



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 4D

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: December 16, 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

Capital to Tahoe Trail and Lincoln Bypass Trail

Staff has worked with Muscle Powered to submit 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 5th Street Trailhead with Silver Saddle Ranch, and then cross Carson River Road at Carson River Park and connect with Riverview Park. Ninety percent design plans are being reviewed.

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

- Updates are posted periodically at 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.
- Work on the main access road, including installation of some Jack Rail fencing, was completed in October. Work on drainage issues above the staging area was performed in November.



Fencing and drainage projects at the Prison Hill OHV area

- Our project consultant, Dick Dufourd with RecConnect, has conducted two “Tech-Check” trainings with our Rangers. The Tech Check includes inspection for OHV registration, spark arrestor, and sound check (96 db).



Ranger Costello performing a Tech-Check

- The National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) held their National Conference in Reno from October 15 to 19. They showcased our project by holding their Mobile Workshop at Prison Hill on October 17. This was attended by about 100 people and included a full day of discussions, equipment displays, and demonstrations.



Pictures from the Mobile Workshop

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.

5th Street Trailhead (Recreational Trails Program grant)

- Eagle Scout candidate Ari Erickson placed wayfinding signage on the three loop trails for his Eagle Project.



Eagle candidate Ari Erickson proudly displays his work.

- Re-seeding of old roads was completed during a department ‘All Staff Work Day’.





Photos from the department 'All Staff Work Day'

- Lyndsey Boyer 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 continue to receive compliments from the community.

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.

Carson River Park “Touch-Up”

Carson River Park lies adjacent to Silver Saddle Ranch and essentially provides a gateway to the Ranch, the Mexican Ditch Trail, and the Carson River Aquatic Trail. Eagle Scout candidate Jacob Budd recently did a “Touch-Up” to this much loved park. His project included re-leveling and re-painting the Monument Sign and placing decorative rock around the crumbling base, replacing the faded Aquatic Trail Sign and several interpretive signs, leveling the picnic tables which were disturbed by flooding, and clearing rocks off the boat ramp.



Before and after photos of the Monument Sign

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 which will meet or conference every two months.

Trail and Transportation Summit

This year the Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition (ESTC) partnered with the Nevada Department of Transportation / Bike and Pedestrian Program to hold the first combined summit on November 5-7, 2019. Over 260 participants registered for at least one of the three days. Between PROS and Public Works, Carson City participated in four panels and presentations.