

**PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT**

**MEETING DATE:** February 7, 2017

**AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:** 3D

**APPLICANT:** Steve Brunner, Parks & Recreation Deputy Director

**REQUEST:** Review and discussion on the 2017 flood event. Discussion will include impacts to Carson City Parks, Recreation and Open Space properties, emergency operations response, and damage assessment.

**GENERAL DISCUSSION:** On Sunday, January 8, 2017, Northern Nevada experienced the biggest flood in a decade. Unlike the flood of 2005, the residents and City of Carson City were much better prepared as word about the impending natural disaster was broadcast over TV, radio stations, newspapers, and for the first-time social media a week in advance. This allowed residents and city agencies to begin preparations as early as Wednesday, January 4, 2017. The following day, Carson City Emergency Management went before the Board of Supervisors on Thursday, January 5, 2017 and requested their signatures for an Emergency Declaration in advance of the impending storm. The Board unanimously agreed to the declaration and two days later, Governor Sandoval declared a State of Emergency directing state agencies to supplement the efforts of Carson City.

Leading up to the storm, Carson City Emergency Management met each day to coordinate pre-storm and response activities. This included strategically prestaging resources throughout Carson City so responders could quickly assist citizens as incidents occurred, establishing a Flood Hotline and leveraging Social media to communicate with the public.

On Saturday, January 7, 2017, the Carson City Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was officially opened and remained staffed throughout the duration of the storm. The Carson City Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, Public Works, Information Technology, Health Department and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Department in addition to other state and community partners helped coordinate operations and response while maintaining a common operating picture to best serve the residents of Carson City.

This included working with the Nevada Division of Forestry who brought in more than 500 inmates to work around the clock filling, delivering, and staging sandbags around the city. An emergency evacuation center was opened and staffed by the Red Cross at the LDS Church located near the high school on the corner of Robinson and Saliman, and the Nevada Humane Society prepared to take in small pets of family members displaced by the flood.

The worst of the storm hit on Sunday, January 8, 2017 where the Emergency Operations Center received more than 100 calls for assistance, Carson City Sheriff's Office responded to 83 calls, the Fire Department was dispatched to 26 calls, including medical and fire alarm activations and crews from Public Works and Parks, Recreation, and Open Space department worked around the clock to clear storm drains, drop inlets and ditches throughout Carson City.

Before long much of the City became quickly impacted by heavy rains and rising waters including many of our parks, recreational facilities and programs, trails, and open spaces. Most impacted requiring closures were: Morgan Mill Road Access, Blackwell's Pond Park, Brunswick Canyon Access, Carson River Park, Riverview Park, Empire Ranch Estates Park, Fuji Park and Carson City Fairgrounds, Multi-Athletic Complex (MAC), Mayor's Park, Mills Park (including the Community Center and Aquatic Facility), Rifle and Pistol Range, Silver Saddle Ranch and all Sports Complexes (Governor's Field, Centennial Park and Pete Livermore) as well as all recreation programs including youth before and after school programs and youth camps.

Crews worked hard to mitigate damages but in the end, with the Carson River cresting at major flood status, running fast and high at 11.04 feet (11.45 feet in 2005), there was only so much that could be done.

With the worst of the storm over and calls for assistance no longer coming in to the EOC, it was officially closed at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, 9 January, 2017. The following day on Tuesday, 10 January, 2017 all efforts turned to damage assessments, debris removal and clean up where crews from both Public Works and Parks were sent out to conduct preliminary damage assessments to every affected building, park, trail, and open space affected. Pictures were taken and descriptions and estimates of damages made and recorded.

The evening of the Tuesday, 10 January, 2017, the EOC had to be reopened due to further flooding caused by unexpected follow on heavy rains. As a precautionary measure and on short notice, the decision was made to use the MAC as an emergency evacuation shelter. Therefore, both recreation staff and inmates from NDF were quickly called in and had the protective flooring laid out and the MAC ready to receive evacuees in less than one hour. Both Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) and the American Red Cross were called in to assist. In the end, the MAC received no evacuees but it was a good test of its capabilities none the less.

Several hours later the following morning on Wednesday, 11 January, 2017, the rains and the flooding stopped and EOC was again stood down and with it the need for the MAC as an emergency evacuation shelter.

On-going today are preliminary assessments conducted by staff in conjunction with the Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Staff has put in more than 563 hours of flood mitigation and damage assessments. Early estimates indicate approximately \$1,670,000 in damages to more than 30 Parks, Recreation Facilities, Trails, and Open Space. The worst includes the trails at Riverview Park which were affected the most and now inaccessible. It's estimated that approximately 70% of the trails require a total reconstruction and 30% minor restoration costing \$612k. Similarly, are damages to trails at Empire Ranch Estates Park (\$315k), Riverview Trail (Eagle Creek to Hells Bells \$186k), Linear Ditch Trail (Hells Bells to Moffit \$150k) and 30 others that are minimally affected. Many of these locations remain closed while repairs are made by staff or in many cases contractors and are estimated to take in some cases as long as six months or longer.

In the interest of public safety staff would like to reiterate that residents please refrain from entering areas that are closed off to the public. Staff apologizes for any inconvenience this causes and thanks residents for their patience and understanding while repairs are made.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** This is a discussion only item; therefore, no action can be taken at this time.

# Carson City Flood 2017



# Parks



Fuji



Morgan Mill

# Trails



Riverview Park



Empire Ranch River Trail

# Sports Complexes



Governors



Pete Livermore

# Open Space



Carson River Canyon



Mexican Dam