



**Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**For more information**

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**Reno, NV, June, 5th, 2020** —As the Truckee Meadows has grown in size, density, and diversity, the role of parks in community health, recreation, and culture has become even more crucial to our neighborhoods' identity and livability.

We recognize that not everyone has the privilege to get outside safely and without fear. In May, we witnessed a black outdoorsperson, Christian Cooper, be unfairly targeted as he was birding in New York City's Central Park. This act of injustice reminds us that inequity exists in our open spaces, creating unnecessary barriers between nature and people of color.

For the Parks Foundation, our mission to "protect and enhance our communities' livability through public engagement, education, and the sustainability of our parks, open spaces, and trails" will never be fulfilled until systemic racism is addressed and people of color are safe to explore and enjoy the parks we all hold dear.

As stewards of our open spaces, we at the Parks Foundation will work to break down barriers preventing access to our parks and outdoor programming, making our open spaces truly open to all, especially those victims of systemic racism, injustice, and inequity. The outdoors are a necessity, not a luxury, and all people, especially people of color, should be welcomed safely and equally.

We strive to empower and encourage all people to lead active, healthy lives through awareness, appreciation, and stewardship of our parks. By continuing our efforts toward equal outdoor access, we hope to continue closing the gap for those vulnerable populations unable to adventure safely in our open spaces.

The biggest little community has shown that it will not continue tolerating the history of systemic and institutionalized racism against marginalized and underrepresented communities. We hear you, and we stand with you.

We are all in a position to lead.

We all have work to do.

For the sake of the community we serve, we must all do better.

Click the links below to see how you can learn more, do better, and support those working to make our parks and open spaces safe, accessible, and equal.

[“Why Race Matters When We Talk About the Environment” an interview with Dr. Robert Bullard \(Greenpeace\)](#)

[“‘Black Birders Week’ Promotes Diversity and Takes On Racism in the Outdoors” \(Audubon Society\)](#)

[“Black Environmentalists Talk About Climate and Anti-Racism” \(NY Times\)](#)

[“Changing the Face of National Parks” \(National Geographic\)](#)

[“115 Ways to Donate in Support of Black Lives and Communities of Color” \(NY Magazine\)](#)

[“An Interview with the Founders of Black Lives Matter” \(Ted Talk\)](#)