



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 4C

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: August 19, 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: 10 minutes

Ash Canyon Road

The gate on Ash Canyon Road reopened on July 3, 2019. Prior to opening the road, minor road repairs and fuel reduction activities were completed by the Open Space Maintenance Coordinator, Jared Whitaker. Additionally, a contractor completed major road repairs to reestablish proper water drainage. Ash Canyon Road will remain open until this fall when heavy precipitation begins.

Bee City USA

The Carson City Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class of 2019 completed their Bee Hotel, located near the Greenhouse Project at the Foothill Trail. Mason and Leaf-cutter bees have already begun making their homes here, and residents can see them working, or come to learn more about pollinator conservation before hiking the Foothill Trail. In addition, the Foothill Pollinator Garden, located in this area continues to grow. In June, a planting event was held where volunteers had the chance to remove weeds and plant native flower species. An additional volunteer planting event will take place in September.



Left: Bee Hotel constructed by the Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class of 2019.



Right: Volunteers planting native flowers in the Foothill Pollinator Garden.

Horsecreek Ranch – Bull Thistle Removal

On Saturday, July 20th the Carson City Weed Coalition partnered with Muscle Powered, led by Donna Inversin, to remove the invasive plant bull thistle from the meadow of Horsecreek Ranch. There were a total of 10 volunteers, including staff. Together, 28 bags of bull thistle were removed.



Volunteers stand behind the 28 bags of bull thistle they worked to remove.

Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead

Kings Canyon Road

In partnership with the USFS, staff is hoping to submit a grant application to the Recreational Trails Program for repair of the first two miles of road. See separate agenda item for additional information.

Kings Canyon / Waterfall Trailhead

In coordination with Public Works and a grant award from the Federal Lands Access Program, staff is working with Carson City Public Works on design of a new trailhead. It is anticipated that 70% design plans will be received in the Fall 2019.

Land Acquisition(s) – Clear Creek

Staff is working with Nevada Land Trust to help facilitate the acquisition of 100+ acres owned by the State of Nevada. In July, an appraiser was hired. The draft appraisal should be received in late August or September. After a value has been determined, staff will resume discussions with the State regarding funding options.

Parks and Recreation Month – Donor Recognition

At the July 18th meeting of the Board of Supervisors, several individuals and companies were recognized for the donation(s) to our department.



Michael Fagen received recognition from our department and Carson City Board of Supervisors for his donation to the Open Space Program.

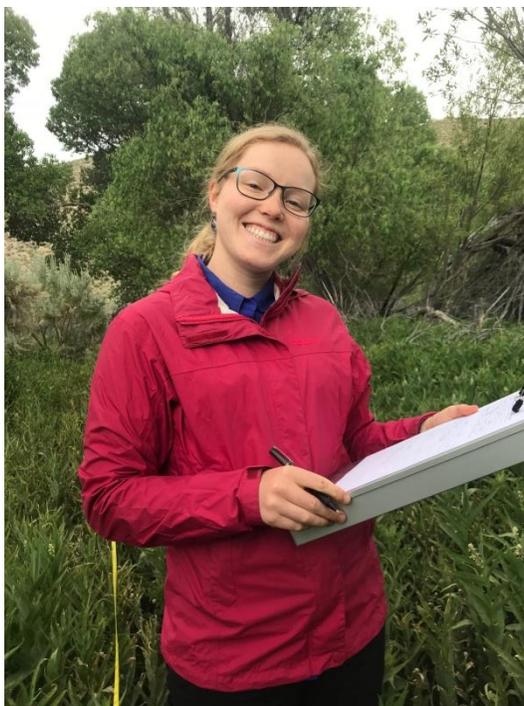
Personnel

AmeriCorps VISTA members:

- Community Education Coordinator: Kelsey Stalker has worked so hard over the last year and has made many strides in developing Carson City's Community Education program. Kelsey's last day with Carson City is September 3rd. The next Community Education Coordinator position has been filled and will start the beginning of September.
- 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, updating the website, seasonal job outreach and working on various graphic design projects.
 - Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department Newsletter (as of 7/10):
 - <https://spark.adobe.com/page/6zUu1TXXzRkLN/>
- Volunteer Coordinator: Chelsea Kincheloe worked extremely hard to build the Volunteer Program for the Department. One of her most notable accomplishments was launching the Adopt-a-Trail Program in Carson City. Her final day with the Department was June 28th. The next Volunteer Coordinator position has been filled and the individual will start the beginning of September.

Carson City Invasive Plants Coordinator (previously titled Carson City Weed Coalition Coordinator): When initiating recruitment to backfill this position, staff decided to rename the position to Invasive Plants Coordinator. The part-time position has been offered and accepted and the background check is underway. Assuming all goes well, the new coordinator will begin on September 9th.

Natural Resource Management Intern: Ms. Kara Berggren has been busy working this summer to monitor and remove noxious weeds, focusing on poison hemlock, bull thistle and musk thistle. In addition, Kara has been working to research, monitor and develop a management plan to address the Eurasian watermilfoil infestation in the Mexican Ditch. Ms. Berggren's last day with the Department is August 9.



*Kara Berggren, Natural Resource Management Intern,
taking monitoring data.*