

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: April 18, 2016

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4A

STAFF: Richard Wilkinson, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

REQUEST: Updates on activities, projects and grants located within the Carson River corridor.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

Ambrose Carson River Natural Area workday

- On April 13, 2016, staff worked with local high school and elementary school students at the Ambrose Carson River Natural area. This is an annual event where staff teaches high school age students different activities such as water quality testing, re-seeding and monitoring techniques, tree wrapping, micro invertebrates, wildlife habitat and the Carson River watershed. The high school students will teach what they learn to elementary school age children during their trip to Ambrose.

Carson City Weed Coalition

- The Carson City Weed Coalition will be working to spend the remaining fiscal year funds for noxious weed treatment along the Carson River corridor. This grant through the Nevada Department of Agriculture/United States Forest Service will close by June 30, 2016. The field inventory and mapping will start in March and continue throughout the weed treatment season. All mapping data will be submitted to the EDDMapS West database. The Weed Coalition will be working with crews from the Dayton Valley Conservation this year to treat multiple areas along the Carson River. The Weed Coalition will cost-share with several landowners to treat invasive weeds in several areas considered critical for resource protection. Some of those areas include Empire Ranch Golf Course, Nevada Department of Corrections, Silver Oak Golf Course, and the Rafter PM Ranch.

Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)

- Flash flooding events have caused significant erosion and damage on the southeast side of the Prison Hill Recreation Area, Golden Eagle Lane and the Carson River. In February 2016, staff submitted a grant request for \$125,000 to the Carson Water Subconservancy District. This grant is needed to provide erosion control and watershed improvement projects. Staff received a partial award of \$75,000, therefore another application will be submitted to the State of Nevada Question #1 Program to make up the budget shortfall.

Muscled Power Trash Mob Event

- Muscled Power conducted a trash mob event in late March. With a request from staff, Randy Gaa and 14 other volunteers focused on cleanup of East Silver Saddle Ranch along Sierra Vista Lane. The project started at Lloyd's Bridge and continued south, removing trash, tires and other garbage along the Carson River.



National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

- Staff worked with Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) to submit a grant through the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for noxious weed treatment along the Carson River. The CWSD grant will double current funding from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for one year in Carson City. This additional funding will be available from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017.

Silver Saddle Ranch

- Staff has been working hard on maintenance projects for the Silver Saddle Ranch. One of the maintenance activities is the pruning of all of the trees along the river trail system. The contractor and City crews will remove trees that are across the walking trails or over the fence. A contractor will complete the trimming of all dead and/or hazardous materials out of the trees. City crews have spent significant time cleaning up debris and materials around the buildings and trimming brush along some of the trails.
- The following events are scheduled in upcoming months:
 - April 23 – Escape from Prison Hill half marathon and 10k running events
 - April 27-May 1 – Sheriff's Office Mounted Unit training
 - May 21 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch Open House

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No formal action can be taken at this time.