



STAFF REPORT

Report To: Open Space Advisory Committee

Meeting Date: April 15, 2019

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: 10 minutes

Ash Canyon Road

Depending on snow levels, the gate on Ash Canyon Road is slated to be re-opened on May 1, in order to coincide with the start of fishing season at Hobart Reservoir. As the snow melts, staff will evaluate the road for damage and identify any road repairs that need to be completed prior to opening the gate. If snow levels persist after May 1, the gate will be opened when suitable conditions allow.

Bee City USA

The Chamber of Commerce Leadership Class has met their fundraising goal of \$5,000 for the Bee Hotel, which will be located near the Greenhouse Project at the Foothill Trail. Currently, the group is working on the design process. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony June 15, 2019 from 10:00-12:00 to celebrate completion of the Bee Hotel and to kick-off National Pollinator Week.

In addition to the Bee Hotel project, our AmeriCorps VISTA Community Education Coordinator, Kelsey Stalker has been working to develop a pollinator garden. The Greenhouse Garden Center has agreed to partner with us on this project to donate expertise in designing the garden. Comstock Seed has donated wildflower seeds for planting, and the Greenhouse Project is supplying some plants and may help us grow others from the donated seed. Staff have a design completed and coordinated a site clean-up event on March 30th to begin preparing the site for planting. We hope that this area can become a central location for education opportunities as well as to engage the public in pollinator conservation issues and solutions.

Fuel Reduction w/ Sheep

The sheep project will launch in mid-April. They will start behind Greenhouse Garden Center and will work their way north towards C-Hill, eventually crossing lower Quill Canyon and exiting Carson City at the end of May. We plan on leading our 2nd annual "Trail Graze" Hike in early May; location is dependent on where the sheep are at the time. This event will focus on teaching participants about the history of the sheep project in Carson City, the purpose, natural history of sheep and much more. Lastly, staff has been working with consultants to update the Carson City Integrated Grazing Management Plan for Fuels Management. As a component of this project, staff and consultants have held meetings with all the partners involved in the project and will bring all stakeholders back together to review the updated plan and discuss the project as a whole. The goal is to improve our efficacy with the project while meeting the needs of the individual

stakeholders involved. This meeting is anticipated for sometime this summer or fall, once a draft of the updated plan is available.

Kings Canyon Road

Trailhead area (Federal Lands Access Program grant):

At the end of March, staff received the 30% design from Central Federal Lands. Comments will be returned in early April. Staff is working closely with Public Works and the federal design team to design a sufficient trailhead to accommodate heavy visitor use as well as multiple-use.

Trailhead area to Horsecreek Ranch (dirt road):

Open Space staff met with the U.S. Forest Service on February 1st to review the draft road repair plans. From this meeting, a tentative estimate of \$100,000 was provided to complete the repairs. The repair strategy for the road includes re-establishment of the ditch that parallels the road to mitigate water erosion that has caused the road damage initially. In addition, some sections of the road that have significant rutting or erosion will be reconstructed. Lastly, the plan has provisions in place to repair several slope failures along the road. Once the repair plan is finalized, the USFS can proceed with completing the cultural review. Staff will apply for an additional Recreational Trails Program grant in order to fund implementation of repairs and hopes to complete this in 2019.

Land Acquisition(s) – Clear Creek

No updates from previous report.

2-25-2019: Staff is continuing to work with the Nevada Division of State Lands, Nevada Division of Forest, and Nevada Land Trust to identify options and solutions for acquisition.

Personnel

AmeriCorps members:

- Community Education Coordinator: Kelsey Stalker has been working diligently develop recurring and new interpretive events. She is working with the Volunteer Coordinator to recruit local experts and qualified volunteers to lead programs as well. She has also made progress on an interpretive map with the help of Parks and Open Space staff as well as a local artist. The map will help provide Junior Rangers and the Carson City community with quality education materials for our city's outdoor spaces. Additionally, Kelsey has worked with the Greenhouse Project to clear out the site for the future Pollinator Garden project, which will soon be started with donated pollinator-friendly plants. Her most recent event was the Learn to GROW Workshop on April 6th, a gardening educational event at the Foothill Garden with the Greenhouse Project, the Greenhouse Garden Center, and the Great Basin Beekeepers of Nevada.
 - Upcoming Interpretive Events:
 - April 22: Earth Day wetland education lesson with the Boys & Girls Club
 - April 25: Field Trip with Pioneer High School
 - April 28: Carson City Earth Day “Celebrating Pollinators” at the Robert’s House
- Marketing & Outreach Coordinator: Kristin Simons has been extremely busy improving our marketing strategy for the Department. Some examples of projects include: developing a Department newsletter, continuing to generate video and photo content at events, highlighting a program-of-the-month, assisting with Carson City Weed Coalition social media content, creating new letterhead and power point templates, updating the website, seasonal job outreach and working on various graphic design projects.
 - Newsletter:
https://spark.adobe.com/page/qnPLihhSDrPbM/?fbclid=IwAR2G0Z92ghozX3JXrPBRzs1B8bi06MEedB_rHNywDM3ZYqUP1epm9Q64lyI

- Volunteer Coordinator: Chelsea Kincheloe has been working hard to build the Volunteer Program for the Department. One of her most notable recent accomplishments is launching the Adopt-a-Trail Program in Carson City. Groups and individuals can apply to “adopt” a trail and agree to help with maintenance and stewardship for one year and already eight individual groups have adopted trails!
 - Upcoming Volunteer Events:
 - April 18: Wells Fargo Adopt-A-Trail Clean-Up Mexican Ditch Trail
 - April 22: Boy and Girls Club Adopt-A-Trail Clean-Up Fulstone Wetlands
 - May 4: Fuji Park Weed Removal
 - June 1: Float the river and trash pick-up event

Maintenance Worker(s) – Seasonal: Staff is working to recruit two seasonals to assist the Open Space Maintenance Coordinator. Ms. Tammy Rozman, a previous seasonal Parks employee, has been hired and will start in mid-April. We are still working to recruit the second individual.

Natural Resource Management Intern: Working with the Great Basin Institute, staff hopes to bring on another Intern this summer to work on stewardship projects. He/she will also be assigned an independent research project to complete during their term. The Intern is anticipated to start in May.

Silver Saddle Ranch Caretaker: Mr. Ted Esterby resigned from his position in February. Staff has refilled the position with Mr. Ray Ralston who started in late March. Staff is extremely thankful to the Friends of Silver Saddle Ranch volunteers who assisted with gate opening and closing during the transition period.