

**OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
STAFF REPORT**

MEETING DATE: September 18, 2017

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4C

STAFF: Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator
Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

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.

Buzzy's Ranch

A field review of Old Buzzy's Ranch was conducted by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) on 8/9/17 in order to begin gathering baseline information for the development of a conservation plan for the ranch. Primary goals for the plan were identified – including maintaining the irrigated pastures for aesthetic and agricultural appeal and identifying more arid portions of the ranch to inform future conservation strategies. Additionally, NRCS hosted a training at Old Buzzy's Ranch 8/16/17 – 8/17/17 for students and young professionals to learn how to complete an "Environmental Evaluation Worksheet." Information gathered from this training will contribute to the development of the conservation plan.

Carson River Canyon Open Space

A field review of Carson River Canyon road was conducted on 7/31/17 with Robb Fellows from Carson City Public Works. The goal was to identify a repair strategy for the road washout located approximately three miles from Deer Run Road. During this site visit, Robb suggested filling in the washout with boulders and material found on-site. He also suggested installing a culvert to mitigate future erosion issues. We are currently working with a consultant to aide in the design of the washout repair plan. Once the repair design is finalized, we can begin obtaining contractor quotes for the project.

East Silver Saddle Ranch

A field review of East Silver Saddle Ranch was conducted on 8/10/17 to complete an inventory of all the roads within this property and evaluate motorized river access points. With this information, the Open Space team has developed a draft scope of work outlining improvements to this site. The primary goals for site improvements are to protect the resources, enhance accessibility, improve safety and develop educational/interpretive opportunities for visitors. After the draft scope of work is finalized, a consultant will be hired to assist in developing site development plans. Additionally, a meeting was held with Carson City Public Works staff to identify homeowner concerns for the area. Specific issues included: lack of safety due to limited

visibility, homeless camps and illegal activities such as dumping and drug use.

Educational Programs

In coordination with the Carson City Library, staff helped with the “Outside the Lines – Libraries Reintroduced” project. Outside the Lines is a weeklong celebration demonstrating the creativity and innovation happening in libraries. The program encouraged hosting at least one event or campaign that:

- Gets people thinking – and talking – about libraries in a different way.
- Showcases the library out in the community as well as in the library.
- Highlights how your library is relevant to people’s lives.
- Represents your local community.
- Is active versus passive – gets people engaged.
- Is extraordinary and unexpected.
- Most importantly, is fun!

Carson City Library staff suggested a self-led “Story Stroll.” The Story Stroll is installed at Carson River Park during September 10-30, 2017 to promote reading, highlight our parks and open space, and encourage outdoor activities with our community. A bilingual picture book, *Colors! ¡Colores!* by Jorge Luján and Piet Grobler, is mounted one page at a time on signs along the river trail for participants to read as they stroll through the area. This fun, educational program promotes literacy by getting children engaged in reading in a unique way. Additionally, the stroll encourages healthy activities utilizing Carson City’s trails.



Golden Eagle Lane Erosion Control Project

Construction on this project began 8/7/17 and was completed on 9/5/17. The final walk through of the project occurred on 9/6/17 and will be conducted by project managers from Open Space as well as Carson City Public Works. Any adjustments that need to be made to the project will be identified at this meeting and the project should be finalized by mid-September.

Prison Hill Recreation Area, 5th Street Trailhead

The funding agreement has been received and signed by all parties. The deadline for project completion is December 2019. The design and construction schedule has generally been discussed with Carson City Public Works; however this project is not at the top of the priority list. The anticipated construction date is Spring 2019.

Silver Saddle Ranch

In anticipation of the next grant cycle of the Southern Nevada Land Management Act in September 2018, Open Space staff met 8/7/17 to begin collecting ideas for a site development plan/master plan at Silver Saddle Ranch. This document will identify plans for the Red House

and out-buildings as well as development of event infrastructure, trail improvements etc. This site development plan would couple with recommendations that were made via the Silver Saddle Ranch Charrette in 2008.

Past and upcoming events:

- July 10 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- August 13 – Jazz and Beyond Music Festival
- August 14 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- August 31 – Eagle Valley Middle School cross-country meet (running event)
- September 11 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- October 9 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- October 21-23 – American Trail Trial Horsemens Trail Ride (equestrian event)
- November 13 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch monthly board meeting
- December 2 – Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch Holiday Open House

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