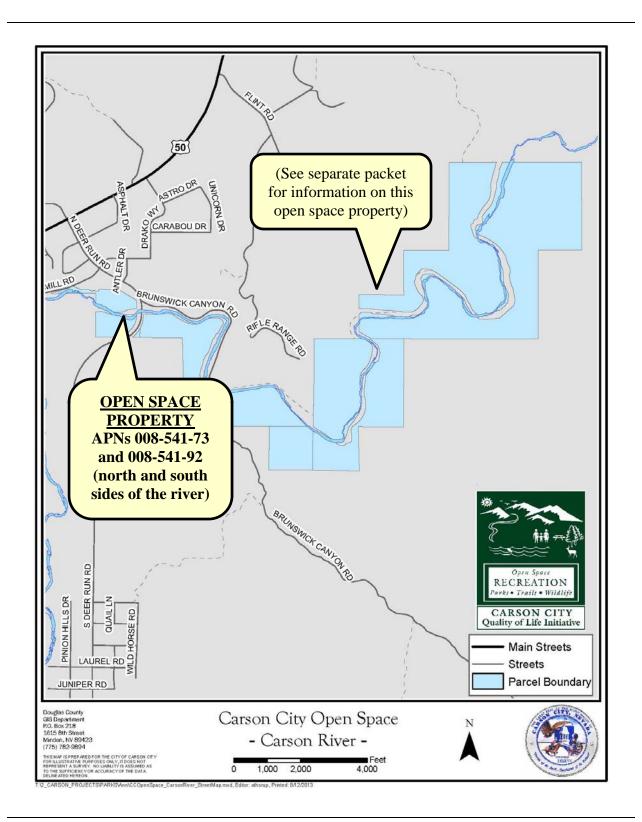
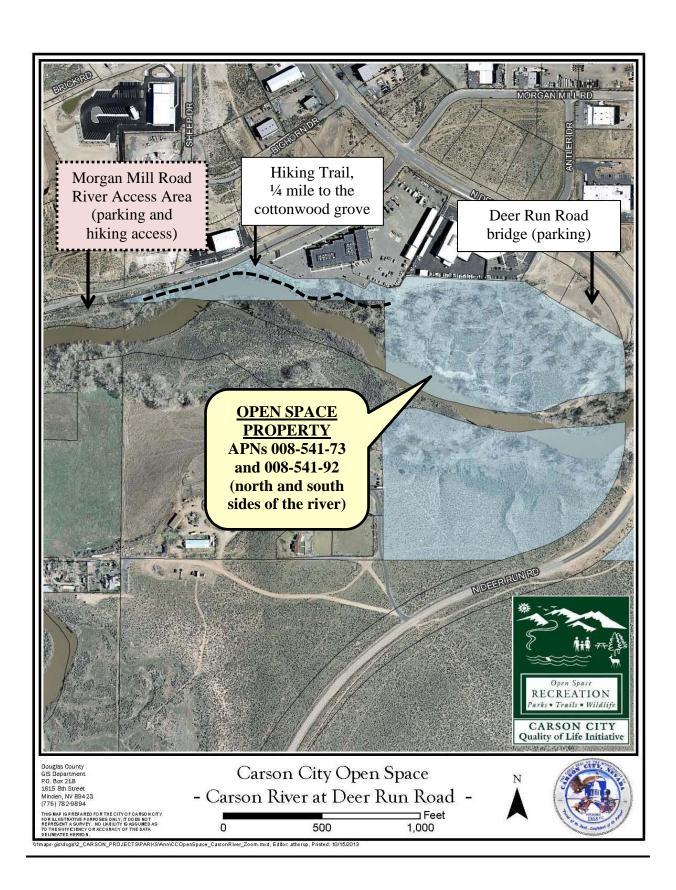
# Carson City Open Space APNs 008-541-73 and 008-541-92, west of Deer Run Road bridge 32 acres





### **Location**

There are two parcels under consideration within this one nomination. The subject property(ies) is located on the east side of Carson City, along the Carson River. The property is bordered to the east by Deer Run Road; to the north by federal offices (Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Geological Survey) and vacant industrial parcels; to the west by the Carson City Morgan Mill Road River Access Area; and to the south by public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

### Access

From the Deer Run Road bridge, the subject property can be seen on the northwest and southwest corners. The large cottonwood grove on the northwest corner is the most accessible and popular area. To access this parcel, visitors can park at the Carson City Morgan Mill Road River Access Area and hike for ¼ mile towards the east on a new single-track trail leading through the willows to the cottonwood grove. Alternatively, visitors may park in the vacant parcels on Deer Run Road and hike down the service road. Numerous unmarked trails (old roads) traverse the parcel.

The parcel located on the southwest corner of the bridge currently does not offer road or trail access.

Neither parcel is open to public vehicular access.

#### **Background**

Purchase Date: January 2011

Purchased From: John C. Serpa / Sierra Clouds LLC

Funding Source: 1) Carson City Open Space, Quality of Life Sales and Use Tax Funds

2) Nevada Division of State Lands, Question 1 Program

## **Physical Characteristics**

<u>Historic / Cultural:</u> Beginning just upriver, this section of the Carson River played a very prominent role during the mining days of the Comstock Era. After ore was mined in Virginia City, it was transferred to any of the great number of stamp mills located along the river. The Carson River provided a water source which was necessary in the ore extraction process. This property(ies) is within the vicinity of the historic Morgan Mill, but no artifacts seem to remain.

The Morgan Mill, afterwards known as the Yellow Jacket, on the Carson River, at Empire City, was built as a custom-mill, with 20 stamps, by James Morgan in 1864. It was sold to the Yellow Jacket Mining Company in 1865, and enlarged to 40 stamps, 20 of which weighed 1050 pounds each. In 1871, it passed into the hands of the Nevada Mill Company who worked ores for this company until 1875, when it was purchased by the Pacific Mill Company. (Amalgamation at the Comstock Lode, Nevada. 1890)

As a consequence of the ore extraction process and widespread occurrence of mercury, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) declared much of this area as a federally listed Superfund site in August 1990. Referred to as the Carson River Mercury Superfund Site, the primary concerns reside in contaminated soils and waterways at or near former mill sites. Along the Carson River, the site extends from the Empire Ranch Golf Course in Carson City and continues downstream for 50 miles to the Lahontan Valley. This particular site has <u>not</u> been tested by the Carson City Parks and Recreation Department for contaminants.

<u>Landform / scenic quality:</u> Located on the north and south sides of the Carson River, both parcels lie within the floodway and the floodplain. The northern parcel is fairly level. The southern parcel contains a slope and an upper bench above the floodplain. There is not much variation in the elevation profile, generally ranging from 4,600' to 4,640'.

<u>Plant communities:</u> Riparian species are the dominant vegetation type. Mature cottonwoods are common throughout the parcels whereas coyote willow is common along the river's edge and Wood's rose is found in a few pockets. Sagebrush is located in the upper, drier areas.

Water Resources: The Carson River flows between the two subject parcels.

<u>Wildlife:</u> The Carson River and diverse plant communities should provide habitat for many species of wildlife. The Carson River Master Plan, dated 1996, identifies fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and birds throughout the river corridor, but not specific to this property.

Photo 1: Overview of the property, looking east from Morgan Mill Road. From the Morgan Mill Road River Access Area, visitors can hike for ¼ mile along a single-track trail to the cottonwoods.



Photo 2: An alternative access is from Deer Run Road. Visitors may park in the vacant industrial parcels and hike down the service road.



Photo 3: From the Deer Run Road bridge, one parcel can be seen towards the southwest. This parcel currently does not offer road or trail access.

