

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: April 17, 2017

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4D

STAFF: Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator
Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

REQUEST: Staff update on activities, projects and grants located on Open Space properties within the Carson River area.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The following provides a summary of activities throughout the Carson River area.

Carson River Canyon Open Space

As a result of the floods of January and February 2017, Carson River Canyon Open Space received damage from fallen rock on the roadway, as well as significant erosion in some areas. One section of the road, approximately 3 miles in from Deer Run Road is extensively eroded, presenting significant safety concerns for motorized travel. As a result, the Open Space Division is in the process of installing a gate approximately 2.4 miles in from Deer Run Road that would prohibit access to motorized users, but allow non-motorized users to continue utilizing the road. This will ensure the safety of the public while we continue to assess damage and coordinate with FEMA for repairs.



Carson River Canyon Open Space – storm damage from January and February 2017

Carson Water Subconservancy District – Get on the Bus Tour

Registration for the annual tour, scheduled for June 6th and 7th, is now available on the CWSD's website. Register early to ensure your seat. The tour explores the Carson River watershed from the headwaters in Alpine County to the terminus at Stillwater National Wildlife Refuge.
http://www.cwsd.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017BusTourFlyer_RegistrationFinal.pdf.

Carson River Work Day

Every year, the Open Space Division works with Carson City High School to implement outdoor education lessons at Ambrose Carson River Natural Area. The project objective is to provide a natural resources lesson to high school students, allowing them to teach the same lesson to 4th graders at the Carson River Work Day, scheduled for April 14th. This year's lesson will focus on noxious weed identification, general botany and plant identification methods, as well as water quality education with River Wranglers.

Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space

The Rotary Club will be working with Muscle Powered on a trail maintenance event scheduled for Saturday, April 22nd. The volunteers at the event will clear debris and garbage that has collected near the entrance to the Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space as a result of the January and February 2017 floods. The group will also be removing a large cottonwood tree that has fallen as a result of the floods.

Golden Eagle Lane Erosion Control project

Carson City Public Works is currently working with a consulting firm to finish the Golden Eagle Lane project design. The preliminary drawings were just received on April 4th. It is hoped that the design will be completed by the end of April. Once the design is finalized, the bidding process will be initiated, which will likely take 5-6 weeks. Construction is anticipated to begin in June 2017 and will take approximately four weeks to complete.

Prison Hill Recreation Area, 5th Street Trailhead

There are no updates from the previous report.

(Report from 12-19-16): The Nevada Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has awarded \$200,000 to Carson City for trailhead improvements at the corner of 5th Street and Carson River Road. The cultural resources review is currently being conducted by the Nevada Department of Transportation. After the clearance has been received, staff will begin working with Public Works on the design and layout of the new trailhead along with the realignment of the trails. The construction is anticipated to begin in 2017.

Silver Saddle Ranch

The Open Space Division is currently in the process of coordinating repairs of the sink hole on the Mexican Ditch Trail. The area continues to be closed to public access; repairs are anticipated to be completed in the next two months.

Upcoming events:

- April 10 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- April 22 – Escape from Prison Hill running events
- April 23-30 – Carson City Sheriff’s Office Mounted Unit
- May 8 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- May 13 or 20 (to be confirmed) – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch spring open house
- June 3 – Private graduation party (non-exclusive use)
- June 12 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting

While only the above events are currently scheduled at Silver Saddle Ranch, more events may be scheduled to help accommodate existing reservations at facilities which have been damaged from flood events.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) grant application

There are no updates from the previous report.

A grant award for \$1.8 million dollars towards several trail improvements on the Prison Hill Recreation Area, Mexican Ditch Trail, Silver Saddle Ranch, and the old Buzzy’s Ranch was officially announced on December 7th. The next steps forward are the project initiation letter, approval of the funding agreement, and development of a work plan.

Wetlands Enhancement / Ducks Unlimited Project

During the rain and flood events, the water level in the wetlands raised above and over the recently constructed levees. From Michael Andersen, the rancher, staff has been informed that the northernmost levee may have been damaged. However, a site visit has not yet been conducted.

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