



# STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item: 9A**

**Report To:** Open Space Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** August 17, 2020

**Staff Contact:** Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator, [gberggren@carson.org](mailto:gberggren@carson.org)

**Agenda Title:** Trails Coordinator Report: Activities related to trail projects managed by the Open Space Division, including updates on the Carson River Trails Project Phase II, Prison Hill OHV Area and the Koontz parcel on the west side of Prison Hill.

**Staff Summary:** See below

**Agenda Action:** Other/Presentation

**Time Requested:** 10 minutes

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

Construction began on the Prison Hill and Silver Saddle Ranch segments in mid-June. These two segments are expected to be completed by the end of September. Construction on the West Riverbank segment will begin after August 15 to accommodate for the raptor nesting season. This segment should be completed by the end of October. An overview map of the project is attached on page 4.

## **Prison Hill Recreation Area**

### ***Prison Hill Master Plan***

We are waiting for various City departments to comment on the plan. We anticipate taking the plan to the Board of Supervisors in September.

### ***Koontz parcel***

New kiosk signs were recently placed at the Koontz and Clearview trailheads. We have added “No ATV/Dirtbike” signs and the Rangers have increased patrols. Assuming BOS approval of the Prison Hill Master Plan, we hope to begin installing split rail fencing this fall in order to limit motorized traffic to designated roads that access the trailheads. Full implementation of the plan for this area, including trailhead improvements, will be funding dependent.



*Kiosk sign at Clearview trailhead*

### ***Motorized (OHV) Area***

Updates are posted periodically at [www.carson.org/ohv](http://www.carson.org/ohv). We recently posted a video to the website which briefly talks about the project and asks users to use the map and the app, and to stay on designated trails and areas. The video includes clips from Ranger Kerver and from a recreational OHV user.

The archaeological survey has been completed and submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). 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. In the meantime, some of our projects have included placement of additional signage and jack-rail fencing to designate OHV boundaries. We have also done some mulching on a few closed roads to help them to visually disappear. In addition, we received spill cleanup supplies and some swag (flashlights, water bottles, etc.) from Tread Lightly. About 100 spill cleanup kits have been assembled to give to OHV users and organizations.

OHV/Vehicle counters were placed at both entrance locations in March. The chart below shows daily averages for the period March 1 – July 15, adjusted for two-way traffic. For the period, an average of 50 vehicles per day entered the OHV area.

<i>Site name</i>	<i>Mon avg</i>	<i>Tue avg</i>	<i>Wed avg</i>	<i>Thu avg</i>	<i>Fri avg</i>	<i>Sat avg</i>	<i>Sun avg</i>	<i>ADT</i>
<b>OHV - Staging area</b>	26	23	28	26	39	56	59	37
<b>OHV Snyder Ave</b>	9	9	10	13	12	18	17	13

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

The project has been delayed due to COVID-19 related supply-chain issues. We are currently anticipating a completion by mid-August.

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

Four interpretive panels have been ordered for the loop trails above this trailhead. Once placed we will close out this grant.

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

We are working with the Public Works Department and CFL to incorporate design modifications based on public and committee comments received from the RTC meeting on 6/10/20 and the joint OSAC/PRC meeting on 6/15/20. Design element changes will include one-way access through the parking lot which may reduce the overall footprint and the required excavation. Currently, CFL anticipates completing design plans by the end of November 2020. Construction is anticipated for spring/summer of 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 so Muscle Powered is moving forward with plans for construction. They have completed final flagging of this segment of alignment, and they have begun staging of equipment for volunteer hand-build. They are also planning to fund some partial mechanical build.

### **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. We have had discussions with BLM who have indicated support for the project. We are waiting for a scope of work from the BLM in order to plan for NEPA and cultural clearances.

## **Foothill Trail**

Open Space helped the Chamber Leadership Class with their 2020 project at the Foothill Trailhead by installing a new kiosk sign. The recent class planted 25 bee-friendly trees to augment the pollinator garden and the bee-hotel that was placed by the 2019 Chamber Leadership Class. They also made improvements to the Serenity Stroll and added metal artwork along the trail with words of encouragement as part of the “wellness trail” theme and proximity to the Cancer Center.



## **National Trails Day**

Due to Covid-19 we were not able to host a public NTD event this year. We recorded a video with Mayor Bob Crowell who talked about Carson City’s many trails and Open Space properties and thanked all of the volunteers who help to build and maintain these trails. We dedicated “Bob’s Trail”, which is the connector trail from Ash Canyon Road to the Eagle View Open Space that was constructed as part of the 2019 NTD event. The video can be found on the the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department Facebook page, the Muscle Powered website, and can also be accessed at this link:

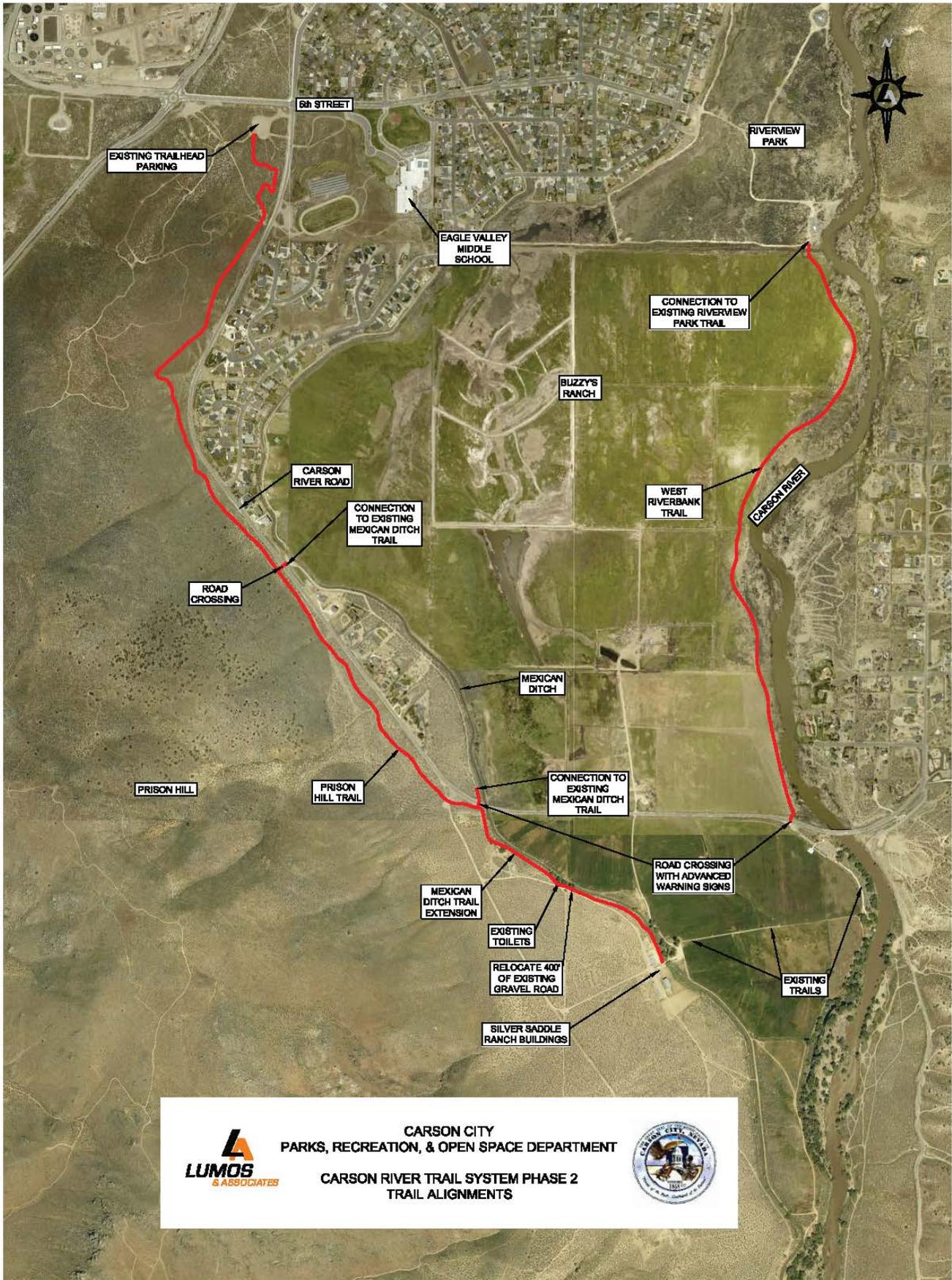
[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HA\\_pxm6I5ugY\\_CE4kJu-S09C0Ywf8jh9/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HA_pxm6I5ugY_CE4kJu-S09C0Ywf8jh9/view?usp=sharing)

## **Recreation Intern**

The Open Space Division was fortunate to have a hard-working AmeriCorps intern for the summer. Chris Ford, a UNR student, helped with many projects throughout the summer. He spent many hours in the OHV area installing signage, replacing missing signage, installing fencing, and doing vertical mulching on some closed roads to help them to visually disappear. He did some reclamation work at ESSR and installed Aquatic Trail signage there. He helped with the install of new kiosk signage at several Open Space trailheads including Koontz Lane, Clearview Drive, SSR, and ESSR. His special project for the summer was to create an asset management database for all of the signs on Open Space properties and trails. Throughout the summer Chris collected GPS points and took photographs of the signs and entered them into a Google Earth file. This information will be valuable to our department for a variety of reasons, including long-term maintenance, monitoring, and a reliable way to identify missing signs.

In this photo, Recreation Intern Chris Ford stands next to one of the signs he placed next to the paved V&T Trail with our “share the trail” message, encouraging people to respect others, go slow and say hello, use safe speeds and to clean up after their pet.






**CARSON CITY**  
**PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE DEPARTMENT**  
**CARSON RIVER TRAIL SYSTEM PHASE 2**  
**TRAIL ALIGNMENTS**
