



STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item: 5B

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: December 18, 2023

Staff Contact: Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager, lboyer@carson.org

Agenda Title: For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding the 2022 Annual Report of the activities of the Open Space Advisory Committee to be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Staff Summary: Carson City Municipal Code 13.06.090 states that the Committee shall provide an annual report of its activities to the Board of Supervisors. The information has been organized into the following categories: History of Open Space, Land Acquisitions, Land Management, Grant Funding, Capital Improvement Projects, Activities and Events. Staff drafted a report in newsletter format which highlights the achievements and successes to be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Agenda Action: Formal Action/Motion

Time Requested: 10 minutes

Proposed Motion

I move to approve the 2022 Annual Report of activities of the Open Space Advisory Committee to be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

ATTACHMENT 1 – 2022 Open Space Advisory Committee Annual Report

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Carson City Municipal Code 13.06.090

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number:

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact:

Alternatives

N/A

Board Action Taken:

Motion: _____

1) _____

2) _____

Aye/Nay

(Vote Recorded By)



OPEN SPACE



Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department

Report to the Board of Supervisors from the Open Space Advisory Committee

January – December 2022

Dear Mayor Bagwell and Board of Supervisors,

As required by Section 13.06.090 of the Carson City Municipal Code, it is our honor to present to you the following report of the activities conducted by the Open Space Division in 2022. The information provided is arranged into the following categories:

- History of Open Space
- Land Acquisitions
- Grant Funding
- Capital Improvement Projects
- Land Management
- Activities and Events

2022 was another unprecedented year filled with new challenges and celebrations of accomplishments, but it was also another year that reaffirmed how important access to parks, trails and open spaces is for the public.

2022 was a big year for the Open Space Division - we welcomed two new full-time positions in 2022 to assist in the management of just under 7,400 acres of Open Space properties throughout Carson City. The Open Space

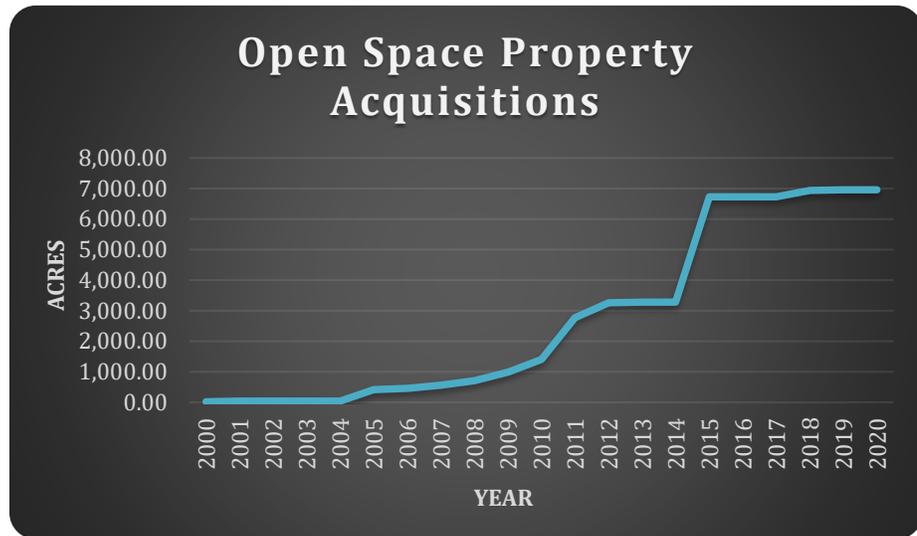
Division is now comprised of seven full time staff! Lyndsey Boyer, Open Space Manager, Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator, Jared Whitaker, Open Space Maintenance Coordinator and Georgia Vasey, Senior Natural Resource Specialist, who ended her position in August 2022. Samantha Essig joined the Open Space team in August 2022 as the Senior Natural Resource Specialist, and Chelsea Kincheloe became the Department's first full time Volunteer Coordinator in September. Markoz Dominguez also joined the Open Space team as our first full time Maintenance Worker. Additionally, we had two part-time employees assist with Open Space management, including Dennis 'Mike' Cupp, Seasonal Maintenance Worker and Gillian Hammons, Trailhead Caretaker. Lastly, Casey Fox worked the summer as our Recreation AmeriCorps Intern. This growing team led to a big year for accomplishments throughout Open Space!



Pictured (Left to Right): Markoz Dominguez, Jared Whitaker, Gregg Berggren and Chelsea Kincheloe

History of Open Space

The Open Space Division was created in 1996 with the passing of the Question 18 - Quality of Life Initiative. Carson City residents at the time voted to increase sales tax $\frac{1}{4}$ of 1 percent to fund the acquisition, development and maintenance of parks, open space, trails and recreation facilities. The first Open Space property, Moffat Open Space, was acquired in 2000. The most recent acquisition was completed in 2019 to purchase 20-acres in the Highway-50 west corridor, as well as 206-acres in the Ash Canyon area called Eagle View Open Space.



The Open Space Division manages approximately 7,400-acres of floodplain, agricultural land and scenic viewsheds in Carson City. Additionally, staff are responsible for managing or assisting with the management of nearly 90 miles of shared use pathways and single-track trails throughout Carson City. The Open Space Division acquires property through a variety of means, including fee-title acquisition and donation. Additionally, nearly 50% of Open Space acreage was acquired in 2015 from the Bureau of Land Management (“BLM”) and the U.S. Forest Service (“USFS”) via a federal land exchange called the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009. This includes the Prison Hill Recreation Area, Silver Saddle Ranch, Ambrose Carson River Natural Area as well as several properties on the west side of Carson City acquired from the USFS.



The Open Space Program in Carson City is incredibly unique in our region and unlike any other program in Nevada. No other county has been able to pass the same type of ballot initiative focused on land preservation through a very modest sales tax increase. By utilizing this funding and leveraging it further using grants, Carson City has been able to purchase and preserve unique and critical lands throughout Carson City, including the

majority of the Carson River corridor. Keeping the Carson River corridor in an undeveloped natural state with a protected floodplain protects Carson City from catastrophic and costly damage during a flood event. Carson City has also been able to preserve the historic legacy of ranching in Eagle Valley by purchasing Silver Saddle Ranch and Buzzy’s Ranch – one of the few remnants of active agriculture and ranching remaining in Carson City. Lastly, by focusing on our viewsheds and trail connectivity, Carson City has been able to preserve the scenic quality of our foothills while also creating a legacy and reputation for incredible trail systems and recreation opportunities in our Open Space areas. Carson City is truly lucky that voters 25 years ago had the foresight in mind to protect this beautiful landscape!

Land Acquisitions

As of December 2022, approximately 7,400 acres of land have been protected or obtained through purchases, donations, or transfers using the Quality of Life/Question 18 funds at a cost of \$11,006,277. Grants or other supplemental funding have provided an additional \$8,856,757 to support acquisitions for a total cost of \$19,863,034! This is an average of \$2,684/acre of land preserved in Carson City.

Grant Funding

In addition to the Question 18 funds that the Open Space Division receives, grant funds are also sought and leveraged wherever possible to fund projects throughout Open Space. Currently, the Open Space Division manages or is an identified partner on 12 individual grants, totaling over \$12.4 million in funds that help Carson City manage Open Space, or complete large improvement projects to trails and trailheads for the benefit of all Carson City residents.

Project Name / Area	Grantor	Grant Award	Period	Quality of Life-Open Space (cash or in-kind)
Buzzy’s Ranch Water Rights Acquisition and Wetland Enhancement Project				
	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act	\$1,883,875	6/30/2026	\$50,000 (cash)
Carson River Trail System, Phase 3 – Prison Hill West				
	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act	\$2,403,250	6/30/2026	\$0
Carson River Trail System, Phase 4 - Riverview Trailhead Renovation				
	Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act	\$2,310,000	6/30/2028	\$0
Kings Canyon Road (Dirt Road)				
	Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	\$142,500	12/31/2023	\$0
Kings Canyon Trailhead				
	Federal Land Access Program (grant award to Public Works)	\$5.3 million (to Public Works)	12/31/2023	\$35,350 (cash) \$33,275 (cash)
Noxious Weed Abatement				
	Carson Water Subconservancy District (annual funding)	\$15,000	6/30/2022	\$0
	Carson Truckee Water Conservation District	\$5,500	6/30/2023	\$5,500 (cash)
Mexican Dam Portage Project				

	Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	\$115,000 (to CWSD)	9/30/2025	\$0 (from Carson City)
Prison Hill Recreation Area, Desert Peach Trail				
	Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	\$33,712	9/30/2024	\$10,000 (cash)
Prison Hill Recreation Area, Motorized Area				
	1) Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Commission (NOHVC)	1) \$100,000	12/31/2022	\$0
	2) Recreational Trails Program (RTP)	2) \$150,000		
Prison Hill Recreation Area, North Loop Fire Restoration				
	Community Foundation of Western Nevada, Dream Tags Foundation	\$20,000	12/31/2022	\$25,774.96 (cash)
TOTAL		\$12,445,125		\$149,900

Capital Improvement Projects

Capital to Tahoe/Lincoln Bypass Trail

A non-motorized singletrack connection to the Lake Tahoe Basin was first envisioned in 1989. The effort to fulfill this vision has entailed a cooperative effort between Muscle Powered, Carson City, the U.S. Forest Service, the Nevada Division of State Parks, along with support from Visit Carson City, the Recreational Trails Program and other local professionals who donated time and expertise.



Volunteers building one of two bridges on the Capital to Tahoe Trail

The 4.2-mile Lincoln Bypass Trail was completed in 2022. This trail got its name because it “bypasses” Kings Canyon Road which is a part of the old Lincoln Highway. The Lincoln Bypass Trail connects with the existing Ash-to-Kings trail, which then connects with the Capital to Tahoe Trail.

In the fall of 2022, Muscle Powered, together with their contracted professional trail builder, completed a connection with the Tahoe Rim Trail by using a two-mile segment of the Snow Valley Peak Road. This last two-mile segment of the Capital to Tahoe Trail will be completed in 2023.

Kings Canyon Road

After years of planning for the repair design, completing required cultural review and the completion of two grant nominations through the Nevada OHV Program and Recreational Trails Program, all major construction and road repair activities were completed along Kings Canyon Road in June 2022. This work included drainage improvements, culvert repair and road reconstruction on the portions of road that were badly damaged from the 2017 floods. As a result, the dirt road portion from the Kings Canyon Trailhead to the entrance to Horsecreek Ranch is now passable by high clearance vehicles. Carson City will be responsible for completing maintenance along this stretch for 25-years following completion of the grant, so the City can ensure the road is maintained and safely passable. Additionally, the drainage improvements and culvert repair will hopefully reduce impacts and protect the road from high creek flows and heavy precipitation in the future.

Kings Canyon Trailhead

This long-awaited and badly needed project includes 25-parking spaces, plus ADA parking and trailer parking, a new informational kiosk, vault toilet and a one-way access through the parking lot which reduced the overall footprint and the required excavation.

Construction began in July 2021 and was completed in the spring of 2022. Grant funding came from the Federal Land Access Program, and the project included partnerships between the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, Public Works and the U.S. Forest Service.



Aerial view of the new Kings Canyon Trailhead

Prison Hill OHV Area

In partnership with the National Off-Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (“NOHVCC”), and with grant funding from the Recreational Trails Program and the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Program, several improvements were completed at the Prison Hill OHV Area in 2021-2022 including 52 check dams, two rock-lined ditches, 12 lead-off ditches, four earthen containment dams, two filters (at entrances to rock crawler routes), 15 areas decommissioned and reseeded, construction of a Tot-Lot, Beginner Area, and a new trail named Toad Rock Loop, plus designation of a Summit Loop and placement of additional wayfinding signs and development of an updated map with QR code for download to a mobile device.



One of 52 new check dams

Land Management

Land management and maintenance activities continues to be the Open Space Division’s highest priority. Our land management goals are to continue to provide quality recreational experiences to our residents, while balancing protection of natural resources. Staff also remained busy throughout the year completing our more routine natural resource management, maintenance and planning tasks, including everything from noxious weed abatement in the spring, to fuel reduction and restoration activities in the fall. Staff continued to implement the Open Space Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program, utilizing a variety of methods of controlling nuisance and noxious weeds including herbicide treatments, manual removal, and re-seeding/re-vegetation with desirable species to discourage weed infestations. Silver Saddle Ranch also remains a property with a lot of management activities, including weed abatement, beaver activity management on the Mexican Ditch, and vegetation management such as working to clear the travel corridor along roads and trails, tree pruning and removal. Highlights from a few notable management projects are outlined below.

Carson River Updates

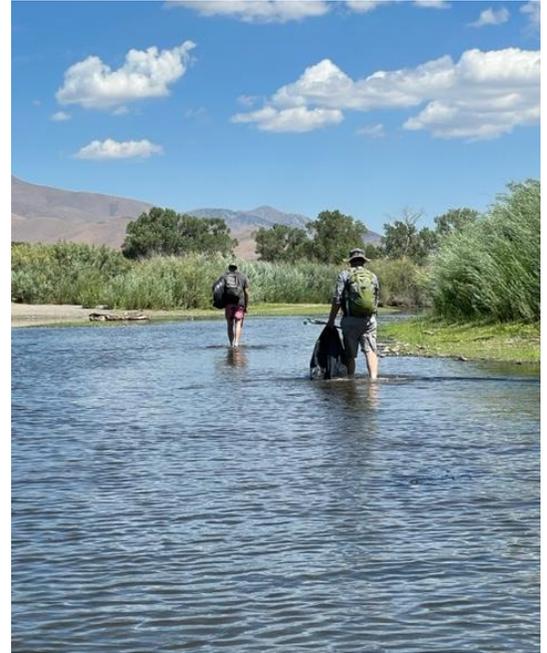
Bird Surveys

Annual bird surveys along Buzzy’s Ranch Trail and Riverview Park were completed in May and June of this year with the help of three talented volunteers who assisted staff with the surveys. Survey data indicated that

overall bird diversity and counts have increased from 2020. This is in part to having such talented volunteers work with us, who were adept at identifying bird calls in addition to bird sightings. Staff hope to work with these volunteers in future years, as well as the potential to expand our survey locations throughout the river corridor to evaluate bird populations throughout the River Trail.

Carson River Clean-up

Open Space staff held the 5th annual Carson River Clean-up in August 2022, walking the Carson River from East Silver Saddle Ranch to Ambrose Carson River Natural Area, picking up trash and mapping noxious weeds along the way. This year marked the lowest volume of trash removed yet, with only microtrash like cigarette butts and bottle caps remaining. Additionally, staff found an overall reduction of the Eurasian watermilfoil population, however some pockets still persist. Next year, staff will move a different reach of the river, Ambrose Carson River Natural Area to Morgan Mill Preserve and Open Space.



Staff cleaning the Carson River

Noxious Weed Abatement

2022 was a busy year for noxious weed abatement, Jared Whitaker, Open Space Maintenance Coordinator began the season by applying pre-emergent herbicide in key locations in early spring to suppress summer annual weeds. Starting later in April through June, spot treatment of hoary cress was treated, followed by perennial pepperweed in early July. A three-foot buffer was 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. Staff also worked with Great Basin Institute conservation crews to remove weeds and clear corridor along the Empire Ranch Trail.

Canada Thistle Control - Rust Fungus

Since 2018, Open Space staff have been releasing and monitoring the effectiveness of a naturally occurring rust fungus, *Puccinia punctiformis* in a formerly large Canada thistle patch in the Mexican Dam Open Space. This host-specific rust fungus can infect healthy Canada thistle, a Class-C noxious weed in Nevada. Each fall, staff add the rust fungus to small rosettes of Canada thistle with the goal of inhibiting the plants' ability to flower, thereby reducing the overall population. This year, the rust fungus was released in early October and vegetation monitoring was completed to identify the density of Canada thistle, which has shown size of the infestation is reducing, while the remaining populations showing signs of distress. This rust fungus is an excellent example of using IPM strategies to treat weed populations, reducing our reliance on herbicide.

Pollinator Gardens

In the fall of 2022, staff, along with the help of students and volunteers, completed the installation of two pollinator gardens along the river corridor. Working with the head gardener for the Sagebrush in Prisons Project, funded by the Institute for Applied Ecology, locally adapted seeds from the Reno-Carson region were collected, including many wildflowers



Volunteers from the Boys and Girls Club planting pollinator species

like milkweed, penstemon, tansy aster and others which are important for bees, butterflies, hummingbirds and bats. These flowers and some perennial grasses were grown at the Northern Nevada Correctional Center (“NNCC”) with the help of a crew of inmates. This program was very unique in that it helps train those incarcerated important horticultural skills that can be transferable to jobs following their release and gives them a way to give back to their community by increasing the ecological health of our local Open Space properties. In August, staff presented about pollinator plants and their importance to the inmates who are working with the Sagebrush in Prisons Project. In October, staff worked with school groups and community members to plant approximately 1,100 plants in several garden locations throughout the river corridor, including Carson River Park and the Buzzy’s Ranch Trail.

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.

Carson City Sheep Project

April 2022 marked the 16th 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 grazed Carson City as part of this project. The bands focused on two areas of the City, including the lands surrounding the Lakeview and Timberline neighborhoods to the north, and the second band focusing on the C-Hill and Kings Canyon area to the south.



2022 band of sheep grazing near C-Hill

Open Space staff continued the annual monitoring program to track before and after data on fine fuels removal, vegetation species diversity, and recapture long-term repeat photos. Staff also lead an interpretive talk at the end of April on C-Hill to educate the community about the project, offering community members a firsthand look of the sheep in action, as well as an opportunity to learn more about the project.

Open Space Naming

In 2022, the Open Space program continued to go through the official naming process for several unnamed properties throughout Carson City - seven properties were identified for formal naming. Open Space staff provided initial recommendations based on the natural history of the properties and location. A public survey was posted and it received 136 responses. After going before the Open Space Advisory Committee and the Board of Supervisors for approval, the following names were selected as the officially recognized names for seven Open Space properties: Ash Canyon Gateway Open Space, Eagle View Open Space, North Kings Canyon Open Space, Timberline Open Space, Ash Canyon Viewcrest Open Space, C-Hill Open Space and Buzzy’s Ranch Open Space.

Prison Hill Fire and Restoration

In July 2021, a lightning strike started a fire at the north end of Prison Hill Recreation Area. The fire burned 171-acres on the upper flanks of the mountain, including sagebrush habitat and a small pinyon juniper woodland. Following the fire, monitoring points were established in the fall to document change over time at the Prison Hill burn scar. Repeat monitoring using the line point intercept protocol will take place annually each spring to determine native plant recruitment and invasion of non-native species. Following the spring monitoring of the burned area on Prison Hill in May 2022, staff were delighted to find an abundance of native wildflowers growing throughout the burn, as well as native shrubs beginning to resprout.



Georgia Vasey monitoring the Prison Hill burn

Trails in 2022

Trail use saw a dramatic increase in 2020 when people sought outdoor opportunities during COVID-19. Since then, trail use has remained high in most areas. One exception is the Waterfall Trail, where user numbers dropped significantly in 2022 following a period of overuse in 2020-2021. This decrease is likely due in part to the end of COVID-19 restrictions, but also may be credited in part to a cooperative effort between Open Space staff and Visit Carson City to encourage the distribution of trail use throughout Carson City.

Year	Site	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	ADT	Annual
2020	Buzzy's Ranch Trail											3,120	1,901	68	24,977
	Prison Hill Trail, East											4,397	2,789	100	36,744
	SSR Bridge											2,760	2,637	86	31,545
	Waterfall Trail							13,671	11,212	8,158	8,915	5,634	5,024	270	98,879
2021	Buzzy's Ranch Trail	2,717	2,192	2,529	2,932	2,940	2,087	1,666	1,344	1,976	2,040	2,039	910	70	25,372
	Prison Hill Trail, East	3,210	3,181	4,920	4,254	4,017	3,265	4,411	3,143	3,526	4,643	3,413	2,428	122	44,389
	SSR Bridge	3,143	2,973	3,774	3,688	3,290	1,988	1,705	1,875	1,951	3,598	3,168	7,066	105	38,219
	Waterfall Trail	6,146	6,235	9,349	12,903	15,229	14,031								336
2022	Buzzy's Ranch Trail	2,208	2,393	2,289	2,198	2,658	2,080	1,849	1,841	1,697	2,319	1,049	635	63	23,226
	Prison Hill Trail East	3,658	4,000	5,193	7,136	5,266	6,685	5,203	5,111	4,137	3,393	2,617	3,079	145	53,026
	SSR Bridge	2,468	2,739	2,614	3,656	2,626	2,530	2,057	2,473	1,882	2,821	2,046	3,454	86	31,366
	Waterfall Trail										2,994	1,779	1,239	64	23,335

Trail Projects

Several trail-related projects were completed in 2022, in addition to those already listed under Capital Projects.

- A new Ash Canyon Kiosk sign was placed which includes a map and information about the Ash Canyon Road. A website link was also created so users can obtain up-to-date information on seasonal closures, maintenance closures and upcoming events: carson.org/ashcanyonroad.
- Ash Canyon Trail Signage - With help from Muscle Powered, wayfinding signage was placed on all of the system trails in the Ash Canyon area.
- Empire Ranch Trailhead – this new trailhead was constructed and opened at the south end of Empire Ranch Road.
- Odyssey Trail - The first segment of the Odyssey Trail was completed by Paul Sinnott and his Muscle

Powered crew. This trail creates a fun and sustainable connection of the Koontz Lane Trailhead with the Prison Hill Saddle. Future segments will take the trail into Dead Truck Canyon, and eventually south and west to connect with the Clearview Drive Trailhead.

- Equestrian Enhancements - Several equestrian enhancements were installed at Silver Saddle Ranch, including EQ friendly gates and gate latches.
- A Silver Saddle Ranch History panel was added to the Kiosk sign. This panel gives a timeline history of the property. The artwork was created by our previous summer Recreation Intern, Kaylee Maples and the layout and design was produced by Ranger Tyler Kerver.
- Historic Virginia & Truckee Trail – Thirty-five wayfinding signs were placed along the officially designated route through Carson City. A fourth interpretive panel, donated by the Ansari Foundation, was placed on the V&T Trail at the Lakeview Grade.

Activities and Events

2022 was another busy year for activities and events! The Park Ranger team continued their effort to lead robust interpretive programs throughout Parks and Open Space, with classic events like the monthly Full Moon Hikes, Tot Trots, Trails and Tails Adoption Events or educational hikes like Walk with the Weeds, Scorpion Adventure and Bird and Coyote Walks. Additionally, they added seasonally themed hikes like the Haunted Cemetery Tour and continued to lead historic tours at Silver Saddle Ranch. Lastly the Rangers continued to develop the Jr. Ranger Program with events like Kids to Parks Day and Jr. Ranger Day.

Community Programs and Education

Open Space staff and Carson City Park Rangers facilitated a few educational programs in 2022. 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 in which students spotted a family of three Great horned owls perched in the cottonwood trees which made for an exciting wildlife sighting! Starting in April, Open Space staff and the Volunteer Coordinator, Amy Bridgham began leading a weekly volunteer program “Weedy Wednesdays,” to hand-pull invasive weeds in different Open Space and Park properties. We also lead an interpretive walk for Earth Day from the Empire Ranch Trailhead to identify weeds and share natural history information. Other programs held by our Department are noted below.



Jared Whitaker leading a planting event with elementary students

National Trails Day / Kings Canyon Trailhead Grand Opening / Lincoln Bypass Grand Opening

On June 4th we celebrated National Trails Day by holding a ribbon cutting for the official opening of the new Kings Canyon Trailhead and the Lincoln Bypass Trail. Mayor Bagwell provided opening remarks and helped cut the ribbon. Attendees included City Manager Nancy Paulson and representatives from the Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, Public Works, U.S. Forest Service, Muscle Powered and Great Basin Consulting. The program also included a guided hike led by Johanna Foster, a local Ecologist and Muscle Powered member, and Amy Brigham, an AmeriCorps Volunteer working for our Department.



Ribbon cutting ceremony for the Kings Canyon Trailhead/Lincoln Bypass Trail

Pollinator Parade

The 2nd Annual ‘Bee Kind Carson City – Protect Pollinators’ Pollinator Parade was held Saturday June 25 to celebrate June which is Pollinator Month. Several other educational events were held throughout June to celebrate Pollinator Month, including a display at the Carson City Library and a Bee Hotel Tour with a group of elementary school students.

Carson City Sourcewater Assessment Day

In September, Carson City Public Works, in conjunction with River Wranglers, Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space and the Carson Water Subconservancy District hosted the first Carson City Source Water Assessment Day. This event was geared toward families and kids of all ages. After a brief talk by City utility officials, participants were invited to walk to the North Kings Canyon intake structure. There, River Wranglers led water quality sampling using their fun and interactive test kits. Participants learned about the sources of the water that is routed to the Quill Water Treatment Plant for treatment, then put into pipes for delivery to Carson City homes. The event hosted a variety of exciting family friendly booths where kids experimented with watershed and flood models and learned about protecting and preserving their drinking water.



River Wranglers conducting water sampling

High Water Mark Mural and Disaster Preparedness Festival

In August, Carson City Public Works, in conjunction with the Carson Water Subconservancy District held the unveiling ceremony for the high-water mark mural, located along the Freeway Multiuse Path under the 5th Street overpass. This high-water mark project is an outreach tool designed to let people know their flood risk and to underscore how floodplains and open space work together to reduce their flood risk. Open floodplain lands reduce flood damage by allowing water to slow down, spread out and sink in. These lands also recharge groundwater and filter pollutants. A variety of agency partners were invited to share information with residents before the mural unveiling. Parks, Recreation & Open Space staff also assisted with development of the interpretive sign which includes FEMA, stormwater and Open Space information.

Nevada Regional Trails Skills Workshop

American Trails, with funding from the Recreational Trails Program and assistance from the Carson City Parks, Recreation & Open Space Department, Washoe County Parks and Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation, provided two days of trails training in September. Classes included trail planning, layout and design, trail maintenance and crew leadership. The workshop was free, and it was intended to support local trail organizations like Muscle Powered.

Prison Hill OHV Area Grand Re-Opening

On October 15, Carson City Mayor Lori Bagwell, City Supervisor Lisa Schuette, City Manager Nancy Paulson, Open Space staff, Deputies from the Carson City Sheriff's Office, Visit Carson City staff, project partners, including the National Off-Highway Conservation Council ("NOHVCC"), and other guests, conducted a ribbon cutting at the Grand Re-Opening of the Prison Hill OHV Area. The event, attended by over 50 people, included a rock crawler demo, courtesy of a local crawler group, and a trail ride on the new Toad Rock Loop. The trail ride was thoroughly enjoyed by over 30 people on a beautiful Nevada fall day. We received a lot of positive feedback from participants, many of whom were first-time visitors to Prison Hill.

Our sincere thank you to NOHVCC who provided us with the expertise that we needed to transform this 900-acre location that once attracted illegal dumping and graffiti into a sustainable, family-friendly recreation area with opportunities for all ages and skill levels. We have a Tot-Lot, beginner area, MX track, rock crawler routes, and trails of varying difficulty. Critical funding came from the Nevada Off-Highway Vehicle Program and the



*Top Left: Ribbon Cutting; Top Right: Ride along with Carson City Sheriffs Office;
Bottom Left: Lyndsey Boyer and Visit Carson City staff; Bottom Right: A rock crawler in action*

Recreational Trails Program.

Adaptive Mountain Bike Workshop

On October 7th our department hosted an adaptive mountain bike workshop with generous help from April Wolfe, Therapeutic Recreation Specialist, and the City of Reno Adaptive. The event was staged at the 5th Street Trailhead where participants had an opportunity to demo adaptive mountain bikes on a variety of trails, including the Prison Hill Trail (connecting to Silver Saddle Ranch) and the more challenging 5th Street Loop Trails. We plan to partner with Reno Adaptive for more events in the future.



Happy participants of the Adaptive Mountain Bike Workshop

Transportation, Trails, and Tourism Summit

Well over 300 people attended some, or all, of this three-day summit held in November at the Renaissance Hotel and Spa in Reno. The summit was hosted by NDOT, the Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition, the Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation and the Truckee Meadows Parks Foundation. Our Department was an in-kind sponsor.

The themes for the summit were *Connecting Sustainable Communities*, *Collaboration with Stakeholders*, and *Pathways to a Better Quality of Life*. Open Space staff participated in three different sessions at this summit, including a panel discussion with Visit Carson City and Muscle Powered named “Creating Synergy Between Trails and Tourism.” In this session we showcased Carson City’s cooperative efforts to create a great quality of life and foster a sense of place among residents while simultaneously improving economic vitality through tourism.

Additionally, at the Summit our Trails Coordinator, Gregg Berggren received an award from the Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition in the Agency Champion category.

Gregg Berggren – receives the Agency Champion Award



Volunteer Activities and Events

The Open Space Division proudly recognizes volunteer efforts provided by individuals and organizations, and also acknowledges and appreciates any and all who help to clean and maintain our precious lands. Throughout 2022, the Open Space Program received an estimated value of **\$117,705.89** from volunteers. At minimum,

volunteers spent **3,930** hours on our lands, at a value of \$29.95/hour (the latest dollar value available, according to www.independentsector.org).

Muscle Powered has contributed hundreds of hours to trail planning, building, maintenance and Trash Mobs this year. Other groups have contributed time through our Adopt-a-Trail program, including the Friends of Prison Hill, Kiwanis, Moose Lodge and the Boys and Girls Club.

Numerous organizations volunteered their time in 2022. Their efforts were mainly focused on trail construction and maintenance, trash clean-up, and river stewardship. Some of these organizations, and other volunteer efforts are highlighted below.

Event/Organization	Date	Location	# People	Total Hours	Monetary Value
Pokemon Go Trash Clean-up	2/27/22	Ambrose Carson River Natural Area	1	2	\$59.90
NV Army National Guard Clean-Up	3/6/22	5 th St/Edmonds	5	10	\$299.50
Moose Lodge Adopt-A-Trail	4/19/22	East Silver Saddle Ranch	7	14	\$419.30
Boys and Girls Club Adopt-A-Trail	4/13/22	East Silver Saddle Ranch	30	60	\$1,797.00
River Wranglers Trash Clean-Up	5/17/22	East Silver Saddle Ranch	78	156	\$4,672.20
Kiwanis of the Sierra Nevada Adopt-A-Trail	10/8/22	Mexican Ditch Trail	6	6	\$179.70
Pollinator Planting with Boys and Girls Club	10/11/22	Buzzy's Ranch Trail	12	18	\$539.10
Pollinator Planting	10/12/22	Buzzy's Ranch Trail	1	1	\$29.95
Pollinator Planting	10/19/22	Buzzy's Ranch Trail	3	4.5	\$134.77
Pollinator Planting	10/21/22	Carson River Park	92	230	\$6,888.50
Moose Lodge Adopt-A-Trail	11/6/22	East Silver Saddle Ranch	3	3	\$89.85
Geocaching Cache In-Cache Out	11/27/22	Disc Golf Course	18	36	\$1,078.20
Muscle Powered Trail Crews	2022	Open Space Trails	64	3,389.58	\$101,517.92
TOTALS	-	-	320	3930.08	\$117,705.89

On behalf of our Committee and staff, thank you very much for the opportunity to present this report.

