



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 9A

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: August 16, 2021

Staff Contact: Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator, gberggren@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Trails Coordinator Report - Activities related to trail projects managed by the Open Space Division, including updates on the Capital to Tahoe and Lincoln Bypass trails, Ash Canyon trails, Kings Canyon Trailhead, Prison Hill Recreation Area, National Trails Day, and the Open Space summer Recreation Intern. (*Gregg Berggren*)

Staff Summary: See below.

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 15 minutes

Capital to Tahoe/Lincoln Bypass Trails

The United States Forest Service (USFS) issued a signed Decision Memo for the Lincoln Bypass Trail in April and for the Capital to Tahoe Trail in late June. Muscle Powered received 2021 Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grants for both projects and construction is currently underway on the Lincoln Bypass Trail. Muscle Powered hired a professional trail builder to construct much of the trail and they are using volunteers for some of the finish and rock work. We are anticipating that the Lincoln Bypass will be completed by the end of summer. The Lincoln Bypass will connect the Kings Canyon end of the Ash-to-Kings Trail with lower Kings Canyon Road at Longview Drive, effectively “bypassing” the motorized road (Old Lincoln Highway) with single-track trail.

The portion of the Capital to Tahoe Trail that goes through the Lake Tahoe Nevada State Park was completed last year and construction on the USFS segment will begin in late summer or fall this year.

Together, Lincoln Bypass and Capital to Tahoe will add over 13 miles of new trail to Carson City.



Rock bridge construction on Lincoln Bypass

Ash Canyon Trails

Over the last several years we have been working on creating a system of legally sanctioned trails in the Ash Canyon area, which is critical for single-track connectivity with the Ash-to-Kings Trail and Capital to Tahoe Trail. This project has entailed several components:

1. Acquisition of the 206-acre Hamm property: Completed in 2018 using Q18 funds and a LWCF grant, this property was named Eagle View Open Space. Several existing trails were acquired in this transaction, and Muscle Powered subsequently built a new Eagle View Trail.
2. License agreement from Western Nevada College: completed in 2020.
3. License agreement from the Nevada Division of State Lands: completed this year.
4. Bob's Trail extension: Completed recently, this 0.3-mile trail essentially re-aligns a segment of the Baldy Green Trail and by using the Eagle View Trail, enables for the first time a single-track connection from Carson City trailheads to the Ash-to-Kings Trail that is entirely on public lands and 100% legally sanctioned. We are currently working with Muscle Powered on placement of signage.

Next summer we plan to complete another extension of Bob's Trail in order to create a single, seamless, and simple trail to connect Carson City with the Ash-to-Kings Trail, and simultaneously create additional loop possibilities in the Ash Canyon area.

Kings Canyon Trailhead

Construction has begun on the new Kings Canyon Trailhead. This long-awaited and badly needed project incorporates several design changes that resulted from public and committee comments. Design element changes include one-way access through the parking lot which will reduce the overall footprint and the required excavation, reduction of the number of parking spaces to 25 vehicles (from 30), relocation of the vault toilet and trailhead to be at the south end of the parking lot where it will be furthest from homes, addition of curb and gutter as well as 'no parking' signs to restrict parking outside of the parking lot, and new driveway connections to adjacent properties.

Due to relocation of the trailhead, we will need to independently construct a short segment of new trail and we will need to decommission a portion of the existing trail. We have plans to make this new connection simultaneously with trailhead construction.

Throughout construction the Kings Canyon road will be closed Monday-Friday at Longview Drive.

Prison Hill Non-Motorized Trails

Section 106 Cultural Surveys are now being conducted in multiple locations within the non-motorized portion of Prison Hill. Compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act is a requirement that was agreed to when Prison Hill was conveyed from the Bureau of Land Management to Carson City in 2015. Some areas have been previously surveyed, like the North Loop for example, but many other areas have not. Once completed, these additional new surveys will enable us to perform maintenance activities, including minor realignments and upgrades, on a number of existing trails. We will also be able to construct several new trails, including better connections from the Koontz TH to the saddle, from the saddle to Dead Truck Canyon, and from the 5th Street Loop Trails to the North Loop.

A lightning strike on July 2nd burned about 171 acres on the north part of Prison Hill. The significant portion of the North Loop Trail was within the burn zone, but the trail survived very well, which is a testament to the value of sustainably built trails. Muscle Powered volunteer Paul Sinnott led a maintenance and re-alignment effort on this trail in 2019-2020. We observed places where water helicopters had dumped water, hundreds of gallons at a time, and the trail shed the water as it was designed to do.

Prison Hill Motorized Area

Project improvements to this area continue, in partnership with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC), along with grant funding from the Recreational Trails Program and the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle grant program. Since June we have been installing additional signage and fencing and other small projects using staff labor, our summer intern, and a summer OHV Tech hired by the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Program to help multiple agencies in our region. In September work will begin in an area called the West Basin, which will include route enhancements, drainage improvements, and reclamation work in some heavily impacted areas. We also plan to link-together some existing trails in the middle of the OHV area to complete a new six-mile loop trail, to be named Toad Rock Loop. Updates are posted periodically at www.carson.org/ohv. Based on recommendations from CCFD, we have been closing the OHV area to motorized use during Red Flag Warnings. So far this summer we have closed the area three times for a period of several hours due to increased fire danger.

Recreation Intern

Our summer Recreation Intern, Kaylee Maples, has been a valuable asset to our team. Kaylee recently graduated from Ohio University with a degree in ecology. Some of her many projects:

- Lead several recreation programs, including an interpretive hike on National Trails Day, a 10-mile interpretive bike ride along the Carson River, assisted our Rangers with several programs like the Scorpion Hike, and helped with the kid's mountain bike program.
- Research, photography, and graphics for several interpretive signs, including historic signs for the V&T Trail, wildlife and ranching history signs for the Buzzy's Ranch Trail, and new interpretive panels for Silver Saddle Ranch.
- Project work at the Prison Hill OHV area, including sign installation, placement of bollards, and fencing.
- Assisted Open Space staff with bird surveys along the Carson River.
- Assisted Open Space staff with weed mapping.
- Updated information on our trails website and made corrections to other's websites.
- Assisted with collection of trail-count and trail-cam data.
- Trail maintenance.
- Helped with several volunteer events.
- Trail etiquette/education – created "Paws" flyer to post on asphalt trails during this hot summer and promoted our on-going "Share the Trail" campaign.



Kaylee helped to place new kiosk signs at Morgan Mill and Carson River Canyon.



Kaylee leading hike on National Trails Day.



Replacing trail signs after the Prison Hill fire.

Please PAWS before you walk!

As Temperatures rise it is important that we take steps to protect our best walking companion's feet! Here are some steps to take.



Step 1



Place your hand on the pavement

Step 2



Wait seven seconds

Step 3



If its too hot don't walk!

Outside Temp	Asphalt Temp
77° F	125° F
86° F	135° F
87° F	143° F
102° F	167° F



"Paws" poster

CARSON CITY PARKS, RECREATION & OPEN SPACE

GO SLOW, SAY HELLO

SHARE THE TRAILS WITH ALL USERS

WATCH THE PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT TO LEARN MORE!

TRAIL COURTESY

YIELD TO

QR code linking to Share the Trail video.

Flyer with QR code linking to Share the Trail video.

National Trails Day

Our National Trails Day (NTD) event, hosted in cooperation with Muscle Powered, was a huge success. About 86 people attended, including Mayor Bagwell and other City leaders.

Since June is Pollinator Month, and this year was the first “Bee Kind Carson City, Protect Pollinators” campaign, we held the event at the Foothill Trailhead. The program included a tour of the adjacent Greenhouse Project and the Pollinator Garden, and there was a “Bee Booth” with information about pollinators.

Twenty-nine people attended our two naturalist-led interpretive hikes along the Foothill Trail to the V&T Railroad Grade where the curator of the Nevada State Railroad Museum gave a talk. We had over 50 volunteers for the trail maintenance portion of the event, including about 40 volunteers from the Great Basin Institute.



Trail maintenance volunteers – National Trails Day.



Images from National Trails Day: Muscle Powered booth, Mayor Bagwell speaking.

Volunteer Activities

Muscle Powered has contributed hundreds of hours to trail planning, building, and maintenance this year. Other groups have contributed time through our Adopt-a-Trail program, including Kiwanis, Moose Lodge, Target, and Click bond. The Juvenile Probation Wilderness Program dedicated several days this summer to weeding and trash clean-up along trails. The Great Basin Institute donated well over 100 hours on National Trails Day.



Target



Click Bond