



# STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item:** 9B

**Report To:** Open Space Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** April 18, 2022

**Staff Contact:** Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager, [lboyer@carson.org](mailto:lboyer@carson.org)  
Georgia Vasey, Senior Natural Resource Specialist, [gvasey@carson.org](mailto:gvasey@carson.org)

**Agenda Title:** For Discussion Only: Senior Natural Resource Specialist and Open Space Manager Report - Activities related to projects managed by the Open Space Division, including updates within the Carson River corridor.

**Staff Summary:** See below.

**Agenda Action:** Other/Presentation

**Time Requested:** 15 minutes

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## **Community Programs and Education**

At the beginning of March, staff helped lead an interpretive walk for a class of fourth graders from Carson Montessori in collaboration with River Wranglers at Ambrose Carson River Natural Area. A family of three Great horned owls were perched in the cottonwood trees which made for an exciting wildlife sighting!



Georgia Vasey, Senior Natural Resource Specialist, helping lead a nature walk at Ambrose.



*Can you spot the Great horned owl?*

Starting later this April, Open Space staff and the Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Bridgham, will help lead “Weedy Wednesdays,” a weekly volunteer program to hand-pull invasive weeds in different Open Space and Park properties. We also plan to lead an interpretive walk for Earth Day on Saturday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> from the Empire Ranch Trailhead to identify weeds and share natural history information.

### **Prison Hill Fire and Restoration**

*No updates from previous report.* Follow-up monitoring will take place later this April/early May.

### **Carson River Updates**

#### *Noxious Weed Abatement*

Spring has sprung and so have the noxious and invasive weeds! Jared Whitaker, Open Space Maintenance Coordinator began the season by applying pre-emergent herbicide in key locations this March to suppress summer annual weeds. Starting later in April through June, spot treatment of hoary cress will be treated followed by perennial pepperweed in early July. A three-foot buffer will be treated along most trails in the river corridor to maintain accessibility. Particular focus on treating weeds and maintaining open corridor along the Empire Ranch Trail is a high priority this year since the nearby trailhead parking area is being improved.

The Senior Natural Resource Specialist is also planning on working with Carson City Code Enforcement to alert private landowners on treating noxious weeds on their properties. Resources will be sent to homes with information on the particular weed species, as well as recommendations for addressing the issue.

#### *Watershed Forum*

Open Space staff presented at the Carson River Watershed Forum at the end of March. Staff led two presentations entitled: ‘How Open Space and Trails Build Community: Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space’ (Lyndsey Boyer and Gregg Berggren), as well as ‘High Alert: Preventing and Managing Further Invasion of a Noxious Aquatic Weed in the Carson River’ (Georgia Vasey). This two-day event featured a variety of speakers discussing resource issues and project improvements throughout the Carson River Watershed. To view the Open Space presentations, as well as others, see this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL9qPxTG9oWYQWjTMUyBaSTcErWzvMB6U7>

### **Carson City Sheep-Grazing Fuels Reduction Project**

This April we kick off the 16<sup>th</sup> year of implementing an important fuel reduction project in western Carson City at the wildland urban interface. Following the 2004 Waterfall Fire that burned over 8,000 acres, the Carson City Open Space Division led efforts to address a flush of fine fuels (e.g. cheatgrass) using targeted sheep grazing during the months of April and May to reduce future fire threat. Two bands of approximately 1,400 ewes and lambs from the Borda Land and Sheep Company will be released and managed by shearers and livestock guard dogs, the first band beginning April 8<sup>th</sup> in the lands surrounding the Lakeview and Timberline neighborhoods, and the second band starting behind Greenhouse Garden Center on April 13<sup>th</sup>. The sheep will move grazing locations every three to four days. During this time, Open Space staff will continue annual monitoring to track before and after data on fine fuels removal, vegetation species diversity, and recapture long-term repeat photos. Staff will also participate in media coverage and lead an interpretive talk towards the end of April for interested community members.

### **Cultural Review (Section-106 Projects)**

*No updates from previous report 2-22-2022.*

### **Kings Canyon Road and Trailhead**

#### *Kings Canyon Dirt Road*

Road repair, maintenance and drainage improvements were completed in March 2022. The dirt road portion from the Kings Canyon Trailhead to the entrance to Horsecreek Ranch is now passable by

high clearance vehicles. Users should still exercise caution during weather events and avoid traveling the road during storm events as wet, muddy conditions may still be present.

*Kings Canyon / Waterfall Trailhead*

See update under Trails Coordinator Report.

**Land Acquisitions**

*Clear Creek*

*No Updates since previous report: 2-22-2022*

*Old Woods Ranch*

*No Updates since 10-18-2021 OSAC meeting.*

**Events (Carson River area and elsewhere)**

Please see below for events put on by our Department throughout Open Space and Parks. For more information on joining an event, please visit our Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/CCPRDept/>

Date	Event	Location	Primary Staff and/or Other Notes
Sat, April 2	Escape from Prison Hill	Silver Saddle Ranch; Prison Hill	Gregg Berggren
Sat, April 2	Geology Excursion	Wild Horse Trail	Park Rangers
Sat, April 9	Spring Tot Trot	Riverview Park	Park Rangers
April 13-15	ATV Course Training	OHV Area	Gregg Berggren
Sat, April 23	Ascent Winter Trail Run	C-Hill, Ash Canyon, Long Ranch	Gregg Berggren
Sat, April 23	Earth Day Interpretive Walk	Empire Ranch	Georgia Vasey
Fri, April 29	Arbor Day Tree Planting	Lone Mountain Cemetery	Park Rangers, Volunteer Coordinator
Sat, May 7	Kid's Community Fishing Day	Bailey's Pond	
Sat, May 7	Mother's Day Botany Walk	Dead Truck Canyon	Park Rangers
Sun, May 8	Silver Saddle Ranch – Historic Tour	Silver Saddle Ranch	Park Rangers
Sat, May 14	Community Clean-up/Dropoff Location	Carson River Park	
Sat, May 14	FOSSR Spring Open House	Silver Saddle Ranch	Lyndsey Boyer
Sun, May 15	Spring Full Moon Hike	TBD	Park Rangers
Sat, May 21	Kids to Parks Day; Junior Ranger Adventure	Mills Park	Park Rangers
Wed, May 25	Choose Your Cruise Bike Ride	TBD	Gregg Berggren
Sat, June 4	National Trails Day	Kings Canyon Trailhead	Gregg Berggren
June 4-5	Art on the Trail	Carson River Park/Silver Saddle Ranch	Lyndsey Boyer
Sun, June 19	Tails and Trails	Riverview Park	Park Rangers
Fri, June 24	Night Under the Stars	Silver Saddle Ranch	Park Rangers
Sat, June 25	Bee Kind, Carson City - Pollinator Parade	Farmer's Market	Lyndsey Boyer