



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 4C

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: May 18, 2020

Staff Contact: Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Activities, projects, and grants managed by the Open Space Division located within the Carson River corridor.

Staff Summary: See below.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 10 minutes

Aquatic Trail Blog

Since so many activities have been cancelled, our Department has been working to put out video blogs and virtual interpretive activities to promote our Trails and Open Space via social media. Below is a video excerpt that Recreation Superintendent, Dan Earp put together promoting safe social distancing on the Carson River Aquatic Trail.

Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department
May 1 at 12:29 PM · 🌐

For our Social Distancing Recreation Vlog Episode 2, we're exploring the Carson River Aquatic Trail from East Silver Saddle to Morgan Mill. This is a great way to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather we're experiencing, if you have access to a kayak, canoe, raft, or SUP.

For more information on the Carson River Aquatic Trail visit:
<https://www.carson.org/.../bro.../carson-river-aquatic-trail-map...> See More

2:36

Video blog tour of the Aquatic Trail.

Buzzy's Ranch

Conservation Plan

Test plots have been established at Old Buzzy's Ranch, and seeding was completed in the fall 2019. Staff and consultants will continue to monitor the test plots this May and subsequent seasons to identify which species successfully establish. With these results, across varying moisture regimes, staff hopes to effectively restore portions of the ranch to native conditions to combat future reductions in water rights to be applied to the property. In addition, one task of the Conservation Plan is to identify the minimum amount of water needed to maintain aesthetics of the irrigated fields. Once the plan is finalized, staff will use the information to apply for grants that will help fund water rights acquisition for the property.

Test Wells

The soil coring process and analysis was completed spring 2019. Results of the analysis showed that two out of the three well sites that were examined were not suitable for drinking water, due to presence of arsenic or other undesirable compounds. The third site, which was located at the northernmost point of the Ranch was identified to be suitable (based on soil conditions etc), however, given its proximity to the existing well infrastructure in Riverview Park, was also eliminated. At this time, there are no subsequent plans to complete soil testing or other activities at this location in the future.

Carson River Canyon Open Space

Aerial reseeded with a native seed blend using a helicopter was completed in early November 2019. Staff will complete additional monitoring this May to evaluate success and determine if additional treatments are required. Staff included pollinator friendly plant species in the revegetation mix, including sunflowers, so staff look forward to seeing those pollinator friendly plant species growing in Carson River Canyon in the future.

Events (Carson River area and elsewhere)

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Carson City sanctioned events, and events on Carson City property have been cancelled through the end of May.

Date	Event	Location	Primary Staff and/or Other Notes
Sat, April 4	Escape from Prison Hill Half Marathon	Prison Hill/SSR	Jared (prep); Gregg to review racing routes
Tue, April 7	Full Moon Hike—April	Prison Hill, 5 th Street	Park Rangers
Sat, April 11	Walk with the Weeds	Empire Ranch Trail	Lyndsey
Sat, April 18	Winter Trail Run Series	Carson Canyons	Park Rangers
Sat, April 18	Tot Trot	Foothill Trail	Park Rangers
Thurs, April 23	River Wranglers Student Workday	E.SSR (south)	Lyndsey
Sat, April 25	Forestry Hike	Kings Canyon TH	Park Rangers
Thurs, April 30	River Wranglers Student Workday	E.SSR (south)	Lyndsey
Sun, May 3	Meditation Walk—May	SSR	Park Rangers
Thurs, May 7	Full Moon Hike—May	Kings Canyon TH	Park Rangers
Sat, May 9	Cake Electric Motorcycle Demo Day	Prison Hill—OHV	Lyndsey & Gregg
Sat, May 9	Bird Walk	SSR	Park Rangers
Tue, May 12	River Wranglers Student Workday	E.SSR (south)	Lyndsey

Sat, May 16	Kids to Parks Day	SSR	Parks Rangers
Sat, June 2	National Trails Day	Eagle View Open Space	Jared, Gregg and Lyndsey
Sat, June 5	Full Moon Hike – June	Ash Canyon	Park Rangers
Sun, June 7	Meditation Walk – June	C-Hill Trailhead	Park Rangers
Thu, 6/25 – Sun, 6/28	EPIC/Carson City Off-Road	West Side Trails	FYI

Silver Saddle Ranch

Two major capital improvement projects were completed at Silver Saddle Ranch in early 2020. The furnace installation process went smoothly and was completed in January, allowing for more efficient and reliable heating of the Red House during winter months. Additionally, after completing monitoring for asbestos and lead paint, the demolition of the White House was also completed in early 2020. Now that the White House has been removed it will allow for the new Carson River Trails trail segment to be constructed through Silver Saddle Ranch, if budget allows.

Stewardship Plan/State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Staff received a response from SHPO in early 2020 related to the Preservation Plan. They provided a few comments and items to follow-up on or edit. Once the edits are made, the Preservation Plan will be sent back to SHPO for final approval. In conjunction with the Preservation Plan, the baseline documentation report and NARA forms have been finalized and sent to SHPO for review. After approved by SHPO, staff will work with them to initiate the stewardship monitoring plan for the architectural features.