



# STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item:** 4D

**Report To:** Open Space Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** October 21, 2019

**Staff Contact:** Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator

**Agenda Title:** For Discussion Only: Activities related to trail projects managed by the Open Space Division.

**Staff Summary:** See below

**Agenda Action:** Other/Presentation

**Time Requested:** 10 minutes

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## **Capital to Tahoe Trail and Lincoln Bypass Trail**

Staff is working with Muscle Powered on a grant application to the Recreational Trails Program for the construction of both trails. We are hopeful that we will receive enough grant money to fund at least the first year of an expected two-year project.

## **Carson River Trail System, Phase 2 – Ranch Connections (SNPLMA)**

This trail, with grades not to exceed 5%, will connect the 5<sup>th</sup> Street Trailhead with Silver Saddle Ranch, and then cross Carson River Road at Carson River Park and connect with Riverview Park. Seventy percent design plans are being prepared. All natural resource surveys, including wetland delineation and avian surveys have been completed.

## **Centennial Park Trails**

Tentative plans are to have a stakeholder meeting in November which would include relevant BLM staff, Muscle Powered, Great Basin Institute, and Carson City. We would like to develop a Scope of Work so that we could apply for a 2021 Recreational Trails Program grant to do environmental clearance work on connections to Washoe Lake State Park, McClellan Peak, and Virginia City.

## **Prison Hill Recreation Area**

### ***Motorized Area***

- Work on the main access road will be performed in October. This work will include improving the road and addressing drainage issues.
- Our project consultant, Dick Dufourd with RecConnect, returned recently to finish layout and design for this area, and he will also train staff on how to conduct “Tech-Checks”. Dick will be on-site through mid-November.
- Updates are posted periodically at [www.carson.org/ohv](http://www.carson.org/ohv), and a brochure explaining the project is provided for users at the staging area (see attached). Costs for this project are offset by funding from the Recreational Trails Program and the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission.

- The Pine Nut Mountains Trails Association (PNMTA) hosted a clean-up of the OHV area on October 6. This event was funded by the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission. We are thrilled that the rock-crawler community was able to assist with removal of the abandoned jeep (which trespassed into the non-motorized area in 2018 and could not drive out). In addition, approximately 15 students from the NJROTC assisted with cleanup of the lower canyons and along Golden Eagle Lane.
- The National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) is holding their National Conference in Reno from October 15 to 19. They will be conducting a Mobile Workshop at Prison Hill on October 17<sup>th</sup> which will include a discussion of our project, equipment displays, and demonstrations.



*New Kiosk sign frame, ready for informational and map panels.*

### ***Mexican Dam – Mexican Ditch Inlet Safe Passage***

A contract for construction has been awarded, and we expect that the project will be completed before the end of the year. This project will be an important component in future connectivity for a loop trail around Prison Hill and for extension of the Aquatic Trail into Carson Valley. The cost of construction is partially offset by a \$25,000 grant from the Carson Water Subconservancy District.

### ***5<sup>th</sup> Street Trailhead (Recreational Trails Program grant)***

- The trailhead construction portion of this project is has been completed. Improvements include resurfacing of the parking lot, drainage improvements, additional split-rail fencing, a paved entrance apron, installation of a vault toilet, two paved ADA parking spaces, and a picnic shelter on a concrete pad.
- Construction of three short loop trails is almost complete. An Eagle Scout Project will install wayfinding signage on the trails this fall. The Great Basin Institute is continuing to decommission and/or scarify some old two-track roads which will be re-seeded by staff this fall. Staff is also working on an erosion control project which includes several check dams.
- Lyndsey Boyer is leading revegetation activities in conjunction with the decommissioning of roads. Additionally, she is planning Plateau treatments in the areas adjacent to the roads in order to reduce growth of cheatgrass and annual mustard.
- We are humbled to receive several compliments from the community (see attached).



*Trailhead improvements*



*Great Basin Institute trail crew enjoying an ice cream break on a hot day in August*

### **Prison Hill Survey**

As part of an effort to plan appropriate land uses and trail system connectivity on the Prison Hill Recreation Area, our Department asked for the community's input via an on-line survey. The survey, which received 190 responses, included questions about the trailheads (including parking), access points, and thoughts about the area on the west side of Prison Hill near Koontz Lane. The results, which are being reviewed now, will help guide future improvements, prioritize expenditures, and will be used as a means to seek grants and donations for implementation of various site improvements. A public meeting will be scheduled this fall to gain further input and discuss options.

### **Volunteer Programs**

- Adopt-a-Trail – Several trails have been adopted and are receiving routine clean-ups and weeding, including a segment of the Mexican Ditch Trail and the River Trail at Carson River Park.
- Year-to-date, volunteer groups have donated 2,959 hours for trails at a value of \$38,617. Muscle Powered is our biggest partner, but other important groups include Boy Scouts, Bike Smith, Wells Fargo, Kiwanis, Great Basin Institute and Tahoe Rim Trail Association.



*Wells Fargo volunteers on their adopted segment of the Mexican Ditch Trail*

### **International Trails Symposium**

Held every two years, this is the largest gathering of trail supporters. In 2021, American Trails is partnering with the Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals (SORP) to hold a combined conference in Reno, tentatively scheduled for May 10-12. This will be an exciting opportunity for Carson City to show off what we have to offer. We are on the planning team and the kick-off planning session will be held on October 17.

### **First Combined Trail and Transportation Summit**

This year the Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition (ESTC) is combining with the Nevada Department of Transportation / Bike and Pedestrian Program, to hold the first combined summit on November 5-7, 2019. The theme is “Connecting Communities – Trails/Transportation/Tourism” Registration information below.



## 1st Combined Trail and Transportation Summit

Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition and NV Dept. of Transportation, Bike and Ped Program

November 5th-7th, 2019

(11-5 Tuesday / 8-5 Wednesday / 8-noon Thursday)

*"Connecting Communities— Trails/ Transportation/ Tourism"*

Registration is open and we are encouraging attendees to please sign up early so we can have a good idea of the number of participants for arranging the details of the summit at the MontBleu. Program forthcoming.

**Registration - [JFromm@dot.nv.gov](mailto:JFromm@dot.nv.gov)**

Program Presentations – Complete Streets, E-mobility, Community Planning for Soft and Hard trails, Funding Opportunities, Hwy 28 bike path, Conflict Resolution, Agency Collaboration, Outfitter Trips for Mtn and Road bikes, Travel Oregon, Rails to Trails, FLP Grant Success Stories, Drones and Mapping, Office of Outdoor Recreation- Colorado, Utah and Montana, Building Brands and Signage, New AASHTO guide, Funding, Nevada Outdoor Products Coalition, Awards, Noted Speakers and much more.

Sign up to present at the very popular 5-8 minute X presentations on Thursday – Click here to sign up – [trail/tran/tourismX](#) or here is link <https://forms.gle/rTjnNNVeJsRqrPJT6> - Questions – Contact Kevin Joell at [sierratrailworks@gmail.com](mailto:sierratrailworks@gmail.com)

Field Trips -Thursday afternoon the new world class Sand Harbor to Incline bike path or tour of Van Sickle Bi-State Park

Rooms \$74/night King & \$94/night 2 queens - Reservations 800-648-3353 code STNVBP9 by October 6



## Where Can I Ride?

Currently, none of the trails are signed with trail numbers or marked with direction arrows.

Signing will be implemented in Phase 3 of the project. Until then:

- Ride only existing routes
- Crawl only on areas that show evidence of prior use
- Stay out of subdivisions
- Stay within the OHV area



**Don't  
Crush  
the  
Brush**

## Riding Safely

All trails are 2-way travel. Watch for blind corners, turn your lights on and consider using a safety flag.

All trails are multi-use – pull over and shut-down engine when meeting non-motorized users.

Watch for younger, less experienced riders and other recreationists.

Prison Hill is Day Use Only.

## What Can I Do To Help?

- Comply with all signs and posters
- Follow the Ride Right rules
- Stay on existing routes and open areas
- Pack out your trash.

### ***Ride Responsibly***

### ***Respect Other Users***

### ***Get Involved - Volunteer!!***

***Komstock Krawlerz:***  
[facebook.com/KomstockKrawlerz/](https://www.facebook.com/KomstockKrawlerz/)

***Pine Nut Mountains Trails Assoc: pnmta.org***

***Sacto-Pits Trials: sactopits.org***

***Sierra Stompers: facebook.com/SierraStompers/***

***Nevada 4WD Assoc: n4wda.org***

### **Observe, Record, Report**

***If you see vandalism, shooting, parties, or other inappropriate behavior, please call 775-887-2677***

For more information about this project please contact Carson City Parks, Recreation, & Open Space Department  
[www.carson.org/ohv](http://www.carson.org/ohv)



## **Welcome to the Motorized Portion of Prison Hill**



## Improvements are Coming to Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Recreation at Prison Hill

The Recreation Area is divided into two portions: motorized in the south and non-motorized in the north. The OHV portion has been largely ignored for decades, resulting in a proliferation of trails, soil erosion, vegetation loss, wildlife habitat impacts, as well as noise, safety, and user conflicts.

Planned improvements include designated routes and open areas that will be signed, mapped, and will provide a high-quality riding experience while mitigating the issues above.

***Having sustainable OHV trails and facilities will ensure quality recreation opportunities for future generations.***



## What is Happening Now?

Work has started on a series of projects to improve the trails and facilities at Prison Hill. These projects will take place over the next two years and include:

### Phase 1 (2018):

- Site assessment
- Public involvement
- Development of Management Plan

### Phase 2 (2019):

- Begin education
- Develop trail & facility concept plans
- Perform trail & facility design
- Develop sign & monitoring plans
- Begin implementation
- Identify & sign the area boundary

### Phase 3 (2020-2021):

- Continue education
- Complete implementation including: staging area improvements, new kiosk, toilet(s), quality trails, a Tot Lot, beginner area, rock crawl & trials areas, & a developed Summit Loop

This work is funded by the Nevada OHV Commission, the Federal Highway Administration/Recreational Trails Program, & Polaris. It is a cooperative effort between those entities, Carson City, the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC), and RecConnect, LLC.

## How Will This Affect Me?

During construction there will be some temporary closures of the OHV area to ensure the safety of users and contractors.

You will need to meet the requirements listed below:

### **RIDE RIGHT**

**NEVADA OHV REGISTRATION (REQUIRED)**

**APPROVED SPARK ARRESTOR\***

**SOUND 96dbA MAX\***

\*Future Carson City ordinances

For a complete list of Nevada OHV Laws go to

<https://ohv.nv.gov/>

### **OHV Tech Checks – R U Legal??**

Future complimentary tech checks will be conducted at the staging area



## Ann Bollinger

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**From:** Tyler Kerver  
**Sent:** Friday, October 4, 2019 11:30 AM  
**To:** John Costello; Ann Bollinger; Lyndsey Boyer; Gregg Berggren; Jared Whitaker FW:  
**Subject:** Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

Hey guys,

Sounds like the new 5<sup>th</sup> street parking area is very welcomed. Is there a plan for a grand reopening?

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**From:** Christy C.  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 2, 2019 9:19 AM  
**To:** Tyler Kerver  
**Subject:** Re: Carson City Parks, Recreation, and Open Space

**This message originated outside of Carson City's email system. Use caution if this message contains attachments, links, or requests for information.**

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Hello Tyler -

I would like to know if/when a grand reopening is planned for the Fifth Street trailhead. Since the cones came down I thought it was safe to check out, and I am beyond impressed at the trailhead amenities and the revisions that have been made to the trails.

I have been mountain biking and hiking on those trails for 20 years, and the changes over the past five years have transformed it from a place that was abused by illegal dumpers and off-roaders and frequented by menacing people to a safe, welcoming place for hiking and biking. So if there are plans for an official re-dedication, please let me know. And please, pass my compliments about the improvements on to those who made them possible!

Best regards and thank you,

Christy C.