



# STAFF REPORT

**Agenda Item: 6B**

**Report To:** Open Space Advisory Committee

**Meeting Date:** September 18, 2023

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

**Agenda Title:** For Discussion Only: Trails Coordinator Report - Activities related to trail projects managed by the Open Space Division, including trail-related grants, programs, and events. (Gregg Berggren, [gberggren@carson.org](mailto:gberggren@carson.org))

**Staff Summary:** See Attachment 1 – Trails Coordinator Report

**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 – Trails Coordinator Report

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

N/A

## **Financial Information**

Is there a fiscal impact?  Yes  No

# Trails Coordinator Report

## Gregg Berggren, September 18, 2023

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### **Capital to Tahoe Trail – Grand Opening Celebration!**

After eight years of planning and construction, the Grand Opening Celebration was held on July 8<sup>th</sup> at Spooner Lake State Park. Carson City Mayor Lori Bagwell spoke and cut the ribbon. Supervisors Lisa Schuette and Maurice White were also in attendance, along with City Manager Nancy Paulson, OSAC Members Mark Kimbrough and Donna Inversin, representatives from Muscle Powered, and agency representatives from the Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, Nevada Division of State Parks, and the U.S. Forest Service.

Many supporters brought booths, including Shoe Tree Brewery (serving “Cap to Tahoe Pale Ale”), Tahoe Area Mountain Biking Association (TAMBA), Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA), Tahoe Rim Trail Endurance Runs, Skiing is Believing, and Safe Routes to School (Carson City Public Works). Live music was provided by Darren Senn.

One week after the Grand Opening, Tahoe Rim Trail Endurance Runs became the first event to use the new trail, and participants had good reviews!

Of course, this trail provides the first singletrack connection from Carson City to international destinations! With that in mind, Visit Carson City is asking everyone to watch for an upcoming promotion related to the first person(s) to hike from the steps of the Capital to Mexico, and likewise, the first person(s) to complete the hike to Canada.

A two-mile segment of the trail is currently under construction to eliminate use of a section of the Snow Valley Peak Road. This segment will be completed this before winter.



*At left, Mayor Lori Bagwell cuts the ribbon at the Capital to Tahoe Trail Grand Opening.*

ATTACHMENT 1

A few more photos from the Grand Opening:



*Above, banner with partner logos.*

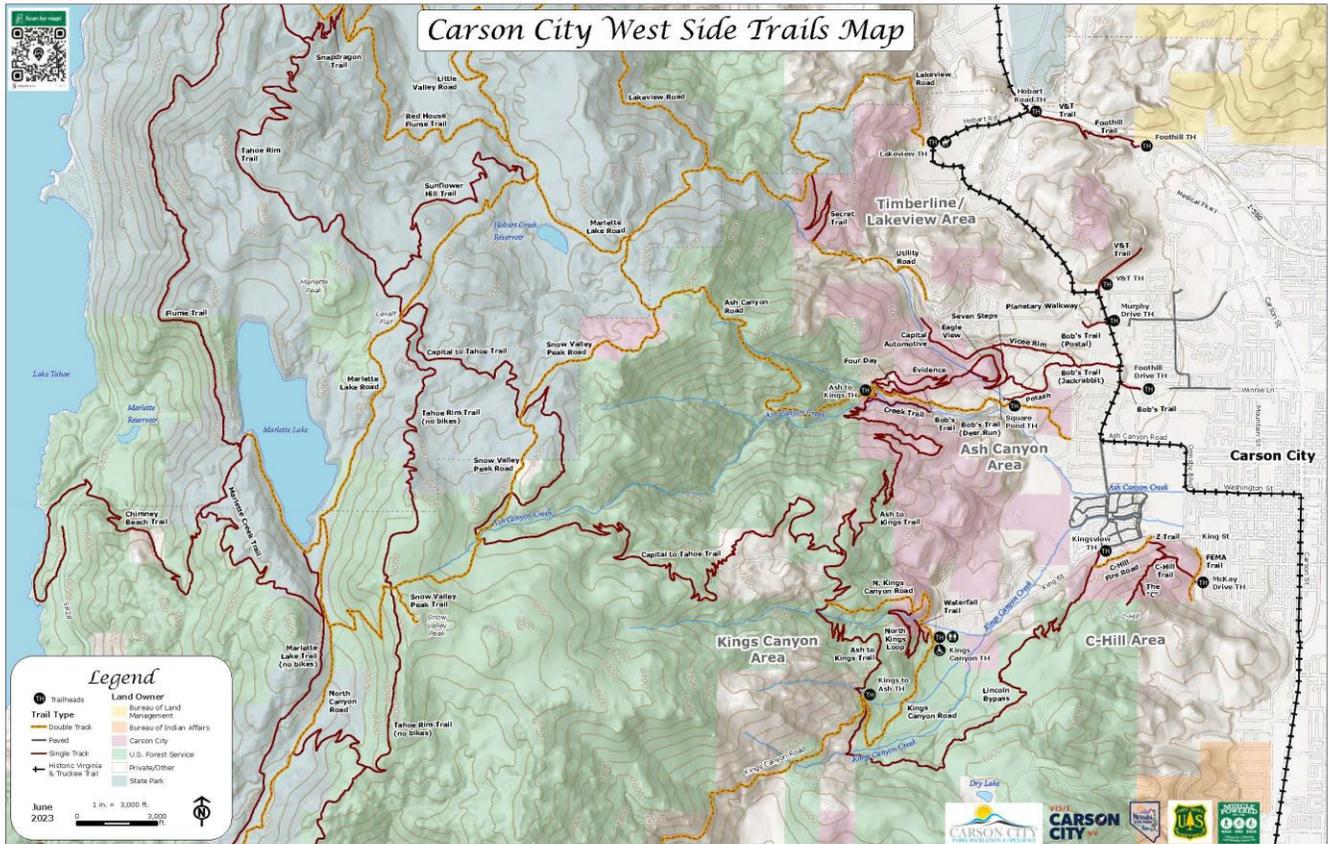


*At left, Open Space Maintenance Coordinator Jared Whitaker and Parks, Recreation & Open Space Director Jennifer Budge tend the bar.*

*At right, partners from Nevada State Parks, U.S. Forest Service, Muscle Powered, OSAC, Open Space, and Board of Supervisors.*



## Carson City West Side Trails Map



This West Side Trails Map was produced to coincide with the opening of the Capital to Tahoe Trail. The QR code enables download to a mobile device through the Avenza App, so users may navigate without cell service.

The maps shows authorized trails on the west side of Carson City, all the way to Lake Tahoe, and includes trails on lands administered by Carson City, U.S. Forest Service, and Nevada State Parks, and trails on other properties for which Carson City holds and easement or license. An upcoming addition to the back of the map will include trail descriptions, and it will be printed as a folded map. Also planned is an East Side edition to include Prison Hill and the Carson River corridor.



### **Trail Maintenance After the Epic Winter of 2023**

Most of the trails in the river corridor were badly damaged this year. Damage resulted from repeated and sustained high river flows and repeated return flow throughout the winter and spring. Trails most affected were the Empire Ranch Trail, Riverview Park Trails, and the Eagle Creek Connector Trail between Riverview and Empire Ranch. Our newest river trail, Buzzy's Ranch Trail, survived with minimal damage which reflects the sustainable design that we are using in all new trails.

***Empire Ranch Trail*** – This trail survived relatively well. In the early spring, between high flows of the river, staff repaired a sizeable hole near the north end of the trail. Several other sections will need some road base, and Open Space staff will do these repairs. The biggest issue with this trail this year has been the significant growth of willows and weeds, and mastication was performed in August.

***Eagle Creek Segment*** – This connection between Empire Ranch and Riverview Park was severely damaged by high river flows. With assistance from a Recreational Trails Program grant and Q18 funds, we plan to re-align a portion of this trail at an estimated cost of about \$35,000.

***Riverview Park*** – The section of trail closest to the river was badly damaged in many places. After some in-house prep work, we plan to have about 235 yards of road base delivered, then a contractor will perform the repair with assistance from Open Space staff. This is tentatively scheduled for the week of September 18, 2023. Total cost is estimated to be about \$20,000. Additionally, staff have been working diligently to masticate and cut the overgrowth of willow along these trails.

***Buzzy's Ranch Trail*** – Minor damage in two very short segments where some of the DG crown washed away, but the road base remained. This will be repaired by Open Space staff.

***Mexican Ditch Trail*** – While trail damage was minor, the growth of willow and weeds along the trail was significant, and in some locations, staff have masticated twice this year.

Damage was much more limited in other parts of town.

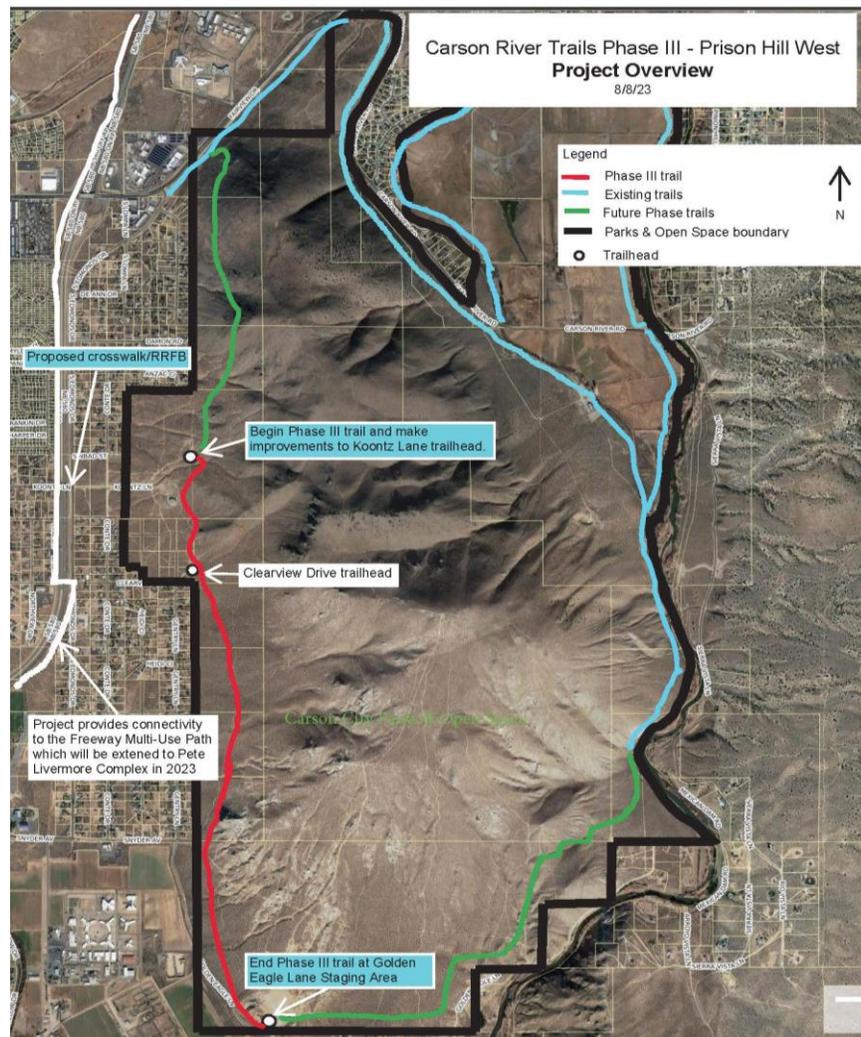
- A washed-out section of Toad Rock Loop in the OHV area was repaired with the help of a contractor.
- Muscle Powered realigned the damaged lower segment of Bob's Trail with a few days of volunteer efforts.
- Volunteers from Patagonia brushed and did some routine tread work on the Foothill Trail and V&T Extension.
- The North Kings Loop was brushed by volunteers on National Trails Day (June 3<sup>rd</sup>), then again by staff in August.
- Staff and volunteers have also brushed the Creek Trail, Wildhorse Trail, and Pale Rider,

### **Prison Hill Trail West Project**

Lumos and associates was selected as the design and engineering firm for the Carson River Trails Phase III – Prison Hill West Project, and they are currently working on plans. This SNPLMA-funded project includes three components:

1. Construct an approximately 2.5-mile-long multi-use pathway along the west side of Prison Hill to connect the Koontz Lane Trailhead, Clearview Drive Trailhead, and the entrance to the Staging Area on the south end of Prison Hill. This trail will support inclusive and accessible use and be designed for sustainability and low maintenance.
2. Improve the Koontz Lane Trailhead, including regrading of the access road, improved parking for 20-30 vehicles plus equestrian parking, vault toilet, covered picnic table, and everything ADA accessible.
3. Develop a safe street crossing of Edmonds Drive at Koontz Lane, including a crosswalk and crossing beacons. This will support connectivity with the Freeway MUP and neighborhoods on the west side of the freeway.

An Open House is planned for October 10, 5:00 PM – 6:30 PM, in the Bonanza Room in the Community Center. Lumos will have 30% plans ready to discussion and comment. They will also present these preliminary plans at the October 16 OSAC meeting.



**Volunteer Projects**



*Left, National Trails Day, June 3, 2023, volunteers perform maintenance on the North Kings Loop.*

*Below, volunteers from Patagonia perform maintenance activities on the Foothill Trail and V&T Extension.*



*Above, Muscle Powered volunteers building a retaining wall on the Lincoln Bypass, and doing a reroute of a segment of Bob's Trail*

*Right, Adopt-a-Trail volunteers from Click Bond do a clean-up on Empire Ranch Trail.*



## ATTACHMENT 1

### **All-Terrain Wheelchair**

Our Department recently acquired a Grit Freedom Chair in a continuing effort to promote *access-for-all* to as much of our trail system and Open Space areas feasible. This all-terrain wheelchair will be incorporated into many of our Ranger Programs, and anyone who needs help with trail access can request the chair when they register for an event.

