

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: February 24, 2014

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3E

STAFF: Juan F. Guzman, Open Space Manager

REQUEST: **For Possible Action:** To recommend to the Board of Supervisors a work program outline for the year 2014.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The information below summarizes and organizes projects and other tasks being conducted in order to carry out the functions and responsibilities of the Open Space Program, as outlined by the provision of Chapter 13.06 of the Carson City Municipal Code. The information is organized into four main categories: 1) Management activities, 2) Capital improvement projects, 3) Planning activities, and 4) Land transaction activities. This work program outline will be used by staff as a precursor for the preparation of the budget and to provide an opportunity for the committee and Board of Supervisors to discuss and request information and provide direction on the wide range of projects we may work on in the future.

The last page of this report summarizes the properties acquired through the Question-18 Open Space Program and in City ownership. In the Horsecreek meadow, there is a partial interest through a conservation easement.

Programmatic, as used in the table below, means that the substantial majority of the cost is absorbed by staff's daily routine work and existing budget line items.

1. MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Volunteer opportunities / activities	<p><u>Programmatic:</u></p> <p>Our three ambassador volunteers are ready to start the 2014 tour. Two of the volunteers will work the west side. A new (3rd) ambassador would like to concentrate in the Prison Hill area. We also need to recruit for more volunteer primarily for the Carson River area since Paul and Jeanine Schmidt are no longer with us.</p> <p>Muscle-Powered will assist us with trail planning, construction, and trail maintenance. Their crew leaders have received CPR and First Aid training through the Fire Department. The Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail work will continue. The Great Basin Institute will provide training on trail construction techniques on our lands and help with the Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail.</p>
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Volunteer opportunities / activities (continued)	<p>The Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch will assist with Silver Saddle Ranch. We will continue our partnership with Troop 342 and other Scouts in order to facilitate their projects.</p> <p>Our partnerships for clean-up activities with the Pine Nut Mountains Trail Association, the Kiwanis and BLM will continue. The land transfers with BLM will result in additional work at Prison Hill, Ambrose and the Silver Saddle Ranch.</p> <p>The Sierra Nevada College Environmental Program has incorporated our lands into their classroom.</p>
Fuels reduction projects	<p><u>Programmatic:</u> Fuels reduction projects on the west side will continue with the grant assistance from the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). The projects include sheep grazing on annual grasses, hand and mechanical treatments, chemical application, and reseeding efforts. We will collaborate with the Fire Department's efforts to manage fuels at the wildland-urban interface around town. The City has executed a cooperative agreement with NDF for fire suppression assistance and land rehabilitation.</p>
Noxious weed control activities	<p>We will continue to collaborate with the Carson City Weed Coalition, city staff, and private contractor(s) towards the implementation of necessary treatments.</p>
Carson River Canyon Open Space	<p>We will provide for cleanup activities, gates, signs, and safety measures for users. Create a presence through volunteers and staff. As part of the work for the management plan, staff will hold a public hearing as requested by the Board of Supervisors to address the historic uses such as motorized recreation, target shooting, and camping.</p>
Vehicle Access and/or Recreation	<p>Based on the Unified Pathways Master Plan (UPMP), identify roads / trails on city lands where off-road is permitted. Work with the federal agencies towards improved signage and information for the public. Provide for signage, fencing, and improvements to the Prison Hill motorized use area. After the BLM transfers are completed, identify and improve parking areas at the north end of Prison Hill and East Silver Saddle Ranch. Rehabilitation areas as feasible.</p>

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

V&T Trail right-of-way, north of Combs Canyon Road	<p>The project is in progress. Along the State Lands segment, the survey and map have been completed. The next action is to develop a lease. In addition, we must obtain easements from private owners along the route. We have worked on a lease with NDOT to extend a single track, non-motorized trail to the Lakeview Subdivision. The Eagle Valley Children Home anticipates honoring Art Hannifin on a porting of the trail. A trail loop is also being considered within the Cancer Treatment Center lands.</p>
Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail	<p>Efforts to construct segments within Carson City and USFS lands will continue this spring/summer in partnership with Muscle-Powered, the Great Basin Institute, and volunteers. Staff will apply for grants to reduce the cost of a bridge at Ash Creek and work with Muscled Powered towards the installation of a pedestrian bridge on USFS lands at North Kings Canyon. Signage will be incorporated into access points as part of grants requests.</p>
Waterfall Trail	<p>We will finish the upper trail loop through the use of volunteers and crews from Great Basin Institute. The USFS initiated the process to approve a crossing.</p>

Eagle Valley Creek Crossing and Trail Extension	Carson City will begin the design phase. Construction is anticipated in 2014 but may be delayed due to a busy city-wide construction schedule. The project is funded by a SNPLMA-Parks, Trails and Natural Areas Grant for \$252,700.
Buzzy's Ranch	The rock structure re-roofing was not accomplished in 2013. It will continue to be a project for 2014.
Ash Canyon Road	We will maintain the road from the water tanks to the west and utilize best management practices to alleviate erosion. NDEP Nonpoint Pollution grants will assist with funding.

3. PLANNING ACTIVITIES / REPORTS

Annual reports to the Board of Supervisors	To be completed upon OSAC review and approval.
Ash Canyon to Kings Canyon Trail (Also see construction component under Capital Improvements)	Muscle-Powered and staff will work on future routes and linkages to the Tahoe Rim Trail and to Douglas County.
Buzzy's Ranch	Staff is working with Ducks Unlimited to participate in a grant request for wetlands enhancements and irrigation improvements. The grant was approved for 2014 and is pending Congress budget appropriations.
Federal agency plans and project reviews	BLM Resource Management Plan Update: Staff participates as a cooperating agency on the update of the Resource Management Plan.
Management Plan for the Carson River Area	The Management Plan will include Prison Hill, Silver Saddle Ranch, and Ambrose Carson River Natural Area as required by the conservation easement with BLM. All of the open space acquisitions and parks along the river corridor will also be considered in the plan.
Nevada Stateline-to-Stateline Bikeway Project	<p>The second segment of the South Demonstration Project, a one-mile paved path from Nevada Beach to Round Hill Pines, in Douglas County was constructed in 2013.</p> <p>On the North Demonstration Project, from Incline Village to Sand Harbor State Park, the Environmental Assessment should be released for public review in February / March 2014.</p> <p>In Carson City's political jurisdiction, the segment from Sand Harbor State Park to Spooner Summit is under consideration by the Incline Village General Improvement District and coordination with their new effluent pipeline project. Staff will continue to attend stakeholder meetings.</p>

4. LAND TRANSACTIONS

Acquisition Activities	On August 16, 2012 the Board of Supervisors adopted Resolution 2012-R-27 directing staff and the Open Space Advisory Committee to suspend efforts on property acquisition for a period of two years and emphasized the active management of existing properties in the Open Space Program. The resolution is subject to a review and a possible extension.
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Benna-Marshall (Upper Ash Canyon)	The Benna-Marshall property consists of 45.5 acres in the Carson Range, adjacent to the Open Space / Forest Legacy Acquisition and the Lake Tahoe Backcountry / Nevada State Park. The Board of Supervisors has instituted a two-year suspension period on acquisitions. However, the Nevada Land Trust has nominated the property for a grant. If successful, the Nevada Land Trust anticipates a donation to Carson City.
Collard conservation easement (Kings Canyon Road)	On hold by proponents due to depressed economy. The Board of Supervisors has instituted a two-year suspension period on acquisitions.
Lompa Lane wetlands	The Lompa Lane wetlands consists of 31 acres and is under the present ownership of Dwight Millard and Jim Bawden. Staff to develop agreements to facilitate the donation. The work for this transaction has been delayed due to other more urgent priorities. Staff did not work on this item during 2013. This project is considered a lower priority.
Schulz conservation easement (also known as Woods Ranch)	NRCS grant funding was not approved - awaiting other opportunities for funding. The Board of Supervisors has instituted a two-year suspension period on acquisitions.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Move to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for staff to continue work as presented with acknowledgment that the primary activity of the staff relates to the management of lands as opposed to new acquisitions of property.

Carson City Parks and Recreation Department - Open Space acquisitions

Updated: January 21, 2014

Carson City Ownership / Property Name	Acres	Date Acquired	Carson City Question 18	Grants	Grant Funding Source	Purchase Price	Cost Per Acre
West of Hwy 395 / Carson Street							
Horsecreek	374.91	May 2005	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,000,000	State of Nevada Question 1	\$ 2,300,000	\$ 6,135
Horsecreek conservation easement	175.33	Mar 2009	\$ 503,653	\$ 596,347	State of Nevada Question 1	\$ 1,100,000	\$ 6,274
Hutchinson	40.00	Dec 2006	\$ 100,000	\$ 300,000	State of Nevada Question 1	\$ 400,000	\$ 10,000
Joost	20.25	Nov 2012	\$ 390,000	--	--	\$ 390,000	\$ 19,259
PH Casey Preserve	77.01	Mar 2008	donation	--	--	\$ -	\$ -
Potter	20.83	Oct 2013	\$ 225,000	--	--	\$ 225,000	\$ 10,802
Wilson	111.28	Jan 2009	\$ 146,480	\$ 439,440	Forest Legacy	\$ 585,920	\$ 5,265
Open Space Acquisitions	819.61		\$ 2,665,133	\$ 2,335,787		\$ 5,000,920	\$ 6,102
+ Lands Bill (USFS Exchange) - approx.	962.44	Sep 2011			Transfer		
= Sub-Total	1,782.05						

East of Hwy 395 / Carson Street							
Andersen	86.00	Aug 2007	\$ 1,750,000	\$ 1,750,000	State of Nevada Question 1	\$ 3,500,000	\$ 40,698
Bently	497.70	Jan 2012	\$ 876,796	\$ 513,900	SNPLMA	\$ 1,390,696	\$ 2,794
Fulstone wetlands	8.62	Aug 2001	donation	--	--	\$ -	\$ -
Golden Eagle Open Space	19.28	Feb 2007	\$ 170,930	\$ 129,070	State of Nevada Question 1	\$ 300,000	\$ 15,560
Goni Canyon - 50 year open space protection	40.00		donation	--	--	\$ -	\$ -
Jarrard	368.78	May 2010	\$ 931,048	\$ 2,793,000	State of Nevada Question 1	\$ 3,724,048	\$ 10,098
Lompa wetlands	17.62	Aug 2001	donation	--	--	\$ -	\$ -
Mexican Dam Open Space	64.31	Mar 2008	\$ 1,650,000	--	--	\$ 1,650,000	\$ 25,657
Moffat Open Space	17.80	Nov 2000	\$ 327,600	--	--	\$ 327,600	\$ 18,404
Serpa	405.57	Jan 2011	\$ 2,065,775	\$ 1,075,000	State of Nevada Question 1	\$ 3,140,775	\$ 7,744
Vidler / Hells Bells property	39.02	Nov 2010	donation	--	--	\$ -	\$ -
Open Space Acquisitions	1,564.70		\$ 7,772,149	\$ 6,260,970		\$ 14,033,119	\$ 8,969
+ Lands Bill (BLM Exchange) - approx.	3,589.05	Pending			Transfer		
= Sub-Total	5,153.75						

Grand Totals							
Open Space Acquisitions	2,384.31		\$ 10,437,282	\$ 8,596,757		\$ 19,034,039	\$ 7,983
Lands Bill	4,551.49						
Total Acres	6,935.80						