

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: February 27, 2017

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4C

STAFF: Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator

REQUEST: Staff update on activities, projects and grants located on Open Space properties within the Carson River area.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The following provides a summary of activities throughout the Carson River area.

Carson River Canyon Open Space

Carson River Canyon Open Space received some damage from the first flood in January 2017. Thus far, the known damage includes fallen rock on the roadway. Due to restricted access, extensive review has not yet been conducted.



Carson River Canyon Open Space – storm damage from January 2017

Carson River Mercury Superfund Site

The Carson River Mercury Superfund Site Tour hosted by the Carson Water Subconservancy District (CWSD) is scheduled for February 21st. The Carson River Mercury Superfund Site is quite extensive. In Carson City, the site begins at the Empire Ranch Golf Course and continues down the river corridor including Morgan Mill Preserve Open Space and Carson River Canyon Open Space. Ms. Bollinger is a featured speaker on the tour and will discuss land management concerns and recreational impacts within the Superfund Site.

Carson River Watershed Forum

Hosted by CWSD on February 22nd-23rd, the Forum will cover topics relevant to the watershed including, “riparian restoration, water quality and quantity, stormwater, flooding and floodplain management, invasive species, agriculture, recreation, and education/outreach programs.” Ms. Bollinger is a featured speaker who will be discussing the Open Space Program and select projects.

Golden Eagle Lane Erosion Control project

There are no updates from the previous report.

(Report from 12-19-16): The Golden Eagle Lane project is located at the south end of the Prison Hill Recreation Area. The project goal is to reduce erosion and improve the watershed directly above the Carson River. Carson City was awarded \$75,000 from the Carson Water Subconservancy District and awarded \$40,636 from the State of Nevada Conservation and Resource Protection Program (Question 1) towards the completion of this project. Carson City Public Works is currently working with a consulting firm on the design. Open Space staff will continue to be involved in the project design and grant administration. The construction is anticipated to begin in 2017.

Prison Hill Recreation Area, 5th Street Trailhead

There are no updates from the previous report.

(Report from 12-19-16): The Nevada Division of State Parks Recreational Trails Program (RTP) has awarded \$200,000 to Carson City for trailhead improvements at the corner of 5th Street and Carson River Road. The cultural resources review is currently being conducted by the Nevada Department of Transportation. After the clearance has been received, staff will begin working with Public Works on the design and layout of the new trailhead along with the realignment of the trails. The construction is anticipated to begin in 2017.

Silver Saddle Ranch

Silver Saddle Ranch also received damage from the flood events of 2017. Thus far, the most significant damage is to the Mexican Ditch Trail. Near the dam and after the first flood, approximately 30 cubic yards eroded away from the dam. It's likely that more area eroded away from the second flood but access has been restricted due to a sinkhole. The second significant impact is the large sinkhole located approximately ½ north of the dam. The sinkhole is in the center of the trail, thereby eroding the trail and earth below.



Mexican Dam – flood damage from January 2017



Mexican Ditch Trail – sinkhole from January 2017



Mexican Ditch Trail – sinkhole from January 2017

Upcoming events:

- February 13 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- March 13 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- April 10 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- April 22 – Escape from Prison Hill running events
- April 23-30 – Carson City Sheriff’s Office Mounted Unit

While only the above events are currently scheduled at Silver Saddle Ranch, more events may be scheduled to help accommodate existing reservations at facilities which have been damaged from flood events.

Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act (SNPLMA) grant application

A grant award for \$1.8 million dollars towards several trail improvements on the Prison Hill Recreation Area, Mexican Ditch Trail, Silver Saddle Ranch, and the old Buzzy’s Ranch was officially announced on December 7th. The next steps forward are the project initiation letter, approval of the funding agreement, and development of a work plan.

Wetlands Enhancement / Ducks Unlimited Project

During the rain and flood events, the water level in the wetlands raised above and over the recently constructed levees. The saturated soils have prevented access; however, most of the project appears intact as viewed from the Mexican Ditch Trail.



Old Buzzy’s Ranch – wetlands enhancement project area;
Carson River water levels: 9,370 cubic feet per second and 10.23’ gage height.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: This agenda item is for informational purposes only. No formal action can be taken at this time.