



# STAFF REPORT

## Agenda Item: 6.A

**Report To:** Open Space Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** February 21, 2023

**Staff Contact:** Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager, [lboyer@carson.org](mailto:lboyer@carson.org)

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

**Staff Summary:** See Attachment 1 - Open Space Manager Report, which includes updates on activities and projects managed by the Open Space Division, including updates within the Carson River corridor.

**Agenda Action:** Other/Presentation

**Time Requested:** 10 minutes

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### Proposed Motion

N/A

### Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

### Previous Action

N/A

### Background/Issues & Analysis

See Attachment 1 – Open Space Manager Report

### Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

N/A

### Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact?  Yes  No

## Open Space Manager Report

Lyndsey Boyer, February 21, 2023

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### **Buzzy's Ranch Water Rights Update**

The Buzzy's Ranch Open Space was purchased in 2007 and 2010 through two acquisitions, partially funded through State Question 1 funding. At the time of acquisition, the City and grantor did not have enough funds to support the acquisition of water rights for the property as well. However, one of the primary criteria for acquiring this property was to preserve the ranching history in Eagle Valley and to maintain the aesthetics of green, irrigated pastures throughout this property. To ensure the property was irrigated and maintained, the City entered into a Purchase and Sale Agreement with the sellers of the property that gave them exclusive rights to the property as long as they owned water rights and applied them to the land. Since 2019, staff have been working to identify strategies for water rights acquisition by the City. In 2020, staff applied for SNPLMA funding to support the Buzzy's Ranch Water Rights Acquisition and Wetland Enhancement Project. This project was awarded in 2021 and the City received funding awards in late 2022 and can now begin working on the project. The grant awarded \$1.8 million to Carson City to purchase 694 acre-feet annually (AFA) to support approximately 148 acres of wet meadow and irrigated pasture at Buzzy's Ranch. Specifically, the water will be used to support the Ducks Unlimited Wetlands project site, as well as the NDOT Mitigation Wetlands that was transferred to Carson City through OPLMA in 2015. Unfortunately, this will only provide approximately 1/3 of the total water rights that are needed to keep the entire ranch irrigated. Staff have been working with private partners to identify long term lease or purchase options to acquire the remaining water rights needed to support the ranch. If the City is unable to secure the total water rights needed, staff will identify areas of the ranch that could be restored to a native, non-irrigated condition.

### **Carson River Updates**

#### *Pollinator Garden Project*

This project, in partnership with the Institute for Applied Ecology and the Sagebrush in Prisons Project aimed to grow pollinator friendly native plants for use in establishing pollinator gardens throughout the river corridor. The inmates grew over 1,000 individual seedlings including: milkweed, penstemon, tansy aster and others. In the fall of 2022, staff worked with school groups and community members to plant the plants in several garden locations throughout the river corridor, including Carson River Park near the fishing pier and along the Buzzy's Ranch Trail.



Elementary students planting near Carson River Park.



Boys and Girls Club students plant seedlings along the Buzzy's Ranch Trail.

## ATTACHMENT 1

### *Carson River Master Plan Amendment*

Working with the National Parks Service - Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance (RTCA) Program, staff and Vice-chair Kimbrough have been working through the initial scoping period for the project to identify stakeholders and identify a project workplan and deliverables. Staff will be working with RTCA through this initial scoping period, and then the project will be put on-hold while RTCA finishes other projects in order to free additional workload to pursue the project in full.

### **Land Acquisitions**

#### *Clear Creek*

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

#### *Old Woods Ranch*

*No Updates since previous report: 10-17-2022*

### **Personnel**

- **Senior Natural Resource Specialist:** Samantha Essig started as the new Senior Natural Resource Specialist just following Georgia's departure in August. Unfortunately, Sam ended her position due to medical reasons. The position has been reposted and recruitment is on-going.
- **Trails Coordinator:** The Tourism, Trails and Transportation Summit was held November 8-10, 2022. We are so proud to celebrate Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator for receiving an award from Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition in the Agency Champion category.



### **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, Jan 7	Winter Wonderland Patrol	Kings Canyon TH	Park Rangers
Fri, Jan 20	Galaxy Talk	Silver Saddle Ranch	Park Rangers
Sat, Jan 29	Junior Ranger Activity – Orienteering	Carson River Park	Park Rangers
Sat, Feb 4	Ascent Winter Trail Run	Prison Hill Recreation Area	Gregg Berggren
Sun, Feb 5	Full Moon Hike	Prison Hill OHV Area	Park Rangers
Sun, Feb 12	Trails and Tails Adoption Event	Riverview Park	Park Rangers
Sat, March 4	Forestry Hike	Kings Canyon TH	Park Rangers
Sat, March 18	Junior Ranger Activity – Watershed	Riverview Park	Park Rangers

**ATTACHMENT 1**

Sat, March 25	Bird Walk	Carson River Park	Park Rangers
Sat, April 1	Escape from Prison Hill Half Marathon	Silver Saddle Ranch; Prison Hill	Gregg Berggren
April 18 – 20	International Trails Summit *Prison Hill OHV Area Field Tour	Prison Hill OHV Area	All Staff
April 22	Ascent Winter Trail Series	C-Hill	Gregg Berggren
April 28 – 30	PITS OHV Trials Competition	Prison Hill OHV Area	Gregg Berggren
Sat, May 6	Kid's Community Fishing Day	Bailey Pond	Park Rangers
May 6-7	NJROTC Orienteering Meet	East Silver Saddle Ranch	FYI only
Sat, May 13	FOSSR Spring Open House	Silver Saddle Ranch	FOSSR
Sat, May 20	Kids to Parks Day	TBD	Park Rangers
Wed, May 24	Choose your Cruise Trail Ride	Prison Hill, 5 <sup>th</sup> St TH	Muscle Powered
Mon, May 29	Memorial Day Flag Placement	Lone Mountain Cemetery	FYI only
Sat, June 3	National Trails Day	TBD	Gregg Berggren
June 22 – 25	EPIC/Carson Off-Road Race	West-side Trails	Gregg Berggren