

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: June 18, 2018

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4C

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

REQUEST: **For Discussion Only:** 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

On June 11th, a construction kickoff meeting will be held to review and the washout along the road from last year's storm events. The repairs should be completed in the next few weeks. Small motorized vehicles can currently drive around; however, it is not safe for larger vehicles such as any of the Open Space vehicles.

Carson River Trail System, Phase 2 – Ranch Connections

There are no updates from the previous report.

February 26, 2018: 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. Open Space staff has begun the process of hiring a consultant to conduct the cultural review process, as well as consulting with Public Works to identify a safe crossing strategy from the Mexican Ditch Trail across Carson River Road.

East Silver Saddle Ranch

The Public Works project for road reconstruction of Sierra Vista Lane and trailhead construction with grant funding from the Federal Lands Access Program is scheduled for completion in June, with the final walk-through scheduled at the end of the month. Soon after the contractors leave the site, staff will begin additional site improvements as identified in the conceptual site plan



developed by Design Workshop.

Prison Hill Recreation Area, 5th Street Trailhead

In January, GPS information for all proposed trail loops that will connect to the trailhead as a part of this project was collected. In March, Gregg Berggren met with Carson City Public Works staff to discuss the proposed trail loops, as well as to discuss a design for the facilities (picnic table/shelter and vault toilet). Currently, Public Works staff is gathering estimates, design options and trail work information so that the bidding and contract process can be executed for this project. In May, Open Space staff reviewed and provided comment on the 60% design plans.

River Rally 2018

River Rally, hosted annually by River Network, is a national conference for river and water champions. Unique in its focus on providing practical education, inspiring courage, and celebrating achievements, River Rally brings together hundreds of people from across the United States and the world that care about rivers and water issues. This year, River Rally was hosted in Olympic Valley from April 29 – May 2, 2018. In cooperation with Carson Water Subconservancy District staff, a successful float trip tour of the Carson River was led on May 1st. Participants from all over the country floated from Carson River Park to the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area, during which expert “tour guides” (Open Space staff and resource professionals from Carson City) discussed the Open Space program, acquisitions and floodplain protection, as well as the natural and cultural history of the river. The field trip concluded at River Fork Ranch in Carson Valley to learn about conservation efforts being applied there, as well as to learn about the Carson River Coalition and its history.

Silver Saddle Ranch

Upcoming events:

Date	Event	Location
Mon, June 11	FOSSR Monthly Meeting	SSR
Mon, June 18	Family Freedom Festival / Veterans Appreciation	SSR
Mon, July 9	FOSSR Monthly Meeting	SSR
Sat, July 21	Jr. Naturalist/Carson Explorers	SSR
Sat, Aug 4	Environmental Education: Parks, Recreation and Open Space	TBC
Sat, Aug 11	Environmental Education: Local Plant Identification	TBC
Sun, Aug 12	Jazz and Beyond – A Day at the Ranch	SSR
Mon, Aug 13	FOSSR Monthly Meeting	SSR
Sat, Aug 18	Environmental Education: Wildlife, Predators and Prey	TBC
Fri, Aug 24 (setup) – Sat Aug 25	Wedding	SSR
Sat, Aug 25	Environmental Education: Bear Aware	TBC

Silver Saddle Ranch Stewardship Plan/SHPO

Staff has been working with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and an architectural historian to develop a baseline survey and monitoring protocol for the historic structures at Silver Saddle Ranch, which will be incorporated as part of the stewardship plan. Field work and monitoring of the historic structures began at Silver Saddle Ranch in May. Once this is complete, the SHPO will be able to move forward with creating an architectural stewardship and monitoring program for Carson City.

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