

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: February 26, 2018

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 3I

STAFF: Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator

REQUEST: **For Possible Action:** To approve the annual report for calendar year 2017 regarding activities of the Open Space Advisory Committee and submittal to the Board of Supervisors.

GENERAL DISCUSSION: Section 13.06.090 of the Carson City Municipal Code provides that the Committee shall provide an annual report of its activities to the Board of Supervisors. The information has been organized into the following categories:

- Acknowledgements
- Activities and Events
- Capital Improvement Projects
- Land Acquisitions
- Land Management

Staff suggests a letter / newsletter format as attached which highlights the achievements and successes. Also attached, please find the Index which provides more details regarding each agenda item.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: I move to approve the annual report for calendar year 2017 regarding activities of the Open Space Advisory Committee and submittal to the Board of Supervisors.



OPEN SPACE



Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department

Report to the Board of Supervisors of the Open Space Advisory Committee Activities

January – December 2017

Dear Mayor Crowell and Board of Supervisors,

As required by Section 13.06.090 of the Carson City Municipal Code, it is our honor to present to you the following report of the activities conducted by the Open Space Advisory Committee (OSAC) in 2017. The information provided is arranged into the following categories:

- Acknowledgments
- Activities and Events
- Capital Improvement Projects
- Land Acquisitions
- Land Management

2017 was a busy and exciting year filled with lots of projects and activities! We welcomed three new staff to assist in the management of 6,730 acres of open space throughout Carson City. Lyndsey Boyer filled the Senior Natural Resource Specialist position; Gregg Berggren started as our first part-time Trails



Left to right: Colter Thomas – Seasonal Maintenance Worker; Gregg Berggren – Trails Coordinator; Lyndsey Boyer – Senior Natural Resource Specialist; Ann Bollinger – Open Space Administrator.

Coordinator and Colter Thomas worked as our seasonal Maintenance Worker. Additionally, the full-time Maintenance Coordinator was a newly added position.

Acknowledgements

Per request from the OSAC, the Acknowledgements category was added to specifically highlight extra assistance provided to the Open Space Program. This includes grant awards and volunteers efforts.

Grant Awards

Project Name / Area	Grantor	Grant Award	Period	Quality of Life-Open Space contribution (cash or in-kind)
Ash Canyon Road				
	319(h) Nonpoint Source Stormwater Planning / Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP)	\$11,852.09	Ends 12/31/2017	\$10,000
Carson River Trail System, Phase 2 – Ranch Connections				
	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act	\$1,843,685	6/30/2022	\$50,000
Golden Eagle Lane Erosion Control				
	Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD)	\$75,000	6/30/2018	\$0
	State of Nevada Conservations and Resource Protection (Question 1)	\$40,636	12/31/2017	\$3,910 (in-kind)
Prison Hill Recreation Area, 5 th Street Trailhead				
	Recreational Trails Program / Nevada State Parks and Federal Highways Administration	\$200,000 (pending cultural clearances)	9/1/2020	\$51,141
Prison Hill Recreation Area, Motorized Area				
	Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Commission (NOHVC)	\$33,042 (to the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council)	12/31/2019	\$3,000
Kings Canyon Road				
	Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Commission (NOHVC)	\$47,000 (to the U.S. Forest Service)	12/31/2019	TBD (\$10,000-\$20,000)
Noxious Weed Abatement				
	Carson Water Subconservancy District/BLM Cost Share Program	\$7,000	6/30/2018	\$0
	Carson Water Subconservancy District/Nevada Department of Agriculture	\$4,500	Not yet received	\$500
	Carson Water Subconservancy District/Nevada Fish and Wildlife	\$10,200	Not yet received	\$0
	Carson Water Subconservancy District	\$15,000	6/30/2018	\$0
	Nevada Department of Agriculture	\$1,567	2/5/2018	\$1,567

Volunteer Activities and Events

Summary: The Open Space Division proudly recognizes volunteer efforts provided by individuals and organizations. While this summary only recognizes those who have submitted official applications, have official agreements, and/or have participated in scheduled activities, the Open Space Division acknowledges and appreciates any and all who help to clean and maintain our precious lands.

Numerous organizations and individuals volunteered their time in 2017; their efforts were primarily focused on trail construction and maintenance. Groups include: the Rotary Club, Harley Davidson financial services and American Buildings. Additionally, several student groups volunteered with us as well, including multiple Boy Scout troops, the Carson Senator's mountain bike team and the Carson High JROTC. Muscle-Powered continues to be a huge help in planning and maintaining trails throughout Carson City.



Harley Davidson financial services team works on maintenance of the Ash-Kings Trail.



Carson High JROTC team works on Secret Trail construction.

Lastly, several individuals like Mr. Paul Sinnott and Ms. Robyn Orloff continue to steward the Prison Hill Recreation Area with trash clean-up and trail repair activities. Mr. Dick Wipfli continues to patrol areas accessed by motor vehicles. The Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch have been very involved with management of lands along the Carson River, particularly the Silver Saddle Ranch. From April through December 2017, the Open Space Program received an estimated value of \$43,573 from volunteers. At minimum, volunteers spent 1,805 hours on our lands, at a value of \$24.14/hour (the latest dollar value available, according to www.independentsector.org).

AmeriCorps VISTA Volunteers

- Danielle Hatch, Community Education Coordinator started in August. Danielle has been very busy over the last six months. She has created and led numerous events - including several interpretive hikes and community workshops. Currently, Danielle is working on building a Junior Ranger Program – and has fundraised over \$2,000 for it! Danielle will continue to



Danielle Hatch presenting a history of Prison Hill to members of the community.

plan and implement her events and workshops during her remaining term of service.

- Chaja Hogeweg, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator started in August. Chaja has been very busy over the last six months making updates and editing the website, which is starting to look fantastic! She has also been working on creating video content for the “Program of the Month” – where she highlights various recreational programs throughout the City. Additionally, she has been working to improve our social media presence and has greatly increased our social media following.

Eagle Scout Candidate Mr. Parker Lehmann – C-Hill

Parker is a local scout from Boy Scout Troop 341 who partnered with the Open Space Division to complete a volunteer project and earn his rank as an Eagle Scout. He selected a project to clean and restore the “C” on C-Hill. Parker recruited 25 volunteers to help clean up the area and re-paint the rocks so they are more visible from town. Park Ranger John Costello was the staff member who assisted with the planning and project implementation.



Boy Scout Troop 341 work to repair the “C” on C-Hill.

Eagle Valley Trails Association

In May, the Eagle Valley Trail Committee (EVTC) presented the “Community Trail Inventory, Review, Evaluation, and User Needs Assessment Report” (Report) to the Parks and Recreation Commission as well as the OSAC. This Report described the existing *non-motorized* trail system and recommended actions for sustainable non-motorized trails and trailheads, including signage, trail realignment, easements, property acquisitions, maintenance and other improvements. The Report is intended as a road map to guide future trail projects and included recommendations to facilitate trail coordination with trail groups and public agencies. In addition, this Report sought to improve the range of non-motorized trail opportunities for residents and visitors in Eagle Valley. While the Report acknowledged the existing motorized trail elements within Carson City’s urban interface, its focus was on the city’s single track system and did not evaluate the City’s motorized trails/trailheads, on-street bicycle system, and off-street multi-use path system. One of the recommendations/outcomes of this impressive trails report was the need to update the Unified Pathways Master Plan (UPMP). At this time, only the relevant single-track trails references and related projects will be updated.

Great Basin Institute, Nevada Conservation Corps crew

During the hottest week in July, five AmeriCorps members from the Great Basin Institute worked on several trail and invasive plant projects around Carson City. Accomplishments included: maintaining and brushing the entire Waterfall Trail, removing 52 (55 gallon) trash bags of noxious weeds from

Linear Park Path and ditch (2,860 gallons) as well as beginning to clear a corridor in Riverview Park.



Riverview Park Trail – before and after.

OSAC High School Member

In October, the OSAC voted to add a non-voting seat to the Committee as a professional development opportunity for a student. Ms. Maritza Filson, a junior at Carson High School was selected. She is the current president of the Future Farmers of America, an intracurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. Maritza has an interest in studying botany and plant science in college. In addition to her position with the Committee, staff will also provide opportunities to Maritza to learn real-world applications and land management decisions that align with her interests. Member Hall will be her advisor and mentor during her tenure with the Committee.

Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space

In April, the Rotary Club worked with Muscle Powered on a trail maintenance event. The volunteers at the event cleared 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 also removed a large cottonwood tree that has fallen as a result of the floods.

Activities and Events

In addition to volunteer efforts, the OSAC is very pleased to be engaged with various environmental education activities and other events throughout the year.

Carson High School

Every year, the Open Space Division works with Carson City High School to implement outdoor education lessons at Ambrose Carson River Natural Area. Due to high river flows, this years' event was held at Carson River Park instead. The project objective was to provide a natural resource lesson to high school students, allowing them to teach the same lesson to 4th graders at the Carson River Work Day, an annual education event held in April. This years' lesson focused on noxious weed identification, general botany and plant identification methods, as well as water quality education with River Wranglers.

Additionally, staff continued to work with Ms. Julie Koop and Carson High School's Honors biology class to finish the monitoring project in Quill Ranch. The project started in 2012 with a grant from the Dream Tags Charitable Fund at the Community Foundation of Western Nevada to address a Russian knapweed infestation and to provide students with an outdoor education opportunity.

Students were taught about wildlife observations, plant identification, re-seeding methods and how to collect vegetation data. This year, the students also learned pollinator monitoring and identification methods from Nevada Bugs and Butterflies. Mrs. Koop intends on writing an abstract about the project that will highlight the results of the Russian knapweed treatment and the re-establishment of desirable vegetation.

Carson Middle School

In early September, staff had the pleasure to participate in a new Local Environmental Issues course for 7th and 8th graders at Carson Middle School. Five staff shared the 80-minute long lesson discussing respective areas of expertise:

- Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator – Overview and land preservation/protection
- Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist – Natural resources of Carson City including native plants and wildlife
- Dan Anderson, Weed Coordinator – Carson City Weed Coalition and noxious weeds
- Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator – Trail overview, trail etiquette and trail responsibilities
- Danielle Hatch, AmeriCorps VISTA – Park Ranger Program and Leave No Trace

Additionally, in November Carson City Weed Coalition Coordinator Dan Anderson and Senior Natural Resource Specialist Lyndsey Boyer taught a hands-on botany and noxious weed lesson to the same Local Environmental Issues class at Carson Middle School. Approximately 80 students had the opportunity to dissect a flower, learn flower anatomy and plant identification techniques as well as learn and practice noxious weed identification and monitoring protocol.

Carson River Snapshot Day

In October, staff participated in the 12th Annual Carson River Snapshot Day at Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space. The NDEP and the Carson River Coalition Education Working Group co-sponsored this event. Snapshot Day offers students, parents, and educators the chance to experience the river first-hand and interact with resource experts who care for this lifeline that connects our communities. Snapshot Day data is collected from multiple sites at the same time on the same day, documenting an annual “snapshot” of the river. The primary purposes of this event are to: document and study riparian habitat, measure water quality, and increase the public’s awareness of our precious watershed. Under the guidance of resource experts, student monitoring teams conduct field tests for dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH and temperature. Additional water samples were collected for laboratory analysis of nutrients, turbidity and bacteria. Monitoring teams also complete a habitat assessment of their site, which includes visual observations and photo documentation of vegetation and stream conditions. The event had 40 7th and 8th grade students from Carson Middle School along with their parents and teachers. There were five educational stations which included water quality, habitat and invasive weeds. Staff explained the benefits of treating invasive weeds and how the weeds negatively affect water quality, native plant communities, and wildlife habitat.



Students learning about water quality sampling methods.

Invasive Species Awareness Month

June was Invasive Species Awareness Month. This month was spent spreading information about the impacts of noxious and invasive weeds throughout Carson City. As part of this month long event, the Carson City Weed Coalition hosted a free community workshop at the Community Center focusing on invasive and noxious weed management strategies for homeowners. The workshop discussed several aspects of weed management, from proper use of herbicides, to the laws associated with noxious weeds as well as plant identification. Speakers were from the Carson City Weed Coalition, Carson City Open Space and Nevada Department of Agriculture. Nine people from the community attended the workshop. Workshop attendees received reference materials to aide in the identification of nuisance and noxious weeds, as well as effective treatment and restoration strategies to use in their yards.

Story Stroll

In coordination with the Carson City Library, staff helped with the “Outside the Lines – Libraries Reintroduced” project. Outside the Lines is a week-long celebration in September demonstrating the creativity and innovation happening in libraries. The self-led “Story Stroll” was installed at Carson River Park during September 10-30, 2017 to promote reading, highlight our parks and open space, and encourage outdoor activities within our community. A bilingual picture book, *Colors! ¡Colores!* by Jorge Luján and Piet Grobler, was mounted one page at a time on signs along the river trail for participants to read as they stroll through the area. This fun, educational program promotes literacy by getting children engaged in reading in a unique way. Additionally, the stroll encourages healthy activities utilizing Carson City’s trails.



Student reading Colors! ¡Colores! at Carson River Park.

National Trails Day

National Trails Day was June 3, 2017. This year, volunteers worked on maintenance of the Waterfall Trail. In addition to general trail maintenance, the volunteers also worked on decommissioning several illegal trails that had formed in the area as a result of cutting switch backs. These trails were vertically mulched and revegetation signage was installed.

Old Buzzy’s Ranch

In August, a field review of Old Buzzy’s Ranch was conducted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) in order to begin gathering baseline information for the development of a conservation plan for the ranch. Primary goals for the plan were identified – including maintaining the irrigated pastures for aesthetic and agricultural appeal and identifying more arid portions of the ranch to inform future conservation strategies. Additionally, NRCS hosted a training at Old Buzzy’s Ranch for students and young professionals to learn how to complete an “Environmental Evaluation Worksheet.” Information gathered from this training will contribute to the development of the conservation plan.

Silver Saddle Ranch

There were several events in 2017, and there is the potential for more events in the future.

- Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch: monthly board meetings, Spring Open House, and Christmas Open House
- Escape from Prison Hill half marathon and 10k running events
- Jazz and Beyond Music Festival
- American Trail Trial Horsemen's Trail Ride (equestrian event)

In 2017, the Jazz and Beyond Music Festival was held in August. Four bands played across two stages, with the main "stage" being a flatbed truck donated by Meeks Lumber and Hardware. Approximately 250 folks visited the venue throughout the day. The Wild Ass Women were present with their adopted burros and two food trucks were on-site for attendees to purchase food and drinks.

Trail Summit

Carson City was host to the 2017 Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition "Trails Summit", which was held at the Western Nevada College, and attended by almost 100 people.

Tours

- Carson River Mercury Superfund Site
 - The Carson River Mercury Superfund Site Tour, hosted by the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) took place in February. The Carson River Mercury Superfund Site is quite extensive. In Carson City, the site begins at the Empire Ranch Golf Course and continues down the river corridor including Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space and Carson River Canyon Open Space. Ms. Bollinger was a featured speaker on the tour and discussed land management concerns and recreational impacts within the Superfund Site.
- Carson River Watershed Forum
 - Hosted by CWSD in February, the Forum covered topics relevant to the watershed including, "riparian restoration, water quality and quantity, stormwater, flooding and floodplain management, invasive species, agriculture, recreation, and education/outreach programs." Ms. Bollinger was a featured speaker, discussing the Open Space Program and select projects.
- Get on the Bus
 - Each year, the CWSD conducts a two-day Carson River watershed tour from Alpine County down to the Stillwater Wildlife Refuge. The Open Space Program is a featured speaker to discuss the ballot initiative, land protection and land management along the Carson River.

Throughout the year, Open Space staff also had the opportunity to attend several formal trainings, conferences and workshops, as well as hands-on equipment training from the Parks Division.

Capital Improvement Projects

Aquatic Trail Map

This is a joint project with the Carson City Culture and Tourism Authority, Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department and Resource Concepts Inc., to develop a new Aquatic Trail Map. The new map will show a dramatic increase in Carson City managed river-corridor lands since the first

edition. Also, the new edition will include natural and cultural history, which was not included in the old map.



Recreationalists navigate the Carson River Aquatic Trail.

Carson River Trail System, Phase 2 – Ranch Connections

The Open Space Program was awarded a \$1.8 million dollar grant through the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA). The grant funds will support several trail improvements on the Prison Hill Recreation Area, Mexican Ditch Trail, Silver Saddle Ranch, and the old Buzzy's Ranch.

Centennial Park Trails

Several trail projects are in progress in the area, including a sustainable section of single-track trail for hikers, runners, equestrians, mountain bikers, and most significantly, a competition venue for the Carson High School Mountain Bike Team.

Golden Eagle Lane Erosion Control Project

The project area is located at the south end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area, adjacent to the Golden Eagle Open Space. The project goal was to reduce erosion and improve the watershed directly above the Carson River. Staff received two grant awards (CWSD and the Nevada Division of State Lands Question #1 Program) to assist in the watershed stabilization measures. Project construction was completed in September.



Golden Eagle Lane Erosion Control Project – newly constructed detention basin and culvert.

Prison Hill Recreation Area, 5th Street Trailhead

The Nevada Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program (RTP) awarded \$200,000 to Carson City for trailhead improvements at the corner of 5th Street and Carson River Road, as identified in the Unified Pathways Master Plan. In addition to trailhead improvements, the project will also focus on sustainable trail realignment and the rehabilitation of more than two acres of non-sustainable trails. The anticipated construction date is spring 2018.

Signage Master Plan

Throughout recent years, the OSAC has expressed the need for improved signage across open space properties. It was agreed that standardized signs would help to better educate the public as well as promote feelings of pride and ownership. A Signage Master Plan for the Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department (PROS) has been developed. The scope of this plan includes:

- Welcome and identification signs
- Interpretive / Educational signs
- Vehicular wayfinding signs
- Off-highway vehicular wayfinding signs
- Informational kiosks, and know before you go signs

Through implementation, the improved signage will help the public to better recognize our department facilities, inform residents and visitors on the various amenities, and help to market our outstanding parks, recreation, and open space areas.

Silver Saddle Ranch

In anticipation of the next grant cycle of the Southern Nevada Land Management Act in September 2018, Open Space staff met in August to begin collecting ideas for a site development plan/master plan at Silver Saddle Ranch. This document will identify plans for the Red House and out-buildings as well as development of event infrastructure, trail improvements etc. This site development plan would couple with recommendations that were made via the Silver Saddle Ranch Charrette in 2008. Additionally, staff in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), are working to develop a stewardship plan and monitoring protocol for the historic structures at Silver Saddle Ranch.

Trail Projects

Other trail projects are being planned for the Carson City area, including the Capital to State Park Trail, which will link Carson City trail systems with trails in Tahoe; Lincoln Bypass Trail; the Carson-Tahoe Hospital-Lakeview Trail; and a connection from Clear Creek to Kings Canyon. Additionally, the Secret Trail is a 1.3 mile re-alignment of a non-sustainable use trail in Vicee Canyon, and one that will likely be used by the Carson City Off-Road mountain bike race.



Volunteer moves a large boulder during Secret Trail construction.

Land Acquisitions

While no acquisitions occurred in 2017, work continued on two previously approved projects and will continue into 2018.

Old Woods Ranch and Schulz Investments properties

The Old Woods Ranch LLC owns 130 acres which includes forested land and the southern portion of the meadow shared by Mr. Fagen/Horsecreek Ranch. Staff has actively been working with the family as well as with Nevada Division of Forestry and the Nevada Land Trust towards a conservation easement and an application for grant funding from the Forest Legacy Program.

Consisting of some family members of Old Woods Ranch LLC, the adjacent Schulz Investments LLC properties consists of two parcels located along U.S. Highway 50 west and near the Hutchinson acquisition and Horsecreek Ranch conservation easement. Staff is actively working with the family on a conservation easement on 135 acres, possibly to be combined in a project with the Old Woods Ranch conservation easement.

W. Michael Fagen property

Mr. W. Michael Fagen owns 20 acres along U.S. Highway 50 and near the Clear Creek interchange. The parcel is important for a regional trail connection between Clear Creek and Kings Canyon. Staff has actively been working towards a fee title acquisition with Mr. Fagen and hopes to successfully complete an acquisition in 2018.

As of December 2017, approximately 6,730 acres of land have been protected or obtained through purchases, donations, or transfers with a Quality of Life / Question 18 cost of \$10,437,282. Grants or other supplemental funding have provided \$8,606,757 for a total of cost of \$19,069,569.

Land Management

Ash Canyon

In 2012, the Open Space Division received the first 319(h) grant specific to Nonpoint Source Stormwater Planning from the NDEP. Two years later, the Ash Canyon Maintenance and Erosion Control Plan was finalized. With the grant, the City committed to preparing and implementing the plan as funding allows with the project objective to reduce erosion from Ash Canyon Road and thus sediment in Ash Canyon Creek, a municipal water source for Carson City. With another grant award for \$11,852 in 2017, best management practices (BMPs) outlined in the Plan, such as water bar installation, were implemented. The Open Space Division annually budgets \$10,000 to maintain Ash Canyon Road, which fulfills a cash match requirement for the NDEP 319 grant. In May, a local contractor worked from mile marker .05 up to mile marker 1.7, performing this year's Ash Canyon Road maintenance.



Ash Canyon road damage from 2017 floods.

The work included smoothing out ruts, removing excess sediment, and repairing existing water bars. One of the closed spurs at mile marker 1.5 was re-seeded also.

Additionally, as a result of the floods of January and February 2017, Ash Canyon Road suffered significant damage from erosion. While nearly the entire road was impacted by runoff, at mile marker 2.8 the road washed out almost entirely, presenting significant safety concerns for motorized travel. As a result, the road was closed in March with a gate that prohibits access to motorized users but allows non-motorized users to continue using the road. Initial road grading and washout repair began in November. The remaining repairs will be completed in spring 2018 in conjunction with the annual Ash Canyon road maintenance.

Carson River Canyon

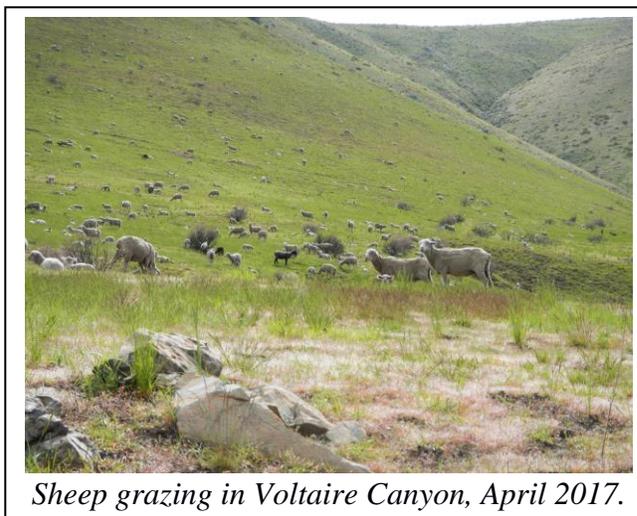
As a result of the floods of January and February 2017, Carson River Canyon Open Space was damaged from fallen rock on the roadway, as well as significant erosion in some areas. One section of the road, approximately 3 miles in from Deer Run Road is extensively eroded, presenting safety concerns for motorized travel. As a result, the Open Space Division has installed warning signage until the repair can be completed. Construction is anticipated for summer/fall 2018.

East Silver Saddle Ranch

The Open Space Division is working with a consultant to develop a site development and management plan for the East Silver Saddle Ranch area. The primary goals for site improvements are to protect the resources, enhance accessibility, improve safety and develop educational/interpretive opportunities for visitors. This plan will be complementary to the road re-construction of Sierra Vista Lane in spring/summer 2018. The plan will also fulfill recommendations and goals in the Carson River Management Plan.

Fuels Management

Fuels management on acquired lands, as well as natural parks and the wildland-urban interface, is a top priority for the Open Space Division. Our well-received fine fuels management program through the use of sheep continued. The 12th consecutive year with targeted sheep grazing was conducted April – May, lasting 6 ½ weeks. One band was used to graze herbaceous fuels on less than 2,000 acres. The sheep are just one tool to help reduce the fire risk to our community. Residents are encouraged to utilize precaution measures around their home as well.



Kings Canyon Road

Like many areas and roads around Carson City, Kings Canyon Road was subject to extensive storm damage throughout January and February 2017. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) administers most of the road; however, Carson City owns approximately two miles along the Horsecreek Ranch fee-title property acquisition. The Kings Canyon area is popular for numerous recreation activities such as hiking, mountain biking, equestrian, camping and motorized uses. Each year, unfortunately, there are a few vehicle accidents (rolling down the hillside) and several vehicles which get stuck in depressions due to unmaintained road conditions. Thus far in 2017, staff is aware of five known incidents. Additionally, there was a landslide several years ago which remains uncleared and

prevents through-access to the Spooner Summit. Due to current U.S. Forest Service priorities and lack of funding, a grant proposal was submitted and awarded from the Nevada Commission on Off-Highway Vehicles for road maintenance and signage for Kings Canyon Road. Funds from this grant will support the planning and cultural review process for repair of the road, and open space staff will apply for a subsequent grant through the Recreational Trails Program to fund the repair of the road.



Kings Canyon Road, March 2017. Right: jeep is high-centered.

Moffat Open Space

Due to the flood events of early 2017, there was significant damage to the paved path between Hells Bells Road and Lepire Drive. The path was repaired in fall of 2017.

Prison Hill Recreation Area

Non-motorized area: Trails Coordinator Gregg Berggren is in the process of developing a comprehensive trail master plan for the entire Prison Hill area. The goals of this plan are to evaluate the trails on Prison Hill and establish a sustainable trail system through realignment and construction of new trails. One project includes realigning the North Loop Trail. Additionally, staff continues to repair broken sections of fence separating the motorized and non-motorized use areas in the Prison Hill Recreation Area, to prevent vehicle trespass into non-motorized areas.



Prison Hill Recreation Area.

Motorized area: The south end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area comprises about 900 acres which are open to motorized vehicles. Carson City is one of relatively few municipalities in the western U.S. that manages an off highway vehicles area, and a comprehensive strategy to effectively manage this area into is needed. In September, staff began working with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) to help locate an experienced consultant to work with us to develop a management plan. NOHVCC was awarded a grant from the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicles Program to help fund this planning effort.

Mexican Dam – Safe Passage

Open Space staff are working to develop a plan to provide safe passage around the Mexican Dam for hikers, mountain bikers, runners, equestrians and boaters. This would enable a longer Aquatic Trail and provide connectivity for the Mexican Ditch trail to the south end of Prison Hill.

Silver Saddle Ranch

Silver Saddle Ranch also received damage from the flood events of 2017. The most significant damage was to the Mexican Ditch Trail. After the first flood, approximately 30 cubic yards eroded away from the dam. Additionally, a large sinkhole located approximately 1/2 mile north of the dam formed in the center of the trail. Both of these items were repaired in the fall of 2017.



Mexican Ditch Trail – sinkhole from January 2017



Mexican Dam – flood damage from January 2017

Additionally, staff has been working hard on maintenance projects and improvements around Silver Saddle Ranch. Activities have included weeding, mowing, pruning and watering. Staff also worked on replacing broken fence posts around the red house, adding wood planks on the bridge as well as repairing the damaged root cellar. In September, strong wind gusts at Silver Saddle Ranch toppled one of the cottonwood treetops near the red house. Fortunately, the treetop fell to the south and missed the house; however, there was still approximately \$2,500 in property damage to the picket fence, electric lines and broken power pole.

Park Ranger Patrols

With our Park Ranger, the City's presence in the Carson River Canyon area has been increased. Cleanup efforts have increased and new signs that emphasize rules and regulations were installed. The majority of the Park Ranger's contacts are educational. However, during the evenings and weekends, the bulk of the contacts continue to be illegal camping and campfires. While there are still illegal activities (illegal dumping, graffiti, campfires, camping and shooting), there has been an improvement in the overall appearance of the canyon. The goals for the Carson River Canyon will continue to be to encourage safe, passive recreation in this area while enforcing rules and regulations.

On behalf of our Committee and staff, thank you very much for the opportunity to present this report.