

Environmental awareness is reshaping tourism behavior. Travelers prioritize eco-conscious destinations, healthy experiences, and wellness integrations.

Implications:

- Visit Reno Tahoe must redefine its narrative and embrace sustainability credibly.
- Aging infrastructure, limited green spaces and transportation options hinder perception.

- Integrate wellness tourism offerings: trails, spas, healthy dining, hot springs, retreats.
- Improve downtown greenery, riverfront access, and shuttle systems to reduce carbon footprint.
- Collaborate with DMOs to define and promote regional eco-branding.

The Downtown Imperative

The presentation of "downtown" is crucial to initial visitor impressions, brand equity, and convention appeal.

Implications:

- First impressions from downtown shape the entire destination experience.
- Competing cities with revitalized urban cores are drawing key market share in events and leisure.

Strategic Opportunities:

- Support a Downtown Master Plan with a focus on beautification, safety, and activation.
- Leverage redevelopment as a symbol of transformation.
- Engage with agencies activating riverfront improvements, lighting, wayfinding, and event plazas.

Technology & Trip Customization

Tech-savvy travelers rely on digital planning tools, Al-powered recommendations, and personalization.

Implications:

- The user journey—from inspiration to booking to travel—has moved almost entirely online.
- Missed opportunities if Visit Reno Tahoe's digital presence is fragmented or outdated.

- Continue to be an industry leader in the digital ecosystem with personalized itineraries and AI tools for advanced trip planning.
- Use first-party data to deliver hyper-personalized content and re-engagement campaigns.

Heritage & Event Legacy

Stakeholders want to build on Reno Tahoe's heritage—like events such as Reno Rodeo, Hot August Nights, Great Reno Balloon Race—not constantly reinvent.

Implications:

- Event strategy must preserve identity while expanding relevance.
- Signature events are a critical tool for "peaking the peaks" and storytelling.

- Reinforce Reno Tahoe's identity through refreshed legacy events and new culturally aligned programming.
- Experiment with hybrid events (concerts + festivals + wellness) to reach wider demos.
- Align event strategy with Visit Reno Tahoe's mission.



Big, Bold Vision

OUR VISION

Our aspiration and desired future state (the impact we will have)

To be the preferred outdoor, gaming and event destination.

STRATEGIC GOALS

What are the key areas of focus to achieve our vision?

We will achieve our vision by focusing on the following four areas:

- 1. Urban Core Revitalization
- 2. Venue Activation & Event Attraction
- 3. Visitor Mobility & Access
- 4. Organizational Sustainability & Performance Scorecard



Strategic Goal Detail



#1 Urban Core Revitalization

Be a strong advocate to make a difference in our urban centers creating vibrant spaces for visitors and the community to live, work, and play.

What Success Will Look Like:

- Community collaboration to make strides in improving the Downtown District and Truckee River corridor.
- Clean, vibrant Reno & Sparks downtowns that integrate the river as a central feature, offering recreational and aesthetic value.
- An urban core that provides a mix of outdoor activities, gaming, dining, and cultural experiences for a memorable quest experience.

Our Role:

Drive use of the Reno Events Center and National Bowling Stadium for events.

Advocate for transformation projects with regional partners.

Support visitation by marketing assets, providing parking solutions, and elevating the Visitor Center experience.

Visitor Concerns & Strategies

Health & Public Safety

To improve the sense of security and enhance the overall visitor experience, increase the visible security presence downtown and improve walkability to encourage more consistent foot traffic.

Blighted Buildings

Ensure key corridors like Virginia Street are active and welcoming—not boarded up or vacant. Considerations include redeveloping these areas and possibly transitioning parts of downtown into pedestrian-only zones to improve accessibility and vibrancy.

River Cleanliness & Access

Enhancing the Truckee River as a key amenity includes improving public access points, increasing usability (such as trails and gathering areas), and exploring its potential as a sustainable transportation corridor for the region.

Parking Limitations

Addressing parking constraints for both residents and visitors involves increasing parking availability downtown. We have a key opportunity to fully activate and utilize the National Bowling Stadium garage to support tourism and events.

FY26-28 Roadmap

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	WHERE WE ARE TODAY	NEXT YEAR	WHERE WE WANT TO BE
Advocate for an activated, vibrant downtown	47% of visitors go downtown 31 Events held in Downtown Reno Eight events held in Victorian Square	Support more events in our downtown region that impact visitation Engage with associations doing the work in downtown	60% of visitors go downtown More pedestrians and foot traffic in a thriving downtown Community collaboration to make strides in improving the Downtown District and river corridor
Fully utilize the river as a tourism asset	Positive feedback from visitors on the river and river experience The Truckee River and other natural assets are not fully leveraged for tourism	Advocate for river infrastructure improvements High effort in promoting the river as a key asset of our region	A clean, vibrant city center that integrates the river as a central feature, offering recreational and aesthetic value
Make it easier for visitors to experience Reno Tahoe	Consumer-facing website that highlights all events taking place Visitors come to the region with specific experiences in mind, or specific regions explored Good Value for Money is rated below attribute importance among visitor perceptions	Explore using the NBS for a downtown parking solution Event support and promotion at Greater Nevada Field Promoting the Visitor Center at Visit Reno Tahoe venues More promotion of regional amenities Activating public spaces for events – from Idlewild to Wingfield and Rancho San Rafael	Visitors combine multiple experiences into their stays and visits Visitors perceive Reno Tahoe as a good value An urban center that provides a mix of outdoor activities, gaming, and cultural experiences, ensuring diverse guest experiences





#2 Venue Activation & Event Attraction

Reno Tahoe is known for hosting diverse events, including concerts and major festivals, to maximize visitor engagement.

What Success Will Look Like:

- Modern, upgraded venues that attract high-profile events.
- Venues are fully utilized, balancing midweek and seasonal lulls.
- Pursuing opportunities to drive new festivals, concerts, and events throughout the region.

Our Role:

Drive event bookings in all Visit Reno Tahoe venues & throughout the destination.

Advocate for infrastructure improvements near events venues.

parking garage

Venue Activation Strategy

VENUE	OPPORTUNITY TO ACTIVATE	INVESTMENTS NEEDED
Reno-Sparks Livestock Events Center Actively pursue the equine and livestock market, via CapEx partnership with the State, to defend against new regional competitors	 State of Nevada investment in capital expenditures Host State Fair (FY27) Host local 4H events (NJLS) Pursue equine and livestock events 	 Grandstands, restrooms, suites Resurface parking lot Install HVAC Upgrade stall conditions Upgraded Wi-Fi
Reno Events Center Focus on event development and expanded entertainment offerings	 Leverage partnerships with festival organizations to host concerts during major downtown events Pursue tradeshows and sporting events 	 Upgraded sound system Purchase/install lighting, staging, backdrop
Reno-Sparks Convention Center Aggressively pursue track market and traditional meetings segments: Association, SMERF, convention, and sports	 Regional and national track meets (increase size and reach) Host Conference & NCAA championships Sell naming rights and advertising Improve standards with food & beverage provider Continue art program Provide statistics to commercial developers on convention center event impact to nearby businesses 	 Install digital signage Install digital keys Maintain GBAC certification Procure portable bleachers (track) Refurbish carpet Complete parking lot paving Wi-Fi renovation Refresh exterior appearance
National Bowling Stadium Pursue opportunities in addition to traditional usage, further activating the Kingpin Club, Theater and Stadium Club	 Lease the museum Host annual youth events Capitalize on national sporting events to drive social and group event bookings Cross-sell bowling lane availability during downtown activity and events 	 Replace carpet in theater and Hall of Fame Install blinds and windows in Stadium Club Install lockers Install gate and ticketing system in

FY26-28 Roadmap

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	WHERE WE ARE TODAY	NEXT YEAR	WHERE WE WANT TO BE
Enhance RSLEC venue attractiveness through facility updates	71 events hosted in FY24 Forecasted 75 events hosted FY25 <10% operating budget allocated annually to venue improvements (\$750k-1M)	Work with the State on capital improvement budget Venue Sales Team and Director of Equine Events and Sports will pursue more equine & livestock events	Greater mix of equine and livestock events Mitigate impacts of available and potential new competition [GSR, Fallon, Winnemucca arenas] Improved Wi-Fi Resurface parking lot Install HVAC
Activate REC with concerts and other events	43 events hosted in FY24 Forecasted 30 events in FY25 Upgraded suites	Underwrite 6 concerts bought by Visit Reno Tahoe Host 35 events in FY2026 with 15 being ticketed events Improved sound system Purchase staging Improved event lighting Complete dressing room remodel with furniture Install VIP Bar in suite concourse	Enhanced concert equipment package Purchase LED backdrop Attract the right artists, genres, and night of the week One added festival downtown
Maintain & moderately expand RSCC track and convention business	Hosting 217 events in FY24 Forecasted 210 events in FY25 Improved Wi-Fi 20 LED signs	Host 235 events in FY26 Additional bleachers for track and group rental Improve internet coverage throughout all the venue Electronic key system New concourse carpet Improved F&B experience	An advanced, clean, sustainable convention center with the appropriate technology, accessibility amenities, security, and safety Parking Lot C is repaved Refresh exterior appearance

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	WHERE WE ARE TODAY	NEXT YEAR	WHERE WE WANT TO BE
Creatively activate the National Bowling Stadium	74 events hosted in FY24 Forecasted 125 events hosted FY25 <10% operating budget allocated annually to facilities improvements (\$750k-1M)	Host 70 events, including USBC Open Championships Lease Museum Carpet replaced in theater and Hall of Fame Install windows and blinds in Stadium Club Open NBS for ancillary activity surrounding NCVA & wrestling tournaments Host events in Stadium Club, Theater and Squad Room	Increase room night bookings with bowling events Activate the theater for local events Sell more multi-events per day Install lockers Install a gate and ticketing system to open parking garage daily
Attract regional events, targeting arts & culture, food & beverage, sports, and music	Expanding the Event Development Strategy with dedicated efforts to identify new festivals and events for the region Building relationships with festival producers looking to expand their event portfolio for future years Showcased the destination to eight event producers with hosted site tours Partnered with Greater Nevada Field to host the First Banana Ball Series in May 2025.	Partner with a Music Festival Producer to create a large-scale music festival (30K+ attendees) during FY26/27 year Build upon the event booking initiative for the REC through partnerships with existing festivals, with the goal of increasing awareness and attendance of these events Secure a Running Race Series for the Spring of 2026 Build upon the success of the Banana Ball Series by making it an annual event for the region	Established Annual Large Scale Music Festival showcasing Reno as music destination Create a citywide festival that offers arts & culture, curated food and beverage offerings, lifestyle and music spread across multiple downtown hotels and venues



#3 Visitor Access

Visitors have easy access to local attractions and venues throughout Reno Tahoe.

What Success Will Look Like:

- Maintained and enhanced air lift, with a focus on routes from regional hubs.
- Walkable spaces in heavily trafficked areas.
- Increased options for visitors to practice sustainable travel in the region.

Our Role:

Support partnerships in air service development with legacy carriers.

Advocate for increased shared transportation ridership, using our marketing reach.

Advocate for tourism infrastructure in high-traffic areas.

Key Partners

Several regional partners play pivotal roles in supporting Reno Tahoe's tourism infrastructure and visitor experience.

- The **Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority** serves as the primary lead on air service development, working to expand and optimize flight routes to better connect the region with key markets.
- The **Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)** is responsible for implementing walkability and transportation-related projects that improve accessibility for both visitors and residents, including enhancements to pedestrian corridors and transit systems.
- Washoe County plays a collaborative role in managing regional connectivity, linking lake communities and helping to bridge the visitor experience across jurisdictions.

FY26-28 Roadmap

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	WHERE WE ARE TODAY	NEXT YEAR	WHERE WE WANT TO BE
Support air service development	Airlift is one of the Top 20 in the country for comparable size destinations Visit Reno Tahoe air service fund largely used for marketing support to preserve current routes Collaboration with RTAA, EDAWN, RASC, and stakeholders to identify routes of priority	Maintain air service fund, prioritizing sales, tourism, and media promotions Active outreach and engagement with airlines, including HQ visits with RTAA, EDAWN, and stakeholders Host RTX (FAMs) with EDAWN/RTAA	Maintain active partnership in air service development to support existing routes and create new air lift – Focus is improving frequency of routes Grow and cultivate relationships with legacy airlines
Enable sustainable access to and from the Lake	57% of visitors travel to the Lake ~53,000 views on website shuttle page	Increase awareness around transportation options to the Lake Increase shuttle ridership by 5%	Increased ridership to Lake Tahoe to encourage sustainable travel Provide more options for public Lake transportation at a lower cost
Be the voice of the visitor in getting around the community	Limited walkability in the Convention Center District Downtown walkability experience is not seamless	Brand activations at airport to enhance sense of arrival Actively work with RTC to identify transportation project opportunities	Improved walkability in downtown, in around the convention center district, and urban areas Community partners are activated in support of infrastructure improvements surrounding the RSCC





#4 Organization Sustainability & Performance

Visit Reno Tahoe is known for operational excellence, transparency, and community leadership.

What Success Will Look Like:

- A cohesive team culture, avoiding overextension of staff.
- Team stays focused on core mission activities without distraction.
- Regional stakeholders are actively engaged and bought into the success of the region.
- Maintained fiscal stewardship of public funds.

Our Role:

Drive development, capabilities, and satisfaction of Visit Reno Tahoe staff.

Drive responsible financial programming.

Convene and engage regional stakeholders in contributing to the success of the region.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES	WHERE WE ARE TODAY	NEXT YEAR	WHERE WE WANT TO BE
Support employee engagement	96% of employees feel happy to work at Visit Reno Tahoe New leadership in place to update employee policies and programs	Launch HR newsletter Enhance formal onboarding process Launch Intranet Expand rewards and recognition program	Maintain employee satisfaction benchmarks
Advance organizational capabilities	Leadership team in place at major facilities (NBS and REC) Talented individuals aligned with Visit Reno Tahoe's mission	Launch Learning Management System Conduct Antiharassment/ Management Skills & Employee Law / Workplace and Business Conduct / Ethics / etc. trainings Complete Succession Planning to identify future leaders Conduct cross-training and job shadowing program Enhance employee performance reviews	Proactive employee recruitment and development to get the right talent in the right positions

Performance Scorecard

KPI	FY25	FY26 TARGET	FY27 TARGET	FY28 TARGET
Cash Room Nights	3,153,963	3,138,287	3,232,435	3,329,408
Taxable Room Revenue	\$459,344,860	\$441,665,462	\$454,665,462	\$468,562,887
Average Daily Rate	\$145.64	\$140.43	\$144.64	\$148.98
Direct Visitor Spend (Calendar Year)	\$3.35 Billion	+3%	+3%	+3%
Group Room Nights	284,563	282,523	290,999	299,729
Tourism Room Nights	696,699	687,223	700,967	714,986
Number of Events at Venues	405	415	430	449
Venues Client Satisfaction	91.7%	92%	92.5%	93%
Enhanced Engaged Website Sessions	707,436	733,080	755,072	777,724
Paid Media Engagement Rate	17.1%	10%	10%	10%
Earned Media Placements	275	215	225	235
Community Engagement Activities	48	30	35	40
Resident Favorability of Tourism	60%	63%	65%	67%
Training Completed	100%	100%	100%	100%
Employee Satisfaction Rate	96%	96%	96%	96%
Workplace Happiness Metrics Response Rate	75%	75%	80%	80%

Board Members

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