



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: February 25, 2019

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

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Activities, projects, and grants throughout other areas managed by the Open Space Division

Staff Summary: See below

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 5 minutes

Bee City USA

In conjunction with our recent designation as the 76th Bee City USA, Carson City residents, the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class, the Greenhouse Project and others have gotten extremely excited about pollinator conservation, and seeing what we can do in our own community to help support their populations! As a result, there has been a flurry of project ideas and proposals circulating. Recently, the Leadership Class approached the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada and Open Space with a desire to explore a bee habitat project such as a Bee Hotel. After discussing internally, Open Space suggested the Foothill Trail as a potential location for this Bee Hotel due to its proximity to the Greenhouse Project, a willing partner in this project. Leadership Class members, Greenhouse Project staff and Open Space staff have all met to discuss this project and we are moving forward with this project. Funds for the project will be raised by the Leadership Class, and after the project is complete the Greenhouse Project has graciously offered to assume maintenance and management of the Bee Hotel. This project will couple well with the current efforts of the Greenhouse Project and will hopefully even provide some pollinator services for the Greenhouse.

In addition to the Bee Hotel project, our AmeriCorps VISTA Community Education Coordinator, Kelsey Stalker has been working to develop a pollinator garden, in conjunction with some of the efforts that Danielle Hatch (Kelsey's predecessor) started last year. The Greenhouse Garden Center has agreed to partner with us on this project to donate plants, supplies and/or expertise. Additionally the Greenhouse Project is an interested partner and will also help with supplying the plants. Staff has met with the Greenhouse Project and the proposed location for this project is also near the Foothill Trail. We hope that this area can become a central location for education opportunities as well as to engage the public in pollinator conservation issues and solutions.

Kings Canyon Road

Trailhead area:

There are no updates from the previous report.

12-17-2018: Public Works was awarded a grant from the Federal Lands Access Program for road improvements to the paved section of road and improved trailhead facilities. Staff is working closely with Public Works and the federal design team to design a sufficient trailhead to accommodate heavy visitor use as well as multiple-use.

Trailhead area to Horsecreek Ranch (dirt road):

Open Space staff met with the U.S. Forest Service on February 1st to review the draft road repair plans. From this meeting, a tentative estimate of \$100,000 was provided to complete the repairs. The repair strategy for the road includes re-establishment of the ditch that parallels the road to mitigate water erosion that has caused the road damage initially. In addition, some sections of the road that have significant rutting or erosion will be reconstructed. Lastly, the plan has provisions in place to repair several slope failures along the road. Once the repair plan is finalized, the USFS can proceed with completing the cultural review. Staff will apply for an additional Recreational Trails Program grant in order to fund implementation of repairs and hopes to complete this in 2019.

Land Acquisition(s) – Clear Creek

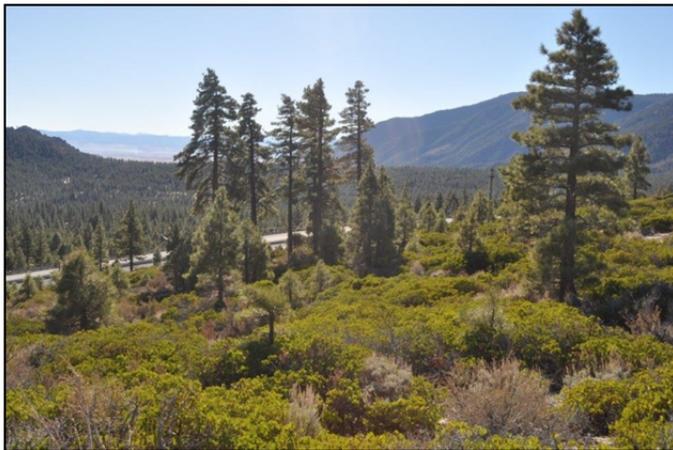
Staff is continuing to work with the Nevada Division of State Lands, Nevada Division of Forest, and Nevada Land Trust to identify options and solutions for acquisition.

Land Acquisition(s) – Hamm

Three project elements still need to be completed in order to receive reimbursement from the Land and Water Conservation Fund: 1) official property naming, 2) utility easement for the Marlette waterline with the Nevada Division of State Lands, and 3) defining the official access point and completing the 6(f)3 map.

Land Acquisition(s) – Michael Fagen

Staff is pleased to inform the committee that the Open Space Division is the proud new owners of 20 acres along U.S. Highway 50 West, previously owned by Mr. Fagen. The purchase was completed on January 31, 2019 at a total cost of \$292, 465.



Newest fee-title acquisition - 20 acres



Mayor Crowell signs the closing papers

Paiute Pipeline Project

No updates from previous report. 12-17-2018: The majority of construction on the Paiute Pipeline project was completed in late November. Parks and Public Works staff have walked the pathway to review for damage caused during the construction process. Public Works staff is currently working to evaluate this damage and propose a repair strategy. All revegetation components of the project have been inspected and completed. The project is anticipated to be finalized in spring 2019 as temperatures allow for asphalt repair.

Personnel

AmeriCorps VISTA members:

- Community Education Coordinator: Kelsey Stalker has been working diligently to expand the Interpretive Program. She has continued to develop and lead interpretive events, and she is also working to expand the Junior Ranger Program that was created last year. Kelsey hopes to make an interpretive map to couple with the Junior Ranger Program to help orient youth to the flora and fauna in Carson City Parks & Open Space. Additionally, Kelsey is working to create a pollinator garden in conjunction with the Greenhouse Project to be staged near the Foothill Trailhead. Her most recent event was a Winter Wildlife Workshop held back in January in cooperation with NDOW.
 - Upcoming Interpretive Events:
 - March 11, 2019, 6:30 pm, Leave No Trace Awareness Workshop, Community Center
- Marketing & Outreach Coordinator: Kristin Simons has been extremely busy improving our marketing strategy for the Department. Some examples of projects include: developing a Department newsletter, continuing to generate video and photo content at events, highlighting a program-of-the-month, assisting with Carson City Weed Coalition social media content, updating the website and working on various graphic design projects.
 - Newsletter: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/Weh09rkvKsVyO/>
- Volunteer Coordinator – Chelsea Kincheloe has been working hard to build the Volunteer Program for the Department. One of her most notable recent accomplishments is launching the Adopt-a-Trail Program in Carson City. Groups and individuals can apply to “adopt” a trail and agree to help with maintenance and stewardship for one year and already eight individual groups have adopted trails!