



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 4B

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: May 18, 2020

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

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. The project is out to bid, and construction is anticipated to begin in June.

Prison Hill Recreation Area

Motorized (OHV) Area

Updates are posted periodically at www.carson.org/ohv, and a brochure explaining the project is provided for users at the staging area. An ‘interim’ map has been produced to show users which trails and areas are currently open for their use, and which areas are closed. There is a QR code on the map so that recreationists may download the map to their mobile device and easily navigate while on-site. The map is available on our website, and paper copies are available at the kiosk sign in the staging area. We are also working on a short video to discuss the project and encourage responsible riding.

Work is underway to complete Section 106 compliance of the National Historic Preservation Act, as required by the Programmatic Agreement between Carson City, the Bureau of Land Management, and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The fieldwork will include an intensive survey of the entire project area. Once we have clearance from SHPO we may begin grant funded construction of new trails, along with decommissioning of fall-line trails, and installation of water management structures.

Mexican Dam – Mexican Ditch Intake Safe Passage

The project, which will enable a much easier portage around the dam, has been somewhat delayed due to COVID-19 related issues. We are currently anticipating a completion date in June. Some avid boaters have volunteered to help with developing a take-out just upstream of the new crossing, with the intent of extending the Aquatic Trail into Carson Valley.

5th Street Trailhead (Recreational Trails Program grant)

The final panels have been placed on the kiosk sign, and this project is now complete. We are excited about this new trailhead and all the work that has been completed. The project included regrading of the parking area and drainage work, addition of a vault toilet and covered picnic table, designated ADA parking stalls, and a new trail system. The trails are in three short loops, each named for a common local plant: Sagebrush, Bitterbrush, and Rabbitbrush. The trails were constructed to an average width of 4-feet so that they may be used by someone on an adaptive mountain bike. Trail wayfinding signage was installed by Boy Scouts, and there are two viewpoints with benches that were also installed by Boy Scouts. Over a mile of old road was closed, and staff reseeded the old roads and installed straw check-dams to reduce erosion.



Waterfall Trailhead Parking (also known as Kings Canyon Trailhead Parking Lot)

As part of a Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant, we are working in coordination with Public Works and Central Federal Lands (CFL) on plans for an improved trailhead at this busy location. Initial concept plans were presented to both the Parks and Recreation Commission and OSAC in October 2019. Comments forwarded to CFL and we are currently waiting for revised/updated plans. Planned construction has been pushed back to July 2021.

Capital to Tahoe/Lincoln Bypass Trails

All environmental reports have been completed and submitted to the USFS for review. The cultural report should be submitted very soon. We have clearance from the Nevada Division of State Parks for the segment of trail that goes through the State Park, and Muscle Powered plans to begin work as COVID restrictions and on-site conditions allow.

Centennial Trails

Muscle Powered submitted a formal proposal to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a multi-county project that would connect Carson City with Washoe Lake State Park and Virginia City. Additionally, they recently completed a new trail on City leased property that connects the Wildhorse Trail with the first segment of what will be the Washoe Lake State Park connector. We are working on signage for the Centennial trailhead that will show a map of existing trails and indicate future plans.

National Trails Day – June 6th

Unfortunately, like so many other events, this one has also been cancelled. We are working on a video or virtual event instead.

Increased visitation to trails and Open Space

Covid-19 restrictions and closures have resulted in unprecedented visitation to our trails and Open Space areas as people seek activities that they can participate in alone or with family. The importance of our program is being realized like never before and many people are discovering some of our trails and properties for the first time.