

Carson River Master Plan – Stakeholder Survey

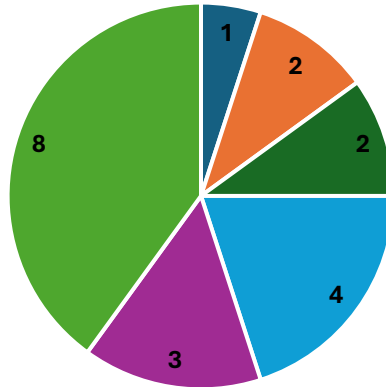
Results from Stakeholder Survey that went live on October 15, 2024 (results as of November 12, 2024)

1. What is your name? *

Names of respondents not included. Survey had 19 responses as of November 12, 2024.

2. What is your organization/affiliation? *

Respondent Affiliation

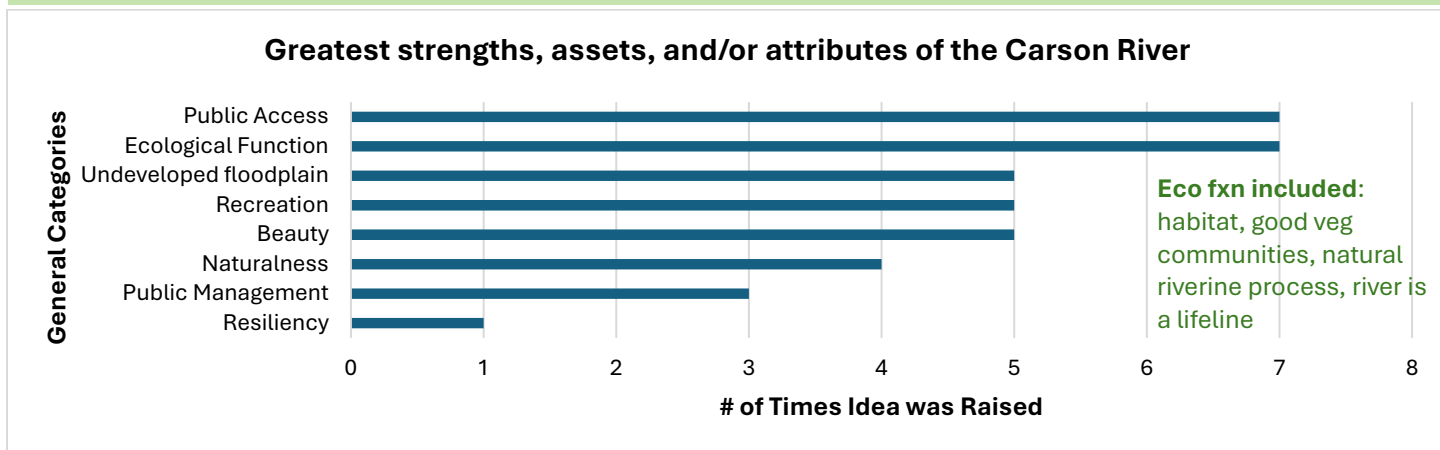


■ Citizen ■ State ■ Private ■ Nonprofit ■ OSAC ■ Local Government

Responses

- Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch (2 respondents indicated this)
- CWSD (2 respondents indicated this)
- OSAC or Interested Party
- Open Space Advisory Committee, Muscle Powered
- Open Space Advisory Committee
- Nevada Environmental Consulting / Interested Party
- Nevada Division of Outdoor Recreation
- Nevada Department of Agriculture
- NCCT
- Granite Construction Company
- Concerned citizen
- Carson Valley Conservation District
- Carson High School & Nevada Monarch Society
- Carson City Public Works
- Carson City Parks, Recreation and Open Space
- Carson City Fire Department / Emergency Management
- Carson City Culture & Tourism Authority dba Visit Carson City

3. When thinking about the current conditions of the Carson River, what do you feel are its greatest strengths, assets, and/or attributes? *

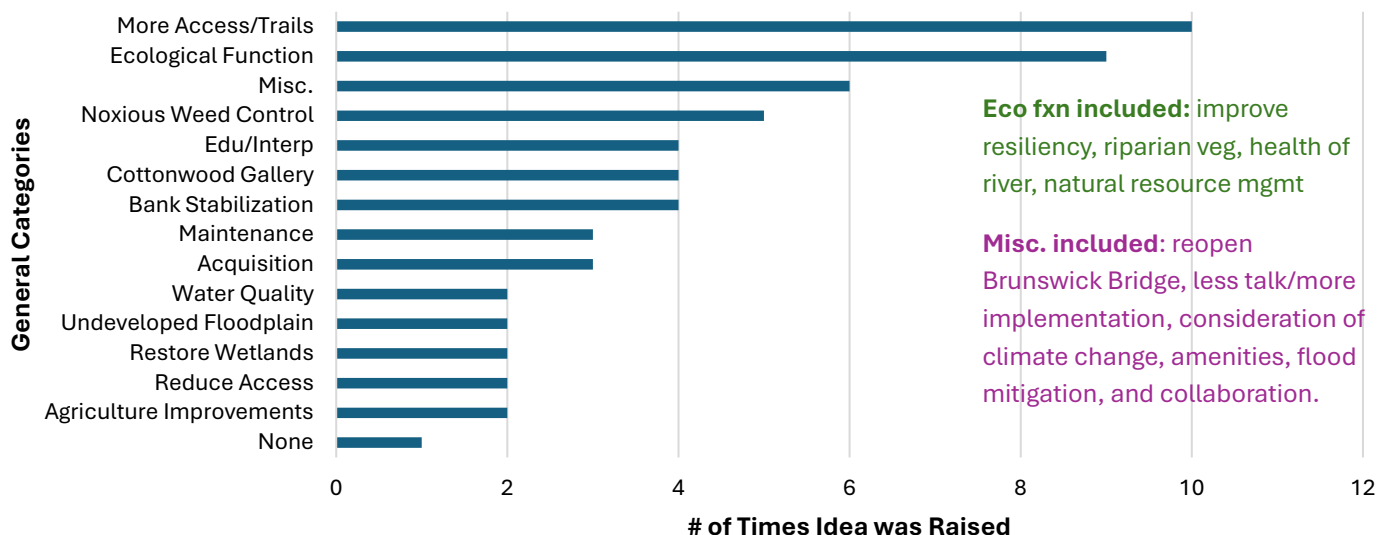


Responses

- The scenery is amazing, depending on the time of the year. I like the canyons as well. Leveraging fishing opportunities as well as rafting/kayaking, when possible, are big pluses.
- The public accessibility and the beautiful cottonwoods.
- The one of the last untamed rivers systems. Great opportunity to limit or reverse the threat of flood safety engineering and development has on natural riverine processes.
- The Carson River's greatest strength is its beauty all along the riverbanks. This includes wildlife and habitat .
- The Carson River has experienced past flooding, detrimental mine/mill operations that have impacted both wildlife and water quality. The Carson River is still open in comparison to the Truckee River. I would continue to encourage ranching and farming in the remaining areas of the floodplain such as Silver Saddle Ranch and Buzzy's Ranch. Continue to look for properties that may benefit from Open Space acquisition or Conservation Easements. Work with adjacent private property owners on education outreach which focuses on mitigating impacts to the corridor. The Carson River is still out lifeline in the desert and wildlife are still present. I would limit the new development areas that can sustain recreation, trails and camping.
- That it is, for the most part, allowed to be a free river, that it is being protected, that it is a natural river. It's beauty.
- That CC has followed through on 1996 Plan and many of the recommendations have become a reality. That CC citizens voted for the tax increase to support programs like the Carson River plan. That OSAC has provided oversight of the river in the community and staff has taken on the responsibility of stewarding the river corridor with other parties involved with the river environment. CC citizens are an involved community that has been highly supportive of the improvements to the River corridor - this is evident from the recent survey.
- Strengths: a lot of public access Assets: water, trees, and wildlife to the area Atributes: sportman, recreation activities
- River corridor functions to provide ecological benefits for Carson City residents. Provides public access to natural areas close to urban setting. Continuous public management of the river corridor provides enhanced protection to wildlife and habitat.
- Open space Natural habitat Wildlife habitat Watershed Beauty Public use
- Natural and relatively undeveloped.
- it's natural state and lack of hardening
- It is still a river and it could live.
- Having parks, walking paths, open space surrounding the river.
- existence of open space and natural areas; existence of good vegetation communities; positive public image and access to the waterway
- Carson City's Fee title assets that provide public access to the Carson River (much of it on both sides) and the surrounding watershed are the greatest strengths. The public has access forever. The river is a lifeline connecting our communities and Carson City has done an excellent job of connecting Lyon to Carson City and Carson City to Douglas. The river corridor is beautiful place to get away from life's stresses. The trails, the river access for paddling, the viewsheds, the protection of the floodplain and reduction of non point source pollution to the river all are positive attributes. The wildlife and native vegetation open spaces, the protection of some agricultural features (good fit in the floodplain), and tasteful park facilities are also assets/attributes.
- Attributes are in association with outdoor recreation, fishing, tub floating down the river, kayaking, camping along the river, and providing a water resource to the surrounding communities for irrigation water vital to our sustainability and economic growth.
- Accessible, the majority of the land has protected floodplain and is publicly held.
- Accessible open space, great trail system.

4. What improvements to the Carson River corridor would you prioritize? *

Recommended Improvements to Carson River Corridor

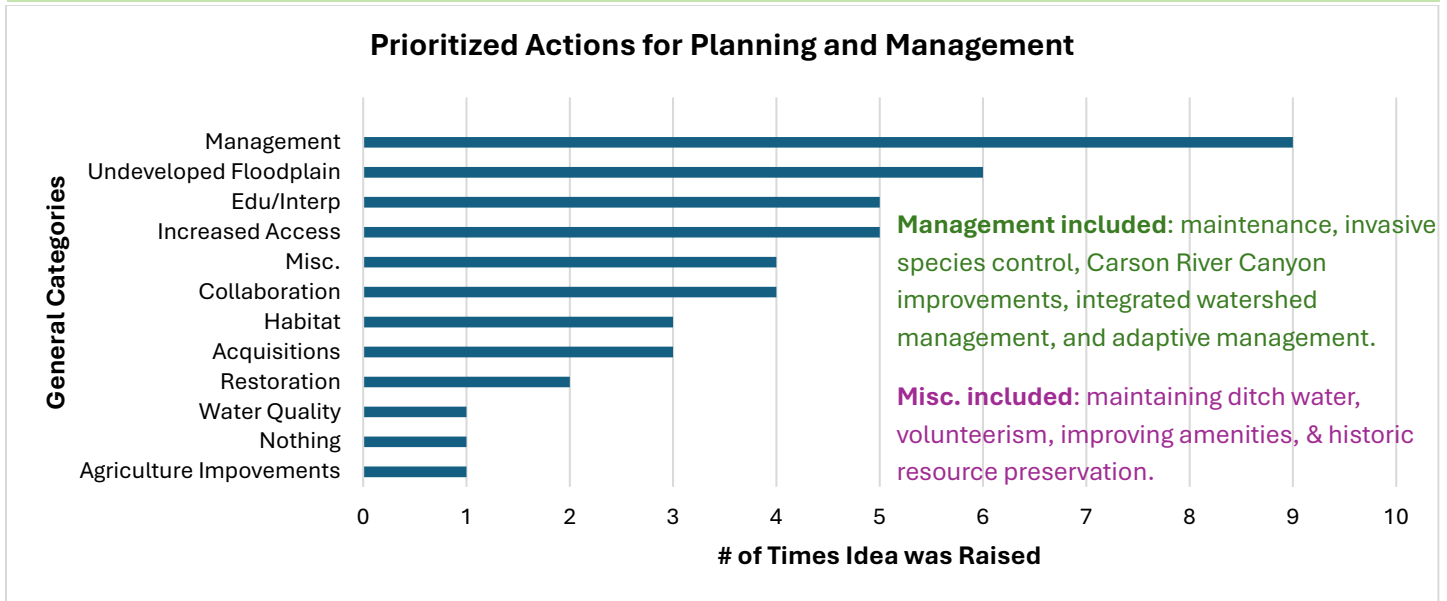


Responses

- wayfinding signage possibly enhanced recreation opportunities
- Streambank stabilization, improved natural resource management
- Removal of noxious weeds, tamarisk, and other non-native vegetation that hinder accessibility to and from the river.
- Protecting more sections of the river that are not protected and also adding trail and public access to the river.
- Plan to increase cottonwood gallery forest health. Reduce future public access impacts through trail relocation, boardwalks, and habitat reserves.. Manage wetlands for wildlife, not cattle pasture.
- Open space acquisition, limited footprint development
- Need more educational trails, signage and activities Need to maintain trails and get rid of extra trails in same areas, made from misuse by public
- Maybe additional access, trail development, where possible. Some additional benches. I would love interpretive signage along the river, that speak to the history of the area, good and bad.
- Keeping development, i. e. houses off the floodplain permanently
- Just maintain, no improvements needed.
- invasive plant/noxious weed control; PFC of the river; promotion of native plants and biological diversity; resiliency of the system to disturbance
- Improving walkability including bridges and more permanent trails for access at public land and county owned access points. More launch areas, erosion mitigation along areas prone to flooding including riparian and aquatic areas that see water level fluctuation throughout the seasons.
- I would like to see a partnership between Carson City and Granite Construction to develop a long term plan for Granite to leave an asset to the Community when our mine is done.
- I would like staff to work on the overall health of the Carson River. Focus on erosion control by implementing bank stabilization projects which will help improve water quality. Actively map, treat and reseed areas impacted by noxious weeds throughout the corridor and tributaries. Consider replanting the upland areas with native or desirable vegetation which would help our wildlife. I think there is a lot of discussion on how to manage the river corridor but very little implementation. Carson City should actively be working on implementing projects that benefit the river, corridor and tributaries.
- Flood mitigation, trails.
- Extending Mexican ditch trail. Educational and interpretative opportunities at Ambrose and Silver Saddle, Carson River Canyon.
- Carson River Canyon planning Bank stabilization method decided upon and action taken with oversight to effectiveness. Protection of the cottonwoods and reforestation. The SSR plan finalized and action taken to bring the ranch up to a early 1900 working ranch and a full interpretive program designed to deliver the message to visiting public. Riparian vegetation planning for the future to insure a natural healthy corridor. This will also help protect the banks. The Brunswick bridge opened again - designed for peds/bikes and UTV's [if they allowed after the CRC plan done.
- Access, Cottonwood regeneration, Whitetop management

- Obtaining fee title or conservation easements on privately owned lands in the river corridor. 2. Obtaining WQ standards in the reaches that are impaired and on the CWA 303(d) list. Consider working with local landowners to implement LID practices and retrofit their properties to improve runoff concerns. 3. Ensure roads and trails are not contributing to WQ issues. 4. Water rights for ag lands 5. Continue trail maintenance, 6. Continue invasive species management, 7. Work on improving cottonwood and riparian vegetation for long-term ecosystem health. Cottonwood stand's appear to be of similar age, with little recruitment. Determine what is needed to ensure cottonwood's recruit, the river doesn't incise more, sediment and fish are able to be transported over the Mexican dam, and the water table is maintained so cottonwood recruitment is possible. 8. Consider regen ag grazing practices, and ag bmps on ranch lands. Restore wetland areas. 9. Consider managing with climate change impacts in mind.

5. When thinking about the future of the Carson River, what opportunities do you feel should be prioritized from a planning and management perspective? *

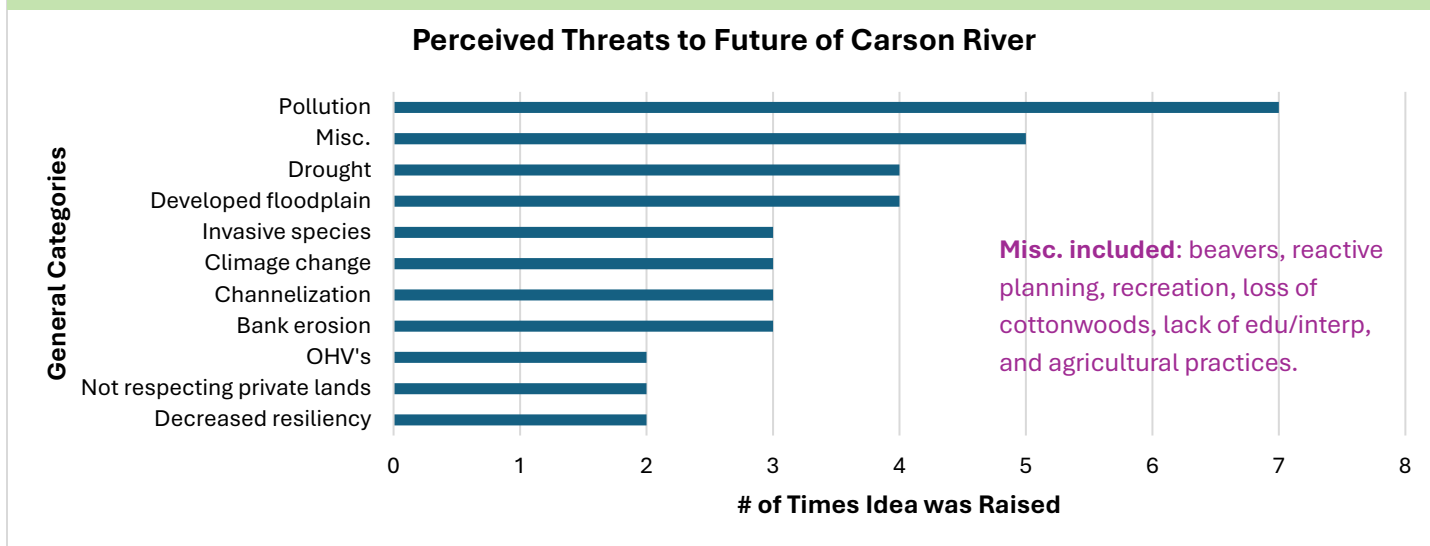


Responses

- Water quality Wildlife and habitat protection Sustainable public use and educational trips and activities
- Vegetation recruitment and whitetop (noxious weed) management
- See above and include Education and Outreach including interpretive tours/hikes/bikes / etc. Work with local students and colleges/universities to practice integrated watershed management throughout the corridor.
- safe ingress and egress points for the public working with local agencies both upstream and downstream on management - joint use agreement if there is not one already (cattle upstream, fish and game, etc.) developing a communication system for users/public regarding water quality, wildlife, habitat, etc.
- Purchase land for Open Space, restrict development within the 500 yr flood area
- Planning - Carson River Corridor plan for all the elements of a stand alone regional park. This should be considered a "primitive area" not a wilderness. This will allow this area to recover from years of abuse and overuse. Safety is a primary concern and the plan will bring with it designs and user access areas to be with safety in mind. This plan needs to start at Deer Run and go all the way to the Lyon Co line. And hopefully Lyon Co becomes an active participant in the plan to continue some of the plan elements farther down the river. The living river philosophy adopted and what that means to develop an active effort to insure this guiding principle is followed.
- make the management options broad, inclusive, and future focused to avoid restrictions that are caused when certain methodologies are not included; take the opportunity now of performing this update to be as all encompassing as possible to avoid being limited or needing to redo work later on; focus on IPM methods and options; include prevention, education, outreach, cultural control methods and revegetation, monitoring, and restoration in the plan
- Maintenance, land acquisition.
- Keep the 100-year floodplain open from development and minimize activities that impact the environment. Highlight historical sites and work on interpretive events that showcase historic activities along the Carson River. Look at potential development of primitive campgrounds so that people can enjoy the river without creating their own spaces in areas that environmentally sensitive. Encourage local volunteers to assist with cleanups, plantings and signage.
- Keep it the way it is.

- Improved planning and cooperation amongst agencies such as State of Nevada, Army Corps and Carson City to discuss river restoration projects and funding; also better coordination with Carson City and the Mexican Dam Co. for trail projects along the river corridor.
- I would put interpretive signage at the top, then benches or seating, as they would not be as costly, before looking at additional access and trails.
- I think that conservation and stewardship should be the lead prioritization along the river corridor. We should prioritize wildlife preservation and sustainability, increase areas of access for wildlife migration as traffic along the highways increases and in turn, wildlife fatalities increase. I think thoughtful trail planning and public access at certain community points will help with these preservation efforts by minimizing vegetation impact where folks create their own trails/access points. And then it will be important to strategically and successfully create a marketing plan that shows the public where to go and how to also be good stewards to the land. Tribal acknowledgements and signage should also be incorporated.
- From our perspective, we would like to work with Carson City to lay back our slopes (onto Carson City Property) to leave less steep slopes in our pit. We would be willing to develop recreational opportunities at our cost if we could offset gaining hard rock tonnage.
- Ensuring the space near the river remains clear of development and allows the water to spread as needed during high water years.
- Coordinate ranch plans to provide sustainable long term productivity if possible. Consider managing Buzzy's ranch without livestock and reducing water needs. Remove infrastructure from floodplain if possible. Keep the Mexican ditch flowing. Measure and monitor riparian habitat condition.
- Conservation, providing for public access.
- Conservation easements that prevent flood incompatible infrastructure.
- Balance the need of allowing the river to move with the surrounding limitations. i.e. bridges, cottonwood galleries and other infrastructure located along the river.

6. What do you see as the biggest threats/issues to the future of the Carson River? *



Responses

- The upstream activities in Carson Valley that have an impact on water quality. Climate change may bring flooding or drought that will have detrimental effects on the river corridor environment. The mercury problem may end up more of a problem if flooding occurs. A decision on beavers control in the river and move forward to protect the cottonwoods. Indiscriminate use by OHVS in the Carson River Canyon.
- The feel the biggest issue that could impact the Carson River corridor is the threat of development in the 100-year floodplain. I would work diligently on preserving this corridor from future development. Additional threats include the management of noxious weeds and eroding riverbanks. Carson City should aggressively work on stabilizing riverbanks and treating noxious weeds within the corridor and tributaries.
- The biggest threat results from mild winters in the Sierra with limited snow.
- ORV activity in prohibited areas, over use of Golden Eagle. Protection of Private lands adjacent to Carson River open space.
- Noxious weeds
- Mercury superfund site and impacts on water quality, outdoor recreation and ability to implement riverbank stabilization projects.

- Loss of cottonwood galleries, nonpoint source pollution from surrounding urban development,
- invasive species; overuse of water or loss of river function in a way that reduces water availability; overuse of public features such as trails that aren't built to withstand the recreational pressure; lack of planning that is proactive enough to allow for future problems to be addressed without lag time that allows problems to grow
- Infrastructure encroachment. Channelization. Upstream loss of flood capacity. No minimum flows. Over development. Loss of riparian recruitment.
- Drought, pollution, development
- drought hardening pollution development
- Development that leads to serial engineering and a concrete ditch instead of a living river.
- Climate change resulting in potential threatening flooding/drought conditions. Attempts to 'control' private sections of the river.
- Bank deterioration Lack of Educational signs and outreach

7. What is your area(s) of interest and/or expertise as it relates to the Carson River? *

Responses

- Trails along the river.
- Tourism and the visitor experience.
- Silver Saddle Ranch
- Riparian habitat, wildlife. Institutional knowledge from 40+ years of living and working in the river. Served on CRAC, Clear Creek Watershed Council, CC Shade Tree Council and served on CWSDFlood Plane planning committee. Coordinated volunteer activities. Worked in conservation for both State agencies and the Washoe Tribe.
- Riparian functions promote habitat and water quality.
- Public school education Increase pollinator habitat Masters in biology Build with high school students an interpretive trail at Ambrose Needs to be rebuilt now
- Partnership with the City to remain a viable rock quarry for the next 30 years, but then leave a good legacy after that time.
- noxious weeds/invasive plant management
- Natural resource management, river restoration and outdoor recreation.
- I live in Douglas County. I think areas of interest are where the V&T RR trail expands and connects Carson to Douglas County for walking, hiking, biking etc. will be a huge accomplishment and create much needed non-motorized connection to our communities. There could be a OHV component as well. In South Douglas County across from Ruhenstroth, there is a BLM camping and access point along the river that is highly used and visible, and needs desperate improvement. This is also a highly used wildlife corridor. Creating specific fishing access would also be a great way to improve access and more economic impact.
- I have experience managing lagoons, lakes and beaches for a several local agencies, and have been the staff liaison to Coastal Commission, Multi-County agencies, CA Fish and Wildlife, Trail Management, Sediment removal projects, Mountain Biking clubs, Friends of Lake Calavera, and have managed extensive Habitat Restoration efforts and Biological monitoring, Bat relocation projects, etc etc
- Historic Preservation/archaeology
- Hazard Mitigation – Emergency Managment
- Flood mitigation
- Floating down the river and hiking along the river.
- Environmental education and interpretation- resource planning - recreation planning
- Carson River Watershed Program Manager with CWSDF.
- Biologist and Hydrologist
- Banks Stabilization, noxious weeds and floodplain rehabilitation.

8. What relevant data and resources do you have or know about that might inform the development of the Carson River Master Plan Update? *

Responses

- We can share mobile-based tracking data through the following data analytics platforms: Datafy and Arrivalist.
- Very little.
- The history of the 1st planning effort that developed the 1996 plan. I have the resource of available time to spend on this planning effort.
- Runoff changes due to climate change.

- Ranch history and conservation easement.
- Quality of Life funding and Carson City Open Space contributions, including volunteer efforts such as River Wranglers etc.
- Overall water quality is good! Students collected data from 2001 to 2014. Main concern was too high of dirt sediment
- Original Carson River Advisory Committee member. Access to NVCRIS cultural resources system.
- noxious weed/invasive plant management expertise and NAC/NRS usage; access to grant funding; biological control treatment information and options; mapping data on noxious weed infestations and capacity to perform additional mapping
- none at this time
- none
- It seems the Open Space area could be better utilized or developed for things like Mountain Biking, Off Roading, ATV use areas to reduce illegal uses. This is what we envision partnering with the City on.
- Incised rivers can self-heal if they can erode gully banks and vegetate active channel banks.
- I have expertise in past studies on water and water right of the Alpine Decree, Management and fate and transport of Comstock Era Mercury in the Dayton (CERCLA) reach, riparian restoration projects and floodplain access modeling and construction, and management of reaches of the Carson River in Douglas and Alpine Counties.
- I am not sure.
- I am familiar with current Open Space properties within Carson City. I do have some historical information regarding these properties from growing up in the area. I have worked directly with other agencies such as CWSD, CTWCD, NDEP, NDWR, NDSL, NDOW, BLM, USFWS and Carson City.
- Great Basin Bird Observatory avian monitoring baseline surveys from the 90's
- FEMA Flood mapping, CC Hazard Mitigation Plan, NDEP Regional Response Plan
- Climate change studies CWSD has helped pay for, floodplain management approaches, access to the CRC stakeholder working groups, education resources (flood model, Enviroscope, ground water model).

9. Would you be interested in participating in a follow up group meeting to review and discuss the input from this stakeholder survey? *

Responses

- Yes (11 people indicated this)
- Yes. (2 people indicated this)
- Sure (2 people indicated this)
- Yes, Please.
- Yes and thanks for asking.
- if that would be helpful, absolutely
- I am definitely interested in participating however it depends on the timing of the group meeting.

10. Is there anything else you want to add or share that might help inform our planning process? *

Responses

- We need to consider limiting or preventing development along the river
- We must remember that the river corridor should be managed as open space first, parks second.
- We at NVENV are happy to support the effort as a third-party review or participants in meetings and can provide expertise in state and federal permitting and construction strategies to save time and money. Additionally our sister company Range & Forest Growers is ready to grow native plants for restoration efforts.
- Thanks for making this one of your priorities in your work plan for this year.
- Thank you. This is really needed.
- Thank you for your time and effort to do this important community project!
- Riparian functions are a win/win/win!
- Review and integrate results of the 2008 charette.
- Regarding planning, be a part of the coordinated effort to obtain geomorphological and sediment transport information along these reaches to help inform whether and where river restoration/bank stabilization projects would be best suited. Come up with a prioritized project list including lands that are currently unprotected. Determine the types of funding pots that might be available to pursue these projects and plans including grants and capital budgets.
- Please add us to your partners list for long term planning and participation as stakeholders. Granite Construction [REDACTED]
- Our division is excited to help educate and promote conservation, stewardship, and outdoor recreation along the river in whatever capacity is helpful.

- Nothing at this point.
- None.
- No
- I am looking forward to being part of a team to preserve and protect this precious resource in a manner that promotes access to the river corridor and provides access to a variety of user groups
- I also live on Carson River Road and do not want any significant increase in traffic.
- From a visitor experience perspective, we are committed with our marketing and PR efforts to promote the east side of Carson City, including the Carson River, with stewardship messaging tied in.
- Carson City is a special place especially along the Carson River. I hope that we can keep it as pristine as possible.
- appreciate the opportunity to be part of this process, it's a great and beneficial project that can accomplish a lot of lasting good