

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: June 15, 2015

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3B

STAFF: Richard Wilkinson, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

REQUEST: **For Discussion and Possible Action:** To recommend that staff develop a proposal identifying trailhead improvements on the north end of Prison Hill as identified in the Unified Pathways Master Plan, in preparation for a grant application to be submitted next year to the Recreational Trails Program.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Staff is seeking input from the Committee on potential improvements to the north end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area. Identified in the Unified Pathways Master Plan is the development of a trailhead with parking. In preparation of the land conveyance, staff has been working with BLM to install signage and place rocks blocking off vehicle access per the Conservation Easement. Carson City Public Works has completed drainage work including minor excavation of the proposed parking area. This drainage work should improve the drainage off of Carson River Road and help shed water off of the parking lot. The minor excavation work removed berms that were not allowing the proper drainage of the parking lot and this will improve moving the water to the catch basin at the corner of 5th Street and Carson River Road. To further manage vehicle access, specifically by dirt bikes, and to define the parking area, staff will install split rail fencing within the next few weeks. Included in the fencing project is a swing gate which will allow for emergency access. There will be three pass-through sections for non-motorized access including one equestrian gate.

Due to the current work being conducted and the potential of using these costs towards match-funding on the a grant, staff is seeking input from the Committee whether to pursue further funding for improvements to the area. The Recreational Trails Program allows match-funding up to 18 months prior to the grant submittal. The grant details are below:

PROJECT CATEGORIES - Category 2 - Non-motorized for diverse use.

A project primarily intended to benefit more than one mode of non-motorized recreational trail use such as: walking, bicycling, and skating; both pedestrian and equestrian use; and pedestrian use in summer and cross-country ski use in winter.

PERMISSIBLE USES

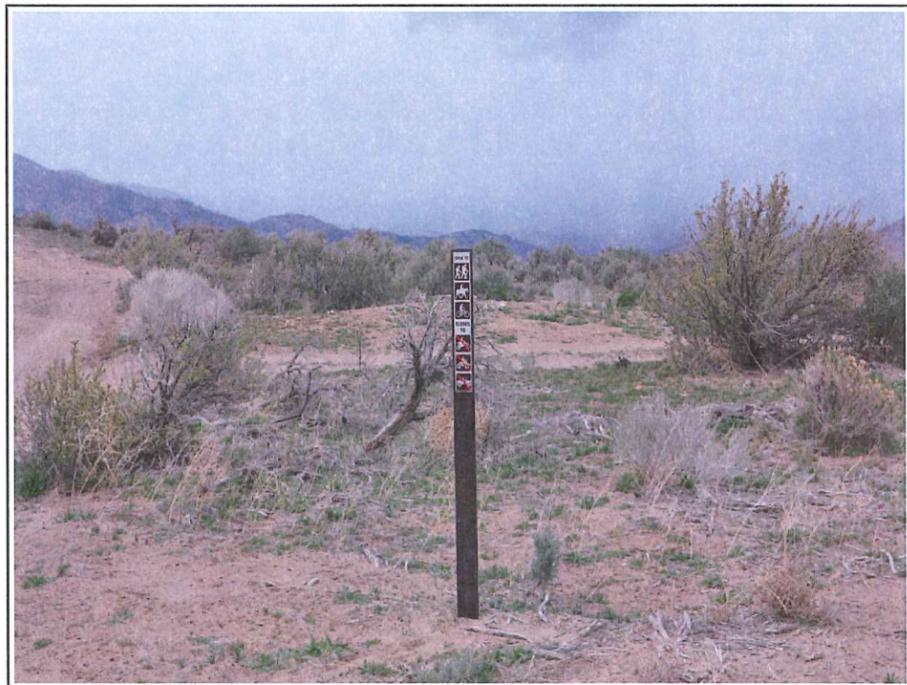
According to RTP Legislation: 23 U.S.C. 206: A grant recipient may use moneys received from the Rec Trails Program to:

1. Provide for trail related educational programs;
 2. Purchase trail building tools: only non-profit citizen volunteer organizations are eligible to purchase trail building tools. They must be in conjunction with current trail projects (don't have to be RTP funded projects) and must be inventoried and reported to State Parks annually for five years after receipt from a grant;
 3. Develop urban trail linkages near homes and workplaces; community gardens with trail components;
 4. Maintain existing recreational trails, including the grooming and maintenance of trails across snow;
 5. Restore areas damaged by usage of recreational trails and backcountry terrain;
 6. Develop trailside and trailhead facilities;
 7. Provide features that facilitate the access and use of trails by persons with disabilities;
 8. Acquire easements for trails, or for trail corridors;
 9. Acquire fee simple title to property from a willing seller, when the objective of the acquisition cannot be accomplished by acquisition of an easement or by other means;
 10. Construct new trails and signage;
 11. Maintenance of trails, sign replacement etc. that have not been funded within twenty-five (25) years of current application;
 12. Construction of new trails crossing federal lands if the construction is approved by the administering agency of the State and the Federal agency charged with management of all impacted lands. Sponsor must include NEPA decision document and support letter in the grant application;
 13. Landscaping and trailhead facilities are eligible; however, landscaping should be a relatively small portion of an overall project;
 14. Utilities that are directly related to the trail project are eligible such as lighting, drinking fountains, horse washing stations, toilets, electric, irrigation etc.
- Grant is reimbursable only and must have funding in place.
 - Non-motorized match is 25% of the total grant fence work will qualify for match.
 - The area must remain open to the public for 99 years.
 - The improvements need to be maintained for 25 years.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to recommend that staff develop a proposal identifying trailhead improvements on the north end of Prison Hill as identified in the Unified Pathways Master Plan, in preparation for a grant application to be submitted next year to the Recreational Trails Program.

North End of Prison Hill

Recreational Trails Program



6/9/2015

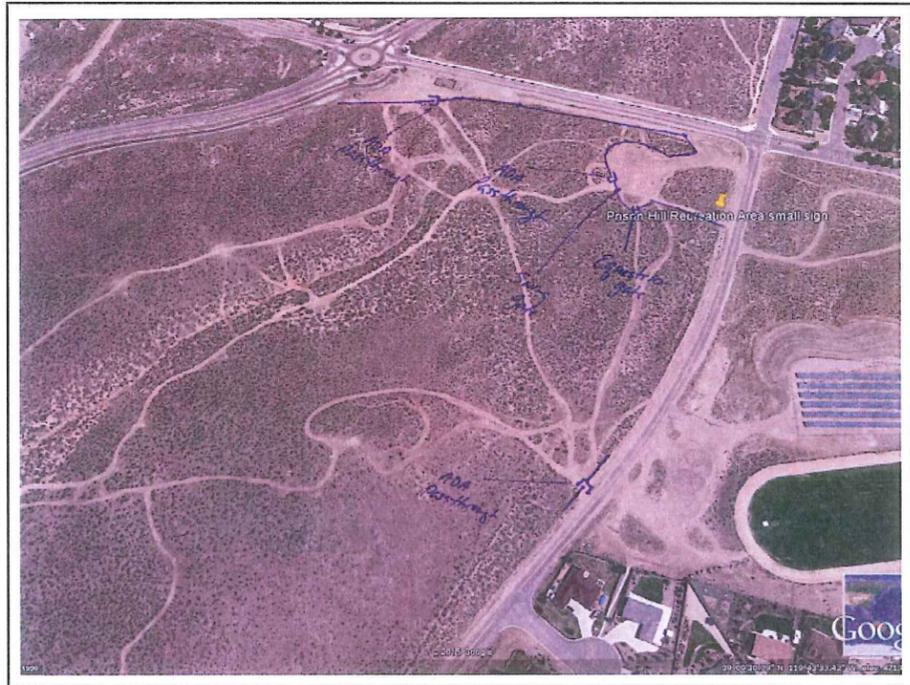


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Wheelchair Accessible Gates

Web sites with designs that allow wheelchair access while restricting access by ATVs and motorcycles are listed near the end of this tech tip. The best Web site was that of Scottish Natural Heritage, an organization in the United Kingdom (UK). They have a series of drawings for gate designs that meet accessibility requirements in the UK.

The Scottish Natural Heritage gates are smaller than those required for accessibility in the United States. We increased the opening dimensions to meet Federal requirements in the United States. The timber kissing gate (Figure 1) and the chicane (Figure 2) have been modified to meet the Federal requirements. In addition, a modified kissing gate design was developed to be used for existing fence openings (Figure 3).



Figure 2. Chicane for Wheelchair Accessibility
click image for technical drawing

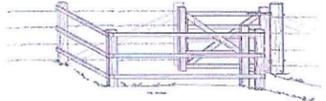
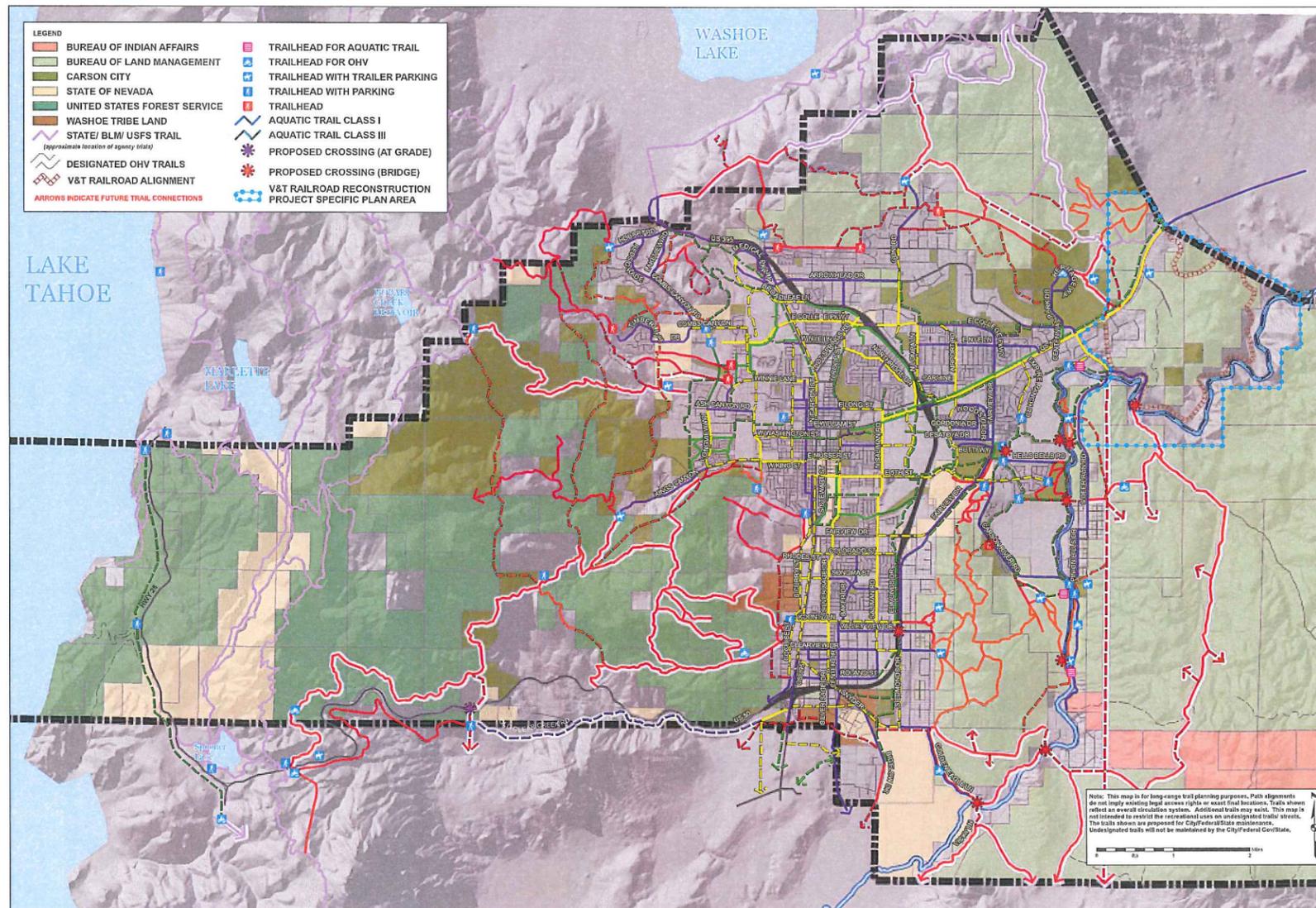


Figure 3. Timber Kissing Gate—Modification for Existing Fence Opening for Wheelchair Accessibility
click image for technical drawing

Horse Accessible Gates

Another concern was finding a way to allow horse and pedestrian access, while restricting ATVs and motorcycles. Two types of structures that will allow horse access, but restrict ATVs, are the "V" gates used at the Ashley National Forest (Figures 4 and 5) and at the Lolo National Forest (Figure 6).

<http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/accessibility/pubs/htmlpubs/htm06232340/index.h...> 6/9/2015



**UNIFIED PATHWAYS
MASTER PLAN**
CARSON CITY,
NEVADA



Note: This map is for long-range trail planning purposes. Path alignments do not imply existing legal access rights or exact final locations. Trails shown reflect an overall circulation system. Additional trails may exist. This map is not intended to restrict the recreational uses on undesignated trails' streets. The trails shown are proposed for City/Federal/State maintenance. Undesignated trails will not be maintained by the City/Federal Gov/State.

Adopted - April 6, 2006
Revised - March 15, 2007 / Incorporation
of Carson River Aquatic Trail.