



# Memo

**To:** Open Space Advisory Committee  
**From:** Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator  
**cc:** Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator  
**Date:** June 18, 2018  
**Re:** Trails Coordinator Report

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## **Capital to Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park Trail / Lincoln Bypass**

- The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has given us their initial scope of work (SOW) that will be required in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). We are scheduled to hike the proposed alignment through USFS administered lands on June 7 with USFS staff and our consultants.
- We met with State Park Staff in April to discuss the State Park portion of the proposed alignment. Goshawk nests were identified adjacent to a portion of the alignment, and so a re-alignment has been proposed.
- Park staff is working with representatives for the Mannsfield property (North Kings Canyon area) to gain a re-locatable trail easement across that property. If this happens, then a portion of the trail could be re-aligned to a location that would be more desirable, somewhat shorter, and ultimately be less costly to build.
- The Culture and Tourism Authority (CTA) continues to support this project and is currently funding the clearance work.

## **Foothill and V&T Trails (formerly known as the 'Hospital Trail')**

- This project demonstrates the value of partnerships. Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space partnered with Carson Tahoe Health (CTH), the Greenhouse Project, Eagle Valley Children's Home (EVCH), Nevada Department of Transportation, Muscle Powered, and others, to build this new 1.1 mile hiking/running/mountain biking trail from the Carson Tahoe Cancer Center/Foothill Garden to Lakeview Estates.
- This new connection consists of two trails: the "Foothill Trail" and the "V&T Trail" (see attached map). The "V&T Trail" is another small piece of what will ultimately be a much longer 'Rail Trail', proposed by Donna Inversin, to follow the route of the historic V&T Railroad.
- The Quality of Life Initiative provided the primary funding, CTH and the Greenhouse Project provided support and helped with trailhead amenities and landscaping, the EVCH provided an easement, NDOT permitted a right-of-way on their property, and Muscle Powered helped with design and took the lead on final construction. The Carson High School NJROTC constructed a bridge in May, and two additional bridges are slated for construction as an Eagle Scout Project in early July.

- The Foothill Trail, which is located next to the Carson Tahoe Cancer Center on the Carson Tahoe Health campus, is being billed as a ‘Wellness Trail’. Studies indicate that time spent in nature can lower blood pressure, reduce stress and depression, improve creativity, and promote healing. A health care professional may even ‘prescribe’ walking, or just quiet emersion in nature, as part of a care plan.



*Carson High School NJROTC showing off their bridge building skills (Foothill Trail).*

### **National Trails Day**

- Forty-seven people showed up to our National Trails Day Event to work on the Foothill Trail, including Mayor Bob Crowell, Supervisor Karen Abowd, Director Jen Budge, Carson Tahoe Health COO Michelle Joy, Eagle Valley Children’s Home Executive Director Beverly Hennen, and volunteers from Muscle Powered, Great Basin Institute, Carson Tahoe Health, and Dutch Bros Coffee.



## **Centennial Park Trails**

- Muscle Powered and the Carson Senators Mountain Bike Team have begun Phase 1 of construction which is a section of trail on land leased by the City from the BLM. This will provide a sustainable section of trail for hikers, runners, equestrians, mountain bikers, and most significantly, it will provide the Carson High Mountain Bike Team with a location to hold competitions.

## **Unified Pathways Master Plan**

- The updated UPMP, which incorporates the recommendations of the Eagle Valley Trail Committee in their comprehensive ‘Community Trail Inventory, Review, Evaluation, and User Needs Assessment Report’, was approved by the Board of Supervisors on March 15, 2018. The importance of this Master Plan update was demonstrated just days after approval when a private property owner approached the City with plans for building a home on his property high above the west side of town. The plan gave us a ‘place at the table’ to participate in discussions regarding a trail easement.

## **Prison Hill Recreation Area**

- A Comprehensive Trail Master Plan for Prison Hill is in the works. Some new trails are being planned and existing sustainable trails are being identified.
- The North Loop re-alignment and improvements project is complete. Muscle Powered volunteer Paul Sinnott and his team did a fantastic job, and we have received many compliments from runners and hikers.
- Mexican Dam – Mexican Ditch Inlet Safe Passage. An engineering plan was completed for the design of an enhanced and safe passage around the dam for hikers, mountain bikers, runners, horse riders, and kayakers/canoers/rafters. This will enable a longer Aquatic Trail and provide connectivity for the Mexican Ditch Trail to the south end of Prison Hill. The design needs City approval, then we will look for funding for construction.
- Motorized area. Utilizing a \$33,000 NOHV (Nevada Off Highway Vehicle) Grant awarded to the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC), we are working to develop a comprehensive OHV Management Plan for the 900 acres of the Prison Hill Recreation Area which is open to motorized vehicles. Carson City is one of relatively few municipalities in the western U.S. that manages an OHV area, and we need a comprehensive strategy to effectively guide our management of this area into the future. The team led three meetings in May. The first meeting was with adjacent residents, the second was open to all of the public, and the third was to form a working committee. Through this process, our hope is to develop partnerships with groups and organizations that can help us with clean-ups, education, monitoring/patrolling, and be advocates for protecting the resources in this unique area. Tentatively, the Draft Management Plan will be presented to the OSAC in October, 2018.
- Fifth Street Trailhead. Public Works anticipates completing the design for parking and trailhead amenities in the next few weeks, then the contract will go out to bid. The proposed trail realignments are complete, and staff has decided to contract this work separately with a qualified trail contractor. Now that we have an Open Space

Maintenance Coordinator, we are hoping to complete some re-habilitation work in-house using existing Open Space staff.

### **Secret Trail**

- Completed in May by Muscle Powered! This is a 1.3 mile re-alignment of an unsustainable use trail in Vicee Canyon and it will be utilized as part of the Carson City Off Road mountain bike race.

### **Signage Master Plan**

- The Signage Master Plan is complete, and we are working on estimates for fabrication of various components. Implementation will begin very soon.

### **Carson River Aquatic Trail**

- The CTA did a film and photo shoot of a raft trip down the Carson River Canyon on May 29<sup>th</sup>. They are planning a two-minute promotional video and will incorporate photos in promotional brochures.

### **Trail Mapping**

- CTA is working on an on-line, inter-active trail map.
- Public Works has completed a comprehensive database of existing trails as a layer on the City's MapGeo site.
- Our Americorp Marketing and Outreach Coordinator, Chaja Hogeweg, is working on some trail updates on the Department website and it will include trail ratings.

### **Nevada Division of State Lands**

- Several parcels of State Lands are identified in the EVTC Report and the UPMP as important for completing trail connectivity. On most of these locations 'user built' trails already exist. We submitted an application to State Lands for a license to formalize these trails so we can re-align them as necessary for sustainability, maintain them, and show them on maps. On May 23, 2018, we presented our proposals to the State Lands director and staff and received a positive response. They requested some additional information, but indicated that they would move forward with our application.



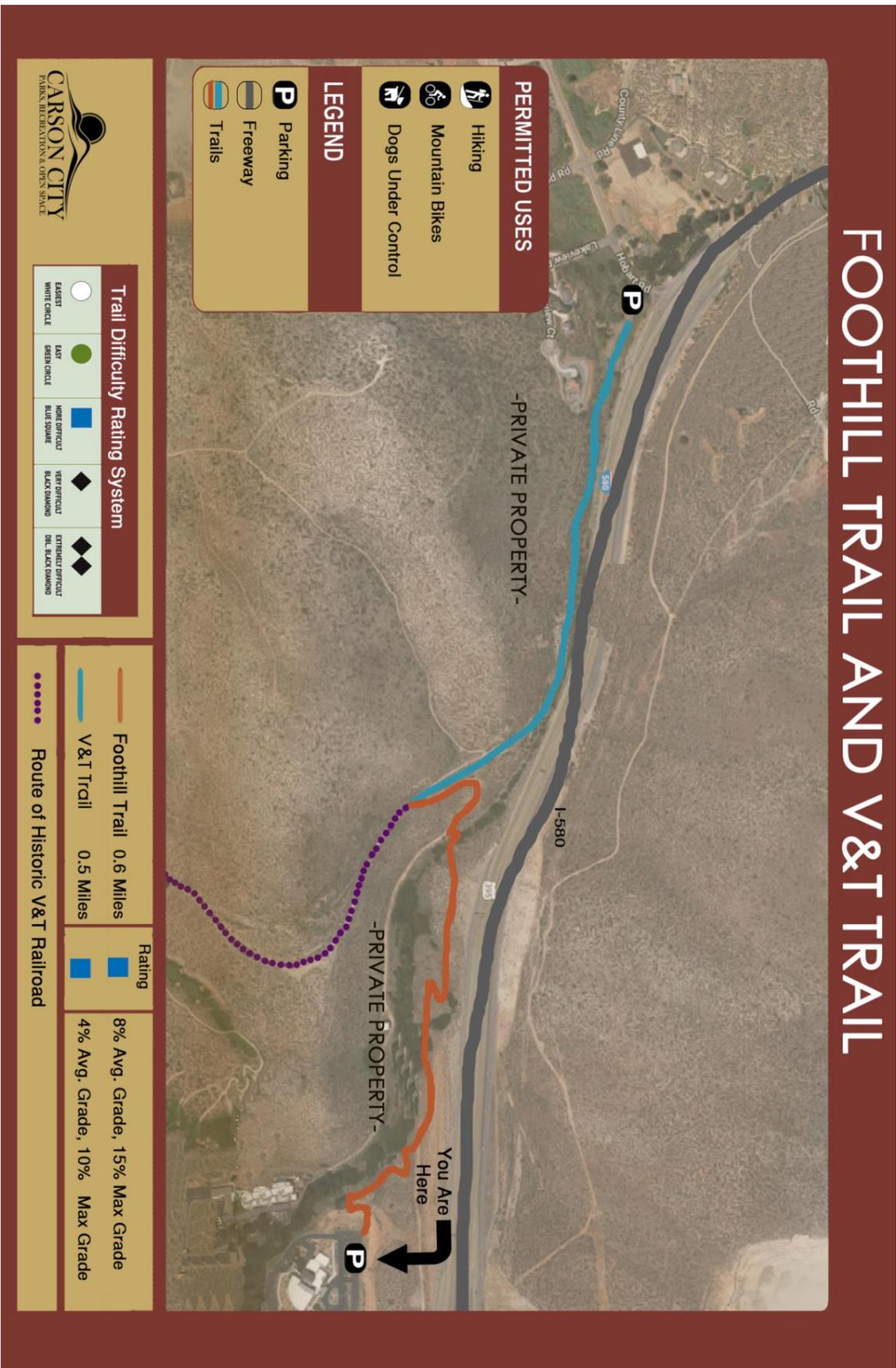
*Some examples of existing trails on State Lands.*

### **Eagle Scout Projects**

- June, 2018 – The Nevada Bureau of Mineral will be working with the Scouts to close two abandoned mine locations on the Prison Hill Recreation Area.

- July, 2018 – Two additional small bridges will be constructed on the Foothill and V&T Trails.
- Fall, 2018 – Two short trails will be constructed as part of the 5<sup>th</sup> St trailhead improvement project. They will lead to viewpoints where benches will be placed. This project was presented to OSAC in February 2018.
- Fall, 2018 – A project has been proposed for the Waterfall Trail which will include some improvements and establishment of an Adopt-A-Trail program. Troop 341, which originally constructed the Waterfall Trail as part of two Eagle Projects, would like to permanently adopt this trail for routine maintenance.

# FOOTHILL TRAIL AND V&T TRAIL



Map that will be placed at the Foothill and V&T trails. It includes our recently adopted Trail Rating System.