

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: September 18, 2017

AGENDA ITEM NUMBER: 4D

STAFF: Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist

REQUEST: Staff update on activities, projects and grants throughout other areas managed by the Open Space Division.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

The following provides a summary on the activities throughout other areas of Carson City.

Ash Canyon Road

A field review of Ash Canyon Road was conducted on 7/18/17 to evaluate road damages and identify a repair plan. In order to repair the washout located at mile marker 2.8, one suggestion was to shift the road over several feet by cutting into the up-slope, which would move the path of travel away from the washout. Additionally, a berm was suggested to be added between the washout and new road to ensure safety of motorized travelers. Staff is currently working with a consultant to aide in the design of the washout repair plan. Once the repair design is finalized, quotes will be solicited. Work may or may not be completed this year pending seasonal changes.

Carson City Weed Coalition

June was Invasive Species Awareness Month. This month was spent sharing information about the impacts of noxious and invasive weeds throughout Carson City. On 6/26/17, the Carson City Weed Coalition hosted a free community workshop at the Community Center focusing on invasive and noxious weed management strategies for homeowners. The workshop discussed several aspects of weed management from proper use of herbicides to the laws associated with noxious weeds as well as plant identification. Speakers were from the Carson City Weed Coalition, Carson City Open Space and Nevada Department of Agriculture.

Approximately nine people from the community attended the workshop. Workshop attendees also received reference materials to aide in the weed identification as well as effective treatment and restoration strategies to use in their yards. Additionally, the Carson City Weed Coalition Coordinator Daniel Anderson presented updates to the Board of Supervisors on 8/17/17.



Dan Anderson presenting noxious weed information to members of the community.

Educational Programs

In early September, staff had the pleasure to participate in a new Local Environmental Issues course for 7th and 8th graders at Carson Middle School. Five staff shared the 80-minute long lesson discussing respective areas of expertise:

- Ann Bollinger, Open Space Administrator – Overview and land preservation/protection
- Lyndsey Boyer, Senior Natural Resource Specialist – Natural resources of Carson City including native plants and wildlife
- Dan Anderson, Weed Coordinator – Carson City Weed Coalition and noxious weeds
- Gregg Berggren, Trails Coordinator – Trail overview, trail etiquette and trail responsibilities
- Danielle Hatch, Americorps/VISTA – Park Ranger Program and Leave No Trace



Lyndsey Boyer at Carson Middle School

Personnel

Open Space Maintenance Worker:

- Mr. Colter Thomas has been working on a variety of tasks for the Open Space program, including reducing fuels along the Mexican Ditch trail and Silver Saddle Ranch, cleaning illegal dump sites, installing and maintaining signage throughout our properties, removing noxious weeds, trail maintenance and corridor clearing.

Open Space Maintenance Coordinator:

- This is a new, full-time position approved by the Committee and Board of Supervisors. A new job description should be completed in September and the job announcement posted. It is hoped the position will be filled by early November.

AmeriCorps VISTA members:

- Danielle Hatch, Community Education Coordinator started on 8/7/17 and she has already begun planning fall education programs. There will be a Sunset Hike on September 23rd at 6:00 pm at the Clearview Trailhead on Prison Hill and a Fall Colors Hike October 21st at 2:00 pm at Carson River Park.
- Chaja Hogeweg, Marketing & Outreach Coordinator started on 8/28/17. She will work with our Recreation Superintendent to make improvements to our website and current outreach strategies.
- Maritza Mendoza, Volunteer Coordinator will start on 11/20/2017.

Great Basin Institute, Nevada Conservation Corps crew:

- During the week of 7/31 – 8/3, five AmeriCorps members from the Great Basin Institute worked on projects around Carson City. Accomplishments included: maintaining and brushing the entire Waterfall Trail, removing 52 (55 gallon) trash bags of noxious weeds

from Linear Ditch (yes that's 2,860 gallons of thistles!) as well as beginning to clear much needed corridor in Riverview Park.



Before and after photographs of trail brushing work completed in Riverview Park.

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