

# OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## STAFF REPORT

**MEETING DATE:** December 16, 2013

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3C

**STAFF:** Ann Bollinger, Natural Resource Specialist *AB*

**REQUEST:** For Possible Action: To recommend to the Board of Supervisors a name for the open space acquisition APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92 west of Deer Run Road bridge.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** On November 2, 2013, the Nevada Appeal published a short article notifying the public that Carson City was receiving proposals for the naming of two open space properties (Exhibit A). Staff also posted a notice on the Parks and Recreation Department Facebook page (viewed by 267 people, as of December 2, 2013). The deadline set by our department for receiving proposals was 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 27. No names were submitted as a result of this outreach. Rather, one name was submitted by OSAC Member Evans and one name was submitted by staff. The submitted names are listed in alphabetical order (Exhibit B):

- Morgan Mill Fremont Gove
- Morgan Mill Open Space

After the Committee takes action to name the property, our department will forward that recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. Staff is anticipating an agenda item at the Board of Supervisors meeting in January 2014.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** I move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors that the name for open space acquisition APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92 west of Deer Run Road bridge should be called \_\_\_\_\_.

## BRIEFLY

Nov 2, 2013

### Input sought to name two open spaces

The Carson City Open Space program seeks written proposals to help in the official naming of two open spaces located along the Carson River in the vicinity of Deer Run Road on the east side of Carson City.

Applications, available online at <http://www.carson.org/parksandrec>, must be mailed or delivered to the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department, Open Space Division, 3303 Butti

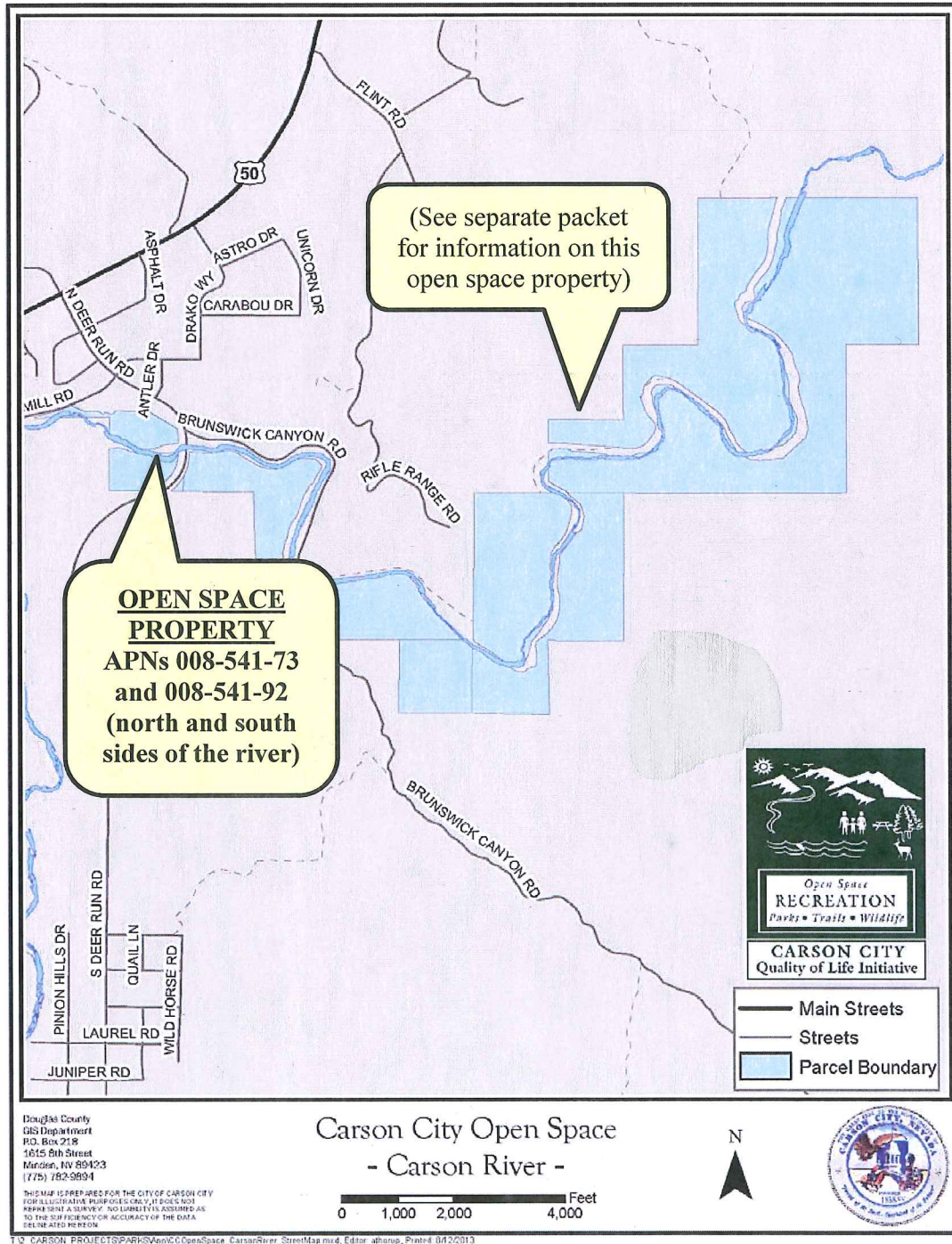
Way, Building 9, Carson City, Nevada 89701, by 5 p.m. on Nov. 27.

Proposals will be presented to the Carson City Open Space Advisory Committee at its meeting at 6 p.m. Dec. 16 in the Sierra Room at the Carson City Community Center. For more information, call 775-887-2262.

## Carson City Open Space

APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, west of Deer Run Road bridge

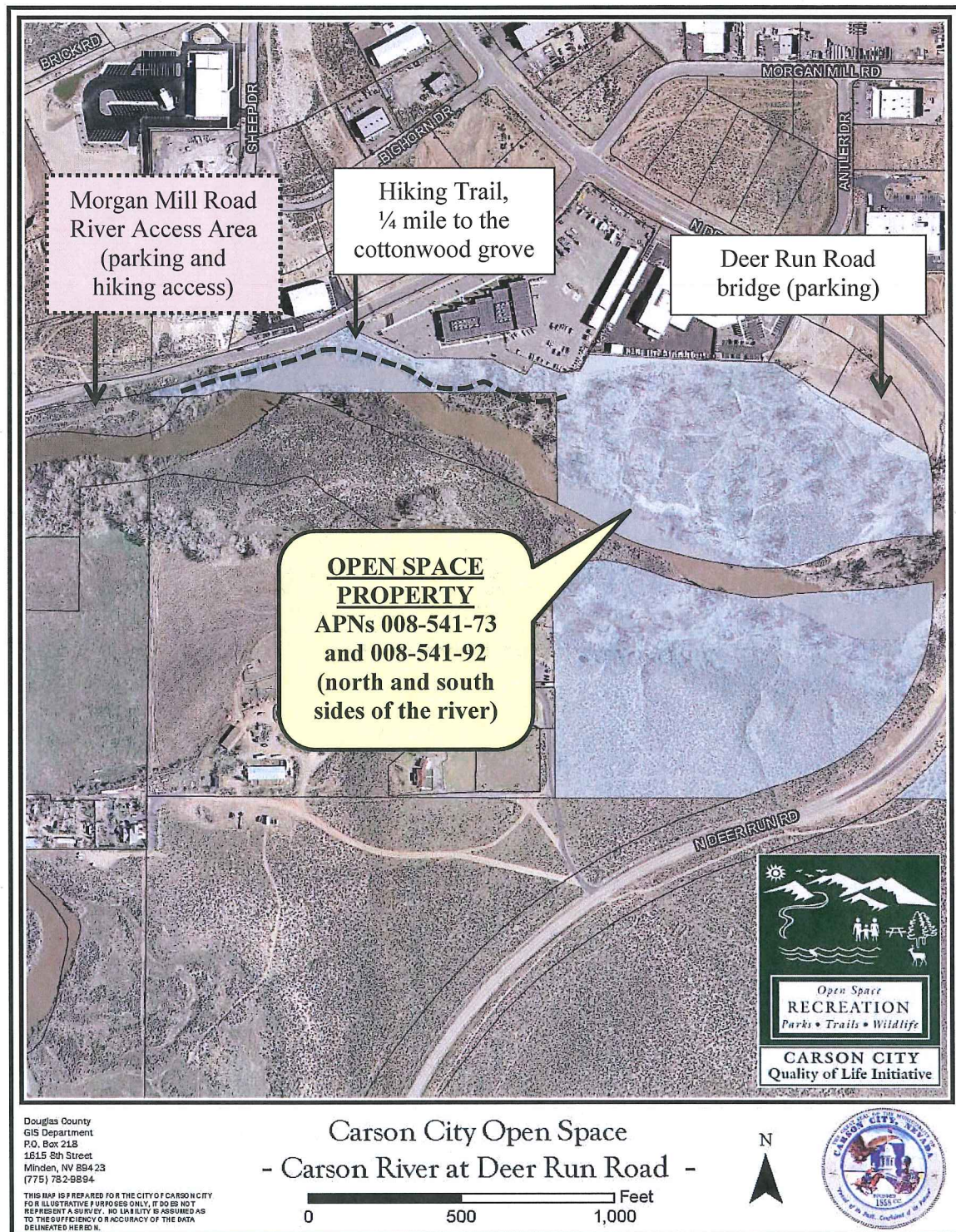
32 acres



Carson City Open Space

APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, west of Deer Run Road bridge





*Carson City Open Space  
APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, west of Deer Run Road bridge*

## **Location**

There are two parcels under consideration within this one nomination. The subject property(ies) is located on the east side of Carson City, along the Carson River. The property is bordered to the east by Deer Run Road; to the north by federal offices (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Geological Survey) and vacant industrial parcels; to the west by the Carson City Morgan Mill Road River Access Area; and to the south by public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

## **Access**

From the Deer Run Road bridge, the subject property can be seen on the northwest and southwest corners. The large cottonwood grove on the northwest corner is the most accessible and popular area. To access this parcel, visitors can park at the Carson City Morgan Mill Road River Access Area and hike for ¼ mile towards the east on a new single-track trail leading through the willows to the cottonwood grove. Alternatively, visitors may park in the vacant parcels on Deer Run Road and hike down the service road. Numerous unmarked trails (old roads) traverse the parcel.

The parcel located on the southwest corner of the bridge currently does not offer road or trail access.

Neither parcel is open to public vehicular access.

## **Background**

Purchase Date: January 2011  
Purchased From: John C. Serpa / Sierra Clouds LLC  
Funding Source: 1) Carson City Open Space, Quality of Life Sales and Use Tax Funds  
2) Nevada Division of State Lands, Question 1 Program

## **Physical Characteristics**

**Historic / Cultural:** Beginning just upriver, this section of the Carson River played a very prominent role during the mining days of the Comstock Era. After ore was mined in Virginia City, it was transferred to any of the great number of stamp mills located along the river. The Carson River provided a water source which was necessary in the ore extraction process. This property(ies) is within the vicinity of the historic Morgan Mill, but no artifacts seem to remain.

*The Morgan Mill, afterwards known as the Yellow Jacket, on the Carson River, at Empire City, was built as a custom-mill, with 20 stamps, by James Morgan in 1864. It was sold to the Yellow Jacket Mining Company in 1865, and enlarged to 40 stamps, 20 of which weighed 1050 pounds each. In 1871, it passed into the hands of the Nevada Mill Company who worked ores for this company until 1875, when it was purchased by the Pacific Mill Company. (Amalgamation at the Comstock Lode, Nevada. 1890)*



As a consequence of the ore extraction process and widespread occurrence of mercury, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared much of this area as a federally listed Superfund site in August 1990. Referred to as the Carson River Mercury Superfund Site, the primary concerns reside in contaminated soils and waterways at or near former mill sites. Along the Carson River, the site extends from the Empire Ranch Golf Course in Carson City and continues downstream for 50 miles to the Lahontan Valley. This particular site has not been tested by the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department for contaminants.

Landform / scenic quality: Located on the north and south sides of the Carson River, both parcels lie within the floodway and the floodplain. The northern parcel is fairly level. The southern parcel contains a slope and an upper bench above the floodplain. There is not much variation in the elevation profile, generally ranging from 4,600' to 4,640'.

Plant communities: Riparian species are the dominant vegetation type. Mature cottonwoods are common throughout the parcels whereas coyote willow is common along the river's edge and Wood's rose is found in a few pockets. Sagebrush is located in the upper, drier areas.

Water Resources: The Carson River flows between the two subject parcels.

Wildlife: The Carson River and diverse plant communities should provide habitat for many species of wildlife. The Carson River Master Plan, dated 1996, identifies fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds throughout the river corridor, but not specific to this property.

Photo 1: Overview of the property, looking east from Morgan Mill Road. From the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area, visitors can hike for ¼ mile along a single-track trail to the cottonwoods.

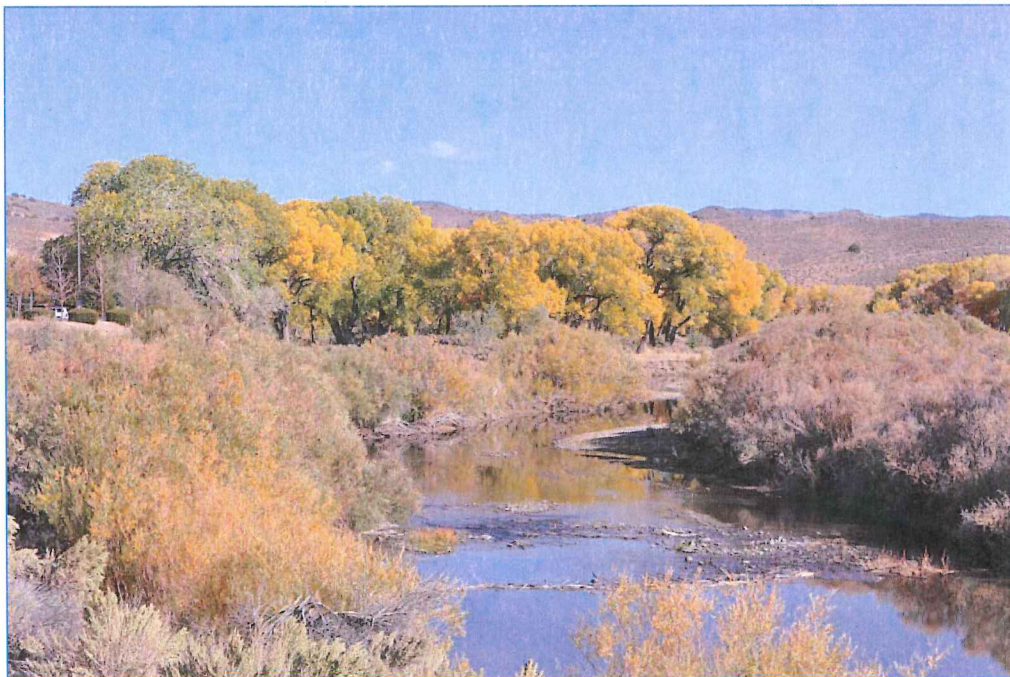




Photo 2: An alternative access is from Deer Run Road. Visitors may park in the vacant industrial parcels and hike down the service road.



Photo 3: From the Deer Run Road bridge, one parcel can be seen towards the southwest. This parcel currently does not offer road or trail access.



# Exhibit B



## Carson City Parks and Recreation Department Open Space Division



### Open Space Naming Application

Date: November 2, 2013

Submitted By: Margie Evans

Address: 2640 Woodcrest Lane; Carson City, NV 89701

Telephone: 775-720-0162

Email: meg4bio@sbcglobal.net

Open Space Property / Location: Open Space Property #2

Name Classification (Landscape, Geographic or Topographic Feature, Indigenous Plants or Wildlife, Cultural or Historical Heritage, Individual or Family Name): Cultural/Historical Heritage, Indigenous Plants

Proposed Name: Morgan Mill Fremont Grove

Supportive Information for Proposed Name: Cottonwood galleries are disappearing along the Carson River corridor and there are only two or three historical groves remaining. While it is possible/likely that the cottonwood grove at the property in question is not of historical value, its existence is a unique and desirable asset that should be recognized and celebrated for its value and distinctive beauty. The Morgan Stamp Mill was within the vicinity and recognizing these two rich assets, one plant and one historic, seems a fitting choice for the site.





**Carson City Parks and Recreation Department**  
**Open Space Division**



**Open Space Naming Application**

**Date:** November 12, 2013

**Submitted By:** Ann Bollinger

**Address:** 3303 Butti Way, Bldg #9, Carson City, NV 89701

**Telephone:** (775) 283-7337

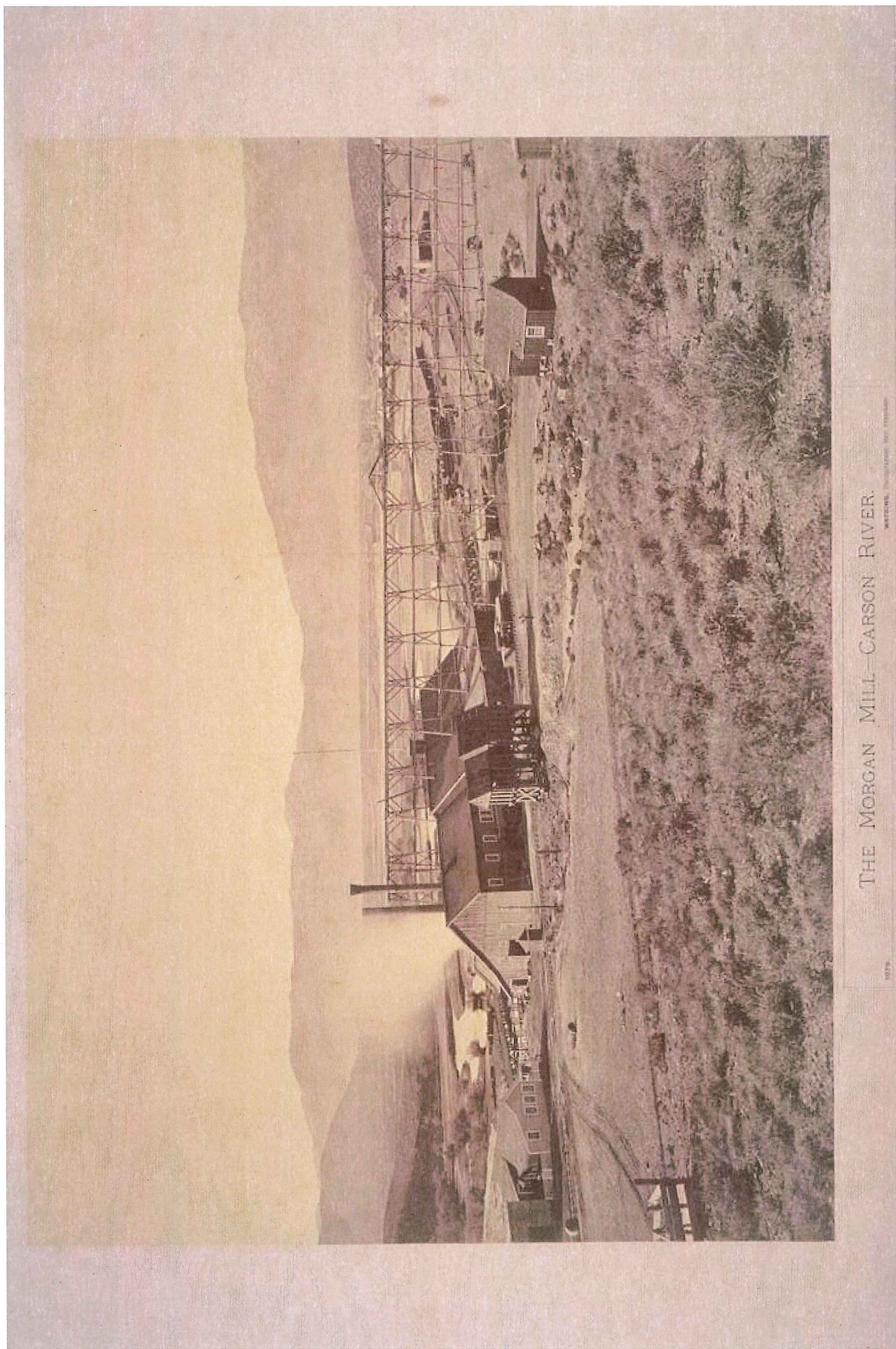
**Email:** abollinger@carson.org

**Open Space Property / Location:** APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, west of the Deer Run Road bridge

**Name Classification (Landscape, Geographic or Topographic Feature, Indigenous Plants or Wildlife, Cultural or Historical Heritage, Individual or Family Name):** historical heritage

**Proposed Name:** Morgan Mill Open Space

**Supportive Information for Proposed Name:** The north parcel lies within the vicinity of the historic Morgan Mill, a stamp mill used in the 1800s during the Comstock mining era. Just to the west of the subject property lies the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area (trailhead facility). An "Open Space" name would clearly define and differentiate the properties as well as provide a familiarity to our residents regarding the Open Space Program.

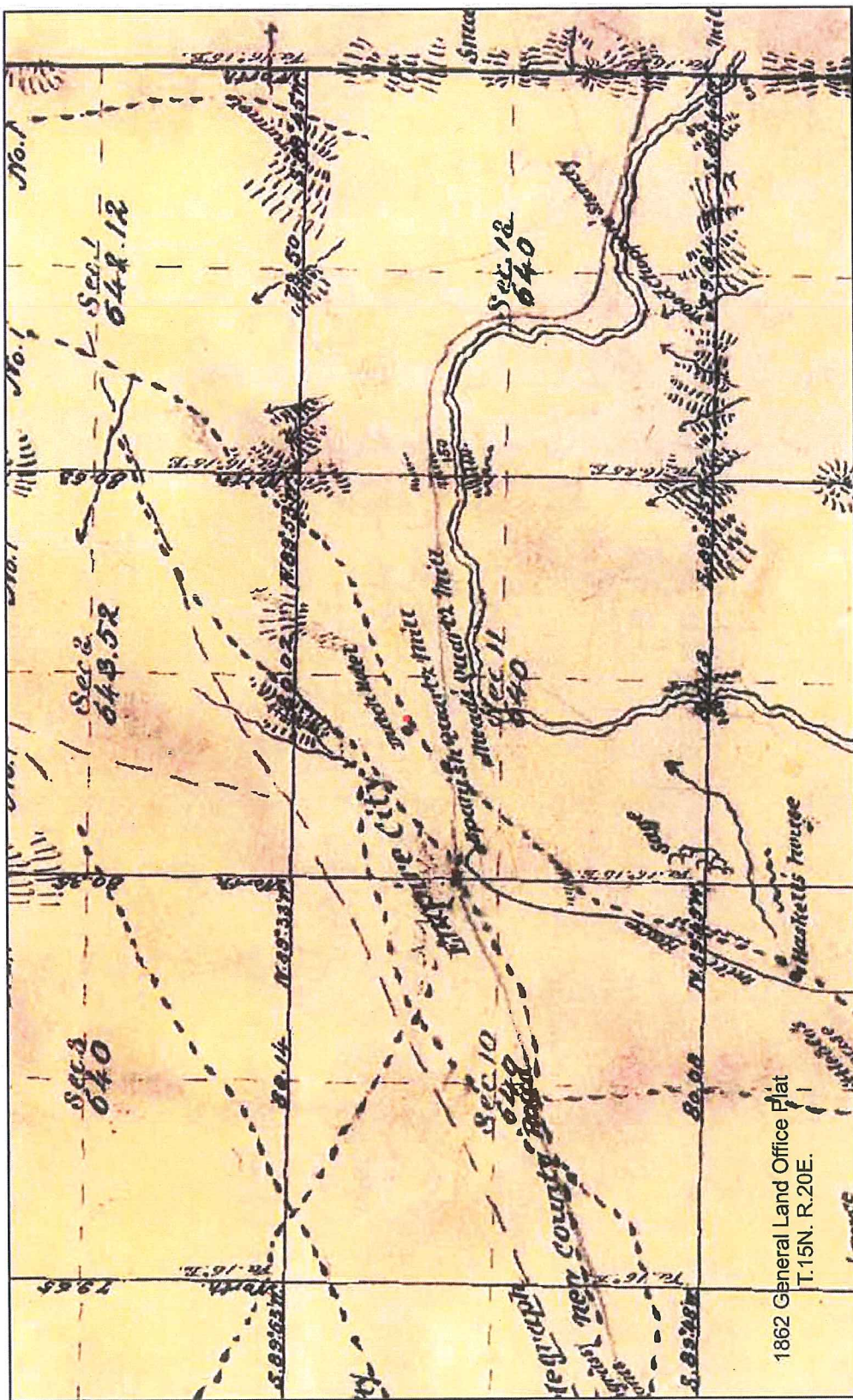


THE MORGAN MILL—CARSON RIVER.

1079

WATKINS, CARSON, AND TRESTLE





Morgan Mill Road Culvert on 1862 GLO Plat.





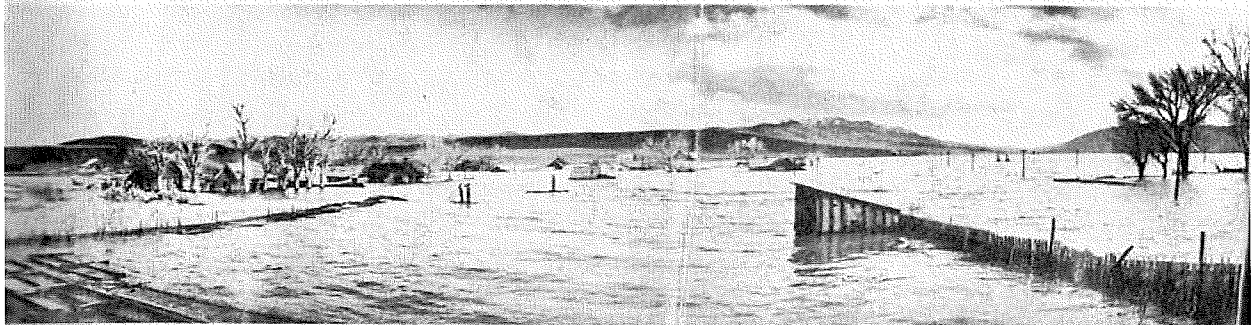


NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE DAVIS COLLECTION

Three views of Empire taken during the flood of 1907.



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE DAVIS COLLECTION



NEVADA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, THE DAVIS COLLECTION

Figure 2. Empire Floods from Dangberg (1975:19)