



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: October 15, 2018

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

Agenda Title: For Discussion Only: Activities, projects, and grants throughout other areas managed by the Open Space Division

Staff Summary: see below

Agenda Action: Other/Presentation

Time Requested: 5

Proposed Motion

N/A

Board's Strategic Goal

Quality of Life

Previous Action

N/A

Background/Issues & Analysis

Ash Canyon Road

Vehicular access through the gate above the Ash to Kings Trail Access has been restored. The gate remained open throughout the summer season, and will be closed again as winter precipitation begins in order to prevent damage to the road caused by travel on wet soil conditions. Staff will continue to monitor the efficacy of the road repairs. If necessary, staff will apply for an OHV grant to construct a retaining wall to ensure safety of travelers. In addition, in order to maintain access, staff and volunteers worked throughout the summer to clear encroaching vegetation, as well as to remove downed trees from across the road.

Horsecreek Ranch

In mid-July, the Natural Resource Conservation Service visited Horsecreek to review headcuts, culverts, fencing, and the irrigation system. The USDA EQUIP Program approved funding for preliminary review. If the project is approved for further funding, improvements could begin as early spring 2019. The annual conservation easement monitoring will occur in early October.

Land Acquisition(s) – Clear Creek

After unanimous approval from the Open Space Advisory Committee in February 2018, there were still several items to discuss with the State of Nevada and other parties regarding fee-title acquisition of the 100-acres, including questions related to the trailhead facility. With agreement from the Nevada

Division of State Lands, staff has been working with the Nevada Division of Forestry to submit a grant application to the Forest Legacy Program. On October 4th, staff will ask approval from the Board of Supervisors on the grant submittal. If approved, the application will be reviewed by a local Technical Review Committee, then compete at a regional level, and finally compete at a national level. Funding awards will be announced in late spring / early summer 2019, and funding awards released in 2020.

Land Acquisition(s) – Hamm

Staff is, cautiously, proud to announce that title papers for the Hamm property will be signed on Friday, October 5 (or soon after). The Open Space Program will add 206 acres to our portfolio and add an extremely strategic property for trail connectivity across the western front of Carson City. The acquisition cost to Carson City will be \$251,000. A grant award from the Land and Water Conservation Fund provided an additional \$250,000. The first land management items to address are closure and rehabilitation of two steep, redundant, eroded “roads”. Two other “roads” will remain open.

Land Acquisition(s) – Michael Fagen

With the help of Nevada Land Trust, Ms. Cindy Lund Fogel, MAI with Johnson, Perkins and Griffin Real Estates Appraisers and Consultants was hired to complete an appraisal on the 20 acres owned by Mr. Fagen along U.S. Highway 50 West. Staff received the appraisal at the end of September and it is currently under the first review by all parties. If the terms and values are accepted by all parties, including the Carson City Board of Supervisors, the Open Space Program could finish the land acquisition in early 2019.

Nevada Land Trust

Without the assistance of Nevada Land Trust, the expediency of all recent land acquisitions would not have been possible. Ms. Alicia Reban and her staff have been extremely adaptable to urgent requests like the Hamm acquisition and long drawn-out processes like the Fagen acquisition. The organization is well-equipped with staff or resources to review mineral and water rights, write and/or review any document, pleasantly communicate with land owners, and generally coordinate the complex process of land acquisitions. The board members of Nevada Land Trust recognize the importance of preserving these lands in Carson City. In fact, the next board retreat will be held in Carson City and they will tour these properties as well as Clear Creek.

Paiute Pipeline Project

Construction on the Paiute Pipeline project began in late July. Staff completed baseline documentation of the path and vegetation prior to construction. Staff has continued to monitor construction activities throughout the project to ensure stipulations of the plan are maintained. Construction is anticipated to be completed in late fall 2018.

Personnel

AmeriCorps VISTA members:

- Community Education Coordinator: Ms. Kelsey Stalker started with Carson City in September 2018. Kelsey comes to us from Wisconsin, with a background in environmental science, as well as in art having previously taught children ceramics. Kelsey hopes to bridge her diverse backgrounds to create innovative art/nature programming here in Carson City. Kelsey led her first event in September, a Full Moon Hike and is currently in the process of planning more events. Kelsey will further build and expand on the program that the previous AmeriCorps VISTA member started.
- Marketing & Outreach Coordinator: Ms. Chaja Hogeweg ended her AmeriCorps VISTA position in late August, but prior to her departure was able to accomplish some amazing things. Including making huge strides in updating our website, creating video content for various

programs throughout the City, as well a noxious weed activity book that the Carson City Weed Coalition can share with children at events. Additionally she greatly improved our social media presence and increased our social media following.

Ms. Kristin Simons started with Carson City in September as Chaja's replacement, and she has jumped right in where Chaja left off, continuing to generate video and photo content at events, updating the website and working on various graphic design projects.

- Volunteer Coordinator – Ms. Chelsea Kincheloe started with Carson City in June 2018. Chelsea has been busy networking and making connections with other local volunteer groups, as well as coordinating several volunteer events over the last few months, including several clean-up events and service projects at East Silver Saddle Ranch, as well as working with local groups like Muscle Powered, Eagle Valley Disc Golf Association, River Wranglers and others to organize events. Long term projects include updating our volunteer application and agreement, creating an Adopt-a-Park/Trail/Vista program, and creating a volunteer website. The volunteer website will allow residents to browse volunteer activities in Carson, sign up for future events, log hours and rent the community clean-up trailer.
 - Website: <https://carson.org/government/departments-g-z/parks-recreation-open-space/volunteer-for-parks-recreation-and-open-space/-fsiteid-1>
 - Upcoming volunteer events:
 - Oct 17, 2018: River Wranglers Workday
 - Oct 28, 2018: Post-Nevada Day Parade Downtown Trash Clean-up
 - Fall – Winter 2018: Eagle Scout Project at Riverview Park to install directional signs along the pathways.

Waterfall Trail

Historically, there was a significant amount of graffiti present on the rocks near the Waterfall. Jared Whitaker, Open Space Maintenance Coordinator, has worked diligently over the past months to cover the graffiti, which is now almost complete. Moving forward we will be able to respond to new graffiti to immediately cover it. Additionally, a mutt-mitt station was installed at the trailhead to reduce dog litter on the trail. Lastly, the Waterfall Trail continues to have issues with trail users cutting the switchbacks and creating social trails. Staff has been working to vertical mulch over these areas with native, natural materials found on-site to prevent additional social trail creation.

Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation

Carson City Municipal Code 13.06.140 - Maintenance and management

Financial Information

Is there a fiscal impact? Yes No

If yes, account name/number: N/A

Is it currently budgeted? Yes No

Explanation of Fiscal Impact: N/A

Alternatives

N/A